

Hidek Herald

An online newsletter for your entertainment

Proprietor's message



Dear Customers and Friends:

We hope you are enjoying our online newsletter. We have a treat for you this month. Mr. Larry Harris, a 45 year veteran of the sportswriting business, a columnist and editor for The Baltimore Evening Sun, The Baltimore Morning Sun and The Charlotte News brings us up to date on March Madness. And Mark Lupton returns with his craziness.

We've finished updating the website now. www.hidek.com
And please give me a call or drop a line to john@hidek.com to comment on anything we're doing now.

Thank you all so much for the business you've given us the past 21 years.

March Madness



by Larry Harris

Other than a real-life sighting of Dale Earnhardt, Jr., there are few things that quicken a Carolinas sports fan's pulse more than the imminent prospect of the annual experience known as the Atlantic Coast Conference basketball tournament.

That ultimate in excitement is upon us again as the 12 members of the sports league wrap up their regular seasons and prepare for four days that yearly leave participants and spectators either at the highest peak or the lowest valley, but definitely drained of emotion.

There hasn't been a public sale of tickets to the tournament since 1966 and there are few basketball fans alive who haven't at least once joined the frustrating fight to find a ticket to the finals. Unless you know somebody, old pal, forget about it!

Many sites have played host to the tournament over the years and this year's event goes to the ultra-modern Charlotte Bobcats Arena, an

impressive edifice that is home to the state's NBA entry. On Thursday, March 13, 20,000 screaming fans will pack the place for first-round action and they won't be silent until the competition is done on Sunday.

It is rare when the favorite for this event actually wins it, so accurate predictions have pretty much gone the way of dinosaurs and carbon paper. The usual suspects -- North Carolina and Duke -- will of course bring their rabid followers and national rankings, but those proud credentials are no assurance of success. What can be said with certainty, however, is that somewhere along the way there will be an upset and that 20,000 fans will depart with sore throats.

But wait! The very day that the ACC tournament ends, Sunday, March 16, is known nationally as "Selection Sunday," the eagerly anticipated moment when the NCAA picks what it considers the best 65 teams in the nation. This year's committee chairman, Tom O'Connor of George Mason University, will be alternately praised and reviled as either a brilliant man or the dumbest cluck who ever lived.

And, of course, four days later those teams commence the long trail of tournament tears that can eventually wind up in the national championship. Preliminary rounds are in various places, but the four regional sites that host the Sweet 16 are Charlotte -- again! -- Phoenix, Detroit and Houston. The Alamodome in San Antonio will welcome the Final Four from April 5-7.

Enjoy the journey, whether you get to a game in person or, like most of us, play Couch Potato. It's long but great fun.

And by the way, when those college students rush the floor after a satisfying victory, just what is it that they're supposed to do besides jump straight up and down, which they've been doing all game anyway?

PET OF THE MONTH



Bailey Boone

This little girl is a new addition to the neighborhood. She was adopted from the shelter, but her new mommy did not realize she was adopting Houdini.

Bailey is an escape artist. No matter how her daddy fixes up the yard, she manages to escape. She can scale a 6' wooden fence by stepping on the brace and throwing herself over the top. Bailey has also escaped through a cat door, which was made for a 12-pound cat. She is a high-energy dog, so if you see her in your neighborhood, call us.

What's the Matter with Kids Today?



by Mark Lupton

I was shopping in a store when I noticed several kids running amok through the aisles. A young couple were nearby, occasionally one or the other would call out to the kids and the kids would stop for a moment. Then, once the adults' attention was back to their shopping, the kids would start running through the aisles again.

Do you have any idea what my folks would have done if I hadn't listened?

Kids today have it so much better because my parents believed in corporal punishment. Many times did I get a spanking, and more often than not it was deserved. Actually, it was probably deserved each and every time!

Now that I think about it there were several times I should have been spanked but wasn't. Hmmmm...I hope there is a statute of limitations on spankings.... Mom always said it didn't matter how old I got or how big I got, she could still put me over her knee!

Today you can't do that. Nope. If you even think about giving your kids

a little spanking the PC police would have you tossed into some room where you would have to watch hours and hours of Oprah and Dr. Phil telling you the right ways to discipline your kids!

Maybe it's not quite that bad, but things are different today then when I was growing up. I remember one time, I must have been about five or six, I was with my mother and we were in a department store. I got impatient, bored, and decided to have some fun. Perfectly normal; I don't know any kid that age who enjoys shopping for blouses and skirts with their mother.

I started dashing through the store, jumping between aisles and going crazy. Over and over my mom would tell me to stay with her, but did I listen? Of course not! I continued to run through the aisles, enjoying myself until suddenly I realized something was wrong.

Mom was nowhere to be found!

I panicked!

Through the store I ran, screaming at the top of my lungs, "MOMMEEEEEE!" I could not find her! I raced around, panic setting into me like something I never felt before.

Right before I thought I was lost for good, mom stepped out from behind a rack of clothes.

So tightly I hugged onto her I thought for sure she would yell at me for squeezing too hard but all she said was, in a very quiet whisper, "Next time I tell you to stay with me you'll listen. Right?"

Of course! Geez...mom was so smart! She got me to do as she wanted....and she didn't even need to spank! I think a lot of parents today could learn a thing or two from my mom. Yes, I'm partial...but then, she's my mamma.

Even Our Keyrings Have Changed!



Would this modern-day keyring confuse your grandparents? Would they know what a fob is?

How many VIP customer cards do you have on your keyring?

Here's a good spring cleaning tip. Take out your keyring. Do you know what all the keys are for?

IDOL WATCH



We think it is the year of the boys, and the year of the young.

Our prediction for the next American Idol is David Archuleta, age 17, from Murray, Utah (bottom right).

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