

FEATURE AT SIX

While injured, McGuffey gets insightful look at college

By Josh Shephard

OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
When David McGuffey left Nicholas County High in 1982 for Notre Dame, he had a star in his eye. He had a vision of himself as a professional athlete and he counted on the reputation of the Fighting Irish to launch him in to a professional career that would maximize time and finan-

cial security for life. For awhile he said, the playing was rough and the demands high, but he fought to meet the challenge and beat the odds. He did not strive to do well in anything else.



The Carlisle Mercury's Josh Shephard (Photo Above) is a grassy field behind the property of Tom Jones along US 260. It was apparently caused from hot coals carried away by strong winds Saturday from a garbage fire. Flames were extinguished before a serious fire could result. Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes said (Below) A fire apparently caused from a wood burning stove ignited a trailer owned by Johnny Edwards at Blue Lick Monday morning. Hughes said Nicholas County firemen were able to extinguish flames before the trailer was a total loss.



Cable will increase new channels offered. Contained in information presented to Carlisle City Council, Simmons Cable Television has announced it will increase basic cable rates to \$14.50 per month. Simmons will also add TNT to basic service and add HBO to premium channels.

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENTS
The following personal representatives have been appointed and qualified in the Nicholas District Court in the following counties:
The Peoples Bank, Executor, Main Street, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311 Hazel C. Stewart, deceased, 1506 Lower Lanes, Shawnee Road, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311, BILLY C. Higgins, Attorney, 109 Main Street, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311.
Linda Chapman, Administrator, 113 - A Hill N. Hwy., Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356, Garland Lowell Jones, deceased, Box #1, Box 1716, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311, Richard Mayrath, Attorney, 107 W. Walnut Street, Nicholasville, Kentucky 40302.
Tara Lee, Box #1, Box 453, Mayoville, Kentucky 41066 and James H. Harkness, 210 South Elm Street, Carlisle, KY 40311, Co-Executors, A. J. Mayrath, deceased, 1011 Moorhead Road, Carlisle, KY 40311, Billy C. Higgins, Attorney, 109 Main Street, Carlisle, KY 40311.
Sally B. Watkins, Clerk Nicholas District Court
Published in The Carlisle Mercury Thursday, December 7, 1989.

never thought they would mean much. I did the bare minimum to stay eligible for the football team," McGuffey said.

He met with some success. Certainly not the wild success usually reserved for the handful of college stars that might get a shot in the NFL, but he saw himself improving and the professional dream he held in his mind, he said, until he found himself laid up and out of practice due to a knee injury.

He was out for the entire season. His grade point average registered just above a 2.0 and in that inactive semester, he grew to gain an insight into the world of college sports, a cynical view, he admits, but nevertheless, quite true.

"All a successful college athlete represents to Universities is meat. They don't much care for your performance as much as they care for network rights to broadcast football games, and the better quality athletes, the more money they can expect to receive," McGuffey said.

Sitting out for the year, he thought about how he applied himself to be the best possible student he could be in Nicholas County in order to get into prestigious Notre Dame.

He realized he had not been accepted to the University based merely on his success with the gridiron. It was also very much his ability to be extremely active in other organizations at Nicholas County while at the time maintaining better than a 3.0 grade average in his classes.

"I realized I was practically throwing away all the things I had regarded as important while I was in high school pursuing a long shot dream which one injury had pretty well destroyed."

"I had chosen a profession, although it would have been great to make, at best would

have lasted until I was 35. And I asked myself, then what? How could I spend the rest of my years.

"Looking at my G.P.A., I had obviously not planned on anything to do or fall back on if my dream career had not panned out," McGuffey said.

It was then, he said, he began to consider his future options more seriously than he had before. Within a semester, his class performance had improved vastly.

"I was working from a disadvantage because my overall class performance had been damaged from my lack of care during my freshman year, but my semester average had broken the 3.0 mark," he said.

He had very little help, he said, but the nature of higher education demands a person take the responsibility to bring oneself up, he said.

If he had chosen, McGuffey could have left Notre Dame with his fractured dream. Notre Dame would not try to force him to do anything.

It was to make the most of his opportunity at the University, he had to take on the responsibility himself, he said.

"Large Universities make a mint off a good football season, probably more than they see from three years of donations and endowments, he said. But athletes don't work to bring in the money, they don't see a dime, McGuffey said.

"Quite a few lines what money they made because they never bothered to learn what to do with their earnings, he said.

The story that really brings the lack of education in focus is the recent banishment of Washington Redskins Quarterback Manley from the NFL for using Cocaine.

In the hearings that followed, Manley broke down and cried when he had to admit he could not read above a fourth grade level, McGuffey said.

"Oklahoma State let this man through. Why they aren't on any kind of academic probation, I don't

know. But obviously they didn't care whether he could read or not. Just as long as he brought in those touchdowns and the television networks continued to pay for the rights to their games. He was a reason why we have so much money to spend, and he has raised himself because he thought football was the key to everything. His entire life, if he will be entirely ruined," McGuffey said.

Just another piece of meat for sale," McGuffey said. He felt lucky because he fell into the football trap early enough to realize his priorities were somewhat skewed.

He had time, he said, to straighten himself out and went on to graduate with a degree in business administration in 1987 and is doing well as a business salesman in while you're in it, but it pays off so much later on. I just hope high school students are smart and raised too well to

get involved with drugs and I'm doing well for myself. Certainly, I would like to have gone for the pros but I have never wanted whatever."

"The only valuable advice I can give to anyone is to shoot for your dreams if you can, but never ever underestimate the practical value of learning."

It still won't be easy, a degree doesn't necessarily mean you'll end up rich or working in the field you majored in, but a degree says a person will be far easier to teach.

There will come a time, and it's not far away, when good jobs won't be open to anyone without a college degree. It is that important, I can't stress it enough. School may seem boring and tedious while you're in it, but it pays off so much later on. I just hope high school students are smart and raised too well to

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GENERAL NEWS



The Nicholas County Academic Team led for second place with Mason County in the Limestone League. Displaying the second place trophy are award winners of the academic team. They are (Top to Bottom) Heather Hall, Josh Guthrie, Anne Koury, Brian Kanapp, and Todd Wilson.

Nicholas team takes second in Limestone

By Josh Shephard
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF

Nicholas County tied for second place with Mason County in the Limestone League academic competition as well as winning more awards for top up rounds than any other school involved in the league.

During the Limestone League banquet Monday night in the Cragg room of the Adron Duran University Center at Morehead State University, John King, commissioner of the Limestone League, gave awards to the top six students in each subject of the written and top-up competition.

Nicholas County received 10 awards in all, three in the written section and seven in the network rounds.

In the awards for the written competition, Heather Hall took second place in Language Arts, Josh Guthrie garnered a second place award in science, and Anna Koury placed fourth in the Humanities Academics category.

In the Top-Up rounds, Nicholas' Anne Koury with a second place award for Language Arts along with Hall who took sixth place. Todd Wilson was awarded sixth place in Math, Guthrie and Hall took third and fifth place respectively in science. Brian Canapp grabbed the second place award for Social Studies, and Koury came up fourth in the Humanities.

Nicholas and Mason shared a 3-2 record, though Nicholas defeated Mason in regular competition.

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