

Sports

ACHS indoor track earns three winners at Nottoway Regionals set for Friday

CHARLES CONRAD
Times Virginian

The Appomattox Raiders indoor track and field team put in several excellent individual showings on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Nottoway Polar Bear Meet at Nottoway High School. Three members of the Raider team finished first overall in their respective events.

In the girls triple jump, Morgan Flamm was tops in her field with a distance of 28 feet, 2.5 inches. Kelsey Hackett won the girls 55-meter dash at a time of 8.15 seconds. Mannix Wilhoit earned the top slot in the boys 55-meter hurdles in a time of 9.25 seconds.

The Raider girls finished third in a five-team field, while the Raider boys were fourth in their four-team field.

The winning girls team was Prince Edward with 99 points, followed by runner-up Brunswick (64), Appomattox (33), Nottoway (31) and Cumberland (18).

Nottoway and Prince Edwards were co-winners of the boys team competition, each with 104 points, followed by Brunswick (103) and Appomattox (40).

Other Raiders Results:
2nd Place

Kelsey Hackett, girls long jump (13-4.5)
Mannix Wilhoit, boys

high jump (5-8)
3rd Place

Micah Johnson, boys 55-meter hurdles (10.22)

4th Place

Morgan Flamm, girls long jump (13-0)

Micah Johnson, boys high jump (5-2)

5th Place

Collin Slagle, boys 55-meter hurdles (10.79)

Mannix Wilhoit, boys long jump (18-7)

6th Place

Collin Slagle, boys 55-meter dash (7.66)

Appomattox will travel to Roanoke College on Friday to participate in the VHSL 1/2A Region C and 1/2A Region D Championships. Events start at 4 p.m.

Hunt Smart -- Fish Hard



By Leon Mettler

No School-Then It's Squirrel Hunting

When I was in school years ago one day, they were calling for snow the next day. While we were at school we decided if there is no school we would go squirrel hunting. If they didn't close school we would play hooky.

We didn't get our wish because it didn't snow enough to close school. The deal was to meet on the railroad tracks at American Can Company. For me it was just two blocks up the street, and then we would climb the railroad bank to get on the railroad tracks.

On the way there, I met Gene and we walked together to Donnie's house. Donnie's house was right at the end of the street. All we were doing was waiting for Marty to show up and we would put our plan for squirrel hunting in motion. Marty lived up the next street, close to the tracks. It was quicker for him to walk the tracks than walk the sidewalks to get to Donnie's house.

We are standing in front of Donnie's and the three of us had our guns resting up against the fence waiting for Marty. We are just hanging out telling stories, not paying any attention, and all we hear is KA-BOOM! It is Marty up on the tracks. He shot in the air and was laughing his head off. We all jumped when he shot the gun off. When we got up to the tracks, Marty was still laughing. He said he wished we could have seen ourselves jump.

We start walking down the tracks on the road next to the tracks head-

ing to the place we have to cross over. Donnie says to watch for rabbits as we make our way down the tracks. We saw plenty of rabbit tracks in the snow but we never saw a rabbit. We are getting close to the spot that I thought we were going to hunt. Donnie said to unload our guns as we are going to cross the highway once we cross this small field. Donnie said we are going to hunt behind the bowling alley. Donnie said it is loaded with squirrels.

We crossed the highway, and as we entered the parking lot, people getting out of their cars were just looking at us. We get behind the bowling alley and we load up our guns. I knew Donnie and Marty both had 12 gauges. Gene had a 20 gauge and I had a .410.

Before the next word was said, Donnie takes off running. He yells, "Come on!" Donnie stops and tells everybody to circle the tree. The squirrel ran up the tree. There was not much snow on the ground but just enough to see rabbit and squirrels tracks. We all circled the tree and way up the top Donnie spots the squirrel in the V-shape of the tree branches and we watch him shoot. The squirrel comes falling down and Donnie puts it in his hunting vest. I remember Donnie said to us, "That's how it's done boys."

This was the game plan. We would spread out a little bit and start walking. We would be looking for the squirrels trying to

find nuts. Once we saw one we would say 'squirrel' and the one that spotted it would go after it until it treed. Then we all would circle the tree and the one that spotted the squirrel would have first shot at it. We started to fill our vests with a lot of squirrels. I got two but I ended having five in my pouch when we left. The limit was five squirrels per hunter to hunt. We had about 30 minutes left to hunt before we had to leave, so we got home on time and not get in any trouble.

Just as we decide to leave, this squirrel runs across the tree branch high up the tree. Donnie shoots, Gene shoots, I shot, and Marty shoots. Nobody hit the squirrel as he is high-tailing it out of there jumping from tree to tree. It was nine shots at the squirrel and I think to this day that squirrel is still running.

All of us got in trouble later that day except for Donnie. Donnie made a good point before we left for home — How are you going to explain the squirrels when you get home? Everybody gave Donnie the squirrels.

Once I got home, here is the question — Where can you hide wet clothes and wet boots? The answer — you can't. I knew I could not go hunting on Saturday morning for skipping school. We can laugh about it now. Skipping school to go hunting was fun but it had its repercussions. Ah, to be that young again.

Until next week- H.S.F.H.-L.M.

Girls

Continued from Page 5

Wilkerson expressed that her father has played a big role in helping her to develop in her basketball journey.

"I want to thank my dad because he's been my coach for my whole life — he's taught me a lot," she said.

Hargis' favorite memory will also be cherishing her time in the Raider program as a teammate, first and foremost.

"Kinda like Julie said, being part of the team," she said. "Me and Julie have played together for a long time, since before we were even in middle and high school."

In conclusion, Hargis also had some "thanks" to go around — to her parents, coaches, and good friend and long-time teammate Wilkerson.

Raiders head coach Tracie Hayes, who is sitting out the season due to a health issue, had some kind words regarding the two seniors.

"Macee and Juliana have been a great example of a student-athlete. They have greatly contributed to the ACHS girls basketball program over the last five years. We are very proud of them," she said.

Gretna's record fell to 5-13 overall, 2-9 in Dogwood District play.

Appomattox made a



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian
Juliana Wilkerson of Appomattox takes a jump shot Friday against Gretna.

road trip to William Campbell (2-11) on Tuesday night. The score will be updated in the next edition of the Times Virginian.

The Raiders will host their final home regular season game tonight against Class 3 Seminole District opponent Heritage (0-19). The game was a late-season addition. Junior varsity tips off at 5:30 p.m., followed by varsity at around 7 p.m.

VHSL Class 2 Regional post-season tournament play begins Friday. The opponents and sites are yet to be determined as of press time.

Raiders Scoring: Troxler (12), Nolen (7), Hargis, McCullough, Wilkerson (6), Moore (5), Bryant, Mills (3)

Hawks Scoring: Glass (16), Jones (12), Savage (8), Myers (6), Hagood (3)

Boys' Hoops Senior Night



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian
Pictured above are three Appomattox Raider senior boys basketball players who were honored Tuesday night during the Senior Night game against William Campbell at Appomattox County High School. From left: Jayden DeMedeiros, Dakota Wheeler and Jake Maner. Not present were fellow seniors Ervis Davin and Brandon Adams. The Raiders lost the game to William Campbell by the score of 47-34. NOTE: Due to press deadline, the game article will be published in next week's edition of the Times Virginian, along with Senior Night photographs of the Appomattox Raiders cheerleading squad and indoor track and field team, who were also honored.



Charles Conrad/Times Virginian
Top: Appomattox (white) sets up on defense against Gretna. Shown from left: Macee Hargis, Juliana Wilkerson, Carrington Moore and Harmony Troxler. Bottom: Interim head coach Brandon Bryant speaks to the Raiders during a timeout.

We Need Your Memories Photos!

Bring your old photos along with information to the Times-Virginian at 589 Court Street or mail to P.O. Box 2097, Appomattox, VA

Area coaches! Got game news or statistics?
Email information to: news@timesvirginian.com

Hunt Smart -- Fish Hard



By Leon Mettler

200 Pounds vs. 20 Pounds

Back in the mid '70s, I met a guy that lived up road from me. We met through talking on the CBs. We became very good friends. We hunted, fished, bow hunted and everything in-between with the outdoors. Sights on a bow were not heard of back then. Howard taught me how to shoot with sights on my bow. I'm glad I learned how and so glad I don't have to rely on shooting instinctive.

It was trout stocking time, and Howard and I wanted to check out a spot to see if the state had stocked it yet. There is a small reservoir, and along the side of the wall is a small stream that runs into the spillway of the reservoir. At the bottom of the spillway was where the state began there stocking of the stream. There is a nice small pool that held a lot of trout in it. We both had our own jar of salmon eggs to test the water.

Alongside some of wall, there are some spots that have dry land you can walk on. Once you run out of land, you have to climb up on the wall and take your time as you try and maneuver over the rocks on top of the wall.

Howard got in touch with

me through the CB. I told Howard I would be there in a few minutes. I get to Howard's place, and he tells me he wanted to check out the stream next to the reservoir. This place was like our own honey hole. Down the stream a mile away, it was easy to get to the stream from the road. It was hard as heck to fish up the mountain with blown over trees and big rocks.

We pulled into the parking spot and got out. As soon as we got to the front of the truck, we heard a loud Hooonk- Hooonk. We saw two Canadian geese in the middle of the reservoir honking and looking right at us. We got to the beginning of the wall and walk up it. The closer we got to the spillway, the louder the one goose got. They were swimming in circles, making lots of noise. We were about 20 yards away from the spillway.

Out of nowhere, the one goose came honking right at us. We couldn't jump down because water is on both sides of the wall. Here came the goose! We started to run. The goose was getting closer. Just as I was jumping down, I felt the wing of the goose. The goose was after

Howard. The goose clipped Howard in the back of his neck. Howard was flapping his hands up and down, cussing the whole time. I couldn't stop laughing.

We made it back to the truck. I said we came this far, we need to see if they stocked the stream.

Howard cussed and said "no."

I said we were 200-pound men. "You afraid of a 20-pound goose?"

Howard started picking some rocks, and I did the same. We tried again. As we got close to the spillway, the goose made its way closer to us. We tossed the rocks, and the geese moved backward. As we start to walk again, we are getting closer to the spillway.

Howard said, "Look at this." Down on the other side of the wall was the goose's nest. The goose that bit Howard had his eye on him. I counted eight eggs in the nest. We now get to see if the state stocked the stream. We tossed in some salmon eggs, and nothing ate them. They didn't stock yet; what a morning. We laughed all the way back to Howard's house.

Until next week - H.S.F.H.-L.M.

Cowboys

Continued from Page 4

pushers. They were ready to move north, and they had a total of 60 men making the drive. They would take turns at every task except cooking. They had employed three cooks, three chuck wagons and four wagons of supplies,

which all were fully loaded. They would not pass any town of size so they had to bring everything for the two-month adventure.

They had hunters and gatherers for daily food, scouts looking for the trail, water and grass. What they feared most was rain with lightening and thunder — it could spook the herd into a stampede.

The trail was hot and dusty, but the promise of \$2 a day was all they needed to keep them in the saddle. The stories of Dodge City were exciting as they pushed ever closer. The thought of beer and the warm touch of a woman kept their minds wandering and wanting the trail to end and the pleasures that awaited them.

Museum

Continued from Page 1

Cush, Anne Jacobs and Regina Schwabe met every other Tuesday for most of the past three years to collect, digest and organize.

"We started with a few boxes of information passed down from local history buffs and a room in need of a makeover. We thought we'd dream small instead of big so we could bring the vision to fruition," said Cush.

As you walk into the former community room of the Pamplin Depot, you enter an organized rendition of Pamplin's history. The first wall to the left is dedicated to the history of clay smoking pipes. It features a display case of artifacts on loan from the Virginia Department of Historical Resources and proudly displays a variety of pipes donated by the local townspeople. You walk through the mechanical and hand process of making clay pipes. A slideshow with additional information is available on a continuous loop. Keeping with the community spirit, Betty Price, a well-known Pamplin pipe maker is featured, as is the pipe dig of the 1970s with many citizens participating in an impromptu scramble for pipes after excavation for the Route 47 bypass.

The second portion

of the wall is devoted to Pamplin people and buildings that were crucial to the development of the town from before the town fire in 1909 until the 1950s. Pamplin was almost completely rebuilt in the 1910s. The State Bank of Pamplin was the finest bank building in the county at the time. Local baseball got a boost with major leaguer Woodrow Williams harking from Pamplin.

The dress factory employed many local women. There was a bus station and a tobacco warehouse. Main Street had many thriving businesses. People rode the trains and the Greyhound bus to Lynchburg and Richmond. Nancy Jamerson Weiland, author of "History of Pamplin, Virginia," described it as "a Norman Rockwell type of small town."

We enlisted Weiland's help in vetting timelines and getting a feel for what it was like to grow up in Pamplin.

"I have spent many hours at the Jones Memorial Library in Lynchburg chatting with Nancy and researching pictures and sources for the museum," Schwabe said. "She has provided us with many of the pictures on this wall and has been majorly supportive."

Weiland and her family attended the opening.

The opening was well attended by members of

the community, present and past. Some of the attendees were not familiar with Pamplin history and were amazed at the unique and varied industry that existed even after the primary school closed in 1981. Conversation flowed with stories of "the good old days," and many people stayed the full two hours to catch up with friends. Guests were enthusiastic about finding artifacts they remembered from their childhoods and wanted to make contributions from their own private stores.

We were touched to receive a donation from the Inge family of an original letter from World War I at the opening. Patsy Franklin kindly shared her memories of her mother-in-law, Magnolia, who was the community midwife for decades. Several teachers from the now-closed school promised to look out for yearbooks and school items for us.

There are so many untold stories. This museum represents a community's shared memories. PALS hopes to continue the conversation started with community members during the open house.

Do you have interesting artifacts or stories of Pamplin Past? They will be greatly treasured by anyone visiting the museum. Send all inquiries to PALS, P.O. Box 3152, Pamplin, VA 23958.

Budget

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amounts to \$38,987.74 for a total income or gross profit of \$182,041.97.

On the expense side, for payroll, including processing fees, payroll expenses,

taxes, etc., the amount is estimated to be \$43,291.82. Other expenses, including utilities, equipment maintenance and water system expenses are estimated at \$4,330.32; sewer system expenses amounted to an estimate of \$18,712.19; and fire programs, facilities

maintenance, insurance, police and fire department supplements, bank charges, maintenance supplies, telephone, internet, and loan payments to United States Department of Agriculture all come to an estimated total of \$161,952.23.

Fariss

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Tax Relief for Small Businesses (HB1121/SB692): Permits a qualifying pass-through entity, defined in the bill, to make an annual election in taxable years 2021 through 2025 to pay an elective income tax at a rate of 5.75 percent, created by the bill, at the entity level for the taxable period covered by the return. The bill also creates a corresponding refundable income tax credit for taxable years 2021 through 2025 for any amount of income derived from a pass-through entity having

Virginia taxable income if such pass-through entity makes such election and pays the elective income tax imposed at the entity level and allows an individual to claim a credit for similar taxes paid to other states for taxable years 2021 through 2025.

Gas Tax Rising Again (SB890 - 2020): Virginia's Gas Tax will go up 7 percent on Friday because of legislation passed in 2020 that requires the Gas Tax to increase whenever the Consumer Price Index (Inflation) goes up although it remains the same rate if the CPI goes down.

Limits on Emergency Executive Orders (SB4):

Limits the duration of any executive order issued by the Governor pursuant to his powers under the Emergency Services and Disaster Law to no more than 45 days.

Reporting Crimes at Schools to Law Enforcement and Parents (SB36/ HB4): Requires that school principals report to law enforcement certain enumerated acts that may constitute a misdemeanor offense and report to the parents of any minor student who is the specific object of such act that the incident has been reported to law enforcement.

Making Parole Board Votes Public (SB5): Makes

the individual votes by Parole Board members public records. This bill also passed the Senate in 2021, but House Democrats refused to allow its consideration when they were in the majority.

Allowing Sunday Hunting (SB8): Permits hunting on Sunday on public or private land, so long as it takes place more than 200 yards from a place of worship.

Car Tax Relief (SB12/ HB267): Grants localities permissive authority to return surplus personal property tax revenues to taxpayers. Several localities have now chosen to do this.

Farm Use Plates Re-

quire Actual Farm Connection (HB179): Motorists wishing to get Farm Use plates in lieu of the regular registration and inspection, must pay \$15 to DMV and provide the name of the owner of the vehicle for which the exemption is claimed; location and acreage of each farm on which the vehicle is to be used; the type of agricultural product produced there; and a statement, signed by the owner that the vehicle shall only be used for one or more of the exempt purposes.

Allowing Group Life Insurance for Real Estate Associations (Barker SB353): After previ-

ous legislative attempts in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021, Virginia can finally begin to set up the administrative process to allow independent contractors in real estate to purchase group life insurance.

It is an honor to represent you and the 59th District of Virginia. I encourage you to sign up to receive emails from my office and follow my Facebook page as I am frequently updating both with resources and links to important information. As always, if you should need any assistance, please do not hesitate to call either office at (434) 821-5929 or email me at DelMFariss@house.virginia.gov.

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Sports

Local mom, daughter excel in 'I Am Woman' 5K race



Jamie Martin/Contributed
Appomattox mother and daughter Jamie and Madison Martin participated in the 15th Annual "I Am Woman" 5K run on Saturday in Lynchburg. Over 400 female runners and walkers took part in the female-only race. Madison (top left) won the race with a time of 21:24. Jamie (top right) placed second in her age group. Bottom: Madison Martin is shown running in Saturday's "I Am Woman" 5K run.

Football

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32-12, which was the score at the end of the third following a William Campbell turnover on downs in the red zone.

Quarterback Gray Peterson took off for a quarterback keeper of 35-plus yards into the end zone for the Raiders, but the score was called back on an Appomattox illegal block. It didn't stop the Raiders and barely slowed them down, as they crossed the goal line shortly thereafter. The kick was good this time. Their lead moved to 39-12.

The Generals had a big kick return, but the very next play they threw an interception and gave up a good return. Appomattox, within a few more plays, added to their score on a 20-yard passing play. Running back Matthew Epperson wrapped up the evening's scoring with a dash from 10 yards out.

Following the game, head coach Doug Smith told the Times Virginian that there were some positives and

some things to work on following the game.

"Out on the edges we're struggling right now, being able to have tight coverage. That's something that we knew we had to work on, and we're still working on it," he said.

Smith also noted that there were some missed tackles.

On the positive side, Smith added, "some of the best stuff that I saw was, I didn't feel like our offense got stopped any time. Our guys worked really hard this week. They knew what they were going to do. They knew their roles, and they got after it and moved the ball well."

Smith acknowledged that William Campbell's "defense, their players are a good group of guys," but the Raiders "were ready and well prepared to move the ball."

Appomattox is in the perhaps unenviable position of having their bye week this Friday during the final week of the regular season. Smith remarked that it wasn't ideal but the coaching staff would use it

to the team's advantage. On the plus side, they can focus this week and the next on the upcoming regional playoffs.

"We can get healthy, have a great week of practice," Smith said.

Appomattox County has compiled a 7-3 record, 6-0 in the Dogwood District. Currently the Raiders stand at No. 3 in VHSL Region 2C.

William Campbell falls to 3-6, 2-3 in the Dogwood. They fell one position to seventh place in Region 1B. This week for their final regular season game and Senior Night, the Generals will host Dan River (5-4, 4-1). Both teams sit at seventh in their respective regions (the Wildcats are in Region 2C with Appomattox), so the game will have implications for both of them in the final rankings going into regional playoffs, William Campbell coach Danny Broggin pointed out.

The Raiders will be back in action next week (Nov. 11) with the first round game in the regional playoffs. Their opponent is yet to be determined.

Hunt Smart -- Fish Hard



By Leon Mettler

Determined To Hunt

Doe day was only a few short weeks away. When I lived in New Jersey you had to send a computer card into the state and select your zone you wanted to hunt in. My friend John showed me a way to get the edge on getting the card back.

Back in 1976 I bought a new car. It was loaded, and the thing that sold me was it had a built-in CB. Little did I know at the time I would not have that car very long.

It was around midnight one evening and I was working my way home. I had about five miles to go to get home. When I came around the corner, there in front of me were a bunch of deer standing in the middle of the highway. I jammed on the brakes and swerved to my right. The only thing I remembered was bouncing off the guard rails. I remember pulling myself up from the floor of the car and seeing smoke. I thought it was smoke back then but it turned out to be steam from the radiator.

I knew I had to get out of the car because I saw the smoke. I fell back on the floor because when I pulled on the steering wheel to pull myself up, the pain in my shoulder hurt so much, I couldn't hold on. When I got out of the car I saw that I split the telephone pole in half.

The next thing I knew, I was in the ambulance heading to the hospital. One of the medics was David, a good friend of mine. As we went through this one area of the road David said "Look at all those deer!" I laughed a little but then David said, "What are you going to do about doe day?" I said, "What do you mean?" David said it looked like I had a separation in my right shoulder. Then he asked me, "How you going to shoot your gun?" I wasn't thinking about the cuts and bruises I had and a separated shoulder anymore. My concern was how I was going to

shoot my shotgun on my shoulder.

I saw the emergency room doctor and he told me I had a separated shoulder. He told me it was a number 2 separation. That meant I was borderline from having surgery or having my shoulder taped and wrapped up, and it might go back in place. I saw the doctor the next day and he told me after taking a few x-rays that he could make a tight wrap on my shoulder and it needed to stay that way for three to four weeks.

If I didn't want to do that he could operate to set the bone back in place. I told him I was hunting next Saturday and he told me that I wasn't. He told me I couldn't put any pressure or impact from the gun on my right shoulder. At this time I didn't want to kiss doe day good-bye. I had my own plan to hunt.

After talking with a lot of my friends and letting them know what happened to me, we ended up talking about doe day. Doe day was the next week. I went and looked at my car with the insurance man. He totaled the car. Two days before doe day I bought a pickup truck. I felt more comfortable in the truck now than a car. I could put a deer in the back of the truck instead of the trunk of a new car.

I had one more day to wait, so I tried shooting my gun before doe day. I went over to John's house and we walked out to the back yard. We put up a few targets and now it's my turn to shoot. John said, "Don't shoot right-handed." He said it's going to hurt. I thought I healed up. I was wrong. I shot left-handed and I felt it in my right shoulder. Doe day wasn't looking so good right now. I took a break as John shot a few more shots at the target.

John told me to close my right eye and put my right foot forward and to tuck to the butt of the shot-

gun and hold it tight into my shoulder. This time when I pulled the trigger the pain was not that bad at all. I was set for Saturday morning.

We went back into John's house to have some coffee. John told me we can do a little drive up the road. It always has deer in it. I told John I would see him in the morning.

The next morning came and John drops me off and I make my way to my standing spot. I hear him go up the road and knew shortly the drive was going to start. A few minutes pass and here comes the birds flying in my direction. I knew John had started the drive now. When we bow hunt this place and make a drive it's the same way. The birds get spooked and fly to the other end and right behind them come the deer.

This time no was exception. Here come the deer. I see two bucks in with four or five does. I took aim and pulled the trigger on the buck. I wasn't standing right and I closed the wrong eye. The deer split up. Some kept coming and some turned around.

I hurry and put my right foot out in front of me and close my right eye. It just didn't feel right but it worked. I took aim on a doe and pulled the other trigger on the double barrel. The doe didn't go 20 yards. Just as the doe dropped I hear John shoot. John killed the other buck that was in the herd.

John dragged out both deer and we took them to be checked in. After that we dropped them off at butcher shop and waited to be called when the meat was ready for pick up.

Shooting the opposite hand was not for me. I got lucky that time. Back then, doe day was a big thing. I really didn't want to miss doe day even with a separated shoulder.

Until next week- H.S.F.H.-L.M.

Volleyball

Continued from Page B1

their side. I thought that was the correct call."

In volleyball, the team that reaches 25 points must win by at least two points. Layne's kill shot gave Gretna a 25-24 lead but play resumed with a back-and-forth, spirited barn burner.

Kaydence Gilbert tied the score at 25 with a monstrous kill shot, and a following shot by Dudley put the Raiders ahead 26-25. Gilbert put the Raid-

ers ahead once again, this time with a light finesse shot, by a score of 27-26. However, Anayia Irvine evened things up at 27 apiece with a kill shot of her own.

The two teams traded points on ensuing shots by Dudley, Irvine, Gilbert and Layne. Haleigh Tweedy put the Raiders ahead to stay with a shot that bounced off of the Gretna defense. The set was sealed when a returned shot by Gretna went out of bounds.

Based on the growth of the team throughout the

season, Drinkard believes the Raiders are ready to meet any challenges that will be presented to them in the postseason tournament.

"We have grown together as a group, and our young players have improved with each practice and game," he said. "We have to come out against whoever we play with great focus and energy. Serving and serve receive are always the keys for us. If we do those two things, we'll we have a decent chance to make a run in the playoffs."

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