







Tractors, drivers demonstrate their power at fair grounds

A pair of drivers (above) tried their hand at the tandem pull Sunday afternoon at the Sherman County Fair Grounds. Awoman competitor (left) drove a truck down the track during the single competition. Curtis Duncan (above right), Goodland's morning radio personality, was one of the spectators enjoying the competition. Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Confusing Atlantic 10 Football Conference needs overhaul

Although the 2004 college football season doesn't start for another 3 1/2 months, I'm already questioning some of the changes taking

There are a lot of things that bother me about college football at the NCAA Division I-A level — I can go on forever about that — but this time what sparked my ire was a change in Division I-AA.

adding a 12th team, Towson University, for the 2004 season. Most people probably consider this an insignificant change, but to me it is an example of several trends that tarnish the image of college football.

To start with, the Atlantic 10 Conference already has 12 schools that compete together in the majority of intercollegiate sports. Four of them do not play football, which is OK; about

a third of Division I schools don't. That leaves eight conference



greg stover

greg's gripes

teams for football, almost ideal. In A and plays in the Big East Conferan 11-game season every team can ence. The Atlantic 10 Conference is play each other team and still play way, a true conference champion will emerge at the end of the season, and the teams still have games that $offer\, players\, and\, fans\, opportunities$ for new experiences.

However, this is not how it is. Only three of the eight schools play football in the Atlantic 10: The universities of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Richmond. Two, Duquesne and LaSalle universities, play football in the Metro Atlantic Ath-

letic Conference.

The University of Dayton plays in the Pioneer Football League and Fordham University plays in the Patriot League. Temple University's football program is Division I-

so why go to a different conference

with the same level of competition. Yes, Temple plays football at the next level, but since football is the only sport that divides Division I schools, why not just transfer to a conference, like the Big East, that plays Division I-A football for the

other sports as well? I understand the need for a foot-

not sponsor football. What I don't understand is why Dayton plays in the Pioneer League.

On the other hand, of the nine schools that play football only in the Atlantic 10, eight come from conferences that do not sponsor foot-My question is why? The Metro ball, five from the Colonial Athletic the conference will have 12 teams, that is a bad idea, always has been four non-conference games. This Atlantic Athletic Conference, Pio- Association and three from the which means to get a true cham- and always will be. The trend toneer Football League and the Pa- America East Conference. The pion, all 11 games must be against wards making super conferences triot League all play Division I-AA, other is Villanova University, conference opponents. It would be with two divisions and having a which belongs to the Big East for all other sports.

> One solution to all this would be to make seven of the eight schools that play football in the Atlantic 10 stay there and trade Temple to the Big East for Villanova. The eight teams from the Colonial Athletic Association and America East Conference that play football could form

neer Football League for those I understand that it is officially the schools who have football pro- Atlantic 10 Football Conference, grams but are in conferences that do making it sound like a separate entity, but that is an exercise in semantics which doesn't work.

Maybe all that is too simple, but it would make things easier on fans and administrators.

Atlantic 10 adding Towson is that Each member of the Atlantic 10 will play nine conference games, which means there is a possibility of two teams going undefeated in conference play.

Conferences should be between eight and 10 teams; that way each team can play all the others in the conference and still have two to four

ball-only conference like the Pio- their own football-only conference. non-conference games, which I believe is an important part of the spirit of college football.

A conference with less than eight teams runs the risk of their champion having a losing overall record. More than that, and all the teams

can't play each other. Of course the Atlantic 10 could Another problem I see with the divide itself in two and have a conference championship game, but OK if they did that, but they don't. championship game appears to be more of a desire for the money than determining a true champion.

> Keeping what I believe to be the true spirit of college football intact is a lost cause in Division I-A, although I'll still complain about the problems there. But I'm going to try to keep them from spreading.

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May 5 - May 11

Thursday - Junior high track meet at Logan 9:30 a.m...

Friday - High school track meet at Hays 3 p.m... (Ran-

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Saturday - Battle of the Bulldogs, benefit basketball

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bowling results

Happy Our

B & B Electric over Bowladium Lanes 3-1 Rasure Do It Center over KMA 3-1 Urban Designs over Miller's Electric 4-0

High Handicap Game Individual:

High Handicap Series Individual:

Mark Sieck and Doug Minner 229

Jeff Badgett 622 High Handicap Game Team: Urban Designs 826 **High Handicap Series Team:** Urban Designs 2,367

League Standings:

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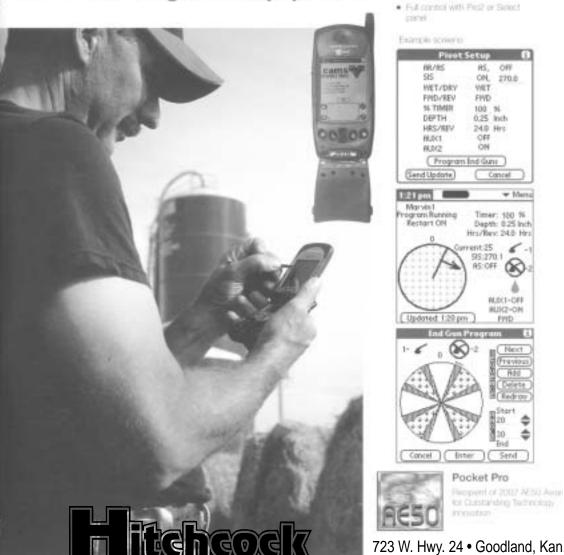
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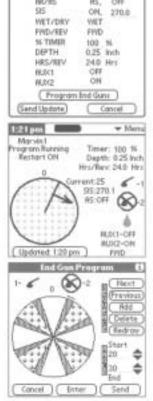


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