

WEEKLY SPORTS WRAP-UP

Dance
The Devilettes overcame travel woes and inclement weather to make the trip to the IHSA Mascoutah Competitive Dance Sectional a successful one, bringing home the title. The Devilettes score was the 4th highest score of all 51 class 1A teams who competed at the 5 sectionals state-wide.
Girls' Basketball
Cage Panthers
The Blue Devils opened LOVC

SE play in style on January 16, blitzing Oblong 64-44, behind Aliyah Holloman's 32 points. Kyleigh Block chipped in 15.
Remembered by Titans
Kyleigh Block had 21 points, but it wasn't enough as VGH dropped a 75-36 decision to Tri-County on January 17. The Blue Devils will play for third place on January 23.
Boys' Basketball
Weather forced a cancellation of the game between Judah

Christian and VGH, so their only contest of the week was a 63-29 pasting of Chrisman on January 15. Bryce Dalle led a quartet of double figure scorers for the Hawks, netting 13 points. Jake Eversole added 12, and Will Wilson and Evan Wilson each chipped in 10. VGH will open LOVC SE tournament play as the number one seed with a game on January 22.

Hook, Line and Sinker



With Tony Hooker

It's estimated that the sport industry here in the United States tops 70 billion dollars. That's with a B. That's more than the Gross National Product of hundreds of countries.

What is it about sports that so captures the national imagination?

There have been numerous studies that show that sports team affiliation has supplanted any other identifying characteristic for a majority of the American populous. More than their profession. More than their social group. More than their religious affiliation, by a large margin. It's been written that sociologists believe that the sense of connection amongst fan bases can serve as the main point of connection for entire communities.

Although the studies have been about professional sports affiliations for the most part, it's also quite apparent at the local level. Thousands of dollars are

spent right here in river city each year on apparel that supports the local high school athletic endeavors. Over the years, I've purchased enough playoff gear to cover my entire house with hoodies. And don't get me started on the number of dance shirts I have in my possession. I could probably have Trisa at the Quilting Corner sew me a blanket the size of Busch stadium without having to purchase any additional material. I think every household in the Unity School district owns at least one vehicle that is maroon, the Rockets' school color.

So what is it about sport that compels us? Why are there an estimated 120 million children participating in "recreational" sports in the US?

Here are some of the reasons I came up with. If you have others, I'd love to hear from you.

First, recreational sport gives an outlet for the youngins' to burn off excess energy. Getting them to put down the remote and move, even if it is only for a short time, is a powerful reason. Obesity is on the rise in today's youth, and if this can slightly make a dent in it, then I'm all for it.

Second, as noted above, people want to be part of a group, and athletic teams are a built in mechanism for such affiliations, without having to invest too much of themselves. Little league or JFL parents can get together weekly for the duration of the season without making a lifetime commitment and before moving on to the next activity.

Third, people want to associate with winners. I've heard anecdotal evidence that people move to small communities in our area just to associate with winning football programs. I've also heard that some community

leaders rather overzealously attempt to recruit the families of talented athletes to move to their town through legal, yet sketchy, means as well, but that's a column for another day. What we do know is that the teams who are continually successful have the backing of the entire community.

For many on the national level, sports can serve as a way of bettering their situation. Although very few make the pro's, many do turn their athletic talents into a way of attaining an education that would otherwise not be possible.

The final reason is because it's a family legacy. My dad loved the Illini, Cardinals and Bears for most of his life. Therefore, I love the Illini, Cardinals and Bears. After my years as a VERY marginal athlete for the Blue and Gold, and after supporting my children through their athletic endeavors, I've added the blue and gold of VGHS to the list of teams that my dad indoctrinated me to follow. The fact that my two kids who chose to pursue athletics have been so much more successful in their careers than I have just adds to the love I feel. The raw emotion I saw my normally reserved son express when he lost his last football game and the sheer, uninhibited joy that my daughter displayed when her dance team won the sectional title this past weekend make all the hotel rental, skills camps and tee shirt and hoodie purchases worth it. Sports have played a role in determining who my kids are and who they will become. Through their hard work, stubbornness and determination, they became good at their craft. Perhaps that's the essence of why we love sport so much. At its base level, it reveals character, and that can be a good thing.

Super Bowl Sunday is just around the corner



Super Bowl LIII is just around the corner and will be played out between the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams. Both teams

won in overtime on Championship Sunday. The Rams won the game with a 26-23 final score over the Saints and the Patriots finished with a 37-31 win over the Chiefs. Both teams won their games on the road.

NFL's Super Bowl LIII (53) will be held at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Central Time.

The headline halftime show



will feature Maroon 5. Rappers Travis Scott and Big Boi also will perform.

Senior Spotlight



Senior Devilettes from L-R: Alexis Vandeventer, Chelsea Harrison, Tommie Hooker, Taylor Riskin and Kaitlyn Morse won their first IHSA Sectional Champions title with their team on Saturday, January 19 in Mascoutah IL.

Wise or Otherwise cont'd from pg. 4

those bills you were about to mail did not make that final scoop up after the search for the keys. It is our family way of doing things or not doing things. I hope we are not

alone. Now, did I leave anything out of this week's column? Let's not even go there!

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2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE HAWKS

BOYS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

	record
Nov 19-24 @CGB tourney (3rd)	3-1
Nov 27 @ Uni High	4-1
Nov 30 @ Schlarman	W 62-38 5-1
Dec 04 Westville	W 67-37 6-1
Dec 08 @ Sullivan OV	W 67-30 7-1
Dec 11 Tuscola	L 48-52 7-2
Dec 14 @ Arthur OC	W 74-60 8-2
Dec 18 @ STM	L 55-76 8-3
Dec 27-29 BSN Tourney CHAMPS	13-3
Jan 04 LSA	L 62-64 13-4
Jan 08 @ SJO	L 52-58 13-5
Jan 11 Cerro Gordo	W 64-43 14-5
Jan 12 @ Judah Christian ppd	
Jan 15 Chrisman	W 63-29 15-5
Jan 19-26 @ LOVC Tourney (Cumberland)	
Feb 01 @ Oblong	
Feb 05 Tri-County	
Feb 08 Hut-Pal	
Feb 09 Arcola	
Feb 12 @ Cumberland	
Feb 15 Martinsville	
Feb 18-22 @ IHSA regionals	

HEAD COACH Corey White

2018-19 VILLA GROVE/HERITAGE Blue Devils

GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

	record
Nov 11-16 @Falcon/Bunny Classic (2nd)	3-1
Nov 20 Tuscola	L 35-39 3-2
Nov 26 @ Westville	W 62-36 4-2
Nov 27 Salt Fork	W 55-49 5-2
Nov 29 Uni High	W 60-32 6-2
Dec 03 @ Judah	W 59-45 7-2
Dec 05 ALAH	W 58-47 8-2
Dec 11 @ Unity	W 47-39 9-2
Dec 13 Cerro Gordo	W 65-41 10-2
Dec 27-29 @ Bismrk trny 4th Place	12-5
Jan 03 Arcola	W 56-29 13-5
Jan 08 @ Chrisman	W 65-36 14-5
Jan 10 @ Hut-Pal	W 56-25 15-5
Jan 12-19 @ LOVC trny W,L	16-6
Jan 21 @ Cumberland	
Jan 22 @ GRF	
Jan 23 @ LOVC 3rd plc game (at ALAH)	
Jan 24 Oblong	
Jan 28 Tri County (sr night)	
Jan 31 @ Martinsville	
Feb 04-08 @ IHSA Regional	

HEAD COACH Dan Sappenfield

2018-19 Villa Grove Devilettes Schedule

Dec 15	Villa Grove Competition	1st in IDTA
Jan 05	Charleston Competition	2nd in IDTA
Jan 12	Clinton	Competition
Jan 19	IHSA Sectionals	TBD
Jan 25-26	IHSA State Finals	(must qualify)
Feb 02	Tuscola Competition	
Feb 09	IDTA State Finals	(must qualify)

HERITAGE

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