

Girls Basketball

Northern Bedford 48, McConnellsburg 30
McConnellsburg was held to only 11 points after the halftime break Thursday night by the Northern Bedford Panthers, who clinched the Sideling Hill League match 48-30. Rachel Porterfield netted eight points, and J.J. DeShong posted four points, six rebounds, four assists and three steals. Teammate Michelle Baker added five points.

Chestnut Ridge 63, Forbes Road 39
Forbes Road fell behind early on in last Thursday evening's game and couldn't make up the deficit against the victors from Chestnut Ridge. During the Cardinals' 63-39 Sideling Hill League loss, Kaili Hockensmith netted 14 points, and Ky Fraker followed with 10 points and 12 rebounds. **Southern Fulton 58, Hancock 24**
Hancock was held to seven points and less in each quarter Saturday against Southern Fulton, who easily clinched the non-league, home game 58-24. Brooke Whiteside and Natasha Bard each rallied for 13 points. Lacey Beatty finished with nine points and three steals. Chelsey Eader and Jeni Hager had seven and six points, respectively.

Boys Basketball

Northern Bedford 65, McConnellsburg 34
McConnellsburg's winless season continued last Friday night when only one Spartan player managed to reach double figures against the victorious Northern Bedford Panthers. In the 65-34 Sideling Hill League loss, Nathan Swope tallied 10 points. Teammate Ryan De-fibaugh grabbed 11 rebounds. Devin Petty-John had five points, and Evan Appleby had five points and three assists. **Southern Fulton 40, Shanksville 39**
Southern Fulton eked out a one-point victory Friday evening, downing Shanksville by the final score of 40-39. Dylan Whiteside led the Indians with 13 points, and Josh Hall posted seven points, five rebounds, four assists and two blocks. Meanwhile, Andrew Merica contributed nine points during the non-league outing.

Forbes Road 69, Chestnut Ridge 40
The Forbes Road Cardinals got the opportunity to show former coach Randy Meck, now with Chestnut Ridge, what they were made of Friday night when the Cardinals ran away with a 29-point victory. Jesse Newman tallied 14 points, seven rebounds and 10 assists for the Cardinals, while Tanner Henry led the team's offensive effort with 16 points and three blocked shots. Brandon Mel-lott and Trent Black followed with 14 and 13 points, respectively, and Black also had four steals.

FCCCS 62 CVCS 47
A good team foul shooting effort and a strong performance from TJ Leedy pushed the Fulton County Community Christian School Chargers over Cumberland Valley Christian School last Thursday 62-47. Kenny Lininger took care of the outside of the arch by canning a total of four three-point shots.

Buck Baker Would Find A Way



Buck Baker in the early 1950s

By Gerald Hodges
THE RACING REPORTER

The season is over and Jimmy Johnson has been crowned champion. Now maybe we can contemplate what has happened during the past few months and focus on the future.

The slow economy continues to take its toll on sponsors, fans and teams. No one should take these times lightly.

Just like in racing, you've got to come out with hope, expecting that you're going to be there at the finish line. Anyone that has been in the pits before the start of the race remembers the optimism among all the drivers and teams.

Come the end of the race, there is only one winner. But prior to the next race, the hope and adrenalin forces it way back to the top.

Even as the year comes to a close, there are reasons to look forward to the arrival of the new season.

Elzie Wylie Baker, known as "Buck" was one of the toughest and most capable drivers of the 1950s. A hard-nosed competitor in the rough-and-tumble Modified division, Baker won his share of battles on the racetrack, and compiled an enviable record in post-race fistcuffs.

I met Baker once and what I remember about him was the odds he overcame to win and his optimism.

"You can't let anyone think you're not going to win a race," he said during the interview. "If you talk yourself out of believing you are a winner, then you might as well stay in the pits and let someone else do the driving."

"There were times we left home without money to buy new tires. We didn't know where the money was coming from. Heck, there's times we didn't have money to put gas in the truck to get to the track."

"But someone always came through for what we needed. We always could have used more and better equipment, but I'm talking about don't let yourself believe you can't be a winner."

During the 1950s, Baker was active in all branches of the NASCAR racing tree. He divided his time between the tumultuous short tracks and the popular NASCAR Grand National circuit - and also took time out to win the championship for NASCAR's short-lived open-wheel Speedway Division tour in '52.

He was a driver held in high esteem among team owners, who became sought-after to drive other teams equipment when he wasn't campaigning his own.

In his two championship years of 1956 and '57, Baker won 24 of his 46 career NASCAR Grand National victories.

In addition to his two championships, he won the Southern 500 at Darlington three times.

Perhaps the 1960 Darlington race is the best example of his de-

sire to race and overcome adversity.

Jack Smith had a bad wreck at Darlington in 1958 and refused to drive any more at the track. Baker took over as his substitute.

As a replacement, Baker wheeled Smith's Pontiac to victory in dramatic fashion. He finished the race on three wheels, throwing up a shower of sparks after blowing a tire with two laps remaining.

His final superspeedway triumph came in 1964 at Darlington, driving a Dodge for Ray Fox. It turned out to be the final win of his career, but even at the age of 45, he proved he hadn't lost the edge.

Baker retired as a full-time driver from NASCAR Grand National competition after the 1968 season. Not content to sit around he switched to the Grand Touring Series, which featured Mustangs and Camaros. He was a front-runner in that series too, winning eight times in four seasons.

After kicking around the short tracks throughout the Carolinas, Baker got restless and wanted to test the big-league waters one final time.

In 1976, at the age of 57, he struck a deal with team owner Junie Donlavey to make his return at Darlington for the April 11 race. After qualifying 13th, Baker went on to finish in sixth place.

What makes Baker stand out as one of my heroes is he never gave up.

Growing up on a farm near Chester, S.C., Baker had to outrun the police on his very first whiskey run in order to stay out of jail.

"If there was something going on that you dare not go to, like the roughest side of town or roughest joints, that's things I played," he told a reporter shortly before his death in 2002.

"I was brought up like an alley dog. I kind of felt like I was Buck Baker, a tough somebody. That may have been because I didn't have the care of a mother and father, maybe brothers and sisters."

"Maybe I just had a bad outlook on life. I lived like that for an awful long time, but I never went to jail in the 1930s."

Baker quit school after the ninth grade. His many activities included boxing, football, golf, working in a bakery and selling automobiles.

After a hitch in the Navy during World War II, he and his family (wife Margaret and son, Buddy), moved to Charlotte where he found work as a Trailways bus driver.

Baker got his first notion about driving a race car at the age of 27, when he was older than most of the other drivers who were already running a circuit. He competed in his first race in 1946. In 1952, after beating out Lee Petty at Columbia, S.C., he decided to become a NASCAR series regular—at the age of 34.

During his career in NASCAR Grand National racing, Elzie Wylie Baker competed in 636 races, won 46 times and was the first driver to exceed \$300,000 in official career earnings.

The world needs a lot more people like Baker in these troubled times. If he didn't know what to do, he would either find a way or make one.

Next week: "Tiger" Tom; Little Man With a Big Desire

Racing trivia question: Which state is Kasey Kahne from?

Last week's question: What year was the first Daytona 500 held? The year was 1959 and it was won by Lee Petty.

You may contact The Racing Reporter at: hodges-news@earthlink.net.

Forbes Road November Students Of The Month



Pictured above are Forbes Road Elementary students with November birthdays. First row: Caden Kuhn, Kaelonni Lashinsky, Peyton Kendall; second row: Brian Scanlon, Hayden Mitchell, Matthew Beightol, Sierra Everhart, Tamara Guilfoyle, Brenden Mellott, Asher Shaffer, Dante Barthel; third row: Brenden Lupey, Katelyn Doney, Jordon Means, Tia Martz, Kylee Hoover, Nolan Wilt, Wyatt McGowan.

PA Farmers Continue To Invest In Conservation Practices

Improving water quality

Pennsylvania farmers are again investing millions of dollars this year in hundreds of projects to reduce the amount of erosion and sedimentation entering the state's waterways, said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff on Friday as he announced the second round of tax credits through the Resource Enhancement and Protection Program, or REAP.

This year, 231 on-farm conservation practices have been completed and more than \$1.6 million in REAP tax credits have been awarded through the program. The projects represent a total investment of more than \$23 million by farmers.

"REAP has proven successful because farmers are actively making changes and improvements in their conservation practices to protect our soils and water supply," said Wolff. "In these tough economic times, programs like REAP help farmers maintain viable businesses while making critical investments to improve the quality of our environment."

The State Conservation Commission approved farmers' REAP applications on a first-come, first-served basis for the \$10 million in tax credits available for the 2008-09 fiscal year. The applications included 945 individual conservation best management practices on Pennsylvania farms, and included the purchase of no-till planting equipment.

These practices are added to the 648 best management practices implemented with the 2007 tax credits.

The remaining \$8.4 million in tax credits have been committed to projects, however, farmers cannot take advantage of them until the projects are completed.

REAP was developed in 2007. It allows farmers and businesses to earn tax credits in exchange for implementing best management practices to enhance farm production and protect natural resources.

The program is administered by the State Conservation Commission and the tax credits are awarded by the Department of Revenue.

Farmers can receive tax credits of up to \$150,000 per agricultural operation for 50 or 75 percent of the total cost of a conservation project, depending on the best management practice implemented. Farmers may also qualify for a 50 percent tax credit to purchase no-till planting equipment.

For more information about the program, visit www.agriculture.state.pa.us/REAP, or contact program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or mabender@state.pa.us.

Game Commission Offers "Seedlings For Schools" Program

Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe announced last Thursday the agency will be helping commonwealth school students learn about the vital role of trees in the environment through its "Seedlings for Schools" program, in which students will be able to plant a variety of tree seedlings at home, on school grounds or in their community.

"There is no charge to schools participating in this project, as the seedlings are provided by the Game Commission's Howard Nursery," Roe said. "The cost of shipping seedlings is covered through the generous donations of Waste Management; Mealey's Furniture; Wildlife for Everyone Foundation; USFWS-Partners for Wildlife; and Pheasants Forever Chapter 603."

The program provides two levels of involvement based on the grade level, and the agency has been working with the state Department of Education to get the word out about the availability of seedlings.

"Seedlings for Your Class" is primarily for third-grade students. As part of this program, the Game Commission provides a classroom or one grade level with enough seedlings for each student to take a seedling home to plant. Seedling choices are silky dogwood or white spruce, and a teacher's guide comes with the seedlings. Orders will be accepted Jan. 5- April 1.

"Seedlings to Develop Habits" is primarily for middle and high school students. As part of this program, the Game Commission provides a variety of seedlings to students interested in planting seedlings on school or community grounds to improve habitat, plant along a stream, develop a tree nursery, or create an environmental area. Orders will be accepted Feb. 23- April 1.

"Seedlings come in bundles of 25, and will be shipped directly to schools by UPS during the weeks of April 14 and 22, dependent on order receipt and weather, to be available for Arbor Day plantings," said Cliff Guindon, superintendent of the Game Commission's Howard Nursery. "Once seedlings arrive, it is important to keep them moist. Hand out seedlings with roots in plastic bags with moist shredded newspaper or plant in juice/milk carton for transplanting at home. 'How to plant' information and educational materials will be provided with seedlings."

For more information, visit the Game Commission's Web site (www.pgc.state.pa.us) and click on the "Seedlings for Schools" icon in the center of the homepage.

Postal Service Announces Modified Collections On Several Upcoming Days

Postal officials announced modified mail collection for December 24, 26, 31 and January 2. Mail collection from official postal collection boxes and other postal locations will be at the time posted on the collection box or at noon, whichever is earlier on those dates. This means customers should deposit outgoing mail prior to noon or the posted collection time, if it's earlier.

Many postal retail windows will be open regular hours. Because some local closing times could vary, it's recommended customers check with their local

post office for the exact closing time and for additional information regarding retail services on December 24, 26, 31 and January 2. Post offices that are closing early will post a notice in the lobby with the location of the nearest post office open regular hours. Mail delivery will not be affected by this change.

The postal service will deliver Express Mail on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Year's Day, January 1, in most major metropolitan cities. Customers are advised to check with their post office for next-day delivery locations. Customers can go online at www.usps.com for quick, easy and convenient service.

Let's Make 2009 A Healthy Year For Pennsylvanians

By Everett James
ACTING SECRETARY OF HEALTH
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Many people make resolutions for the New Year, such as planning to make healthier eating choices or beginning a regular exercise regimen. As Pennsylvanians consider their New Year's resolutions for 2009, I encourage those who smoke or use other tobacco products to make this the year they finally quit - for good. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in our society.

Approximately 2 million adults in Pennsylvania - nearly one in five people - still smoke. Since Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Act went into effect Sept. 11, 2008, smoking is prohibited in most public places, including restaurants, workplaces and a portion of casino floors. Although smoking rates and cigarette sales have fallen considerably since 2002, there is more work to be done.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health continues to help Pennsylvanians live tobacco-free. Last year, 58 percent of adult smokers attempted to quit for at least one day. The number of quit attempts grows each year. This is good news because we know that for many tobacco users, quitting isn't easy and often requires more than one attempt in order to succeed. We have created resources, including www.DeterminedToQuit.com and Pennsylvania's Free Quitline, 1-800 QUIT NOW (1-800-784-8669), to provide free cessation techniques, counseling options and structured assistance for individuals committed to quitting.

Our Web site features a variety of tools to help Pennsylvania smokers, including cessation tips, smoking statistics, an online quit companion, a video blog of real Pennsylvanians sharing their quit attempts and information on how friends and families of smokers can provide support. The Free Quitline offers help 24 hours a day. You can get a personalized quit plan that includes free, one-on-one calls with a supportive coach.

While you are considering your New Year's resolution, don't be afraid to let your loved ones know what you're thinking about doing so that they can encourage and support your success. Check out the cessation resources available from your Department of Health. Together, we can make 2009 the year you become tobacco-free.

Library Corner

New large print books at the Fulton County Library include "Twilight" by Stephanie Meyers and "The Hiding Place" by Karen Harper.

New fiction includes "Fearless" by Diana Palmer, "Coming Unglued: a Sisters, Ink. Novel" by Rebecca Seitz, "The Fire" by Katherine Neville, "The Tales of Beedle the Bard" by J.K. Rowling, and "From Dead to Worse" by Charlaime Harris.

New books on CD include "Divine Justice" by David Baldacci, "Bones" by Jonathan Kellerman, "A Mercy" by Toni Morrison, "The Shack" by William Young, and "Cross Country" by James Patterson.

A new database is available to Fulton County Library patrons from the library's home page and from outside the library using your library barcode. Mango Languages lets you study a foreign language at your own pace. Mango currently offers 12 language courses, including Spanish, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Russian, Chinese, and ESL for Spanish speakers.

The libraries will be closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, at 1:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve, and on New Year's Day.



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