

November 17, 2006

Pirates End Mayes County Football

Well, I guess it's on to basketball.

On Friday night, the clock struck midnight for the Cinderella Locust Grove Pirates - Mayes County's only playoff team - as they fell to #7 Marlow, 25-12.

The Pirates' success was the highlight of the 2006 football season for Mayes County. Twelve weeks ago, we at MCS predicted that Adair, LG and Pryor would all make the playoffs. 1 out of 3 isn't bad (.333 batting average).

Before we break out the round ball and start stringing up the twine around that orange hoop, let's take a look back at our five teams, and their 2006 season.

Chouteau Wildcats (1-9)

Clearly the youngest and most inexperienced team in the county, the Wildcats knew that 2006 could be a rough season. With a sophomore QB, RB and a young line, teams often dominated the Cats. However, Chouteau was able to win their "Playoff Game", when they drummed Caney Valley in Week 9, to pick up their only win of the season...but at least they didn't go O-Fer.

Salina Wildcats (2-8)

A lot of things can happen to a team when they are in the midst of a 21-game losing streak. But second year head coach Warren Butler has the team in the right direction, as they ended that streak in Week 2, and followed that with a 2-game winning streak the next week. Although that was the only two wins the Cats had, Butler and the seniors have paved the way for the next group that will wear the black and gold!

Pryor Tigers (3-7)

After winning only one game a season ago, expectations were high for the Tigers in 2006. After opening the season with a win, Pryor, who was having some growing pains like Chouteau, went on a seven game skid. However, the Tigers were able to beat Jay, then completely dismantle cellar dweller Webster, to end the season on a 2-game winning streak. Also, Cain Wright finally became a 1,000-yard rusher.

Adair Warriors (5-5)

After making it to the second round of the 2A state playoffs in '05, most everyone thought that the Warriors were a lock for the playoffs in '06. We even picked them to win the district. However, several key injuries occurred, and the Warriors' shot at postseason, was about as slim as Nicole Ritchie. However, Adair was able to end the season with a win, which improved their record to 5-5.

Locust Grove Pirates (8-4)

When you have teams like Claremore Sequoyah, Vinita, Berryhill and Metro Christian in your district, it's very possible to be a good team, and still not make the playoffs (See also BERRYHILL). Locust Grove won the games they were supposed, and even pulled off an upset over Berryhill, to stake claim to the fourth playoff spot in 3A. Their reward...facing #2 Victory Christian. Following the death of a fellow student, emotions were running high. Nobody thought LG could beat VC. Nobody, that is, except for themselves. The Pirates went out, and showed the state what they had already known...**THAT THEY COULD PLAY WITH THE BIG BOYS**. LG knocked off VC in the final minute of the game, to advanced to the second round of the 3A state playoffs. Although they fell to #7 Marlow, the Pirates' success was huge (and perfectly timed) for their community.

All in all, it was a pretty interesting season, and we are sure that 2007 will be no different. Will Adair be back to form with Kenny Davis as a senior? Will coach Marsaln and son Beau be back at Locust Grove next year, or will he be throwing the pigskin for another team? Can Pryor restore the roar (some more) and play a little longer in November? Will star running back Jordan Liggins lead Chouteau to more victories, and will Salina keep improving under coach Butler? These questions will be answered in the next 365

days....

But until then, it's time for our area hoopsters to start tickling the twine. Three county teams made it to state a year ago. Can that be done again, or maybe....more?

GOD I LOVE SPORTS!