

Student keeps game statistics

By DIANE GASPER-O'BRIEN
Hays Daily News
The following story is about Matt Shorman, a grandson of Elmo and Margaret Lund. His mother, Janell Shorman of Hays, is a 1979 graduate of Decatur Community High School. It is taken from the Feb. 28 issue of The Hays Daily News and is being used with permission.

Basketball is Matt Shorman's favorite sport. The Hays High School boys are his favorite team.

So it seems only natural that Matt is front and center at every Indian game this year.

He was there ready to cheer loudly at the first-round game of the Class 5A sub-state tournament when his team played Hutchinson at the Hays High gym.

But Matt isn't your average high school fan.

Matt, a junior at Hays High, is one of the Indians' team managers. And he does his court-side duties from a wheelchair.

Matt is a quadriplegic after suffering a spinal cord injury while playing with other children when he was about 7 months old.

He never got the chance to learn to walk.

But that hasn't slowed down Matt, who hit the ground running, or in this case, wheeling around in his power chair.

Matt takes his job as team manager seriously; he even keeps statistics in practices if coaches want him to.

Keeping stats is a cinch for Matt, especially since they are done with computer programs these days.

After all, some type of computer has been one of Matt's major tools in school since he was in kindergarten.

When Coach Rick Keltner asked Matt this year if he would like to be a team manager, Matt jumped at the chance.

Attending home games would be no problem. Either his mom or dad could bring Matt to the Hays High gym in his van equipped with a power lift and wheelchair entry.

Away games could be a different story. The main travel bus for Hays High isn't wheelchair accessible.

Matt finds a way

But leave it to Matt to figure something out. Why can't someone drive my van, Matt asked. Assistant coach Len Melvin agreed to do it.

"Initially, he was going to go to three (away) games," said Gary Shorman, Matt's dad. "Then he came home after one game, and said, 'Dad, I want to go to all the games. Just because I have a disability shouldn't keep me from going.'"

Melvin and Matt already had a special relationship.

Melvin was a student teacher in Matt's fourth-grade classroom at O'Loughlin Elementary School seven years ago, and he also was Matt's homeroom teacher all three of Matt's years at Felten Middle School.

Melvin also had Matt serve as his team manager during Matt's eighth-grade year at Felten, where Melvin coached for the past six years.

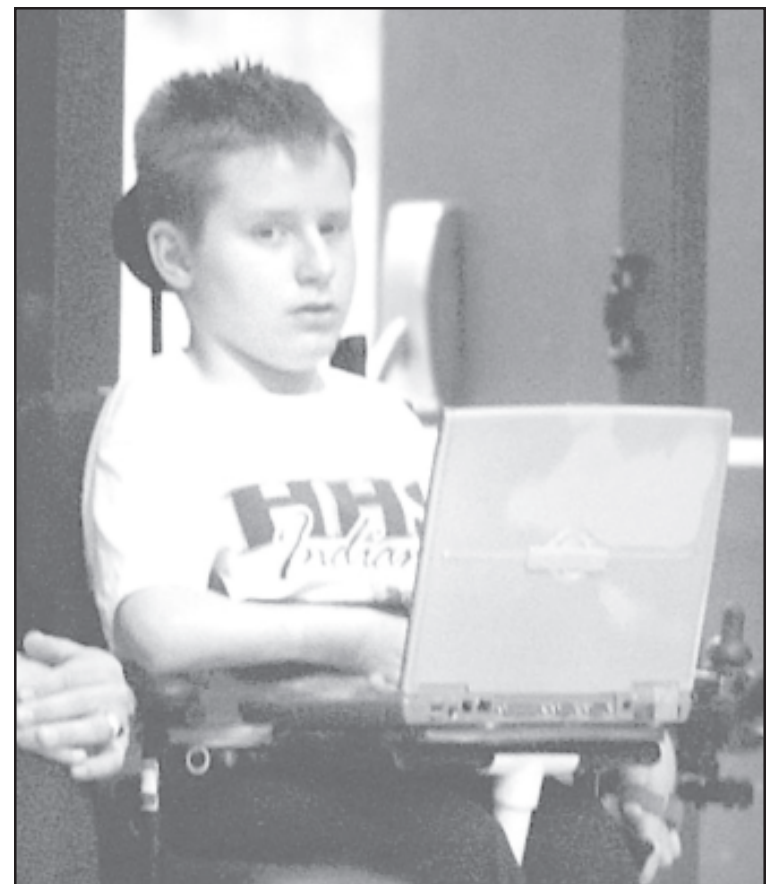
Melvin went across town this year as an assistant with the Hays High boys' program, so having Matt to talk to while driving to games has helped him in his transition year.

Not surprisingly, they don't have any trouble coming up with topics on those long road trips.

"We talk a lot of basketball," Melvin said. "And it's fun to listen to his (perspective). He's like a little coach already. He's always got a new set play or something he wants to tell me about."

When it came time to plan the team's trip to its mid-season tournament, the Orange & Black Classic at Colby, Matt wasn't about to be left behind.

He talked his mom, Janell Shorman, into taking off work several days to accompany him so he could stay in the hotel along with the rest of the team.



HAYS HIGH JUNIOR Matt Shorman is a team manager for the Indian basketball team and also keeps stats. He is a grandson of Elmo and Margaret Lund. —Hays Daily News photo

"I was glad to do it," his mom said. "He just loves being one of the guys."

Facing challenges

Matt finds various challenges in different locations, but it's part of his everyday life.

"He handles that kind of stuff better than we do," Keltner said. "He can't help but be an inspiration, not only to me and the other coaches, but definitely to the players, too. If we think we have adversity some days, all we have to do is look at Matt and see what he goes through every day."

Sometimes, Matt can't join the team in the locker room because getting there involves going up and down stairs.

Although not happy about those situations, Matt patiently bides his time while waiting to join his team. Then it's time to put on his game face, just like his buddies out on the court.

Players and coaches alike say their game wouldn't be complete without Matt.

"He meets up with us wherever we go," said senior Brian Kitchen, who admitted having Matt around is an inspiration, as well as a support system. "He's always saying good things to us and encouraging us."

The players even asked if Matt could lead them in their pre-game slide drill at last week's final regular-season home game against rival Great Bend.

"That was special," Melvin said. "That brought tears to my eyes."

Matt usually tries to avoid crowds of people, for his safety and that of others as well.

"You bump into someone out on the floor, you say excuse me and go on," Gary Shorman said. "You bump into his power chair, you know it — especially if he runs over your toes."

But Matt just couldn't help himself when Hays High beat Liberal in a one-point thriller on the road ear-

lier this month.

Moments after the final buzzer sounded, Matt put his wheelchair on full throttle and wheeled out to the middle of the floor, where he was hit by a flying miniature basketball.

"That didn't bother me. I've gotten beamed by a basketball before," Matt said in reference to being hit in the nose by a regulation basketball early in the season.

"We tease him that that was his first sports injury," his dad said of Matt's bruised nose, which was considerably swollen after the game. "That's probably enough."

Matt's future goals

Matt would someday like to be a coach.

But for now, he is having fun revelling in a special season.

He has watched as his favorite team pulled out of a slow 2-5 start and came together at the right time of the season. Since then, the Indians have won 11 of 13 games, with their only losses being to state-ranked teams in Colorado and Kansas.

Now, it's the postseason, and Matt is hoping to make a couple more road trips — to Saturday's championship finals of the Hutchinson Class 5A sub-state tournament, then to next week's 5A state tourney at Topeka.

But like any current — or future — coach will tell you, the next game is the most important one on your schedule, and there's no use looking ahead.

For Matt and the Indians, that game is Thursday against Hutchinson. The winner advances to Saturday's finals in Hutchinson.

And Matt already had his game face on Tuesday night as he talked about what it will take to beat the Salthawks.

"He's truly a student of the game," Melvin said. "He's always thinking about things that will improve our team."

Woman honored on 84th

Mary Lemman was honored on her 84th birthday with a family dinner on Sunday at the Frontier Restaurant.

Others present were her sister, Ardess Cappel, McCook; sister-in-law, Lila Fisher, Norton; and her children, Audrey and Murry Pavlicek, Dona Van Pelt, Oberlin; Janet and Cletus Knipp, Don Lemman and Genny, Hays; and Carol Hodson, Kearney, Neb.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren attending were Kristi,

Emily and Kelsea Geschwentner, Alan, Laura and Marissa Gidcumb, McCook; Brian, Shaundell, Brianna and Trey Van Pelt, Amber, Chase and Caitlin Farrell, Hays; Rusty Newton, Amy, James, Jonathon, Mason and Jenna Henderson, Marcia Lemman, Salina; Christopher, Haley and Kamryn Lemman, New Cambria; and Charlie Lemman and Dusty, Cambridge, Neb. Also attending were Jerry and Cheryl Miller, Myrna Wilson and Kevin Cooper, Oberlin.



M. Lemman

Career Discovery Days set

Community Hospital at McCook will offer expanded High School Career Discovery Days in March for students in grades 8 to 12.

Kids may attend from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, or Thursday, March 22, at the hospital.

There is no charge, and lunch will be provided.

Registration forms are available from high school counselors. For details, call (308) 345-8550 or 345-8381.

Decatur County 4-H Day results

Members of Star Valley, Maverick, Sappa Valley and Stick-To-It-4-H clubs participated in the Decatur County 4-H Club Day on Friday at the Oberlin Elementary School. Those who received Regional Blue ribbons will compete at 5 p.m. at Brewster on Friday, March 30.

County results follow with the following listings: reg b=regional blue; alternate reg blue=alt reg b; b=blue; r=red; w=white..

Intermediate project talks: Matthew Helm, Zach May, reg b.

Publicspeaking: Rebecca Helm, Aaron Helm, reg b; Andrew Dempewolf, alt, reg b

Junior demonstration: Kelly Brown, reg b

Intermediate demonstration/illustrated talk: Cheyanne Soderlund, Ryan May, reg b; Hannah May, Timothy Helm, Nehemiah Langness, b

Senior demonstration/illustrated talk: Christian Rittmann, Jacob Helm, reg b

Junior piano solo: Caitlin Shields, reg b; Isaac Carman, Emily Larson, Kade Grafel, Luke Koerperich, b; KeAnn Jacobs, Dakota Tate, r

Intermediate piano solo: Zach May, reg b; David Noren, Michael Noren, Caleb Koerperich, Miki

Dorshorst, Hannah May, Ryan May, Chris Anderson, Samantha Anderson, Kade Brown, b; Cheyanne Soderlund, Elizabeth Nedland, Gabe Anderson, Shawn Baker, r

Senior piano solo: Britta Noren, reg b; Jacob Helm, Sarah Langness, b

Intermediate piano duet: Zach May and Samantha Anderson, reg b; Chris and Gabe Anderson, Hannah May and Elizabeth Nedland, b

Junior vocal solo: Kelly Brown, r

Intermediate vocal solo: Cassidy Shields, reg b; Kiah Blau, Miki Dorshorst, b; Samantha Anderson, r

Senior vocal solo: Rory Wendelin, reg b; Jacob Larue, Sara Kyte, b; Jacob Helm, r

Intermediate vocal duet: Cassidy Shields and Miki Dorshorst, reg b; Brooklyn O'Hare and Brianna Klima, r

Senior vocal duet: Sara Kyte and Serena Stacey, r

Intermediate instrumental solo: Miki Dorshorst, reg b; Hannah May, Channing Farr, Alexis His-song, Chris Anderson, Samantha Anderson, Kade Brown, Caleb Koerperich, Zach May, b; Hayley Schiessler, Elizabeth Nedland, Jamie Soderlund, Katlyn Klima, Brittany Urban, r

Senior instrumental solo: Marci Metcalf, reg b; Tim Larson, Jacob Helm, Aaron Helm, Rebecca Helm, Chenaniah Langness, Sarah Langness, Chris Larson, b

Intermediate instrumental duet: Cassidy Shields and Miki Dorshorst, reg b; Kade Brown and Channing Farr, b

Instrumental ensemble: Troy Juennemann, Caitlin Shields, Gabe Anderson, Austin Kyte, b

Junior reading: Kade Grafel, reg b; Kelly Brown, b; Ruth Ann Langness, r

Intermediate reading: Miki Dorshorst, reg b; Ryan May, b; Matthew Helm, Timothy Helm, r

Senior reading: Rory Wendelin, reg b; Rebecca Helm, Jacob Helm, b; Aaron Helm, Nolan Wasson, r

Gymnastics: Madison Macfee and Jakobi Blau, reg b; Taylor Corbett, b

Skit: Stick To It 4-H Club, reg b; Star Valley 4-H Club, b; Maverick 4-H Club, Sappa Valley 4-H Club, r

Dance: Katlyn Klima, Sabryn O'Gara, Brianna Klima, Brooklyn O'Hare, McKenna O'Hare, b; Star Valley 4-H Club, r

Other: Brittany Urban and Sarah Langness, reg b; Ryan May and Miki Dorshorst, b

Couple plans June wedding

Kymerly Richards and Brandon Metcalf plan to be married on Saturday, June 2, at the United Methodist Church in Oberlin.

Parents of the couple are Dennis and Shanna Richards of Garnett, and Joe and Lolita Metcalf of Oberlin.

The bride-to-be is a 2004 graduate of Decatur Community High School. She graduated in 2006 from Barton County Community College with an Associate Degree in elementary education. She is attending Kansas State University, where she is working toward a Bachelor's Degree in elementary education with a minor in special education.



Kymerly Richards and Brandon Metcalf

Her fiancé graduated from Decatur Community High School in 2002 and is working at Foote Cattle Ranch at Manhattan.

Club News

Women make care boxes

Oberlin United Methodist Women met March 7 at the church for a sack lunch and program entitled, "Simply Loving" which marked the annual observance of the Day of Prayer and Self-denial.

Judy Shirley was lesson leader and told members that funds from this year's annual observance will go to aid deaconesses and missionaries who are now in their retirement years, then told of past recipients and their accomplishments.

It was reported 19 care boxes

had been mailed on Valentine's Day to college and vo-tech students and several thank you notes were read.

The April 4 meeting will be held at Good Samaritan Center with a business meeting at 2 p.m. Entertainment from the high school music department will begin at 3 p.m.

Refreshments will be served by Fern Moore, Eris Young, Elaine Bryan and Linda Hollowell. Easter devotions will be given by Violet Shaw.

March 25 supper planned

Plans were made by the Prairie Chapel United Methodist Women to serve a pancake supper at the church on March 25 when they met at the home of Nadene Lafferty in McCook on March 7.

Roll call was answered with "A thought for the day" by seven members. Charissa Huff will be attending the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Camp Lakeside on

April 20-21. Money-making projects were discussed.

Ethel Railsback gave a program on neighbors and closed with prayer, after which "Amazing Grace" was sung.

The next meeting will be at the home of Phyllis Metcalf on April 4. Melissa Hasty will report on the Met Tour and Cheryl Metcalf will have a program on Easter. Election of officers also will be held.

Phone numbers change

With a change in phone service providers, all phone number prefixes associated with Community Hospital services in McCook will change on Wednesday at 4 p.m. from 345- to 344-.

This includes the main switchboard number, Community Health-Care and Hospice, Community Hospital Orthopedic Clinic, Community Hospital Health Foundation,

fax numbers and all hospital direct inward dial numbers.

The last four digits on all phone numbers will remain the same.

Cafe opens in Herndon

B and S Cafe has opened in downtown Herndon and is under the management of Cat Mullin, Herndon. It is open daily for breakfast and lunch and closes around 2 p.m.

The restaurant building, which formerly housed a cafe, has been purchased by Ron and Peach Beims and Pat and Cathy Monahan, Herndon.

Mr. Beims said they felt the people in the Herndon area needed a place to eat, so the two couples decided to buy the building as an investment in the community.

Angus breeder recognized

Five K Angus of Herndon has been recognized nationally by the American Angus Association for having six registered Angus cows included in the association's 2007 Pathfinder Report.

Only 2,324 of the more than 34,000 American Angus Association members are represented in this year's report, according to John Crouch, executive vice president of the association which has headquarters in St. Joseph, Mo.

The Pathfinder Program identifies superior Angus cows based on recorded performance traits that are economically important to efficient beef production. These traits include early and regular calving and heavy weaning weights, reports Bill Bowman, direction of performance programs.

More than 1.5 million eligible dams and more than 5 million weaning records were examined to determine Pathfinder status. All registered Angus cows that meet the strict Pathfinder standards are listed, along with their owners, in the Pathfinder Report that is published annually by the association.

The 2007 Pathfinder Report lists 9,726 individual cows and 256 Pathfinder sires. The reports appear on the web site at www.angus.org.

**Internet tonight
475-2206**



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