

# THE CITIZEN SPORTS

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**GUN SHOW RAISES OUTDOOR INTEREST**  
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## Ouachita Lions face Natchitoches

By Zach Parker  
The Citizen

The Ouachita Parish Lions lead varsity basketball in District 2-5A with a 5-0 record the Lions hope to improve Friday night against the Natchitoches Central Chiefs.

The Lions upgraded to a 13-win streak after trouncing the West Monroe Rebels (10-15, 0-5) on Tuesday, 85-37.

It was their second win this season against the West Monroe Rebels after a 62-33 win on Jan. 11.

The Lions (24-4, 5-0) defeated the Ruston Bearcats (21-7, 3-1) last week in a landmark 64-46 victory.

It was the Lions' first contest against Ruston during this season and with the win over Ruston, the Lions have proven themselves capable of taking the district championship.

The Lions have three contests slated for the season beginning with Natchitoches Central on Friday followed by contests against Pineville and ending with Ruston.

After last week's victory, the Lions have soundly defeated all of their remaining opponents scheduled for district play.

Natchitoches Central (18-8, 3-2) won't let the Lions take the victory easily considering how tight their team was matched in Jan. 17's 54-52 loss to Ouachita. The Chiefs advanced to play West Monroe, trouncing them 78-54 on Jan. 18 before meeting Ruston last week to lose in another margin victory of 55-52.

Ruston plays West Monroe on Friday and will continue to keep up their performance despite the recent resignation of Bearcat



**OUACHITA LIONS** sophomore guard D'majio Richard leaps for a dunk in Tuesday's 85-37 win over the West Monroe Rebels. Ouachita battles Natchitoches Central in district play on Friday night.

Photo by Kelley Photography

Please see **LIONS / 2B**

## St. Fred continues hunt for new coach

By Matt Reynolds  
The Citizen

St. Frederick is the latest school to find itself in search of a new head football coach after principal Guy Farber announced last week the Warriors were parting ways with Chad Swanberg.

Swanberg leaves St. Freds after guiding the Warriors to a 7-4 record in 2012 and its first play-

off appearance since 2009.

"We wish the best for Chad and still consider him a part of the St. Frederick community," Farber said in a statement. "There is a renewed excitement about St. Frederick football because of the team's improved performance."

Farber said Swanberg is leaving to pursue other opportunities.

"I am grateful to St. Frederick High School for

allowing me the opportunity to serve as athletic director and head football coach," Swanberg said in a school press release. "I am genuinely thankful for Mrs. Lisa Patrick and Father Matthew Long for the confidence and faith that was bestowed in my hiring and throughout my time at St. Frederick."

Farber said the search for a new football coach began last week.

Richwood announced earlier this month the hiring of Robert Arvie as the new head football coach, after former coach Warren Trimble left to become principal at Madison Parish High School in Tallulah.

While serving as head coach at Woodlawn (Shreveport) over the last

Please see **COACH / 5B**

## LHSAA splits private, public playoffs

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association voted to separate football playoffs based on select or non-select school status as it closed out its annual convention last Friday in Baton Rouge.

LHSAA member-school principals voted 206-119 to have five football championships for its 242 nonselect or traditional public schools that will be based on school enrollment. Between 120 and 140 will be designated as select schools and will play in two football divisions, also based on enrollment.

State high school associations nationwide are debating whether to split public and private schools in the playoffs, particularly in football, because of private-school dominance that the public schools say is unfair because they, unlike their private colleagues, can re-

cruit and attract players from outside a geographical boundary.

Principal Jane Griffin of Winnfield High School spearheaded the new legislation that forces private schools to compete in a separate playoff along with other admission-based schools like charter and magnet programs effective next fall.

"This doesn't take championships away from select schools," Griffin said at the LHSAA convention. "It just makes my kids and other kids at public schools know they've got a chance. Every kid should believe they can be a champion. That can't happen the way things are. Things are not fair and equitable."

The new bylaw will go into effect this fall and will mark the first time the LHSAA has

Please see **LHSAA / 5B**

## Hall of Fame inducts Johnson, not Fugler

Before I begin my annual rant on Max Fugler not being selected to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame again, I must congratulate Ervin Johnson of Jonesville on making the Hall of Fame.

I never saw Johnson play basketball at Block High.

The 6-foot-11 Johnson never played high school basketball and was bagging groceries in Baton Rouge when he was brought to the attention of then-UNO coach Tim Floyd.

Johnson played four seasons (1990-93) and was

the Sun Belt Conference Player of the Year in 1993 when Basketball Times made him a second-team All-America. UNO made two NCAA Tournaments and one NIT during his time there.

Johnson finished as the second-leading scorer in UNO history (1,608 points) and was the school's all-time leader in rebounds (1,287),

blocked shots (294), field goal percentage (.590) and double-doubles (55). He averaged 13.1 points and 10.5 rebounds for his college career.

Ed Cassiere was the sports information director at UNO at the time and did an outstanding job of promoting Ervin "Baby Magic" Johnson.

"Erv deserves this honor," Cassiere said.



**JOEY MARTIN**  
STORIES FROM  
THE SPORTS  
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# Gun, boat show keeps outdoors interest going

One of my favorite events in town is the Gun, Knife and Boat Show at the Monroe Civic Center. I have grand dreams of buying a camper trailer with all the bells and whistles. I can just see us camping in all the state parks and having our grandchildren treasure us for all their great camping adventures.

The new thing this year was the door opening directly into the bathroom from the outside. At first, I thought what in the world were they thinking, that is so tacky to open the door and there is the toilet just staring at you, and then I thought at about it. If we are on the lake and they are all wet and have to go, they have to travel all the way through the whole camper wet to the bathroom or just open this door and they are there.

I was amazed that they probably were listening to

their customer's wish list when designing this feature. That is also why the outside cook station, with stove, sink, refrigerator, microwave and storage area is the greatest idea to the wife, that is hesitant to go camping because the guys are now set up to do the cooking.

The boats are just as dream filled, loaded with fish and having all the new features and storage area available. The textures have changed for the surfaces and now the need to have carpeting is ending. I have had the carpeting in my Nitro and I had wished to have something else because it gets nasty over time, not to mention dry rotting.

We saw Time Share

Opportunities, Chiropractic Doctors, jewelry, purses, taxidermy, jarred jellies, mounting coatings, and fudge vendors. I had

the pleasure of visiting with David Owens, Owner of the Honey Hole, and asking about Mr. Bobby giving me a fishing report each week.

Finally the guns, there were pistols, knives, rifles and ammunition everywhere. We had been looking at our local shops for an H&R Handy Rifle .35 Whelen, but there were none in any of the stores. We found one at the Knife, Gun and Boats Show, it was higher in price than we expected but it was there so we bought it.

I found that the ammo

at this show was ridiculously overpriced. I think their prices were for the novices that were not familiar with prices for the guns or the ammunition. There were some hard to find pieces to be had, but I did not see very many purchases in the knife and gun area. The aisles were very congested, something like a museum waddle.

I was able to visit with Bill Breed, Education Agent, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, at their booth, set up to shoot in a video game setting in a tent. I told him I sent in my registration for the BOW Camp this year and was in high hopes I that would be chosen to go, but I realize that the limited class size is making it difficult for everyone interested to attend.

I would like to see local sporting good dealers sponsor and work up, a



Citizen photo by Rene Hatten

**OUACHITA CITIZEN** Outdoors columnist Rene Hatten visited the Gun, Knife and Boat Show this past weekend speaking with other outdoors enthusiasts.

workshop for women to become more involved or active in the outdoors. There is a whole market out there that is yet to be tapped into; that is the power of women as buyers in the outdoors.

Finding and being taught the ins and outs to a product gives them a familiarity to these prod-

ucts, and they tend to be brand loyal.

When I learned to fly fish at BOW, I went first thing, bought the exact rod, reel, bought a variety of flies, and even bought the set up to make my own flies. The excitement is contagious, now to find an area to go fly-fishing!

# LSU freshmen will play significant role this season

By Matt Reynolds  
The Citizen

There is one aspect of LSU baseball media day that doesn't change from year to year: Beaming optimism from head coach Paul Mainieri about the upcoming season.

It was no different this year, as the sixth-year coach gushed about his Tigers that are ranked as

high as No. 3 in some pre-season polls.

But who can blame him for being so giddy to take the field at Alex Box Stadium in 2013? The Tigers return the reigning national hit leader and SEC player of the year in senior Raph Rhymes. Mason Katz is back after belting 13 home runs a year ago, the most of any returning player in the SEC. And

pitchers Ryan Eades and Aaron Nola will be two of the top arms in the conference.

While Mainieri covered those household names mentioned above extensively during his 55 minutes with the media last Friday, he seemed the most excited about incoming freshman Alex Bregman.

The Albuquerque, N.M. native was pegged by Mainieri to be the Tigers'

starting shortstop and No. 3 hitter out of the gate.

"He is a really good shortstop and he is getting better," Mainieri said. "He is very coachable. I love his enthusiasm. I love his athleticism. He has a strong accurate arm and he has good hands. He just needs to play more. The other thing is he is going to be a great hitting shortstop."

Bregman (5-10, 175) missed most of his senior

season with an injury, but hit .678 as high school junior in 2011 and set a New Mexico state record with a 19 home run season. Bregman, who was coached by LSU Alum Jason Columbus in high school, was selected in 29th round by the Boston Red Sox in the 2012 MLB Draft.

"This kid can really hit," Mainieri continued. "If we had the old bats I would stand up here with confidence and say this kid would hit 15 home runs this year. He is not going to strike out. He is going to hit in the clutch. I have been coaching for 30 years, and I've only been around this kid since August, but I have never been around a harder working, more dedicated, obsessed-with-the-sport-of-baseball kid than this guy."

Another freshman Mainieri couldn't seem to talk enough about was local product Mark Laird, who piled up records and all-state accolades for years at Ouachita Christian in both baseball and football.

Mainieri said Laird's speed is what really jumps out when first seeing him on the field.

"I can hardly hold in my enthusiasm about Mark Laird," Mainieri said. "He can flat out fly and is an excellent athlete. He's an excellent outfielder and he's tough to strike out. The way he can handle the bat, along with his speed is going to be a tremendous asset for us."

The Tigers received more preseason Top 10 recognition last Thursday, as LSU was tabbed as No. 3 in the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll and No. 10 in the Baseball America poll. LSU was No. 4 in the Collegiate Baseball poll released last month and No. 5 in the Perfect Game poll released earlier last week.

The Tigers, who began preseason practice last week, are the reigning SEC champions and were the NCAA Tournament No. 7 National Seed last season, before losing to Stoney Brook in the Super Regionals.

LSU opens the 2013 season at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15 versus Maryland in Alex Box Stadium.

Mainieri honored by ABCA: Mainieri has earned college baseball's highest honor, as he has been selected for induction into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Mainieri, who has a 1,122-614-7 record in 30 seasons of collegiate coaching, will be inducted into the Hall of Fame on Jan. 3 at the annual ABCA convention in Dallas. He is No. 10 on the career wins list for active NCAA coaches, and he is one of only six active coaches to have won 1,000 games and an NCAA national championship.

Mainieri will join in the Hall of Fame his father, Demie Mainieri, who coached Miami-Dade North Community College to 1,012 wins and a national title in his 30-year career. Demie and Paul Mainieri will be the only father-son combination in the ABCA Hall of Fame.

**CROSSWORD**

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**THEME: GRAMMY AWARDS**

**ACROSS**

- \*Previous Grammy nominees Ant and Lambert
- \*Best New Artist, possibly
- Hit the bottle
- Relating to a node
- Arrival time
- \*She's a 6-time Grammy winner and Michael's sister
- Harry Potter's antagonist \_\_\_\_\_ Malfoy
- Always, in verse
- Uncredited actor
- \*Female artist with most wins
- Like Horn of Plenty amount
- Exclamation expressing disgust
- Pea houses
- Ratio of adjacent side to hypotenuse of right-angled triangle
- With minimal sound distortion
- Go ashore
- Shades
- Electric and moray fish
- Less bright than supernovae
- Von Bismarck or Hahn, e.g.
- \*Grammy winner Keb Mo is a \_\_\_\_\_ Blues icon
- Allen Ginsberg poem
- Stands for
- A ride to mountain top
- Cambodian money
- Magician's word
- Double reed woodwind
- Wine quality
- Wild goat
- Flash \_\_\_\_\_
- "Last Tango \_\_\_\_\_"
- \*Grammy Museum location
- Island republic in central Pacific
- Stallone
- Incompetent
- Main section of Vegas
- Sailor's affirmative
- Be of one mind
- Tattled
- \*These Grammy winners

**DOWN**

- Plus
- Rachel Renee Russell's "\_\_\_\_\_ Diaries"
- Month of Purim
- Last European colony in China
- Outer covering that can be shed
- Fine print add-ons
- Shoshonean
- Narcotics lawman
- \*Grammy winner Bob James wrote theme for this DeVito sitcom
- "I'm \_\_\_\_\_ you!"
- Cuzco country
- Plural of #14 Across
- \*Call her maybe?
- It usually precedes "away"
- Like Jack Klugman on TV
- Jackie O's hat
- "\_\_\_\_\_ at the bit"
- Kind of space
- Bristles
- Fifteen of these from basket to foul line
- Physicist Niels \_\_\_\_\_
- Steer clear of
- More raw
- \*What doesn't kill her makes her stronger
- \*They play with Mumford
- Wild guess
- Something in the air
- Provoke
- \_\_\_\_\_Wan Kenobi
- Eroded by wind
- English homework?
- This was his name-o
- In or of the present month
- Warsaw Pact opposition
- Opposite of knit
- Desert-like
- Cleaning cabinet supplies
- Sink or swim, e.g.
- D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
- Singular of #61 Down
- Rolodex abbr.

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