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Jacket standout headed for Notre Dame

McGuffey accepts scholarship, will play football for Fighting Irish

David McGuffey will be trading the blue-and-white of Nicholas County High School for the green-and-gold of Notre Dame University next fall. McGuffey decided to accept a full athletic scholarship from the South Bend, Indiana school last weekend.

The 117-pound NCHS speedster made the commitment to South Bend on a campus visit. Notre Dame assistant football coach Jim Higgins said Tuesday that he will be in Carlisle to sign McGuffey on the national starting date, Feb. 18.

"It was the academics," McGuffey said, that swung his decision to Notre Dame. "I can't play football forever."

McGuffey said he was particularly impressed with the strength of the Notre Dame alumni organization throughout the nation, an organization that can provide important contacts in his post-football career.

The two-time all-star flew to South Bend Friday and returned home Sunday. "It was great," said McGuffey, who had never flown before. He said McGuffey's commitment to Notre Dame made both his past and future

coaches happy.

"He's a fine athlete and a great kid," Higgins said Tuesday. "We looked at a lot of film, and we liked him," he said. Higgins said that the Notre Dame staff was impressed by both McGuffey's athletic ability and his personal character. "He's tough, and he's a great kid, not only academically, but personality and character-wise," he said.

Coach Ben Pumphrey seemed equally pleased with McGuffey's decision. "I'd want a high school player that wanted to pursue a football career and who got on the signal at Notre Dame made a pretty good choice," the veteran coach said.

McGuffey's trip to the Notre Dame campus came after two Irish assistants met with his parents, NCHS coaches and school administrators in Carlisle last week. The assistants also attended the Nicholas-Harrison basketball game last week.

Higgins said that Notre Dame will start McGuffey out as a wide receiver and as a kick returner on specialty teams. The Irish staff also liked his

play at defensive end for the Jackets, and could possibly look at him as a defensive back.

Higgins said that Notre Dame's recruiting this year is "looking really good so far, but I'm almost afraid to say before national letter day."

During his senior year at NCHS, McGuffey gained 1,283 yards rushing on 231 carries. He scored 31 touchdowns and six extra points for a total scoring output of 160 points.

In the passing department, he completed 47 throws from his senior station quarterback slot for 294 yards. He picked up another 671 yards on 23 back returns.

His overall offensive output for the year totaled 2,148 yards.

Defensively, McGuffey had 111 tackles during his senior year.

He was a two-time all-star at NCHS, and he won the state triple jump championship last spring as a junior.

He was also an all-region selection in basketball last year.

Coach Ben Pumphrey said that the fact McGuffey was such a team player "see McGuffey picks Irish, page 19"



NCHS star athlete David McGuffey has decided to continue his athletic and academic career at Notre Dame University. McGuffey is pictured above during last season's game with Richmond Madison. — Mercury photo.

County's disaster request is denied

Local farmers won't receive low-interest federal loans

The news from Washington last week was not what Nicholas County farmers had hoped to hear. Kentucky Energy and Agriculture Secretary Drake (Drake announced that the county's application to have Nicholas declared a natural disaster area had been denied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The county had applied for the certification in August in order to make local farmers eligible to receive economic assistance in the form of federal loans through the Farmers' Home Administration that carried interest rates of only five percent.

A projected loss of 50 percent of the county's tobacco crop due to weather-related conditions prompted the request.

The announcement surprised local agricultural Extension Agent Mike Phillips and shocked AGCS Executive Director John Conner. Both are members of the local Emergency Disaster Board which submitted the original proposal.

Phillips said that without the federal assistance, "some farmers in the county" would be pushed over the edge financially.

Conner said Tuesday afternoon that the unofficial word she received indicated that the application had been re-submitted to Washington for another review.

"If they (local farmers) are not going to be able to get those low interest loans, where will they get the money to put out a crop next year?" Conner asked.

Conner said that on the basis of marketing cards already returned to her office, she expects the county to lose 20 to 40 percent of its spots this year. She said the county stands to lose "around 20,000 pounds" of its base this year.

Short crops in the past four years are beginning to eat away at the tobacco base of the county. Two years ago Nicholas lost 3,000 pounds. Last year it lost 14,000. Conner's projection holds true, the total tobacco base last year would total 21,000 pounds. At this year's average price of \$1.81 per pound, that adds up to nearly \$38,000.

Conner said that many county farmers had been counting on the low interest loans. "We've had a lot of farmers in here asking about them," she said.

She thought that the county had a good chance of receiving the disaster certification. She said that none of the surrounding counties "are talking about the kind of losses we are."

Conner did say that local farmers are still eligible to receive low-interest loans from Food-Grain Emergency Program and the Livestock Feed Program, "but that's not our problem here." These programs cover actual losses to feed grain. "The problem is the tobacco crop," she said.

Conner encouraged local citizens to let their representatives in Washington know how much the money means to the county.

Phillips said that the agricultural losses in the county this year will take "over \$1 million out of the local economy." He said that he thinks "it's starting to show" in downtown business.

Christian County was the only county in the state to be designated a natural disaster area.

A recommendation for approval of the county's application had been sent to Washington by Drake and Gov. John "See Disaster request, page 19"



Few cars were braving the blustery winds and blowing snow that roached full fury around sunset in Carlisle Monday night. — Mercury photo.

Retail food prices hit a 15-month low

Retail food prices in Kentucky fell to a 15-month low during January, according to Kentucky Farm Bureau's marketbasket survey.

A selected group of 40 food items cost an average \$22.27, down seven-tenths of one percent from the December total of \$23.07, and lowest overall figure since October of 1966. January was the 15th consecutive month that food prices have declined, leaving the marketbasket average a full two percent below the survey results from Jan. 1961.

Lower prices on meats, dairy products and grain-based food items led a broad decline during January. Partially offsetting were increases recorded for potatoes and most fresh vegetables. Iceberg lettuce shot up 25 cents per head, ending an average \$1.27, as a result of a disease-shortened crop in California.

Major declines were noted in bacon, sausage, bread, cooking oil, pickles and potato chips. Ground beef dropped

Fire destroys county home

The home of Norman Turpin was destroyed by fire Jan. 23 on Highway 80 near Blue Licks. The home and all belongings were termed a "complete loss" by County Fire Chief Woodrow Wilson.

Wilson said that fire fighters responded to the blaze around midnight, but that when they arrived the house was already consumed in flames.

Wilson said that the fire apparently started around the chimney. No injuries were reported by the chief in association with the blaze.

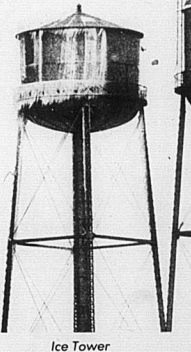
Wilson also reported a blaze on Jan. 22 at the home of Herbert Bradley on the East Union Road around 10:30 a.m. Wilson said the fire broke out when Bradley was trying to thaw out frozen water pipes and accidentally burned through a gas line and ignited the blaze.

Fire fighters were able to control the blaze with only minimal damages incurred.

On Jan. 15 fire crews were called out to the Perrin Road Ridge Road on a truck fire. Wilson said that a 1978 GMC 4X4 pickup belonging to Cecil Mitchell was completely destroyed in the blaze.

On the 19th the fire department was called out to the home of Rhonda Watkins on the Myers Road. Wilson said that blaze that began in the chimney of the house was allegedly extinguished when the fire crew arrived.

On the 23rd, a fire was brought to 2 W. Eaton on the Moorfield Road about "see Fire report, page 19"



A water tower at the city lake was covered in ice early this week as result of a mechanical malfunction that caused the tank to overflow Saturday night. — Mercury photo.

Mercury captures honors in newspaper competition

The Carlisle Mercury received three awards for newspaper excellence from the Kentucky Press Association in Lexington Saturday. The awards were made at KPA's annual midwinter convention at the Hyatt Regency.

Mercury publisher Warren R. Fisher Jr. received a first-place plaque for Best Local News Feature. Mercury Editor James C. Smith received a first-place certificate for Best Local Feature Picture. Smith also received a second-place certificate for Best In-

novative Story.

At the meeting, KPA presented its Most Valuable Member award to Betty Berryman, general manager of the Winchester Star.

The Ed Trepelin Award went to Floy Bowen, publisher of The News Enterprise in Elizabethtown. The Freedom of Information Award went to John Murdock, publisher of The Union County Advertiser in Morganfield.

And the Paul President's Award was "see Mercury captures honors, page 19"

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