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Academic All-State Volleyball Athletes Recognized

FEBRUARY 04TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Academic All-State Volleyball Athletes Recognized

Bloomfield, Missouri - Congrats to the following Varsity Volleyball players who earned Academic All-State recognition for the 2018 season!

In order to be eligible, varsity players must have a 3.6 GPA and have played in at least 75% of the matches.

Bailey Below

Molly Below

Eva Hester

Karsynn Phillips

Natalie Powell

Michaela Tidwell

Lilly Warrick

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Game Plan for the Super Bowl: Drink OR Drive, But Never Both!

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Game Plan for the Super Bowl: Drink OR drive, but never both

Law enforcement will be out in full force seeking impaired drivers.

The Super Bowl is America's most watched national sporting event. This Super Bowl Sunday there will be a lot of game day socializing that may include drinking. That's why the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety is urging football fans to call the play now: drinking OR driving. If you plan on drinking on Super Bowl Sunday, designate a sober driver to get you home safely.

The coalition encourages fans to make plans ahead of time that will prevent them from getting behind the wheel of a vehicle after drinking. Driving impaired could result in injury or death for you and others on the road.

In 2018, preliminary data indicates 153 people were killed and 525 seriously injured in Missouri crashes that involved at least one substance-impaired driver. "Drunk driving is irresponsible and completely preventable," said Jon Nelson, executive committee chair to the coalition. "All it takes is a little planning and accountability. We want fans to remember that it's a choice. Drink OR drive – but never both."

For those who plan to drink, leave your keys at home. Designate a sober driver, whether it's a friend, relative, taxi, ride share or public transportation. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration offers a new SaferRide mobile app. The app helps

people who have been drinking get a safe ride home. It also helps users call a taxi or a friend and identify their location so they can be picked up. The app is available for Android devices on Google Play, and Apple devices on the iTunes store

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Ethan Pennington Signs to Play Baseball with Crowley's Ridge College

JANUARY 30TH 2019 BY DEE LOFLIN

Ethan Pennington Signs to Play Baseball with Crowley's Ridge College

Bloomfield, Missouri - Ethan Pennington, Bloomfield High School outfielder and catcher, signed to play baseball with Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Arkansas.

"I really liked it when I visited. It felt like home and I know several of the players," commented Ethan Pennington. "I really just loved the team, the chemistry they have is

amazing, and made me feel like family. The coach is good and he can get me to the next level."

"Peyton Maddox and Bobby Wright are players from Bell City, and Phoenix Beal from Advance will be there," continued Pennington. "Knowing some guys I played against made me feel more at ease."

He plans to play left outfield for the Pioneers. "They loved my batting practice also and felt my best spot was in left."

For the Wildcats, coach will utilize him behind the plate catching and in the outfield. Their spring season begins March 19, 2019 at home against Oran.

When asked about a memorable moment during his Wildcats' career and he said, "the best one was my sophomore year playing Bell City and robbed a home run from them!"

He is the son of Billy Pennington and Deana Pennington.

His future plans besides baseball will be to major in Business with a minor in Human Resources.

"I am very excited for him," commented Bloomfield head baseball coach, Jonathan Simpher. "He is a very hard working kid. His numbers are getting better and better and he does a good job in the outfield for us. He's played all four years of high school and last year he had a .285 batting average. I plan to use him behind the plate as well as in the outfield."

Pioneer's Head Coach Brenden Camp enters his fourth year as the leader for the Pioneers. Previously, Camp was the Pioneers Assistant Coach for one year and coached for the Jonesboro American Legion Baseball Program for four years.

Crowley's Ridge College is a private, four year, coeducational Christian liberal arts college in Paragould, Arkansas. The college. While the college is affiliated with the Churches of Christ, students of all religious backgrounds are welcome. The fall 2016 student population of 230 comprises both non-traditional and traditional residential and commuter students.

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Sikeston Basketball Coach Gregg Holifield Earns 500th Win

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Sikeston Basketball Coach Gregg Holifield Earns 500th Win

Sikeston, Missouri - Gregg Holifield knows how to bring out the best in his athletes according to Sikeston fans. He has worked tirelessly to prepare his athletes for their basketball futures.

Since 1991, he has been at the helm of four different basketball programs. Before signing with Sikeston, he coached at Senath-Hornersville, Kennett, and Greene County Tech in Arkansas. Twenty-one years ago in 1998, he walked into the Field House of Sikeston High School as the new head boys basketball coach and he has taken the Bulldog Nation on a very wild ride. He has built an amazing basketball powerhouse in southeast Missouri.

For several years he has given the Bleacher Bums, Red Peppers, and Bulldog fans exciting and fun seasons on the court. His basketball program has gained him statewide respect for its consistency, sportsmanship, and always doing things the right way.

Under the direction of Coach Holified, the Sikeston Bulldogs have won 22 regular season tournament championships and 8 regular season SEMO Conference championships. They have compiled 11 District titles, 9 State quarterfinal appearances and 5 Final Four appearances.

In 2011, they completed a perfect 30-0 season as the team took down St. Francis Borgia and were crowned State Champions.

The 2011 State Championship Sikeston Bulldogs team were inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Under Coach Holified, 26 players have moved on to play basketball at the collegiate level, ranging from junior college to Division 1 basketball.

Over the years, four players were named SEMO Conference Player of the Year. Thirteen players have been named to the Missouri All-State Teams and two players were named the Missouri State Player of the Year in Class 4.

In 2014, in Springfield, Missouri, Coach was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Just a few days ago against the Kennett Indians coach earned his 400th victory as a Sikeston Bulldog. Tonight against the Dexter Bearcats he earned his 500th career win.

He has maintained an amazing consistency and continuity within his staff. His coaching staff presented him a celebratory game ball after the win on Tuesday evening.

Brian James has been his assistant coach for 21 years.

Derek James has been a news writer, statistician and now assistant coach for 21 years.

Chris Sarakas has been assistant coach for 20 years and his son Will who played for him and is now beside him as a coach were all on hand to give the game ball.

Only six other boys basketball coaches have ever won 500 games in our area: Carroll Cookson (Advance, Twin Rivers), Ronnie Cookson (Scott County Central), Lennies McFerren (Charleston, NMCC, Kennett), Paul Hale (Delta, Bernie, Dexter, Notre Dame), Jim Hall (Dexter, Advance) and Jim Bidewell (Portageville).

Tuesday night's win improved Sikeston to 17-0 on the season and 4-0 in the SEMO Conference. They are currently ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 4.

Congratulations Coach Holifield on your 500th career win. Bulldogs fans will be there to watch you bring home another state championship!

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Poplar Bluff Holds Off Dexter on Wrestling Senior Night

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Poplar Bluff Holds Off Dexter on Wrestling Senior Night

Poplar Bluff, Missouri - Poplar Bluff Mules held their senior night on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 hosting the Dexter Bearcats wrestling team. The Mules defeated the Cats 42-33 in varsity action.

Dexter's Travis Waldner (138), Wyatt Chastain (152) and Jett Featherston (195) all earned pins while Mason Keana (145) injured his side in the second period against Kade Richardson and was unable to continue.

Poplar Bluff (POPLARBL) 42.0 Dexter (DEXTER) 33.0

106: Gatlin Taylor (POPLARBL) over Brett Frizzell (DEXTER) (Fall 0:37)

113: CJ Greene (DEXTER) over (POPLARBL) (For.)

120: Bryston Pemberton (DEXTER) over (POPLARBL) (For.)

126: Quinten Bell (POPLARBL) over Dawson Jones (DEXTER) (Dec 5-4)

132: Jake Lawrinenko (POPLARBL) over Wyatt Parker (DEXTER) (Dec 6-0)

138: Travis Waldner (DEXTER) over Garrett McClure (POPLARBL) (Fall 1:53)

145: Kade Richardson (POPLARBL) over Mason Keena (DEXTER) (Inj. [time])

152: Wyatt Chastain (DEXTER) over Colton Jackson (POPLARBL) (Fall 1:41)

160: Justin Mitchell (POPLARBL) over Alex Townsend (DEXTER) (Fall 1:32)

170: John Smothers (POPLARBL) over Parker VanSlyke (DEXTER) (Fall 1:33)

182: Wyatt Lazalier (POPLARBL) over Austin Stieferman (DEXTER) (Fall 0:18)

195: Jett Featherston (DEXTER) over Desmond Howell (POPLARBL) (Fall 3:28)

220: Colten Gibson (DEXTER) over Gavyn Hays (POPLARBL) (Dec 8-5)

285: Kendrick Gordon (POPLARBL) over (DEXTER) (For.)

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