

Sports



SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Sissonville 55
Roane 32
Gilmer 53
Roane 49

WRESTLING

Roane 17th in Knockout Christmas Classic

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Sissonville 56
Roane 37
Roane 50
Braxton 42

SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 8

BOYS BASKETBALL

□ Roane at Calhoun (5:45/7:30)
□ Spencer at Calhoun (6:00)
□ Geary at Braxton (6:00)

WRESTLING

□ Spencer at Elkview quad (6:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Walton at Spencer (6:00)
□ Summersville at Geary (6:00)

Friday, January 9

WRESTLING

□ Roane in WV Army National Guard Duals at Summersville (12:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Roane at Clay (5:45/7:30)
□ Walton tournament (TBA)

Saturday, January 10

WRESTLING

□ Roane in WV Army National Guard Duals at Summersville (10:00)
□ Spencer Duals (10:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Walton tournament (TBA)

Monday, January 12

BOYS BASKETBALL

□ Walton at Geary (6:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Geary at Walton (6:00)

Tuesday, January 13

BOYS BASKETBALL

□ Braxton at Roane (5:45/7:30)
□ Spencer at Ravenswood (6:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Geary at Braxton (6:00)

Wednesday, January 14

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Braxton at Roane (5:45/7:30)

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- Call Cooper at 304-927-2360 or send information by fax to 304-927-2361.

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See you in the sports section!

Roane back to .500 after beating Braxton

A big night from senior Cassidy Taylor propelled Roane County past host Braxton County 50-42 in an LKC basketball game Friday.

Taylor canned a trio of treys on her way to 22 points for the Lady Raiders, who squared their season record at 5-5.

Mary Kate Westfall also had an outstanding game as she snatched 10 rebounds and dished five assists to go along with nine points.

The Lady Raiders earned the victory with a 17-9 nod in the fourth quarter to claim a game that was tied after three periods.



Hannah Dittman tallied 16 points for the Eagles as they dropped to 2-5 overall.

Lucille Westfall led Roane's junior varsity with seven points in a 48-25 loss to Braxton.

The Lady Raider varsity dropped its second game in the Wesbanco Shootout last Tuesday in Sissonville as the Class AA No.

5 Indians notched a 56-37 decision.

Taylor topped Roane with 16 points and 11 rebounds while Lucille Westfall added 10 points.

Madison Jones scored 15 for Sissonville, which improved to 6-1.

Roane County (5-5) 17 13 3 17 - 50
Braxton County (2-5) 7 15 11 9 - 42

ROANE 50

Danielle Godbey 10-3-2, Olivia Mace 10-0-2, Mary Kate Westfall 3-3-5-9, Cassidy Taylor 6-7-8-22, Hannah Hardman 0-2-2-2, Kristen Blosser 1-1-2-3, Rochelle McCroskey 0-0-2-0, Abby Bode 1-0-0-2, Lucille Westfall 3-2-2-8. Totals: 16 15-24 50. 3-point goals: Taylor 3

BRAXTON 42

Kendra Houghton 10-1-2, Logan Frame 2-2-2-8, Kate Golinsky 0-2-2-2, Sierra Hunter 0-2-4-2, Kristen Bly 0-3-4-3, Rebecca Bigue 3-2-3-9, Hannah Dittman 6-4-7-16. Totals: 12 15-23 42. 3-point goals: Frame 2, Bigue

Roane County (4-5) 7 8 10 12 - 37
Sissonville (6-1) 17 11 14 14 - 56

ROANE 37

Cassidy Taylor 16, Lucille Westfall 10, Mary Kate Westfall 7, Hannah Hardman 2, Rochelle McCroskey 2

SISSONVILLE 56

Madison Jones 15, Mikayla Long 10, Reagan Johnson 9, Brooke Reed 7, Karli Pinkerton 7, Payten Brown 4, Alexee Haynes 2

RCHS places two at Florida event

Two Roane County wrestlers placed in the Knockout Christmas Classic Dec. 29-30 at Osceola High School in Kissimmee, Fla.

Cam Moore finished runner-up in the 120-pound class after a 6-2 loss to Brandon Staley of Winter Springs, Fla. He had advanced to the finals with two pins and two decisions.

Caije Nichols was the other Raider placer as he wound up third at 285. He rallied with five straight pins after losing a 2-1 decision to Kobe Gadison of Kennesaw Mountain, Ga., in the opening round.

Roane, with six wrestlers competing, finished 17th in the 27-team event that included teams from Florida, Georgia, Missouri and Maryland. The Raiders were the only West Virginia team.

South Dade, Fla., won the tournament while the host school, Osceola, coached by former Spencer High wrestler Jim Bird, placed seventh.

Roane's other individual results included Riley White, 2-2 at 126; Jacob Spencer, 2-2 at 132; Adam Reichard, 1-2 at 145; and Chancee Hensley, 0-2 at 195.

The Raiders return to action this Friday and Saturday at the WV Army National Guard Duals in Summersville.



Knockout Christmas Classic at Osceola High School

Team scoring: South Dade (Fla.) 213, Camden County (Ga.) 183.5, Winter Springs (Fla.) 173, Wentzville-Holt (Mo.) 167.5, Lake Highland (Fla.) 162.5, Southwest Miami (Fla.) 146, Osceola (Fla.) 138, Springstead (Fla.) 120.5, Palm Harbor University (Fla.) 100.5, Southridge Miami (Fla.) 99, Fleming Island (Fla.) 93.5, G. Holmes Braddock (Fla.) 82.5, Kennesaw Mountain (Ga.) 78, Jensen Beach (Fla.) 76, Manatee (Fla.) 75, Olympic Heights (Fla.) 63, Roane County 62.5, Freedom-Orlando (Fla.) 61, Somerset Academy (Fla.) 61, Orange City University (Fla.) 52.5, Countryside (Fla.) 48.5, Meade (Md.) 45.5, Wellington (Fla.) 39, Walton (Ga.) 29, Cypress Creek (Fla.) 25, Dr. Phillips (Fla.) 25, Bishop Moore (Fla.) 24.5

Tigers crown five champs

The Tiger Wrestling program crowned five champions Saturday at the Ritchie County Youth Wrestling novice tournament.

Marquise Walker, Marshall Welch, Curtis Carper, Johnny Payne and Preston Green each captured firsts for the Tigers.

Other placers included Logan Unger and Corey Carper with seconds, Chase Estep and Emily Steele with thirds and Lane Steele, Hayden Payne and Julian Summers with fourths.



Cole Moore, shown in a match from earlier this season, was the highest placer for the Raiders in the Knockout Christmas Classic.

DAVID HEDGES/SPENCER NEWSPAPERS

Freshmen record at 8-3

A split in a pair of road games left Roane County's freshmen basketball team with an 8-3 record for the season.

The Raiders fell 60-41 to Parkersburg last Tuesday. Christian Mace hit for 16 points to lead Roane an also had five rebounds. A.J. McGinnis, Brandon May and Adam Walker collected three steals each.

McGinnis scored 19 and Brandon Morris 15 Saturday in a 54-45 victory over Marietta. Morris added 10 boards and McGinnis nine steals and three assists. May chipped in

with eight rebounds and three assists.

Roane County (7-3) 3 16 9 13 - 41
Parkersburg 13 20 7 20 - 60

ROANE 79

A.J. McGinnis 7, Cole Ashley 6, Christian Mace 16, Chase Starcher 2, Noah Ferree 3, Brandon May 2, Adam Walker 3, Joey Dean 2. Totals: 15 8-22 41. 3-point goals: Ashley 2, McGinnis

Roane County (8-3) 15 7 15 17 - 54
Marietta 5 12 16 12 - 45

ROANE 54

A.J. McGinnis 19, Cole Ashley 3, Brandon Morris 15, Christian Mace 2, Noah Ferree 2, Brandon May 6, Adam Walker 5, Joey Dean 2. Totals: 22 6-13 54. 3-point goals: McGinnis 3, Ashley

Cuzzin Junior

Howdy, doodies!
My cuzzin the O.P. hisself is on watcha call an ex-tend-ed holiday vacation this week, so he done axed me to fill in whilst he wuz a goner.

Lucky fer you, I wuz out on parole and could do it.

Now as all his leventy-leven or so loyal reeders knows by now, he got most of the looks in the family but not all of 'em (as you can see by my handsum mug shot) 'cause I got what wuz leftover.

I got me some leftover branes too 'n now since my fav-o-rite team the Pittsburgh Stealers has done got elimbernated from the play-offs, I kin concentrate on pickin' the winners of some other team's games.

But first, speekin' of my in-telleckt, did you know I wuz

homeskooled? That's rite. My old pappy wuz a reel whiz at sciense. One time he even teachd my about travelin through time.

Uh uh. You hearded me rite - time travel. I can hear him now...

"Boy, if'n you don't straiten up, I'm gonna knock you into the middle of next week!"

Well, its on to my football fourcast fer this week, and you can bet someone else's farm on these here pigskin pickin's:

🏈 Patriots 31
Ravens 23

I know how you mite get corn-fused, but that's reely Tom Brady and not me playin' quarterback for New England. Those dirty birds from Baltimore just bearyl beat my sweet Stealers last week, so they can't be very good.

🏈 Seahawks 23
Panthers 20

My other cuzzin, Broocie Irving, plays for Seattle so I am pickin' them to win this game. The Seahawks is also the defendin champs and I figger they will likely stay that way until someone beets them out.

🏈 Packers 21
Cowboys 17

You old-timers will recomember that this is the same score of the famous Ice Bowl game these two played back in '67. I figger history repeats itself just like my old pappy made me repeat the sixth grade.

🏈 Colts 34
Broncos 31

Here comes upset numbur one. Indianapolis has Luck on there side and the Broncos has that poor Payton guy playing quarterback who has taken to making pizza and selling insurance just too make his ends meet.

🏈 Ohio State 51
Oregon 49

And hear's upset numbur B. The Bucks will beet the Ducks and win the collage national champeen-ship. Next year, if they get a whole lot better, my sweet Stealers mite have a chance to do the same thing.

Last weak's recurd: 6-9 (O.P. wuz sick from to much aig nogg.)
Season: 496-217 (.696)

A New Year, but the same old me

I think some weight loss company has a slogan along the lines of "A New Year, A New You."

Well, I've been at this long enough now to know that it will probably end up being the same old Jim in 2015.

But hope springs eternal, and hopefully by this spring I'll be my healthy, svelte self once more (or as close to that ideal as someone of my, ahem, may we say experience, can be).

Faithful readers of this space will know my usual routine when it comes to getting fit. In fact, one of my sons was at the local gym the other day and told me later that staff members were asking about me because I show up around this time each year.

You see, they haven't seen me since late April of 2014.

For the unfamiliar, my annual program includes diet and exercise. The only problem is that it typically lasts only until



JIM COOPER
Sportsline

about the first thaw. I have written before of how I've probably dropped about 150 pounds over the last five years (no kidding) and then gained nearly all of that back. My wife calls it yo-yoing and sweetly reminds me that it can't be good for me.

But as of this writing, I am still 5 pounds or so to the good.

I don't seem to get sidetracked by the usual pitfalls of the run-of-the-mill weight loss gang, though. Once I set my mind to something, including exercise, I tend to attack it with the same

enthusiasm I used to inhale boxes of those special holiday edition fudge-covered Oreos a couple of weeks ago.

Not bragging, but I was a beast (an old, toothless one) on the stair climber last year. I could also log hour-long stints on the treadmill on Saturday mornings.

Lately though, my activity has been minimal at best. My wife got me an electronic fitness gadget for Christmas that I intend to put to good use very soon. As a kick, though, I turned it on to monitor some of my post-Christmas activity. According to the devious little device, one of those days included a whole 2 minutes of activity! I didn't realize I had made that many trips from my recliner to the bathroom.

Anyway, back to my tale of woe and what has gotten me off track in the past. One year I was cruising along toward good health when I tore a tendon in my

elbow playing golf and quit exercising. I know. I could have kept up with the cardio when lifting weights was no longer an option.

But it seemed a good excuse. There were other similar setbacks in previous years, but last year's was the worst. To prepare for an old-timers' basketball game I was doing short sprints on the treadmill (interval training) at high speeds. I felt a tweak in my knee.

The game was the next day and, of course, I played. Went up for a shot and landed funny. A bigger tweak. Tests revealed an ACL tear that has not been repaired because it seems I am more a candidate for knee replacement surgery, which I am not quite ready to undergo.

Anyway, exercise was out after that ordeal and I filled the gap by eating about everything in sight. Even my son's miniature Yorkie seemed anxious as I held a fork

Raiders drop two

Unbeaten Gilmer County nipped Roane County 53-49 Saturday in Spencer in an LKC basketball divisional matchup.



Austin Ratliff had 22 points for the Titans (5-0), who outscored the Raiders 18-14 in the final eight minutes to earn the victory.

Ryan Erickson of the Raiders, a senior guard, shined in defeat with 25 points to go along with six assists. He was the only double figure scorer for Roane (4-4), which got seven rebounds and four steals from Drew Kinder.

The Raider junior varsity dropped to 2-3 on the campaign after a 44-35 loss in the preliminary. Caleb Shirey's 13 points were high for Roane.

In a varsity game last Tuesday in Sissonville, the Raiders dropped a 55-32 verdict to the host Indians in the second day of the Wesbanco Shootout.

Blake Newhouse led a balanced attack for the winners with 14 points while Roane received six points each from Ryan Bates and Kaleb Greathouse.

Roane's game at Wirt County scheduled for Tuesday was postponed due to snow.

Gilmer County (5-0) 15 12 10 18 - 53
Roane County (4-4) 7 13 15 14 - 49

GILMER 53

Austin Ratliff 7-7-10-22, Cory Grogg 5-0-2-10, Zach Chapman 3-3-5-9, Trey Shuff 2-1-4-5, Colby Cunningham 1-2-5-5, Cole Haley 1-0-0-2. Totals: 19 13-26 53. 3-point goals: Cunningham, Ratliff

ROANE 49

Drew Kinder 1-0-0-2, Ryan Erickson 8-5-5-25, Eli Kucherawy 1-4-4-6, Ryan Bates 2-0-0-6, Steven McGinnis 2-0-0-4, Daniel Heeter 2-0-2-4, Alex Ashley 1-0-0-2. Totals: 17-9-11 49. 3-point goals: Erickson 4, Bates 2

Roane County (4-3) 4 12 8 8 - 32
Sissonville 17 17 11 10 - 55

ROANE 32

Ryan Bates 6, Kaleb Greathouse 6, Eli Kucherawy 5, Daniel Heeter 4, Drew Kinder 4, Dakota Detweiler 4, Alex Pavlak 2, Steven McGinnis 1

SISSONVILLE 55

Blake Newhouse 14, Chance Brown 9, Michael Pinkerton 9, Steven Hairston 8, Seth Bowlin 8, Zachary McCutcheon 3, Hunter Thomas 2, Bryce Taylor 2

and looked her way.

But it's time to start up again with the workouts. I'm sure I can find something that won't cause my knee to go out completely.

First though, there's a little matter of a stress test I have scheduled for today (heart condition). I am confident I will pass with flying colors if my knee doesn't explode while I'm on that treadmill.

So I hope to see my old friends back in the gym again next week and for several weeks after that, and maybe even all year if I can stick to exercises like sitting in a padded chair and squeezing a rubber ball.

If not, they can always find me somewhere in the cookie aisle.

"A New Year, Same Old Me."

Contact Jim Cooper by e-mail at jcoop@thetimesrecord.net.



SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Roane 45
Braxton 44

WRESTLING

Roane 7th in LKC
tournament

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Roane 48
Calhoun 24

Gilmer 55
Roane 28

Roane 58
Wirt 41

SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 12

BOYS BASKETBALL

□ Roane at Webster (5:45/7:30)
□ Walton at Braxton (6:00)

Saturday, February 14

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Roane in LKC placement
game at Elite Center in
Parkersburg (TBA)

Tuesday, February 17

BOYS BASKETBALL

□ Ravenswood at Roane
(5:45/7:30)
□ Spencer at Braxton (6:00)

GIRLS BASKETBALL

□ Geary, Spencer, Walton in
CWVAC tournament (TBA)

SHORTS

3-on-3 tournament

March 7 at RCHS

Walton Union Church will sponsor the Roane March Madness 3-on-3 basketball tournament Saturday, March 7 at Roane County High School, starting at 9 a.m.

There will be divisions for youth (middle school and under) and adult (high school and over). Admission will be charged and concessions will be sold.

Team entry fee is \$30 and includes tournament t-shirts for all players. Proceeds will go to the Roane County Relay for Life.

For more information, or to register a team, call Luke Smith at 304-550-0042.

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See you in the sports section!



Cam Moore, Roane County's 120-pounder shown in action earlier this season, won his second LKC championship Saturday at Flatwoods.

SUE KNOTTS PHOTO

Roane has two champs, disappointing finish

Raiders 7th in LKC tournament

Roane County came away with two individual champions despite finishing in the bottom half of the standings at the 52nd annual Little Kanawha Conference wrestling tournament.

Coach Wayne Jarvis' Raiders saw 120-pounder Cam Moore and Caije Nichols at 285 both claim their second LKC crowns Saturday at Braxton County High School.

A variety of factors kept the team score down as the Raiders only managed a seventh-place showing in the 13-team event. Calhoun County rolled to the championship, with Wirt County placing second.

Moore, a junior, improved to 40-2 on the season after dominating Calhoun's Eli Stump for a 12-1 major decision in the finals.

Nichols, 42-6 in his senior campaign, scored a 9-5 decision over Skyler Snyder of Wirt in the heavyweight finals.

Chancee Hensley (20-11) placed third for the Raiders at 195. He won his consolation finals bout with a 4-2 decision over Dylan Pickrell of Wirt.

Roane's other placer was Garrett Burnside (15-11) at 220, who was pinned by Ritchie County's Josh Hart in the consolation finals.

The rest of the tournament was a struggle for the Raiders, to say the least.

"Just about every bad thing that could happen did," Jarvis said.

Roane's 126-pounder Riley White missed the tournament with a knee problem. Jacob Spencer was recovering from the flu and was only able to go 2-2 at 132. At 138, Adam Reichard had to withdraw in his second match due to injury inflicted by Braxton's

RAIDER WRESTLING

Daniel Hoard.

"He was choked unconscious right in the middle of an attempted bear hug move," Jarvis said.

Jarvis praised the 2-2 effort of Connor High at 160, but was not as happy with some other results.

"We were unable to come through on a few close bouts that could have gone our way, so that was disappointing," he said.

Six Raiders finished 0-2 on the day, including Ethan Ash at 106, Alex Cox at 113, Haden Coon at 126, Zach Jordan at 145, Gabe Bowen at 152 and Joe Burch at 170.

Roane was scheduled to wrestle Wednesday at Winfield in its last action before the regional tournament Jan. 21 at Williamstown.

52nd annual LKC wrestling tournament at Braxton County High School

Team scoring: 1. Calhoun County 198.5, 2. Wirt County 151, 3. Braxton County 136, 4. Clay County 102, 5. Ritchie County 84, 6. St. Marys 79.5, 7. Roane County 77, 8. Williamstown 69, 9. Webster County 65.5, 10. Ravenswood 41, 11. Tyler Consolidated 37, 12. South Harrison 22, 13. Doddridge County 13.5

Errickson lifts RCHS to 10th victory

Ryan Errickson's clutch floater with 5 seconds left lifted Roane County past host Clay County 45-44 Saturday night in an LKC East game.

Errickson finished with 16 points to lead the Raiders, who trailed 42-32 with 5 minutes left in the game and then outscored the Panthers 13-2 the rest of the way.

Roane improved to 10-7 overall and to 6-3 in conference play. If



The Raiders beat Webster County on the road today (Thursday), they will wrap up second place in the division.

Daniel Heeter added eight points and seven rebounds for the Raiders and Errickson dished four assists.

The Raiders suffered a blow in the contest as senior Eli Kuchera broke his hand and has since been ruled out for the rest of the season.

Stephen Cole had 17 points for Clay, which put only four players into the scoring column.

Roane's JV lost to the Panthers 46-40 to fall to 8-5 on the season. Cecil Willis and Caleb Shirey each scored 10 points for the Raiders.

Roane County (10-7) 11 11 8 15 - 45
Clay County 10 11 15 8 - 44

ROANE 45

Ryan Errickson 4 5-6 16, Daniel Heeter 4 0-0 8, Alex Ashley 2 0-0 6, Eli Kuchera 2 1-4 5, Drew Kinder 2 0-0 4, Kaleb Gearhouse 1 0-0 3, Joe Riley 1 0-0 3. Totals: 146-104. 3-point goals: Ashley 2, Errickson, Gearhouse, Riley

CLAY 44

Stephen Cole 7 3-7 17, Jarrod Woodyard 5 2-3 12, Noah Taylor 4 1-1 12, Gavin Nichols 1 0-0 3. Totals: 176-114. 3-point goals: Taylor 3, Nichols

Lady Raiders split with LKC opponents

You win some, you lose some. Roane County's girls found that out by splitting a Friday-Saturday basketball slate against conference foes.

The Lady Raiders rolled past Calhoun County 48-24 Friday at Mt. Zion as they built a 30-12 halftime lead and never looked back.

Cassidy Taylor's 15 points, seven rebounds and four steals were high for the winners. Lucille Westfall also had seven boards, as did Rochelle McCroskey, and

dished four assists.

Calhoun, which dropped to 3-13, received 14 points from Makayla Smith.

Saturday at home, Roane lost 55-28 to Gilmer County to drop to 10-9 for the season. Kylie Shuff paced to 12-5 Titans with 16 points.

For the Lady Raiders, Westfall led the scoring with eight and pulled down 12 boards while Taylor came up with three steals.

Roane County (10-8) 10 20 10 8 - 48



Calhoun County (3-13) 3 9 2 10 - 24

ROANE 48

Danielle Godbey 2 1-2 5, Mary Kate Westfall 2 0-0 4, Cassidy Taylor 6 0-1 15, Hannah Hardman 4 0-2 8, Kristen Blosser 3 0-0 6, Rochelle McCroskey 0 3-4 3, Lucille Westfall 3 1-3 7. Totals: 20 5-12 48. 3-point goals: Taylor 3

CALHOUN 24

Taylor Garrett 0 1-2 1, McKenzie Hicks 0 2-6 2, Carissa Yoak 0 1-2 1, Makayla Smith 4 5-7 14, Kaylea Bennett 1 0-0 3, Alisha Fulks 1 0-1 3. Totals: 8 8-18 24.

3-point goals: Smith, Bennett, Fulks

Gilmer County (12-5) 12 15 13 15 - 55

Roane County (10-9) 2 8 10 8 - 28

GILMER 55

Emilie Jedamski 4 2-4 11, Kylie Shuff 4 8-12 16, Carly Somerville 3 0-0 6, Riley Fitzwater 6 0-0 12, Katherin Keith 4 0-0 8, Bayley Wellings 1 0-0 2. Totals: 22 10-16 55. 3-point goal: Jedamski

ROANE 28

Danielle Godbey 1 0-0 2, Olivia Mace 0 0-2 0, Mary Kate Westfall 0 6-8 6, Cassidy Taylor 2 0-2 4, Hannah Hardman 1 0-2 2, Kristen Blosser 1 0-0 2, Rochelle McCroskey 2 0-0 4, Lucille Westfall 3 2-3 8. Totals: 10 8-17 28

Just trying to gain a little competitive advantage

There's been a lot of talk in the sports world recently of, well... cheating.

Yes, "trying to gain a competitive advantage," as the politically correct refer to it, has been a hot topic everywhere from the 24-hour sports media all the way down to the local barbershop.

The two most prominent cases, of course, came from football.

First was "Deflategate," which raised the possibility that the New England Patriots used footballs in their AFC championship game victory over the Indianapolis Colts that did not contain the NFL-mandated minimum air pressure.

Using footballs with less pressure supposedly allowed quarterback Tom Brady a better grip when passing in that day's cool, rainy conditions.

I'm not sure if Brady needed much help in a 45-7 rout, which included the Patriots scoring 28 points in the second half when the footballs reportedly were fully



JIM COOPER
Sportsline

ly pressurized.

After a barrage of jokes about deflated balls and the Patriots' dramatic victory over the Seattle Seahawks in one of the best Super Bowls in history, most of the air has been let out of the "Deflategate" controversy for now. That could change after a pending NFL investigation.

Like Brady, another guy who really didn't need any help to succeed was Jerry Rice, the Hall of Fame receiver who played most of his career with the San Francisco 49ers.

Rice has now revealed that he sometimes used a foreign substance, most commonly known

as "Stickum" to help the ball nestle more snugly in his gifted hands. Unlike the Patriots, who admit to no wrongdoing, Rice is candid about his actions.

I don't think the NFL will be removing his bust in Canton or repossessing his gold jacket anytime soon, though.

In my own experience, I don't have any instances of football tomfoolery to share with you.

But basketball is another story. During my long-ago coaching tenure, I can recall a few instances where the rules were stretched just a mite to help out the home team.

One coach, who shall remain nameless, had a pretty tall lineup one year and wanted to emphasize what should have been a rebounding advantage in the paint.

This coach got out a ladder and began tinkering first with one rim, then the other. It seems he wanted the rims to be as loose as possible in their connection to the backboards. The idea was to

soften the bounce when an errant shot hit those rims and cause the rebounds to fall closer to the baskets where the coach's taller players were usually stationed.

As I recall, the home team got pretty used to the loose rims in practice, but when game time came around, the officials were not pleased. When one of the rims teetered more than a bubble or three off level and threatened to land on someone's noggin, they ordered them to be tightened.

The same ladder was produced and the coach himself had to tighten the bolts to the officials' liking before play could continue.

Yet another coach, who also shall remain nameless, tried something similar, only with the nets. This guy took brand new nets home and had them starched.

The reasoning behind this was his team wanted to press full court after made baskets. Having the nets starched caused the ball

Taylor scores 1,000th, sets 3-point mark

Senior guard Cassidy Taylor had a record-setting night as the Lady Raiders whipped Wirt County 58-41 Tuesday in Elizabeth.

Taylor scored 21 points to reach the 1,000-point milestone for her career with 1,002, joining Stephanie Eastman, Shandi White and Ashli Knotts in the Lady Raiders' 1,000-point club. She also sank a trio of treys to better by one the school career mark of 161 set by Becky Frye two years ago.

Lucille Westfall supported Taylor with 16 points as the Lady Raiders went up by 12 at halftime and cruised to the victory.

Liz Adams scored 13 to pace the Tigers.

The Lady Raiders will see action Saturday as the LKC has its annual Night of Champions at the Elite Center in Parkersburg.

In a new format this season, all of the placement games will take place at the same site. Seven

► TAYLOR / 9A

to very slowly make its way to the floor, allowing the home team more time to get in position to press.

I don't remember officials complaining, but I can clearly recall basketballs churning in those nets for what seemed like an eternity. It was kind of like an old man chewing on a piece of gristle and then grudgingly spitting it out.

Unlike Brady or Rice, though, both of the basketball teams I've recalled needed more than their share of help. Loose rims and starched nets weren't enough to overcome players who most often weren't nearly as good as those on the other teams.

I think the problem was that both of those coaches were just trying to gain a competitive advantage.

I guess they should have gone ahead and cheated.

Contact Jim Cooper by e-mail at jcoop@thetimesrecord.net.

Sports



SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 21

BASEBALL

□ St. Marys at Roane (12:00)

SOFTBALL

□ Williamstown at Roane (DH/12:00)

Monday, March 23

SOFTBALL

□ Wahama at Roane (5:30)

Tuesday, March 24

BASEBALL

□ Clay at Roane (5:00)

□ Spencer at Ripley (6:00)

Tuesday, March 25

BASEBALL

□ Ritchie at Roane (5:00)

SHORTS

Hunter education course March 27-28

There will be a hunter education class Friday, March 27 and Saturday, March 28 at the Reedy Community Center.

The class will be from 5-9 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

There is no fee, but pre-registration is required by calling 304-420-4550.

All West Virginia residents born on or after Jan. 1, 1975 must complete a hunter education course before obtaining a hunting license. A hunting license is required at the age of 15.

Youth Fishing Derby April 18 at Wallback

The annual Youth Fishing Derby at Wallback Lake will be Saturday, April 18, with registration from 7:30-11 a.m.

Fishing for various age groups will be as follows: Preschool and kindergarten - 8-8:45 a.m., Grades 1-2 - 9-9:45 a.m., Grades 3-5 - 10-10:45 a.m. and Grades 6-through age 14 - 11-11:45 a.m.

A parent must accompany each child and a liability release form signed. Fishing is allowed with bait only and no fish are to be released, with a limit of two trout. Snacks and drinks will be provided and there will be prize drawings along with casting and turkey calling contests.

Call 304-587-4492 for more information.

BOWLING

Monday Night Women's League

Team W-L
Hughes Jewelry 26-6
Prime Surveying 20-12
Cottrell Farms 16-16
Just for Fun 16-16
First Neighborhood Bank 12-20
John H. Taylor Funeral Home 6-26

Week's Highs
Scratch Game Pauline Conley 187
Handicap Game Stacey Batten 287
Scratch Series Pauline Conley 500
Handicap Series Stacey Batten 692
High Average Linda Nichols-McCarty and Barbara Prime 157
Bowler of the Week Millie O'Brien
67 pins over average

Tuesday Night Women's League

Team W-L
Chappie's 22-10
Harden Insurance 22-10
Newton Stone 21-11
Chenoweth Stables 12-20
Mullen Farm 11-21
McDonald's 8-24

Week's Highs
Scratch Game Patti Sturm 197
Handicap Game Debbie Parsons 241
Scratch Series Patti Sturm 506
Handicap Series Patti Sturm 626
High Average Linda Nichols-McCarty 158

Wednesday Night Men's League

Pin Busters 8-0
Eastern Solutions 6-2
Romie's Thugs 6-2
Ballistic Fear 2-6
Misfits 2-6
YB-1 0-8

Week's Highs
Scratch Game Duane Deem 232
Handicap Game Tim Parsons 258
Scratch Series Bill Webb 605
Handicap Series Tim Parsons 645
High Average Bill Webb 196

Thursday Night Men's League

Team W-L
Thursday Night Terror 46-26
Spencer Lanes 40-32
WYRC 40-32
Awesome Four 37-35
Roane General Hospital 34-38
Roane County 911 19-53

Week's Highs
Scratch Game Bill Webb 257
Handicap Game Bill Webb 260
Scratch Series Bill Webb 652
Handicap Series Charlie Brown 672
High Average Bill Webb 197

Baseball, softball openers set for this weekend

Hitting key for Raider success

By JIM COOPER
Sports Editor

Roane County High head baseball coach Jeff Thompson is hoping the 2015 season will be a hit.

In fact, he wants a lot of hits. "We should be sound defensively," Thompson said. "But we have to improve offensively. We ended last season on a five-game skid where I believe we only scored three runs."

The Raiders wrapped up a 16-15 campaign last season by falling at home 10-0 to Ritchie County — they were also no-hit — in the sectional tournament.

As a team, the Raiders hit .262 in 2014.

The good news is that the top four hitters are back for the Raiders, led by senior Eli Kucherawy. The infielder was first team all-Little Kanawha Conference as a junior after hitting .371 and driving in 23 runs. He was also special honorable mention Class AA all-state.

Drew Kinder, a sophomore, was special honorable mention all-LKC a year ago. A center fielder, he hit .352.

Senior infielder Joe Riley had a .318 average last season in earning honorable mention all-conference and right fielder Christian Freeze is back after a season in which he hit .270.

Thompson provided the following position list for his roster.

Outfield: Kinder, Cory Criffield (left) and Freeze, along with Mac Linkinogger, Logan Goodall, Austin Nichols and Jake Nichols.

Second: Kucherawy, Stan Kinder, Ryan Kendall, Austin Nichols.

Shortstop: Riley, Kucherawy.

Third: Caije Nichols, Linkinogger, Gabe Bowen, Goodall, Austin Nichols.

Catcher: Hunter Thompson, Caije Nichols, Goodall, Linkinogger, Casey Jones.

Kucherawy, who compiled a 7-5 record as a junior with 79 strikeouts in 75-1/3 innings and a 2.69 ERA, will lead the pitching staff.

Thompson, the coach's son, was 3-0 on the mound as a freshman last year and was named special honorable mention all-LKC. He had a 3.76 ERA with 36 strikeouts in 35-1/3 innings of work.

Drew Kinder, Riley (2-2), Stan Kinder, Freeze and Linkinogger all saw action on the mound a year ago and are joined on the staff by freshman Devin Heeter.

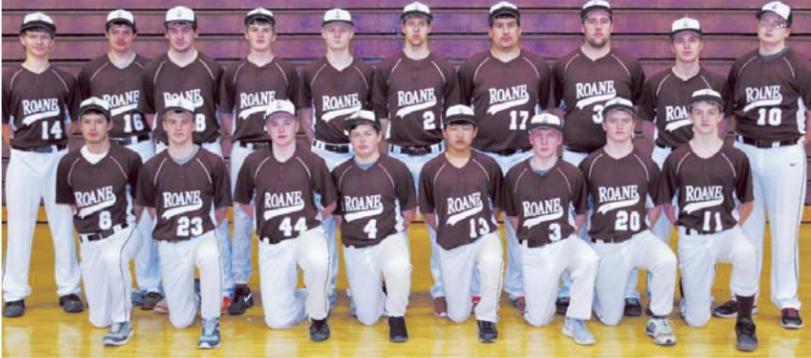
Roane is set to open the new season at home Saturday when St. Marys visits Leo Hines Field for a noon start. Parkersburg, Scott, Chapmanville and North Marion are featured on a schedule that includes the regular LKC foes.

"The core of this team is coming off a great summer season where they won the Mid-Ohio Valley League (17 and under) championship," Thompson noted. "Hopefully, this success will spill over to this spring."



The Roane County High softball team for 2015 includes, front: Cassidy Taylor; middle (from left): Brianna O'Brien, Josie Cottrell, Jadah Freeland, Danielle Collins, Ashley Smith, Ashton Rexroad, Mariah Milhoan; back: Haley Gibson, Chelsi Fox, Alora Lloyd, Hailey Sloan, Kristen Blosser, Shelby Lassiter and Olivia Mace.

SUE KNOTTS PHOTOS



Members of the 2015 baseball team at Roane County High include, front (from left): Jake Nichols, Drew Kinder, Hunter Thompson, Casey Jones, Chase Starcher, Alex Cox, Gabe Bowen, Devin Heeter; back: Mac Linkinogger, Harry Bolser, Ryan Kendall, Corey Criffield, Joe Riley, Eli Kucherawy, Austin Nichols, Caije Nichols, Christian Freeze and Stan Kinder.

RAIDER BASEBALL			
2015 SCHEDULE			
March 21	St. Marys	Home	12:00
24	Clay County	Home	5:00
25	Ritchie County	Home	5:00
26	Wahama	Away	5:00
30	St. Marys	Away	5:00
April 2	Doddridge County	Home	5:00
4	South Harrison (DH)	Away	12:00
7	Calhoun County (DH)	Away	1:00
9	Wirt County	Away	5:00
10	Webster County (DH)	Home	3:30
11	Parkersburg Catholic (DH)	Away	12:00
13	Parkersburg	Home	5:00
14	Clay County	Away	6:00
17	Scott	Away	8:00
18	Chapmanville	Away	1:00
20	Ritchie County	Away	5:00
22	Gilmer County	Away	5:00
23	Ravenswood	Home	6:00
25	North Marion (DH)	Home	12:00
30	Gilmer County	Home	5:00
May 1	Braxton County (DH)	Home	5:00
4	Ravenswood	Away	5:30
6	Parkersburg	Away	5:00
8	LKC tournament	Away	6:00

LADY RAIDER SOFTBALL			
2015 SCHEDULE			
March 21	Williamstown (DH)	Home	12:00
23	Wahama	Home	5:30
28	Webster County (DH)	Away	12:00
April 1	Parkersburg	Home	5:30
2	Doddridge County	Home	5:00
3	Southern, Ohio	Home	5:00
4	South Harrison	Away	12:00
8	Parkersburg	Away	5:00
9	Nicholas County	Away	5:00
11	Parkersburg Catholic (DH)	Home	12:00
	North Marion	Home	4:00
13	Braxton County (DH)	Home	5:00
14	Calhoun County	Home	5:00
16	Clay County	Away	5:00
17	Ripley	Away	5:30
20	Nicholas County	Home	5:00
21	Charleston Catholic (DH)	Away	5:30
22	Ripley	Home	5:30
23	Clay County	Home	5:00
30	Gilmer County (DH)	Home	5:00
May 1	LKC tournament	Glenville	5:00
2	Tyler Consolidated (DH)	Away	12:00
7	Sectional tournament	Home	5:00

How to get in the sports section

Making it into the sports section has never been easier! Coaches and representatives of scholastic teams or adult and youth leagues are encouraged to report their results and schedules to The Times Record and Roane County Reporter — and there are several ways to do it.

- Bring information to the Spencer Newspapers office at 210 East Main Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, or use the drop box on the lobby door for after-hours submissions.

- E-mail Sports Editor Jim Cooper at jcoop@thetimesrecord.net.
- Call Cooper at 304-927-2360 or fax information to 304-927-2361. A deadline of 5 p.m. Tuesday is set for all regular sports submissions. An exception is made for the results of Tuesday evening events, which should be reported by 9 a.m. Wednesday morning to make it in that week's newspaper. Late reports will not be accepted. See you in the sports section!

The doctor's latest prescription for bracket fever

I'm not really a doctor. I just play one each year in this column when the NCAA men's basketball tournament — better known as March Madness — rolls around.

Yes, I proudly claim to be a certifiable Doctor of Bracketology. So read on for my prescription on how to get all those brackets filled out just right (for entertainment purposes only, of course).

In the past, I've devised several different methods of picking winners and have shared them in this column.

Let's see... there was the MFF (Mascot Fierceness Factor) that pits, say, a Wildcat against a Duck. That often indicates a clear winner by determining which mascot would get eaten or other-



JIM COOPER
Sportsline

wise eliminated.

Then there was the TCA (Toss of the Coin Aspect) where heads or tails determines winners and the AOQ (Alphabetical Order Quotient) where the school name that appears first in the alphabet comes out on top.

The SADPF (Seeds Added and Divided by Pi Formula), too complicated to explain here, and SOAE (State's Order of Admis-

sion Equation), self explanatory except when two teams from the same state squared off, whereby one, some or all of the other methods had to be applied as a tiebreaker, were recommended in past years as well.

Last year, there was the OY-WYROG (Open Your Wallet You Rich Old Geezer) that was devised in an effort to win a \$1 billion prize offered by multi-billionaire Warren Buffett to anyone submitting a perfect bracket.

Well, as reliable as the MFF, TCA, AOQ, SADPF, SOAE and OYWYOG are, I'm afraid they just won't cut it in 2015.

Only the IDKAATGBKWTC will do. Here's the formula, although I must warn you that this prescrip-

tion for bracket fever could have some dangerous side effects.

Look at the back of a \$1 bill and determine how many creepy eyeballs are floating above the pyramid.

Next, take that number and add it to the number of times on any three and a half forks in your silverware drawer, or in the box of plastic forks in your pantry.

Do not use sporks — they will throw off the formula.

Multiply the number you have at this point by the number of times you heard Dickie V say "Awesome, baby!" after he kissed Ashley Judd last weekend. Then you should hop up and down on your left leg exactly two times more than your number and divide it by 5/8th. After that, spin

Lady Raiders have one senior

By JIM COOPER
Sports Editor

It's not how you start, it's how you finish.

And veteran Roane County High softball coach Sam Salvucci hopes the end of the 2015 season looks a lot better than it appears this week.

"Youngest team ever. Hardest schedule ever. Bad combination," Salvucci, in his 16th season at RCHS, said.

The Lady Raiders are scheduled to open Saturday when Williamstown visits for a noon twinbill.

It will be the first action for RCHS since it fell 8-6 to Ravenswood in the sectional to complete a 25-9 season in 2014. The win total was a school record.

Four starters are back, including Cassidy Taylor, the only senior on the 15-player roster.

Taylor returns at third base after earning first team all-Little Kanawha Conference and second team Class AA all-state honors last year. She hit .545 with a school record eight home runs, along with 25 doubles and 46 RBIs.

"I'd like for her to have a fun time her final season," Salvucci said. "I don't want to put a lot of pressure on her to have to carry this team."

Also back are sophomore catcher Alora Lloyd, sophomore first baseman Hailey Sloan and sophomore Kristen Blosser. Lloyd played shortstop last year and Sloan was at second base.

As a freshman, Blosser hit .211 with 12 RBIs and compiled a 2-1 pitching record. She figures to share pitching duties after seeing only brief time in the circle last year when record-setter Casey Lassiter, then a senior, was the team's number one hurler.

Two freshmen, Shelby Lassiter (Casey's sister) and Olivia Mace, will also pitch.

"They will rotate to start the season at pitcher, shortstop and left field," Salvucci said. "If somebody starts out strong they'll get more innings. We'll play it by ear."

The rest of the regulars figure to be sophomore Haley Gibson to be sophomore Rottfield or catcher; junior Josie Cottrell at second; and sophomore Chelsi Fox as designated hitter.

Sophomores Jadah Freeland, Ashley Smith and freshman Mariah Milhoan will have a shot to play in center and right, Salvucci said.

Sophomores Ashton Rexroad and Brianna O'Brien will look for playing time in the infield, as will freshman Danielle Collins.

Roane's schedule includes meetings with AAA foes Parkersburg and Ripley. The sectional again includes Ravenswood, along with perpetual postseason nemesis Ritchie County, the state runner-up last year.

"Ritchie has everybody back but one," Salvucci said.

Although the prospects for a big season appear unlikely, the coach still holds hope for the future.

"I never make predictions about wins and losses," Salvucci said. "We always try to be ready by the end of the year. Maybe this will be the group that surprises everybody."

around quickly until your eyesight begins to blur.

If you have done all this correctly, the number that should be swirling in your head when you come to a stop is six.

Six? What is the exact significance of six, you may ask?

Well, that's the number of games you are absolutely, positively guaranteed to get right if you write the word "Kentucky" on the six appropriate lines on your bracket.

It may not work for every game, but the IDKAATGBKWTC (I Don't Know About All The Games But Kentucky Will Win The Championship) will give you a pretty good start.

Contact Jim Cooper by e-mail at jcoop@thetimesrecord.net.