

SIDELINE REWIND

I already miss football

I'm a sports fan in limbo. College football season is over, and the National Football League season is down to its final three games.



RANDY DICKSON
Sports Editor

Sure, there's college basketball, the National Basketball Association and the National Hockey League, but

I just can't do the power viewing for those sports that I can with football.

I love Sunday afternoons when I get home from church and enjoy my version of brunch while watching the NFL game. And Saturday at my bachelor pad might as well be a holiday. There's nothing I love more in sports than college football.

I'm usually watching if a Southeastern Conference team is on TV. And, with the SEC Network and other cable outlets, an SEC team is almost always on the air from 11 a.m. Saturday until close to midnight.

Yes, there is college basketball's March Madness and the Road to the Final Four. There is SEC baseball and Major League Baseball.

And there are still ways for the diehard college football fan to get a fix. I follow the recruiting cycle of my beloved Tennessee Volunteers online. I try to stay informed as to who is interested in playing football in Knoxville and what they would bring to the Vols.

The recruiting hype ends Feb. 3 with National Signing Day, at which time I'll start thinking about spring football around the Southeastern Conference.

The Super Bowl will be played Feb. 7, and there won't be any more real football for the fall.

Sure, I'll have plenty to keep my sports cycle going on the local scene. Our winter sport seasons are almost over, but baseball, softball, tennis and track seasons aren't too far away.

High school spring football will be held throughout May, but that's not the same as the college game.

I'll bide my time during the summer watching Major League Baseball, but longing for the start of football season.

Yes, like so many of you out there, I am a football fan. I know what it's like to impatiently wait for the fall.

In the meantime, you might find me watching one of the many football videos in my collection.

I guess I'm always ready for some football.

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Bulldogs must tighten up defense

By **RANDY DICKSON**
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FORT WALTON BEACH — Crestview High School's boys basketball team must improve in several areas to make the playoffs.

Perhaps the most important area is defense. Crestview's defensive struggles were on display Friday when the Bulldogs traveled to Choctawhatchee in a District 2-6A game.

"I thought we did well offensively," Bulldog Coach George Stakley said.

"The things that hurt us were what we did defensively. We just have to keep working on boxing out and making sure they don't get a second shot."



Photos by **RANDY DICKSON** | News Bulletin

Crestview High School's Marquis McClain gets off a jump shot along the baseline as Elgin Millett defends for Choctaw during the Jan. 15 District 2-6A basketball game. **Left**, Crestview High School's Marcus Purcell attempts to get a shot off over Choctaw's DJante Smith.

CHOCTAW 84, CRESTVIEW 73

Crestview	13	19	24	17	-73
Choctaw	20	18	21	25	-84

CRESTVIEW (73)

Marquis McClain 22, Rusty Moore 11, Keenan Redd 3, Sam Johnson 2, Marcus Purcell 27, Tyrese Seals 2, Chris Bryant 6. Totals 25 6 5-10 73.

CHOCTAW (84)

Bobby Sanders 2, Zay Fuller 13, Chris Pickett 4, Dewayne Samms 15, Chris McGaughy, D'edrick Rodgers 6, DJante Smith 14, Josh Williams 5. Totals 21 10 12-17 84.

13 things you didn't know about Tiara Payne

By **RANDY DICKSON**
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CRESTVIEW

— Although a junior, Tiara Payne is the Crestview High School girls basketball team's most seasoned veteran.

Attrition and defections have left the Bulldogs without any seniors, putting greater pressure on Payne, a post player.

"She's the only one that started from last year," Crestview Coach Kathy Combest said. "Everyone else that plays with her either came off the bench or were junior varsity players last year."

Combest said the strength of Payne's game is playing inside the lane, where she can use her athleticism and moves to score.

We now catch up with Tiara Payne.

How old were you when you started playing basketball?
I was about 13.

What's the best part of basketball?
Being with my teammates.

What's the worst part of basketball?
Losing.

What are your expectations this season?
Just to get better and to work on fundamentals and do everything right.

If you had to pick a different sport to play, what would it be?
I wouldn't have another one. I love basketball. But if I had to



choose, it would probably be volleyball because it's fun.

What is your favorite basketball experience?
Going to the Elite Eight (in 2014).

What are your hobbies outside basketball?
I like to do hair.

What's your dream career?
I actually want to go into the military.

Do you want to play college basketball?
If I played college basketball, I'd probably go to Alabama because it's close to home.

What is your favorite movie?
"Love and Basketball."

Who is your favorite singer?
Beyonce

If you could be a cartoon character, who would you be?
SpongeBob, because he's really funny.

If you could go back and live in any other period in history, which one would you choose?
I'd live 20 years back just to see how it was.



WHAT JUDGES SAID:
"It's hard not to be impressed when you see a staff using its resources to be very best of their abilities to produce a quality sports section. The News Bulletin makes effective use of limited space by packing it with sharp, concise writing and effective photos and design. Great job."

RANDY DICKSON | News Bulletin

Tiara Payne lines up a free throw for Crestview High School's girls basketball team. The junior post player is the lone veteran in the Bulldogs' starting lineup. Coach Kathy Combest says Payne's athleticism and leaping ability have enabled her to become a scoring threat in the paint.



SPORTS SHORTS

Area schedule

THURSDAY

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Crestview at Niceville: JV, 5:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.
Paxton at Baker: JV, 6 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING
Choctaw at Crestview: 5 p.m.

FRIDAY

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Laurel Hill at Baker: JV, 5:30 p.m.; V, 6:45 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Baker at Jay: JV, 5:30 p.m.; V, 6:45 p.m.
Niceville at Crestview: JV, 5:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.

MONDAY

Paxton at Laurel Hill: JV, 6 p.m.; V, 7:15 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Baker at Central: V, 7:15 p.m.
Crestview at Milton: JV, 5:30 p.m.; V, 7 p.m.
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Shoal River at Davidson: 5 p.m.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
Shoal River at Davidson: 6:30 p.m.
MIDDLE SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER
Davidson at St. Mary's: 5 p.m.
Pryor at Shoal River: 5 p.m.
MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER
Davidson at St. Mary's: 6:15 p.m.

Pryor at Shoal River: 6:15 p.m.
TUESDAY
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL
Paxton at Baker: V, 7:15 p.m.
Laurel Hill at Choctaw: V, 7 p.m.
HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING
Crestview at Gulf Breeze: 5 p.m.