

SPORTING SCENE

One Good-Hearted Hiking Partner Wanted

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

I was reminded last weekend of that gut feeling I had last fall that when wife Kerry told me she had been on her last backpacking trip.

We had just finished a three-day adventure on the Appalachian Trail last September when Kerry stated that she didn't think she could rough-it anymore the way we had for the second straight year.

She was being nice when she said "think." What she really meant was "there is no way in this world I'm going backpacking again."

Somehow I've been living by a thread ever since thinking that perhaps by the time September rolled around again she might have changed her mind. I figured that after a busy summer beach season she would be ready to go anywhere for a vacation. Maybe even another mountain backpacking trip.

The subject of backpacking came up again over the weekend when Kerry found a few of my Appalachian Trail maps and books lying around the house.

After several indepth conversations about planning another outdoor adventure, it appears that Kerry's memories of last fall's aches and pains from an AT hike are still fresh as ever.

Borrowing a few rhymes and a chorus or two from Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson's Good Hearted Woman, maybe I can humor Kerry into just one more (I promise) trip to the good ol' outdoors:

A long time forgotten are dreams of blistered feet and aching back that have fallen by the Appalachian Trailway.

And the good times of backpacking he promised ain't what she lived during hiking vacations the last two years.

But she never complained (much) of the aches and pains I've put her through climbing the likes of Little Hump and Max Patch Mountains, Lord.

She just talks about the good times of no more AT adventures to come.

She's a good hearted wife and hiking partner who isn't exactly in love with the outdoors itch I get this time of the year.

She loves me but doesn't quite understand the necessity of owning such things as sleeping bags, tents, hiking boots and those scrumptious ready-to-eat meals better known as K-rations.

After tear drops and barfing she sternly proclaimed no more backpacking trips.

But she's a good hearted woman loving the idea of trading in a tent and a latrine for the good times of indoor plumbing, hot water and a warm bed which can all be found just over the next ridge at her father's mountain house.

Just in case these lyrics weren't enough to get Kerry back in the outdoors mood, the invitation is open to all good hearted Brunswick County hikers interested in a 31-mile, 5-day-or-so Appalachian Trail hike in the northern Smokey Mountains.

There will be lots to see, plenty of fresh air and clean water to enjoy between Davenport Gap and Newfound Gap. This section of the AT is known for continuous panoramic views and side trips to such landmarks as 6,593-foot Mount LeConte and the Mount Cammerer lookout tower built in the 1930's by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

If you can live with a few blisters and without a bath for the better part of a week then this is just the type of challenge you're looking for.

Your life just wouldn't be complete without it.



He's Going In Circles

Area rains has Brunswick County Parks and Recreation's Donald Robbins (above) going in circles. At the Town Creek Township District Park Tuesday morning, his attempt to dry out a baseball diamond (below) created a pattern of distinct swirls in the clay infield. The area has soaked up about four inches of rain this past week.



District V Champion Leland Opens Dixie Majors State Tourney

Leland opened play in the N.C. State Dixie Majors (ages 11-12) Baseball Tournament last Saturday in Fayetteville with a split of its first two games.

The District V champions lost to tournament host Hope Mills on Saturday but rebounded to defeat Fairmont 5-3 on Sunday.

Rashad Green belted a three-run homer to lead Leland in the win.

The local team was among 10 squads participating in the tournament. Others included in the double-elimination event were Norwood (District I), Whiteville Optimists (District II), Stanley (District III), Sardis (District IV), Stedman (District VI), Rose Hill (District VII), Madison—Mayodan (District VIII) and Fairmont (District IX).

The tournament was to have concluded today (Thursday) with the championship contest.

The state champion will advance to the Dixie Majors World Series to be held at Texarkana, Texas.

Soccer Camp Set

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is offering a youth soccer camp Aug. 26-30 at Smithville Park in Southport from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Cost is \$73 each, which includes a T-shirt.

Teaching staff provided by the camp's corporate sponsor will teach sessions that cover the techniques and skills needed to become an all around soccer player, said Joe Rosselli. A free coaches/parents clinic will be available during the week.

For more information, contact Rosselli, athletic coordinator, at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

West Lincoln Eliminates Brunswick Team From Dixie Boys Tournament

West Lincoln dashed Brunswick County's hopes of a N.C. State Dixie Boys (ages 13-14) Baseball championship last Wednesday as the District 6 champions eliminated the local team 10-6.

Brunswick County led 6-4 entering the bottom of the fifth inning when West Lincoln erupted for five runs to get the win. The Lincoln County team sent 10 batters to the plate in the big inning and used only two hits and three walks while also taking advantage of three Brunswick errors.

Bubba Ricker and Seneca Waddell each doubled to lead Brunswick County at the plate.

The local District II runnersup took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Jeff Clark scored from second on Eric Johnson's RBI-single. Clark led off the frame with a single and advanced on Jason Horne's sacrifice bunt.

West Lincoln took a 2-1 lead in the second on hits by Russ Huss and Tracy Huss.

Brunswick County tallied three times in the third to retake the lead 4-2 on doubles by Horne and Waddell and Gabe Cooper's single.

West Lincoln scored twice in the bottom of the third to tie the game at 4-4 on Cheron Farley's double, a walk to Jason Beam and a Brunswick County error.

Brunswick County took its final lead, 6-4, in the fifth inning with Ricker's double providing the punch. Farley's two-out home run in the bottom of the fifth was the big blow for West Lincoln.

Dewey Black, Farley and starting pitcher Shane Sigmon led West Lincoln with two hits each. Reliever Ted Ramsey was the winning pitcher.

Chris Mintz was the starting pitcher for Brunswick County and

one of three local hurlers to see action. Waddell came in to relieve Mintz in the third inning followed by Johnson who entered in the fifth.

Brunswick County had opened the tournament last weekend with a 10-0 loss to Columbus County but rallied to take a 13-7 win over Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in the second round.

Brunswick 103 020 0—6-7-5
West Lincoln 022 051 X—10-8-0

Winners Announced In Trojan Tennis Tourney

A number of area players were winners in the first annual Trojan Tennis Tournament held last Saturday at the West Brunswick High School courts.

Greg Bland defeated Michael Norton 10-2 to win the men's open title while Ryan Yount won the men's junior championship over Lamar Hardy 10-8.

Kristy Poulos captured the women's open/junior title over Elizabeth

Roberson 10-2.

Bland and Yount teamed to win the men's doubles title with a 10-2 pro-set decision over Jim Price and Kevin Smith.

Poulos and Lauren Boyte won the women's double championship with a 10-2 triumph over Valerie Holden and Roberson.

The tournament was shortened to one day with a 10-game pro-set format due to last week's rain.

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