

SPORTS

# Craigs host memorable basketball reunion

Staff report

Memories of some of Portage County's best basketball were recently shared by those who lived it when Rootstown residents Harvey and Marjanna Craig hosted a basketball reunion on their farm.

Harvey Craig is known throughout Portage County for his days as an amateur basketball player and coach in the county throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s, in which he was connected to some rich basketball talent.

The list of players that attended the reunion included:

- Fred Brown — A former Kent Roosevelt Rough Rider and Kent State standout, who made the trip from Massachusetts.
- Doug Sims — Former Kent State and Cincinnati Royals (now the Sacramento Kings) standout.

- Doug Grayson — Former Kent State standout.

- Greg McDivitt — Former Windham High School and Ohio University standout, who was drafted into the NBA and now is the athletic director at Garfield High School.

- Tom Carnes — Former Ravenna High School and Ohio Wesleyan standout, who is the probate and juvenile court judge in Portage County.

- John Eskridge — Former Rootstown High School and Kent State standout.

- Jim Eskridge — Former Rootstown High School and University of Pittsburgh football standout.

- Bob Eskridge — Former Rootstown High School standout.

- John Davison — Former Ravenna High School and Ohio Wesleyan standout.

- Paul Jordan — Former Kent State

football standout.

- Virgil Rowe — Former Hiram College standout.

- Ken Parshall — Former Ravenna High School standout.

- Jack Everett — Former Kent Roosevelt High School standout.

- Danny Thomas — Former Ravenna High School standout.

- Matt Likens — Former Ravenna High School and Kent State standout, who made the trip from Arizona for the reunion.

The reunion, which was organized by Kristen Craig-Cummins, Steve Cummins and Gary Huber, included the dust being knocked off many memorable stories. The group of players either competed for — or against — Craig's Sunoco Kent Recreation team, but also spent many days playing at the courts that used to be found behind Ravenna High School.



Special to the Record-Courier  
Kent State's Mike McKee is shown in the team's new uniforms that feature a more form-fitting jersey, along with long, baggy shorts.

## Flashes unveil new uniforms

Kent State men's basketball will sport new home uniforms in 2009-10.



DAVID CARDUCCI

The players supposedly love them.

I saw them during Monday's exhibition win over Ohio Northern, and I already don't like them.

As most of you know, I'm a traditionalist.

You know how I still think baseball players should wear

flannel, travel by train and play two on Saturday.

I also hate the changes in basketball uniforms over the years, with the baggy, ridiculous-looking shorts.

KSU is now switching to the look adopted by teams like Syracuse over the last couple of years, with the tight, form-fitting tops and the even baggier shorts by Nike.

I know, nobody really cares about this stuff, but for some reason it makes me cringe.

David Carducci can be contacted at [dcarducci@recordpub.com](mailto:dcarducci@recordpub.com)

## HEAT swim team wins overall meet

Special to the Record-Courier

The Hudson Explorers Aquatic Team swam to a first place overall finish at the High School Tune Up meet, held on Monday at Cleveland State's Busbey Natatorium.

HEAT, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and includes man Portage County residents, made an impressive showing with a 791 point win overall at the meet, with the girls placing second and the boys placing first out of the 14 teams participating in the meet.

With the girls taking eight races with top-10 finishes, and the boys taking 15 in the top 10, head coach Matt Davis commented.

"I was very pleased with the performances by our swimmers at the High School Tune Up," Davis said. "This was an important meet for the kids, as they begin their high school team training on Nov. 6."

Impressive finishes for the girls landed Connie Gan, Hannah Hornis, Shelbey Mitchell, Natalie Hill, Maggie McCue, Hope Bagarus and Laura

Murphy in top ten places, while John Zucca, Sean Murphy, Jimmy Dagley, Ryan Hutcheson, Andrew Bair, Joe Neuman, Alexander VanDijck and Adam Motter took home top ten finishes for the boys.

"It is very encouraging to be competing at this level at this time of year," said head age group coach Katherine Kleinert "The swimmers hard work and training really showed, with several swimmers posting times that they ended the season with last year."

## Rovers

From page B1

"That first goal was definitely nice, but we knew that it might not be how things were going to go," said Voth. "It just took us a long time to get the jets going."

It was only a matter of

time until the Dukes found the inside of the Rootstown net, and they did just that near the start of the second half.

Wellington scored twice in an eight-minute stretch as Kyle Bartolovich and Chris Coker each knocked shots in to wrestle the lead from the Rovers.

The Dukes' dominance of the ball continued during the half, outshooting Root-

stown 5-1. On the night, Wellington held a commanding 8-2 shot edge.

Rootstown finishes the season with an 18-1-1 mark — one of the best records in school history. A regional semifinal trip also matches the furthest any Rovers squad has advanced.

"We definitely had a great season this year," said Voth. "Hats off to Wellington, they're a good team. They

just had more in the tank than we did tonight."

Division III Regional Semifinal  
WELLINGTON 2, ROOTSTOWN 1  
(At Twinsburg High School)

WELLINGTON	0	2	-	2
ROOTSTOWN	1	0	-	1

First Half — 1. (F) Ronnie Moss.  
Second Half — 2. (W) Kyle Bartolovich; 3. (W) Chris Coker.  
Shots on Goal — Wellington, 8-2.  
Corner Kicks — Wellington, 5-1.  
Goalkeepers/Saves — (W) Mike Hicks/1; (F) Grant Rost/6.

Colin Harris can be reached at [charris@recordpub.com](mailto:charris@recordpub.com)

## PTC

From page B1

The Wildcats host Warren John F. Kennedy, the No. 6 seed with a 7-3 record. The Eagles are making their 18th trip to the playoffs.

JFK's three losses this season are to teams with a combined record of 28-2: Hubbard, Girard and Howland. The Eagles, a member of the Steel Valley Conference, played up all season, meeting only one Division VI team this year. They have a pair of wins over Division III teams and a victory over Southview (Division II).

JFK head coach Tony Napolet turned around a team that was 3-7 last season. The Trumbull County school won the state championship in 1991 and was runner-up in 1989 and 1992.

The Wildcats have been regional champs 14 times and own four state championships.

It's almost a way of life in Mogadore to participate in the state playoffs.

This is the 37th anniversary of the playoff system that started in 1972. There is only one stretch of four years (91-92-93-94) when the Wildcats did not make the playoffs. This year marks the 11th straight year Mogadore has marched to the postseason.

Mogadore head coach Matt Adorni has tweaked the offense since the Woodridge loss in Week 6, and the Cats have been on a roll ever since. They are averaging almost 38 points per game. Quarterback Drew Babbitt continues to get better every week. He completed 6-of-10 passes for a pair of touchdowns last Friday on pinpoint accuracy.

IT'S SPECIAL — Adorni is a very likable young coach that I think eats and sleeps football 24-7 daily and 12 months of the year.

This past summer, my son treated me to a Fleetwood Mac concert in Cleveland. I

COUNTY DIVISION STANDINGS		
TEAM	OVERALL	DIV.
Mogadore	9-1	6-1
Woodridge	8-2	6-1
Garfield	7-3	4-3
East Canton	5-5	4-3
Streetsboro	5-5	4-3
Rootstown	5-5	3-4
Waterloo	1-9	1-6
Windham	0-10	0-7

  

WEEK 10 RESULTS	
Garfield 35, Windham 0	
Mogadore 46, East Canton 13	
Streetsboro 24, Rootstown 7	
Woodridge 42, Waterloo 7	

  

REGIONAL PLAYOFF QUARTERFINALS	
DIVISION IV, REGION 13 • (7 p.m. Saturday)	
(6) Woodridge (8-2) @ (3) Martins Ferry (7-2)	
DIVISION VI, REGION 21 • (7 p.m. Saturday)	
(6) Warren JFK (7-3) @ (3) Mogadore (9-1)	

anticipated that everyone at The Q that night would be about my age.

However, the first person I bumped into was Adorni and his wife, Mandy. There is something of a common bond when you are real Fleetwood Mac fans.

Whenever I cover a Mogadore game, I attempt to get on the field from the press box as quickly as possible so I can join his team following the traditional handshake with the opponents.

There is something special about the way Adorni and his coaches talk to the team and cheerleaders following a post-game prayer. I can understand why he gets so much out of his players, despite the fact when they take off their helmets and shoulder pads they are usually a group of undersized students that look more like tennis players than football players.

Adorni made a surprising announcement this season following the Garfield win when he told his group of 57 players that he has always considered them his family. He went on to say that he and his wife Mandy, even though it had not been confirmed, were expecting their first child.

Well, now it is confirmed, that the couple are expecting their first children.

The Mogadore coach told me last week that he and his wife are indeed expecting twins, so he plans to be busy in the offseason. Adorni will be losing sleep, but it won't be because he is thinking about football.



Rootstown sophomore Ronnie Moss celebrates after scoring a first-half goal during the Rovers' 2-1 regional semifinal loss to Wellington on Tuesday at Twinsburg High School.



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