



Lee Tischer retires from the Chain Gang—that crew that operate the down and distance markers at Mule football games. Photo by Diana Zimmerman.

Lee Tischer: No more working on chain gang

By Diana Zimmerman

Lee Tischer once witnessed a sad scene at an away football game: An elderly man who volunteered on the sidelines, as a member of what Tischer affectionately calls the Chain Gang, was asked to give up his spot in the middle of the game when the home coach realized the man could not keep up with the offense.

“He had to be pushing 80,” Tischer said. The man walked round the track after, Tischer said, his head hung down.

In the back of his mind, Tischer knew then that he would retire from the Wahkiakum Chain Gang before he ever found himself in a similar situation.

So, last Friday, Tischer ended his final season as a member of the crew; it was time to let someone else step up.

It was about 25 years ago that he first approached Brian and Linda Elliott, who ran the crew at the time. He started as a sub but has worked almost every game since 1998.

For several years, he would hand his stick over to another volunteer two minutes before the half and run out and get his car to take some Homecoming Princess around the track. To make his Friday nights even more interesting, Lee and his wife, Diane, would let the kids hang out at their house after the game for Fifth Quarter.

He also took stats during the game, and would go home and type up a story of the game for the players to keep.

“It was busy on a Friday night, but I loved it,” Tischer said. “I saw so much good football.”

“It’s changed so much over the years, from the Andy Wolf era to now,” Tischer continued. “Not so much the change of the culture as the amount of kids that turn out or the fans that come to the game. The stands used to be packed and there would be people all the way around the track, watching.”

The best part of this volunteer position has been running the down box, which keeps him on the line of scrimmage for every play.

“I loved the view,” Tischer said. “In the trenches is where everything happens. It’s where the big boys play. They knock the guys out of the way for the running backs to get all the glory. When I played, I was a defensive lineman and linebacker so I loved defense. So I always had my eyes on that part of the game. It was fun doing that.”

The chain gang currently works on the same side of the field as the home team, but at one time they walked the length of the field with the visiting team.

“I had so much fun being on the other side, especially when the Mules were winning,” Tischer said. “You would just kind of smile as you went by to hear the coaches griping about everything.”

One particular memory comes to mind. “One coach turned to me and said, ‘Do you have any idea what I can do? It’s the last game of the year and these kids still don’t know the play. We’ve been working on it since August. Do you have a play that we could run?’”

Tischer laughed. “He was joking, but he was so frustrated.”

Tischer may not work any more games, but don’t be surprised to find him there, supporting the Mules as he has done for so many years.

“I’m sure I’ll still be up on the sidelines yelling,” Tischer said.

Lady Mules pile up wins, start district tourney

By Diana Zimmerman

The Wahkiakum Mules volleyball team ended their regular season with a win and began district play on Saturday with two victories.

Last Wednesday at home, the Lady Mules beat Winlock easily in three sets: 25-11, 25-6, and 25-10.

Jansi Merz had eight kills and four blocks. Jordyn Watson had four kills, and Shantelle Shervey had two. Heidi Bruntmyer had two more. Courtney Carlson served six aces, M.J. Neves had four aces, and Rebekah Neves had four aces and four kills. Libero Solana Stanley had 10 digs.

It was the final home game for seniors Bruntmyer, Stanley, Aubrie Montgomery, Asia Taccori, and Nai’a Freeman.

On Saturday, the team traveled to Willapa Valley for the first round of District IV play. They beat Northwest Christian in three sets and moved on to the quarterfinals that afternoon, beating Willapa Valley in three sets.

The Lady Mules faced Kalama in the semifinals on Wednesday, but the



The Lady Mules celebrated a three set win against Winlock in their final home game of the season. Photo by Diana Zimmerman.

score was not available at press time.

If they win, they will secure a place at state and play in the district championship game on Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. at Raymond High School. If they lose, they will be one of four teams vying for the three final spots at the state tournament, playing in two matches in Raymond, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Watch the Wahkiakum Eagle Sports Report on Facebook for updates.

Runners set personal records at district cross country meet

By Diana Zimmerman

The season ended on a high note for the Wahkiakum Mules cross country team at the District IV IB/2B meet last Saturday in Onalaska.

Though no one qualified for state, four of six Mule runners finished the day with new personal records (PR).

In the boys’ 5,000 meter race, senior Jamil Dimaano took 74th place in a field of 109 runners from 27 teams in the district, with a time of 20:08.25, ten seconds slower than his PR. Freshman Titan Niemela PR’ed, taking 81st place with a time of 20:59.41. Junior Alex Tantum PR’ed as well, finishing in 22:49.20 for 96th place, and Kaiden Ray, a freshman, took 104th place with a time of 24:20.01.

In the girls’ 5,000 meter race, sophomore sisters Alexandria and Kimberlee Watkins PR’ed, taking 79th and 81st place in a field of 85, with times of 28:01.81 and 28:23.30 respectively.

“They ran hard,” Coach Tiffany Niemeyer said of the team.

High School Football

By The Associated Press

How they fared:

Class 2B

1. Onalaska (8-0) idle.
2. Napavine (8-1) beat Rainier 51-6.
3. Kalama (7-2) beat Toutle Lake 52-8.
4. Tri-Cities Prep (8-1) beat Waukegan-Dayton 27-15.
5. Asotin (8-1) beat Lind-Ritzville-Sprague 14-13.
6. Adna (6-3) beat Morton White Pass 69-0.
7. Lake Roosevelt (8-1) beat Brewster 57-6.
8. Colfax (6-2) idle.
9. Columbia (Burbank) (8-1) beat White Swan 51-24.
10. Friday Harbor (8-1) beat Granite Falls 42-0.

Class 1B

1. Odessa (9-0) beat Wilbur-Creston 66-8.
2. Naselle (9-0) beat Taholah 56-0.
3. Almira-Coulee-Hartline (8-1) beat Liberty Bell 56-16.
4. Entiat (8-1) beat Waterville-Mansfield 56-0.
5. Neah Bay (7-1) beat Lummi 54-42.

Last week’s scores

- Winlock 53, Wahkiakum 7
 Naselle 56, Taholah 0
 Toledo 50, Mossyrock 20
 Napavine 51, Rainier 6
 Adna 69, Morton/White Pass 0
 Kalama 52, Toutle Lake 8
 Napavine 51, Rainier 6
 Neah Bay 54, Lummi 42
 Crescent 54, Darrington 30
 Ocoota 61, Chief Leschi 0
 Pe Ell/Willapa Valley 48, Ilwaco 8
 Raymond 21, Vashon Island 7
 South Bend 48, Lake Quinalt 6

Comets win 9th

The Naselle Comet football team overpowered the Tahola Chitwins 56-0 last Friday to wrap up a perfect 9-0 regular season in Class 1B football.

Cardinals down Mules; No. 1 Onalaska up next

By Rick Nelson

The Winlock Cardinals claimed third place in River Division standings, knocking the Wahkiakum Mules into fourth place with a 53-7 football win last Friday.

The visitors got on the scoreboard in the first minute of the high scoring first quarter.

The Mules responded with a good drive. Quarterback Gabe Moon scored on a one-yard drive and Eli Cothren kicked the extra point.

From there, it was all Winlock. The Cardinals scored on two long pass plays and returned an interception for another touchdown as the game proceeded.

Quarterback Moon led the Mule offense against Winlock with 59 yards gained on 20 rushes. He completed seven of 18 passes for 70 yards, with three interceptions. Jake Leitz had two receptions for 36 yards; Chase Heagy had two for 26 yards.

The loss means the Mules start the Southwest 2B Crossovers next Friday at topped ranked, undefeated Onalaska against the Loggers, who defeated the Mules earlier this season.

“We didn’t tackle very well against Winlock,” commented Mule Coach Eric Hansen. “We’ll have to do better against Onalaska.”

The victor advances to the state playoffs; the season is over for the loser.

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