Calvary Baptist bounces Sterlington from playoffs

The Sterlington Panthers suffered three too many turnovers last week to out-wit, outrun and outlast Calvary Baptist who found immunity in a 56-28 victory during the second round of Class 2A playoffs.

During the second quarter, No. 6 Calvary Baptist added 35 points to a lead they wouldn't relinquish for the rest of the game despite the strong performance by No. 22 Sterlington whose running back Taylor Lockwood peeled off for several big offensive plays.

Lockwood recorded 260 yards rushing on 20 carries with two touchdowns. He found the end zone on runs of 53 yards and 32 yards. Those were magic numbers he repeated in other rushing feats of 54 yards and 33 yards.

Sterlington began their season with an 0-4 record on the season but turned

things around with four straight wins and claiming a ticket to the second round of playoffs, one of the most impressive comebacks in District 2.

The Cavaliers (9-3) and Panthers (6-6) began a scoring game in the first quarter with both teams making touchdowns on their opening drives. Sterlington freshman quarterback Devin Murphy connected with Casey Sutton on a 70-yard touchdown pass.

The Cavaliers stacked a second touchdown and kicked off to Sterlington, who lost the ball early in the drive. The Cavaliers, led by senior quarterback Daniel Fitzwater, took the ball and hit up the end zone for a third score.

This was the first Sterlington turnover within Calvary Baptist scoring distance. Before half time, the

Cavaliers recovered a Sterlington fumble on the Panthers' ten-yard-line and the Cavaliers freshman Jake Bartley rushed the ball into the end zone for another score.

Fitzwater was Calvary Baptist's weapon of choice for the night, throwing for four touchdowns and running for two more.

Fitzwater finished the night with 325 yards passing on 26-of-33. He also ran for 23 yards on nine carries.

Fitzwater led the Cavaliers' strike on the squad's first five scores including 17-yard and 34-yard touchdown passes to senior Colin Stogner. Stogner led the team in receiving with 124 yards on seven receptions.

Calvary Baptist advances to the quarterfinals next week, colliding with No. 3 University Lab.

Photo by Kelley Photography

STERLINGTON PANTHERS junior running back Jaylon Wade rumbles for yardage in last week's 56-28 loss to Calvary Baptist in the second round of 2A playoffs. Sterlington finished the season with a 6-6 record.

Hunting antler-less deer counts for strongest herd management

By Rene Hatten
Special to The Citizen

Hunting clubs have encountered unneeded conflict in the harvesting of antler-less deer. Our hunting club, under the DMAP program for the past four years, decided to maintain its own management program because of the lack of participation and the lack of reporting in the harvesting of antler-less deer.

This widespread and unneeded conflict seems to have developed from the belief that if you kill does out, that lowers your numbers in herds. This is compounded by the harvesting notion that does are button bucks taken by mistake.

Under the DMAP Program, a buck-to-doe ratio was determined and tags issued. These tags were not filled. Hunters didn't keep records or at least turn them in for sufficient herd analysis.

After several interviews with club members, the developing consensus was that an older generation held a reluctance to harvest doe. It's probable that this older generation holds off because they remember when the number of deer constituting a heard was so low, you had to avoid killing a doe if you wanted to build a herd.

To this older generation, killing does assigned a certain stigma and the chance of being ostracizing from piers. If you harvested does, then you chance killing a button buck, which might become next year's antlered buck.

Because of this reluctance, we face a buck-to-doe ration that is so out of kilter that a trophy buck will remain rare and hardly seen until balance is restored.

Does eat around seven to eight pounds of groceries a day, and older does no longer producing offspring spend their time wasting a herd's potential for growth and health.

Does must be taken out of the herd to lower the

density, improve the quality of bucks and shift the buck-to-doe ratio.

This kill-the-doe conservation is like an angler's catch and release, a single act of self-restraint makes a difference. Not everyone does it, but it helps make fishing better, more rewarding and more exciting for everyone.

Likewise, educating yourself on the traits of button bucks and does will decrease the chances of button bucks being taken by mistake.

Observe that mature adult does are rectangular in shape with a long neck and face. Button buck are square shaped and have a short neck and face. A doe has a crown on her head between the ears, and forward, like an egg knot. A button buck is flat between the ears because of the antler base.

Watch behaviors because a button buck will appear alone, where a doe rarely travels alone. Wait until several deer are together; then harvest one of the largest does. If two young deer are without an adult, one will probably be a button buck.

Normally, the young button buck will be larger than the doe and may be mistaken for an adult doe because of its large size.

Look closely with your scope or binoculars for the doe's egg knot or button buck's antler base. If given the choice, you may choose to let these walk and wait for an older, more mature doe instead.

Shoot only with good light; dust and dawn and heavy cover make it difficult to determine sex and age (not to mention ensuring hunter safety).

When spooked, deer most of the time will return to satisfy their curiosity. They will circle the problem to get down wind so they can confirm if danger exists. Almost every time the dominant doe will lead the investigation.

The dominant doe is

also the one that will hold its ears back and rushes other deer using her front legs to hit and swat others. Fawns often buck around and chase each other.

There are several websites that can be visited to watch the live cameras as deer come in to feed. Videotapes of deer hunts and the Outdoor Chan-

nel also allows more opportunities to observe behaviors and make the call on the shapes and sizes of antler-less deer.

New attitudes and observation skills are required in your hunting group if you are going to manage you herds to their full potential.

Of course, young hunters who have not

taken their first deer should not be made to feel they should know everything about the characteristics of all antler-less deer, but hopefully the parent or mentor will have an opportunity to explain the differences. It is very important to encourage our next generation of hunters.

If you have not had the

chance to participate in the youth hunt before, you have missed a rewarding experience that takes you back to your own hunter origins: the purity of the sport and the camaraderie.

People hunt for many reasons; but they all hunt for the joy of the experience. Let's all help to preserve this heritage.

Courtesy photo

TRISTIN THOMAS shows off his prize six-point buck, 150 pounds, shot Nov. 6. Thomas attends Calhoun Middle School. *The Ouachita Citizen* is accepting photos of your hunting and fishing trophies. Send photos to sports@ouachitacitizen.com. Please include name, age and hometown.