SPORTS

First place trophies were presented to the Hawks' cheerleaders, pictured above, at the Nicholas County Little League Banquet held at the high school gym Saturday, March 14. They are, first row, l-r, Emmie Ritchie, Ivie Ritchie, Sara Smoot, Nicole Smoot. Second row, l-r, Sponsor Pam Ritchie, Tonya France, Carol Mitchell, Andrea Galbraith, Renee Linville, Elizabeth Schanding, Sponsor Bonnita Schanding. - Mercury Livingood Photo.

Placing first in the Nicholas County Little League basketball season, A-team, and B-team tournament are the Demons, pictured above, front row, left to right, John Jones II, John Bowen, Jonathan Tabor, Michael Greer, Aaron Dunn. Second row, l-r, Mark Adams, Dwayne Sharp, Brad Brierly, Jody Bach, Josh Alsnee. - Mercury Livingood photo.

First place for the girls' 1986-87 Little League basketball season were the Kats, pictured above, front row, left to right, Tracy Fryman, Crystal Workman, Whitney Allison, Julie Caswell, Nicole Smoot. Jamie McKee, Kevin Trussell. Second row, l-r, Tina Fryman, Nikki Smoot, Dana Banta, Terri Earlywine, Andrea Galbraith, Towyna Livingood, Lorraine Buckler, Tammy Garrett. - Mercury Livingood Photo.

Members of the 1986-87 Phillies team were presented with first place trophies for A-team and B-team tournament at the Nicholas County Little League Banquet held Saturday, March 14. They were, front row, l-r, Shawna Arnold, Jennifer Willoughby, Dara Jo McCord, Elizabeth Schanding, Krystal Hamilton, Laura Tabor. Second row, l-r, Coach Stephanie Duncan, Amanda Gates, Melanie Jones, Jennifer Vice, Susan Coldiron, Erin Weaver, Renee Linville, Christy Hatton, Coach Kathy Ruark. - Mercury Livingood Photo.

Love of sports keeps Allison real active

Larry Allison loves to coach.

It doesn't matter if it's girls or boys basketball or baseball from little league to Babe Ruth.

Allison is a native of Nicholas County and a 1965 graduate of Nicholas County High School.

Allison signed a baseball scholarship to attend Morehead State University under then head baseball coach Sonny Allen.

Between graduating from high school and beginning his freshman year at MSU, Allison wrecked his knee and ended his collegiate baseball career before it actually began.

After graduating from Morehead in 1970, Allison began his teaching and coaching career at MMI.

For the next five years he was the head basketball and head baseball coach at the Millersburg Military school.

For the last 12 years he has been teaching and coaching at Deming High School.

For the first three years at Deming he was the head basketball coach.

For the next four seasons, he coached six teams: three boys, and three girls.

"That was a time that was very difficult," he said. "Sally had to be both mother and father to the children. There was a lot of time away from home, and the days seemed like they would never end sometimes."

Allison coached the girls junior high teams, plus the Deming varsity and junior varsity. At the same time he was coaching the boys varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams.

He did this with no paid assistant coaches.

"We did have some volunteer assistants, but we had no paid assistants on any of the teams," he explained.

After four years of this routine, Allison put his coaching shoes on the shelf for the next three years.

"It took a lot of organization to coach all of those teams," he said. "The wear and tear was tremendous."

Following the three year layoff, he did take the head girls basketball coaching job, again.

"I really wanted a chance to watch my own kids play a little, and the time a lot of this was taking was going to make it impossible.

"You just can't do any of it justice if you're trying to do it all, so I have been able to make the choices I want and go ahead with those."

Allison has found some other rewards, too.

"Coaching is rewarding, especially when you're working with young kids.

"There have been some big rewards. Winning the district, while coaching at Deming rates at the top of the list, along with having the girls win a game in the regional tournament in 1980.

"There were some tough losses, too," Allison said. "Especially one year when we lost to Augusta in triple overtime in the finals of the district."

Allison looks at coaching as a real challenge.

"The amount of hours it takes to be successful at coaching, and having time to be something other than a coach," were two items given by Allison as a coach's challenge.

Trying to fit coaching around family life, has been a full-time job for Allison.

Larry and his wife Sally live on Upper Jackstown Road with their three children, Sori, 17, a junior at NCHS, Brad, 13, a seventh grader, and Whitney, 9, who is in the third grade.

In the classroom, Allison teaches elementary physical education, high school health and physical education, along with driver's education.

But, on the hardwood, Allison has seen several differences between coaching boys and girls basketball.

"Many times playing basketball is a new experience for girls basketball players, so you have the opportunity of it being new, and they'll work exceptionally hard.

"For boys, on the other hand, most of them have played a lot of basketball, and think they know all there is to know about playing. As such, you have to spend a lot of time teaching them your system and the way you want things done.

In spite of all the hours spent on the basketball court, Allison has always found time for his greatest coaching lovb, baseball.

"I have been coaching baseball since I was in high school. I began with my dad (Howard Allison) and have coach several years.

"Since getting back into coaching this time, I have been coaching eight years."

For the last three years, Allison has been a head coach in two leagues. He has a team in the little league, ages 9-10, and in the Babe Ruth League, ages 13-15.

Last year's 12-year-old all star team played 23 games, finishing 21-2.

Two years ago the Nicholas County team lost to Shelbyville in an Anderson County tournament 10-0.

Last year the team avenged the loss downing Shelbyville, 8-7, in a tournament held in Frankfort by the Kiwanis Club.

"That was quite an experience playing in the tournament," he said.

"We had the opportunity to play with several players that went on to play in the major league, like Doug Flynn, Roy Smalley and Marv Foley."

Allison has combined the sport as a true champion and puts it all in perspective.

"One of the most rewarding things that comes from coaching is helping the youth. Yes, that's one of the things I enjoy most."

MSU players earn OVC honors

Morehead State University had three of its basketball players receive honors from the Ohio Valley Conference this week.

MSU center Bob McCann was named the Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year after becoming the first player in the history of the OVC to lead the league in rebounding three straight years.

The 6-9 native of Morristown, New Jersey, destined for the NBA, finished the season averaging 18.6 ppg, 11.3 rpg, and 2.0 blocks per game.

His total of 83 blocks led the OVC for the second straight season. McCann finished sixth in the nation in rebounding and 11th in the country in blocked shots.

Named to the All-OVC Freshman team was MSU rookie Tony Curry, a 6-1 guard from Louisville. Curry, who averaged 10.1 ppg and 3.9 rpg was second on the team in assists with 80 and was the second highest vote getter among the OVC's freshmen.

MSU Lady Eagle forward Kelly Stamper was named first-team All-OVC. The 5-9 sophomore from Mallie, Kentucky, led the team scoring (14.3) and averaged 8.0 rpg. Stamper was a member of the All-Freshman team last year.

Sonny Moran contributes

Morehead State University Director of Athletics G. E. "Sonny" Moran is a contributing author to a 286-page book on athletic management published last month by Eddie Bowers Publishing Company, of Dubuque, Iowa.

Compiled and edited by Dr. Thomas M. Gorman, athletic director and Department of Physical Education chairman at Bridgewater College, the book is entitled "Organizational Management Administration for Athletic Programs."

Other contributors include athletic leaders from such schools as Duke University, University of Notre Dame, University of Virginia and Georgia Institute of Technology, and representatives from athletic conferences.

Moran, a member of MSU's staff since 1974, is the author of a chapter on "Administration of Athletics Contests."

A native of West Virginia, Mogan is a former West Virginia University head basketball coach and also former athletic director for the University of Charleston.

He has written articles for various coaching magazines, including Scholastic Coach, Athletic Journal and Coach Clinic.

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GENERAL NEWS

Be kind to your friend in the swamp. . . *he may predict weather, turn into handsome prince*

Just like the folks in the fairy tales found out, I have never underestimated the power of the frog. You never know when you ask a frog to do something all the good things that can result.

Even when you mistreat one of those lovable little creatures, he will still love you, like the princess in Grimm's Fairy Tales found out when she slammed a frog up against a castle wall and he turned into a handsome prince with a wedding license.

Or the youngest brother in another tale that went to a frog pond to look for help in finding a bride that would please his mother. He ended up marrying the frog, which had turned into a beautiful girl and got a chariot and a team of ponies thrown in on the bargain.

I never could tell a boy frog from a girl frog, so I never made any ironclad contracts with them for fear of ending up trying to explain to the neighbors why I have a gay-type frog croaking in a high-pitched voice hanging around the house.

Actually, you can tell a male frog because he is the only one who talks. The human race was not blessed by this virtue, so we can only envy the frog's great fortune. He'll never be plagued with frog lib from his mate.

Oldtimers know if they listen closely to a frog's croak, he'll tell them what the weather is going to be. Frogs are still croaking, but you don't find many people listening these days. It's hard to hear a frog croak when you are driving down a four-lane highway at 55 mph.

A news release coming out of Pekin told how a Chinese peasant translated frog croaks into weather forecasts. The Chinese have proverbs for everything, most of which they put into fortune cookies for you to choke on. The one on frogs says that "a downpour coincides with frogs croaking."

But veteran weather-forecaster Chang Chi-tsai made careful observations of his own and found it wasn't as simple as the ancients had thought. He has to get his frogs tuned in for all seasons. And he says that, if frogs croak on a fine day, it will rain in two days. If frogs croak after a rain, it will be fine weather. If frogs do not croak after successive overcast days, it will continue to rain.

Chang has been keeping records daily since 1959 and his method of combining practical experience with time-honored proverbs has enabled him to achieve an accuracy rate of 79% for short-range forecasting and 81% for long-range predictions.

My puppy was pretty good on weather forecasts. He'd listen to the frogs and tell what tomorrow's weather would be. I got the impression he arrived at his conclusions by how the sound of croaking came to him out of the creek. The atmosphere would have an effect on the sound and he could pretty well guess from that.

"Red in the morning, sailor's warning. Red at night, sailor's delight" was a favorite expression of his. A ring around the moon means rain ahead. The rain's nearness is forecast according to the ring's size. The smaller in size, the nearer the storm.

A sun dog means rain. Many whirlwinds mean a drought is coming. Land terrapins, frogs or rain birds or doves calling predict rain.

Frogs' croaking is their mating call, so what they are really doing is sitting around on mud banks and lily pads and whistling at the girl frogs. From all the croaking they do, you have to conclude they do a lot of love-making which could be why there are so many frogs.

Like humans, each frog has a different voice. Otherwise the girls wouldn't know which one is calling them. Volume and speed of their chuggarumps are probably factors in selling us the weather and the girl frogs how badly they need some loving. They have to multiply fast, to keep up with the expanding high school biology classes.

The first thing every high school biology class in the country does is cut up frogs. It must be some kind of sacrificial ritual that is supposed to convert you from a tender, sweet youth into a cold, calculating scientific machine bent on cutting every creature to ribbons just to see what's on the inside.

For the dissecting project, usually a boy and a girl are assigned together. The boy gets dull scalpel and chops up the poor little critter while the girl is gone to the toilet to vomit. A frog's legs have blood vessels similar to those in a human and this is educational I guess. Otherwise, there isn't much to see inside a frog but a bunch of icky parts that kpep it going. I think frogs are chosen for dissecting because they are one of the few critters that can't bite back when you stick a knife into them.

I have never had much heart to mutilate a frog. That's why I won't eat frog legs. They hop all over the skillet when you apply the heat and I'm afraid one of them will turn into a prince in a very ugly mood demanding that I get him put back together on my Blue Cross insurance card. I don't blame them for giving people warts.

At least half the flailing I got at school was from frogging teachers and girls' desks. On any given day I could pick up half a dozen frogs on the way to school. The temptation was too great for me not to put them in someone's desk for safekeeping. The teachers I had would give a frog warts so there wasn't much to lose in the disposition department. Being remembered as PS 1 as the great white frogger is probably not the worst thing that ever happened to me.

This short essay by a young immigrant from Norway was reported by the Chicago Board of Education: "What a wonderful bird the frog are. When he stand, he sit almost, When he hop, he fly almost. He ain't got no sense hardly. He ain't got no tail hardly, either, when he sit on what he ain't got almost."

— RM —

On we sail into 1987 and sometime during this year I'd like to see:

> Someone explain what "progressive rock" is.
> A boxer or country singer sentenced to prison on drug charges who does TV pan in only college football player who instead of saying hello to his mother says hello to his librarian.
> Joan Collins' birth certificate.
> White stockings for women (unless they are nurses) banned.
> Mergers of big companies that don't result in employees being fired and then rehired at less wages.
> Humble White House TV knockers.
> Someone explain the benefits of drug testing.
> A beauty contest where looks make a difference.

Quips Washington Press Club Foundation's Salute to Congress: U. S. Sen. Wyche Fowler Jr. (D-Ga.) said of one Republican congressman from Illinois:

"If you think the federal deficit is the biggest mess in Washington, you should see Henry Hyde take a shower."

And U. S. rep. Joe Kennedy (D-Mass.) said his Uncle Ted, the Massachusetts senator, was his best friend, "and when not on a diet, my two best friends."

— RM —

Turning 30 is traumatic enough.

But the trauma was compounded, in Jane Blair's case, by a discovery: Her first wrinkle.

She felt an overwhelming urge to get a facelift.

"Then I met two women who had taken the plunge into cosmetic surgery," she says.

"One still wore a face mask to avoid the sun's damage. She wasn't much for looks and her conversion was a bit muffled.

"The other was no better. Her skin had been drawn so tightly that her dentures continually blowed. Until her skin relaxed, she was destined to be attractive only to the beaver community.

"Not knowing many beavers and feeling claustrophobic under a face mask, I decided to turn to a face exercise book.

"But my schedule is so hectic that the only place I can practice these exercises is in my car. It is this that makes them exceeding unwise to continue.

"Just yesterday, I was wiggling my eyebrows up and down. A pick and a Chevy Nova honked at me.

"I said A, E, I, O. U. 20 times for the benefit of my neck and somebody gave me an obscene gesture.

"Holding one eyelid down while trying to raise the other wasn't a good idea. A traffic cop pulled me over to check my driver's license."

Onward, upward.

Autum and Ned Byers of Lexington are shown judging entries in the Nicholas County Elementary School Science fair last week. The fair, which occurs annually, attracted 247 entries this year. Autum is a former math teacher in the system. - Bill Crofford Photo.

RUSS METZ

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