

SPORTING SCENE

Extraordinary Simpson Was Ordinary Husband

O.J. Simpson was an extraordinary running back who rushed for more than 11,000 yards and scored 61 touchdowns and did all the things that make up a Hall of Fame career.

As a husband, though, this football great was very ordinary. Ordinary in that he beat his former wife, Nicole Simpson, and now stands accused of her brutal murder.

O.J. Simpson grew up in southern California, but there are lots of men just like him right here in Brunswick County. The kind of men who forced 178 women to seek shelter last year at Hope Harbor Home.

Simpson was anything but normal on the football field. He rambled his way to the Heisman Trophy in 1968 as a halfback at Southern Cal.

In the NFL, he went on to do great things in Buffalo. Simpson captured the attention of the sports world in 1973 when he became the first running back in history to rush for more than 2,000 yards in a season.

Simpson made a smooth transition into retirement. He showed up on TV football broadcasts and in commercials, running through airports leaping suitcases like would-be tacklers.

The whole world loved the Juice, even though none of us really knew much about him. We knew O.J. Simpson the celebrity, but we didn't know O.J. Simpson the man.

Whether he's guilty or innocent of double murder, the fact remains that Simpson beat his wife on more than one occasion. In that respect, O.J. Simpson is all too normal.

The domestic violence statistics publicized since Simpson's arrest are alarming. One out of every three women are beaten. Somewhere in this country, a woman is beaten every 12 seconds. Domestic violence kills 4,000 women per year in the United States.

Cathy Swaim, executive director of Hope Harbor Home, says the staff there handled 175 new cases of domestic violence last year. A total of 178 women and 132 children stayed at the shelter in 1993.

"These are only the people who seek our help," Swaim noted. "There are so many more out there in denial. It is still considered a shameful thing for the woman, like somehow it's her fault that he does this."

Swaim estimates that Hope Harbor Home only sees about 10 percent of the women who are abused by their husbands in Brunswick County.

The average battered wife leaves and reunites with her husband eight times before she works up enough strength to leave him for good.

"We never believe that somebody's going to kill us. They say it and say it but it's hard for your mind to comprehend something like that," Swaim said.

The real problem, she says, is the public's acceptance of domestic violence. There are too many men in this society who think they have a right to beat their wife and not enough people doing something to stop it.

"Until society stops seeing this as a normalcy and stops condoning it, especially in areas where the income level and education level is low, it's still standard," Swaim said.

A lot of good has come out of the Simpson saga. Public awareness concerning domestic violence is real high right now because of the newspaper articles and radio and television reports.

The Simpson story has brought the issue of domestic violence to light like never before. Swaim hopes politicians take note.

"We don't receive any federal money. Maybe somebody will introduce a bill to send us some federal money," she said. "It's a nationwide problem that needs to be addressed."

Doug Rutter
Sports Editor



Crawford Signs With Catawba

Max Crawford (center) recently signed a letter of intent to play football next season at Catawba College in Salisbury. Also pictured at the signing (from left) are grandmother Elva Crawford, father Al Crawford of Ocean Isle Beach and grandfather A.V. Crawford. Max Crawford was a member of West Brunswick High School's state 2A championship football team in 1992. He recently graduated from Polk County High School. Crawford is expected to play linebacker for Catawba, which competes in the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Conference.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

RECREATION BRIEFS

Water Aerobics Offered By Parks-Rec

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with The Gauntlet will offer water aerobics classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:30 until 10:15 a.m. beginning July 6.

These classes will replace those previously scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays from 11-11:45 a.m. Fee will be \$25 per month or \$3 for drop-ins.

Discount Tickets

The department has discount tickets available to the public for the Carowinds and Kings Dominion theme parks.

Carowinds' "Summer Fun Days" tickets offer a \$6 discount off the general admission price of \$24.95 and are valid Monday through Friday through Aug. 19. The park is closed July 28 and 29.

Kings Dominion, 20 miles north of Richmond, Va., is offering good-anything tickets for \$20.95, \$6 less than the general admission price.

"Playground Days" tickets offer a special price of \$14.50 and are good for anyone age 3 and older July 18-31.

For more information about any of these programs, call Emma T. McGraw, special events coordinator, at 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

Summer Day Camp

Space is still available to children 10-13 in the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department summer day camp program for the weeks of July 11-15 and Aug. 1-5.

Fee is \$50; camp meets Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Brunswick County Government Complex in Bolivia.

Youths are involved in daily activities including swimming, arts and crafts, roller skating and bowling.

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*Completed regular season

Mt. Olive Finishes Unbeaten In Coed Softball League

Mt. Olive wrapped up an undefeated regular season in the Brunswick Baptist Association Coed Softball League with a 17-13 victory over Southport "A" last Tuesday.

Mt. Olive finished with a record of 15-0. Heading into this week's play, Gospel Center was second in the league standings at 12-2. Gospel Center beat Southport "B" 15-10 on Saturday.

Faith "B" won a pair of games last week to improve to 8-5. Faith "B" posted a 24-3 victory over Southport "C" on Saturday and defeated Shell Point 8-7 last Tuesday.

In other games Saturday, Southport "B" defeated Supply 16-6, Lebanon topped Brunswick Islands 18-7 and Southport "A" knocked off Mt. Pisgah 13-6.

Last Tuesday, Bolivia dropped Lebanon 17-5, Mt. Pisgah crushed Mill Creek 24-1, Southport "C"

dumped Calvary 17-11 and Faith "A" defeated Bethel-Oak Island Beach Road.

**Brunswick Baptist Assn.
Coed Softball League
Standings Through June 26**

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
*Mt. Olive	15	0
Gospel Center	12	2
Faith "A"	10	3
Southport "A"	9	3
*Southport "B"	11	4
Bolivia	9	5
Faith "B"	8	5
Mt. Pisgah	7	7
*Calvary	7	8
*Bethel-Oak Beach Road	6	9
Supply	4	10
Lebanon	3	10
Shell Point	3	10
Southport "C"	3	10
Mill Creek	2	11
Brunswick Islands	2	12

And the winner of the free 8'x10' sunroom is...Louis Snyder of Ocean Isle Beach!



Last year's winners of the free 8'x10' sunroom, Dennis and Celia Winters, draw Louis Snyder's name for this year's giveaway. Congratulations!

Pictured left to right, back row: Eddie Dobyne, owner, Robert Russ, Chris Hepler, Sarah Hiatt, Don Eaton, Front row: Robin Bryant, Dennis Winters, Drew Winters, Lee Dobyne, owner, Celia Winters, Pat Lambros, Debbie Hamm, Mistie Sullivan.

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This Week In Brunswick Sports

THURSDAY, JUNE 30

- Brunswick County Post 68 at Winter Park in American Legion baseball, Hardee Field, Wilmington, 7:30 p.m.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Shallotte First vs. Jennies Branch, 7 p.m.; Old Shallotte vs. New Britton, 8 p.m.; Emanuel Outreach vs. Mt. Olive, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 1

- Brunswick County Post 68 hosts Winter Park in American Legion baseball, North Brunswick High School, 8 p.m.
- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Eastside Fellowship vs. Old Shallotte, 7 p.m.; Dixon Chapel vs. Soldier Bay, 8 p.m.; Shallotte First vs. Supply Baptist, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 4

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Letties Grove vs. Shallotte First, 7 p.m.; New Britton vs. Soldier Bay, 8 p.m.; Ocean View vs. Emanuel Outreach, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 5

- Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League at Waccamaw Park: Old Shallotte vs. Seaside Methodist, 7 p.m.; Friendship Baptist vs. Jennies Branch, 8 p.m.; Eastside Fellowship vs. Dixon Chapel, 9 p.m.

This week's listings include events reported to the *Beacon*. To list a sporting activity call 754-6890 or write to Doug Rutter, *The Brunswick Beacon*, P.O. Box 2558, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

MEN'S CHURCH LEAGUE

Emanuel Tops Letties Grove

Emanuel Outreach kept its hold on first place in the Brunswick County Men's Church Softball League A Division with a 23-10 victory over Letties Grove last Friday.

Emanuel Outreach (14-1) remains one-half game ahead of Supply Baptist in the A Division. Supply defeated Friendship Baptist 13-10 last Thursday to improve its record to 14-2.

Jennies Branch (13-2) remained third in the A Division with a 15-13 win over Mt. Olive last Tuesday.

New Britton, which posted a 13-10 win over Eastside Fellowship last Thursday to run its record to 12-5, continues to lead the B Division.

Zion Baptist and Seaside Methodist are tied for second place at 8-9. Seaside was a forfeit winner over Camp Methodist last week, while Zion posted a 21-3 win over Dixon Chapel.

In other games last week, Friendship Baptist beat Camp Methodist 15-7, Old Shallotte edged Dixon

Chapel 11-9 and Shallotte First knocked off Mt. Olive 14-12.

Monday night's games were rained out and will be made up at the end of the regular season.

**Brunswick County
Men's Church Softball League
Standings Through June 27**

A DIVISION		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
Emanuel Outreach	14	1
Supply Baptist	14	2
Jennies Branch	13	2
Friendship Baptist	12	4
Mount Olive	12	5
Shallotte First	10	6
Ocean View	8	7
Letties Grove	4	13
B DIVISION		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
New Britton	12	5
Zion Baptist	8	9
Seaside Methodist	8	9
Old Shallotte	4	11
Soldier Bay	4	12
Eastside Fellowship	3	14
Dixon Chapel	2	15
Camp Methodist	2	15