

# Perspective

TUSCOLA REVIEW EDITORIAL BOARD:  
David Porter, Jennie Porter,  
Mike Carroll, Bill Englehardt  
— Email: [publisher@tuscolareview.com](mailto:publisher@tuscolareview.com)

## 'It's something you never want to go through'

So spoke Tuscola basketball wunderkind, Jalen Quinn, after Tuscola's heartbreaking loss in a Sectional final game against Meridian when a desperation miracle, buzzer-beating 60-foot heave by Meridian swished the net.

In his newspaper quote, Jalen also talked of being "super proud of all these guys for putting all the work in for so long and being such a great team. I had so much fun. The locker room was really tough [after the loss] ...because it meant something to everyone. I'll remember this for a long time."

In this one quote, Jalen summed up his experience of high school sports: hard work; fun; teammate bonding; the joy of victory and the agony of defeat; and creating memories.

With one slight qualifier, this largely squares with my experience some 60 years ago. The qualifier is "fun." Honestly fun is not what first comes to mind. What comes to mind is hard work: all those hall laps coach Rumley and Arnold made us run; all those quarter-mile intervals coach Murray had us run in track until our muscles cramped and lungs burned—at least for Fortney,

Gipson and me, who doubled up like heaving dogs; and, of course, there was coach Butkovich toughening us up much like my Army basic training at Ft. Benning—except the Army let us have water breaks.

Fun? Well, now and then, yeah, I had some great times.

And one of those "great times" was forging life-long friendships with fellow teammates—even with competitors. Which is important because as we age no one wants to hear our old athletic 'war stories' except fellow old athletes.

It's an unwritten code among athletes getting older that "I'll listen to your boring old stories if you'll listen to mine." At least that's the rule Engo and I follow. And there must be mutual interest—genuine or earnestly feigned—with smiles, nods and laughs where appropriate as the legend unfolds.

As a side benefit, your recollection of feats of glory can grow like the kudzu on the Yazoo, without correction or reproach, as no old sports story can ever be tainted by hyperbole. Of course, there are limits: no touchdown can exceed 110 yards and no basket-

ball dunk stories can involve one's feet or shoulders.

Years ago, I remember getting together with fellow Okaw Valley athletes from the 60's era. We met at Ironhorse, and the nostalgic stories piled up faster than the empty beer bottles on the tables.

It was wonderful, a Trip to Bountiful, where the memories were strong but, sadly, the buildings, coaches and witnesses were mostly long gone. Only once or twice did someone have to invoke the rule against excessive hyperbole.

But, yes, there's still pain from those devastating losses or personal miscues that, during this impressionable time of life, is so powerful. And it's lasting—like absorbing the sharp pain of the death of a loved one that, thankfully, abates over time, ripening into melancholy, but never fully going away.

I still remember, for example, losing to Villa Grove in the first game of the Regional. The loss is still a shocker as we had beaten them 112-91 the week before and we were rated in the top 10 in the state back when there was only one class, not four as today.

But it's just sports? Right? ...

### I'm just sayin'

By Mike Carroll

[mike.carroll@tuscolareview.com](mailto:mike.carroll@tuscolareview.com)



Wrong. It was and is an experience that "meant something to everyone" involved.

And when I wonder if the highs of competitive youth sports ever justify the lows, the answer is always yes. Because sports, among its many benefits, also provides a young person with an emotional maturity, gained through adverse experience, that better prepares them for the difficult challenges of tomorrow.

I sadly think of certain college students today who seem risk-averse to any and all negative experiences, students who need "safe places" and demand shielding from "micro-aggressions" that cause them anxiety, students who are so easily troubled by the seemingly smallest slight. I wonder if any of them were ever engaged in the highly competi-

tive, hurly-burly of high school sports?

What would happen to them if, God forbid, they experienced a macro-aggression? What if they were thrust into the middle of the brutal slaughter of innocent civilians, like currently occurring in Ukraine, in an unjust invasion by a malign nation that has no regard for their life, let alone their pronoun, gender or bathroom preference?

I know that football under coaches Butkovich and Murray helped prepare us for the Vietnam War. There was decorated soldier Michael Allen, left end on the '65 team, who, within a year after graduation, was fighting major battles in Vietnam. There was John Beatty, junior fullback on that '65 team, that fought in Vietnam and, upon returning home,

thanked coach Murray for making him "tough enough" to survive bloody conflict.

And just last week, Engo informed me that one of the Villa Grove players that played a key part in Villa Grove's upset Regional victory, big John McGrath, had passed away. Which helps put things in perspective.

How do we prepare our youth to the fact of life that the world can be a harsh and dangerous, often arbitrary and unfair, place? Is there a way to get from youthful innocence to wizened maturity without pain? I don't think so, but organized sports seems as smooth a springboard as anything else.

Losing a hard fought, passionately desired, and well-deserved sports contest is not necessarily a tragedy, but to the young heart, it feels like it. It feels like "something you never want to go through." But, better to go through it early in life, preferably in safe and organized activities like sports, so as to better develop life's necessary coping skills. Because the world's "safe spaces" are becoming as rare as hen's teeth.

mike carroll

## Lack of filing creates headaches but saves time

I seldom throw anything away. I'm not a hoarder but I probably would be if left on my own. Things do get thrown away in our house; I'm just not typically the one doing it.

The downside to saving too much stuff, or maybe I should say another downside, is that I'm also not a filer. I'm a stacker, stuffer and shover.

Papers will stack up on my desk until they essentially build a wall. When one stack starts to sway, I build another stack next to it. Then another. When the stacks become untenable, or my wife threatens to take a match to them, then I stuff them. I find a big box and throw the papers in there and shove it under the desk. This is my filing system.

I know I'm not the only stacker out there, and I know my stacker brethren will attest to this: I can find anything I want in my stacks going back 5 years or more with a moment's notice.

I don't know how that

### Ramblin' Man

By David Porter  
[porter@ramblinman.us](mailto:porter@ramblinman.us)



works. It doesn't make sense. But as long as nobody else moves it, I remember where I put things the last time I handled them. I can't always find my car keys but if you want the agenda for a school board meeting from 2015, I know where to go.

My email is in similar disarray. I don't delete emails, and I don't organize them into folders. I've tried. I have some folders set up. It's just too boring and time-consuming to file them.

All the email services have a keyword search function and

automatically sort emails by date. Why would anyone need anything more than that?

I have one email that I use as a spam catcher. A lot of times, when you sign up for a discount or something, you have to give the other party an email address. You might even have to verify the address by responding to an email they send you even though you know you're never going to read their emails. That's when I use my spam catcher.

I have an old Yahoo account with unlimited storage. So Yahoo gets to store tens of

thousands of unread, unwanted junk messages on my behalf. Yahoo, indeed.

I needed to verify an email today, so I logged into that account. I decided to skim through the emails to see what I've been missing in the last year or so.

There was a note from a politician wanting to know if I would vote for him again. I never voted for him the first time. It wasn't a survey as much as it was a plea for money.

Another politician, who I have never met or voted for, sent me a happy birthday greeting. I didn't know we were such close friends. The email included a link to a YouTube video, which he said was a gift from him to me. How thoughtful. I didn't click the link.

Another email promised to tell me how to regain my immunity from herpes. I've never had herpes. If I ever had immunity, I didn't know it. Same for

losing immunity. How I ended up on that list, I have no clue.

There was warranty information for a car I no longer own, coupons for a store that hasn't been in my area for years, and tourism reports for a town I haven't lived in for more than 20 years. There was an intriguing message about a diet supplement with the peculiar subject heading of "Swallow me." That's a hard pass.

There was an ominous email telling me my account was on hold for a service I never subscribed to, an email telling me how I can get out of a timeshare although I've never bought into a timeshare, and, of course, countless messages asking for my help in taking hundreds of thousands of dollars out of a foreign country and telling me that I had won a lottery I never signed up for.

My spam catcher has a spam catcher of its own. All those earlier messages were in my inbox. If those don't qualify

as spam, I was curious as to what does. So I peeked inside the spam folder. Yikes! The more perverted unwanted emails were in there along with more lottery scams, pharmaceutical offers, credit card deals and delivery confirmations for products I didn't order.

There are so many emails that are pure junk, it's a wonder that the relevant messages break through at all.

The email that I actually use gets about 300 messages a week not including the ones that go directly to the spam folder. Of the 300 delivered to my inbox, about 200 are junk.

This is why I don't file or trash anything. If I did, there would be no time left in the day for the really important things in life like playing Wordle and arguing on Facebook.

© Copyright 2022 by David Porter who can be reached at [porter@ramblinman.us](mailto:porter@ramblinman.us). 110 Wordle rounds and I haven't lost one yet.

## PUZZLES

### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of footwear
- 5. Studies a lot all at once
- 10. Adventure story
- 14. Hundred thousand
- 15. Former U.S. Vice President
- 16. Ruler
- 17. Indian city
- 18. Similar

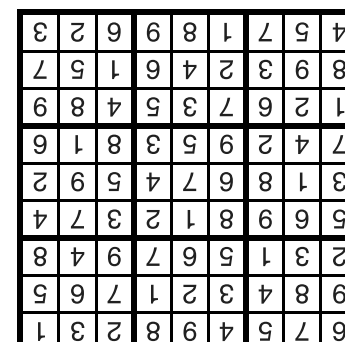
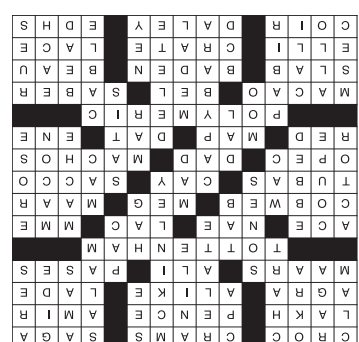
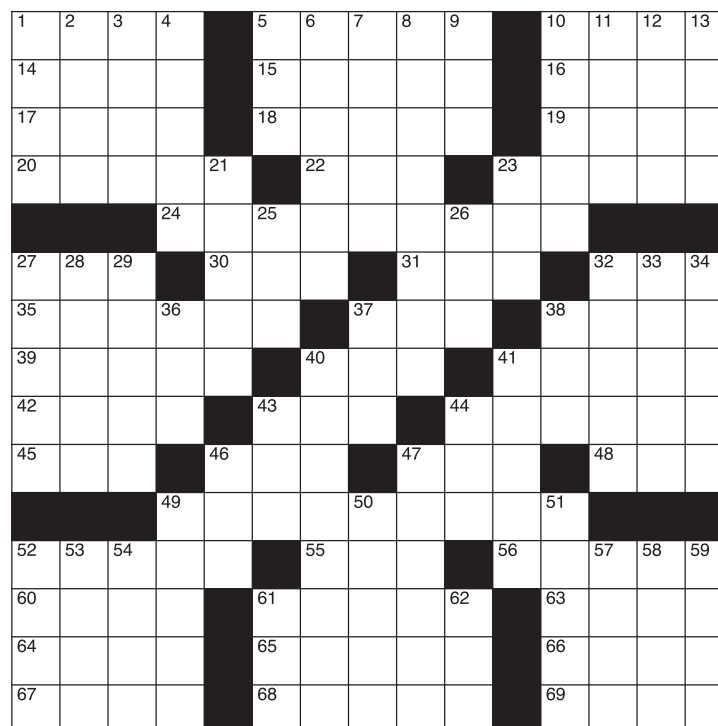
- 19. Ship as cargo
- 20. Volcanic craters
- 22. Boxing's "GOAT"
- 23. Bullfighting maneuvers
- 24. London soccer team
- 27. Score perfectly
- 30. No (Scottish)
- 31. SoCal hoops team (abbr.)
- 32. Woman (French)

- 35. Unwanted attic "decor"
- 37. Peter Griffin's daughter
- 38. Broad, shallow crater
- 39. Large instruments
- 40. Low bank or reef
- 41. \_\_\_ and Venzetti
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Father
- 44. Aggressive men
- 45. Pairs well with green
- 46. Travelers need it
- 47. Digital audiotape
- 48. Midway between northeast and east
- 49. Chemistry descriptor
- 52. S. China seaport
- 55. Sound unit
- 56. Heavy cavalry sword
- 60. Thick piece of something
- 61. Spa town in Austria
- 63. Boyfriend
- 64. Norse personification of old age
- 65. Type of box
- 66. Tie together
- 67. Fiber from the coconut
- 68. Chicago mayor
- 69. Old English letters

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of sauce
- 2. Pattern of notes
- 3. Plant with long seedpods
- 4. Map out
- 5. Numbers cruncher
- 6. Make a mental connection
- 7. Italian tenor
- 8. N. America's highest mountain peak
- 9. Witness
- 10. Arabic given name
- 11. Music awards
- 12. "The Immoralist" author
- 13. Area units
- 21. Units of loudness
- 23. Political action committee
- 25. Bar bill
- 26. Witch
- 27. A theatrical performer
- 28. 2-door car
- 29. \_\_\_ and flowed
- 32. Papier-\_\_\_, art medium
- 33. City in Georgia
- 34. Irregular
- 36. College sports conference
- 37. Angry
- 38. Partner to cheese
- 40. S. American mammal
- 41. Self-immolation by fire rituals
- 43. Split pulses
- 44. Disfigure
- 46. Cow noise
- 47. Erase
- 49. Chadic language
- 50. Reward for doing well
- 51. Paid TV
- 52. Millisecond
- 53. Other
- 54. Colombian city
- 57. Necklace part
- 58. Every one of two or more people
- 59. Regrets
- 61. They come after "A"
- 62. Horse noise

## CROSSWORD



## SUDOKU

6		5						
		4	3		1			
		1	5			9		8
	6							
3					4			
7						8		6
				3		4		
8			2					7
	5			8				2