

Wrestler recovers from infection

Dublin Jerome facility open after MRSA precaution

By Misti Crane
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A Dublin Jerome High School wrestler has recovered from an infection caused by MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), and the school's wrestling room, which was disinfected and closed for two weeks, has reopened, school officials said yesterday.

MRSA infection is caused by a strain of staph bacteria that's become resistant to antibiotics commonly used to treat ordinary infections. It has been a major concern in recent years as community-acquired infections, including clusters seen in athletes, became more common.

A coach notified school administrators Aug. 9 and they immediately closed the wrestling room, where the student had been during the summer break, said Assistant Principal Mark Mousa.

The school sent a letter to parents of students on the wrestling team the next day, he said. The wrestling room was cleaned thoroughly and a sign was posted saying that the room shouldn't be used until Aug. 23, the first day of school, said Nick Magistrate, athletic director.

The closure was only a precaution and didn't affect the team because wrestling season hasn't started, said Principal Cathy Sankey. Conditioning in the summer is voluntary and included outdoor activities, she said.

Nobody knows where the wrestler contracted the infection, Mousa said. One other wrestler was checked for a possible infection and that test came back negative, he said.

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ERIC ALBRECHT | DISPATCH

It needs a slight adjustment | It's a hot job for Dick Carter, who enjoys a little shade for a little while, as he and his crew from the Morrison Sign Co. replace part of the Heartland Bank sign at the Dublin branch on Franz Road and W. Bridge Street. The high yesterday hit only 92. If the sign is calibrated correctly, it likely will display that temperature later today.

Official: Animal-video group hasn't joined rules review

By Alan Johnson
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The state agriculture director says he's willing to work with the animal-rights group that has twice shot undercover video on Ohio farms, but Mercy for Animals hasn't asked.

Robert Boggs, responding to video released yesterday showing calves confined in "veal crates," said he will be glad to listen to the group's recommendations.

"This board has been meeting for months, and we've never heard from them," Boggs said. "For them to complain about the slowness of the process when they haven't been part of the process is a little bit disconcerting."

Boggs said the Ohio Livestock Care Standards Board will most likely enact regulations that will, in the short run, continue to allow use of veal cages but will require them to be larger so the animals "can turn around and lie down."

The board will deal with the issue after handling regulations on euthanasia and "downer" animals, Boggs said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Buckeye Veal in Apple Creek, Ohio, called the undercover video shot there "sensationalized" and "deceptive," in part because it included video shot at other farms.

"Careful review of this video does not show any mistreatment of animals at

Buckeye Veal," spokesman Gaylord Blackman said.

"The footage shows calves in two of our facilities, both of which are in the process of being converted to group housing, a new system that does not use individual stalls."

Buckeye Veal video was Mercy for Animals' second undercover excursion in Ohio this year. A previous video shot at the Conklin Dairy Farm in Marysville showing an employee abusing cows resulted in criminal charges being filed against Billy Joe Gregg Jr., 25, of Delaware.

Gregg is scheduled to appear in Marysville Municipal Court on Sept. 8 to face animal-cruelty charges. ajohnson@dispatch.com

Coroner identifies trucker killed in crash

By Theodore Decker
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Franklin County Coroner Jan Gorniak has confirmed the identity of a Stark County trucker killed in a Sunday night crash on the south

Outerbelt.

Danny Shorwell, 38, of Canton, died after his flatbed tractor-trailer crashed on I-270 near the S. High Street exit and burst into flames, authorities said.

The rig, westbound on

I-270, veered off the freeway and rolled over near the Parsons Avenue overpass shortly before 7 p.m.

Shorwell died at the scene. The Franklin County sheriff's office is investigating. tdecker@dispatch.com

Student-athletes get boost from talent service

Company signed to promote teens from Westerville North to colleges

By Ben Wolford
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Student-athletes at Westerville North High School will have some help selling their talents to college recruiters this year.

Hoping to land scholarships for some of the school's 750-some athletes, the athletic department and the Westerville North Athletic Booster Club paid \$2,000 apiece to a company that markets promising athletes to universities.

"That's the goal of the boosters, to promote the students the best we can," said Bert Cousins, president of the boosters' Touchdown Club.

Columbus-based Athletic Scholarship Corp. uses tools such as online profiles and professionally produced highlight reels to pitch students to college coaches nationwide. The athletic boosters signed the year-long contract, which runs until June 2011 and will offer services to students in all sports.

Besides Athletic Scholarship, dozens of websites allow students to upload their athletic resumes, academic information and game footage to be sent to coaches.

"I literally probably have 10 of these types of companies e-mail me every day," said Joe Loth, head football coach at Otterbein University.

Loth said he has never recruited a football player because of those e-mails. But he added that Otterbein pulls almost all of its football players from within the state, and these companies send information all over the country.

"I don't want to dismiss it," he said. "We're just not using that resource to get

our kids." Athletic Scholarship has more than 100 clients, and all have renewed their contracts after the first year, said CEO A.J. Hodel. Westerville North is the company's first central Ohio school.

Athletes from Nordonia High School in Macedonia, Ohio, have gone to out-of-state colleges that might not have noticed them without the service, Athletic Director Rob Eckenrode said. This year is Nordonia's third with the company, and Eckenrode plans to sign on for a fourth.

For a school the size of Westerville North, which has about 1,500 students, Athletic Scholarship will likely promote 50 to 75 athletes, Hodel said. Coaches can select their top athletes, or the athletes can come forward themselves.

The service typically costs about \$12,000 for a one-year contract, but often a corporate sponsor covers most of that cost, Hodel said. The company is working to land a sponsor for the Westerville North contract.

The athletic department's half of the \$4,000 cost came from ticket revenue, not taxes. Westerville North Athletic Director Jeff Will said he talked to officials at other schools who worked with Athletic Scholarship before putting up the money.

"Everyone I've spoken with has said that everything they said they will do has been done," he said.

For students who show promise in sports, this service supplements help from guidance counselors assigned to every student, Westerville schools spokesman Greg Viebranz said.

For students with other talents, local support helps them find scholarships and choose the right college, Viebranz said. "We have numerous booster groups that do support students in music and the arts."

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SOUTH-WESTERN

Underage drinking gets athletes in trouble

By Charlie Boss
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Fifteen student athletes, including Grove City High School football players, were disciplined by South-Western schools for drinking at a house party over the weekend, school officials said yesterday.

Under South-Western's policy, athletes caught with drugs or alcohol can be excluded from participation in sports for one calendar year. Also, such students cannot be team captains or hold other lead-

Senator to propose resolution to keep The Game as-is

By Jim Siegel
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

The state Senate is wading into the debate about whether the Ohio State-Michigan football game should continue to be the last game of the regular season.

Sen. Kevin J. Coughlin,

R-Cuyahoga Falls, said he will introduce a resolution today urging the Big Ten Conference to maintain The Game's spot on the schedule. The tradition dates to 1935.

The conference is preparing to realign itself into divisions in 2011 with the addition of Nebraska as its

12th team. Ohio State and Michigan almost certainly will continue to play each other every year. But if the teams do not end up in the same division, conference officials could schedule the game earlier in the season to avoid the possibility of the teams playing in back-to-back weeks in a regular-

season game and the conference championship.

"Millions of Ohioans, Ohio State alumni, current and former Buckeye players, and fans around the world look forward to that Saturday afternoon in late November when the Buckeyes and the Wolverines meet on the field," Coughlin said. "This

season finale has become the greatest rivalry in sports history, and I believe it would be unfortunate to dilute one of college football's most important traditions."

The resolution, which carries no weight of law, has seven co-sponsors.

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U.S. Senate candidate indicted on sex count

DAYTON DAILY NEWS

DAYTON — Eric W. Deaton, a Constitution Party candidate for the U.S. Senate, was indicted yesterday on a charge of unlawful

motivated," said Deaton, who blamed the indictment on his decision to run for political office. He said he plans to stay in the race for the seat of U.S. Sen. George V. Voinovich, who is retiring.

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