

OUTDOORS DIGEST

Of The Outdoors | Gary Howey

Last Chance On The Ice

BY GARY HOWEY
Hartington, Neb.

I was keeping an eye on the weather, as we needed cold weather in order to get back into the dam we hoped to ice fish, but didn't need any sub zero temperatures or heavy wind.

I was looking at ice fishing a pond southwest of town, one that was in the middle of a half section. We had tried once before to get back into it, which wasn't a good idea as it was just too muddy and we didn't want to tear up the field.

When the Press and Dakotan indicted next week's weather would have sixty-degree weather, the next few days of cold weather looked to be our last opportunity.

It was nine below zero when Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Larry

Myhre (Sioux City, Iowa) pulled into the office, bitter cold with the wind that was howling in from the northwest.

We didn't need to worry about mud on this trip as everything, including much of the water in my minnow bucket was hard as a rock.

Bouncing over the corn rows, we made our way to the pond with some open water around the riser, so it was my job to hit the ice first with my Jiffy auger to see if we had enough good ice. I punched several holes, finding ten inches of ice, signaled my partner to join me.

I would punch the holes with Larry following behind with his Vexilar locator letting me know the depth.

We were looking for deeper water, as this time of the year in this type of pond, the fish searched out the deepest water in the dam.

The first two holes showed nothing but on each hole after that, fish appeared along the bottom. I knew there were Bass, Bluegill and Perch in the pond as a friend had fished it earlier, so I put down a livebait minnow rig for Bass and another for panfish, a small spoon and wax worms.

Both of our locators showed fish that would move up and down with our lures, and it looked like it was going to be another of those late season trips where we had allot of lookers but not takers.

After several fish neglected to take the bait, Larry switched to a smaller lure, moved from hole to hole and then caught a small Bass before moving to another hole to



PHOTO: LARRY MYHRE
Columnist Gary Howey is pictured with one of the many fish he took on their last ice fishing trip of the season.

catch a Bluegill. It was time to make the switch.

This time of the year, fish are in their super slow mode, not moving much and not needing much to eat, so nothing much larger than a micro jig seems to attract many bites.

We moved from hole to hole, where the fish came up, looked at our baits and then moved off, so we moved to find fish that are more aggressive.

Grabbing the auger, I punched several new holes in an attempt to find deeper water and some biters. I moved towards the open water, five feet from the open water near the riser I located eleven foot of water that showed fish just off the bottom up to five feet.

As I kept an eye on my locator, I following my jig as it made its way down, the red marks, indicating fish started moving up towards my bait, I stopped it, raised it slightly, feeling additional weight, I set the hook and soon had a nice Bluegill flopping on the ice.

Each time my bait made it towards the bottom, the fish came up for it, stopping the bait, I twitched it, brought it up and "Bang", another fish was on the ice. After a few pictures, I dropped the fish back in the hole and got back into action.

As my bait descended, a thick red mark appeared on the locator, coming up to meet my bait, stopping the bait, I raised it with the fish in hot pursuit, I set the hook and landed the only Perch of the trip, a nice nine inch fish.

Even though it was nine below zero, we toughed it out as we knew this would be the last ice fishing trip of the season, spending several hours on the pond, catching good numbers of Bluegill, Bass and the one Perch.

Larry and I caught several good Bluegills, a Perch as well as several smaller Bass, but that didn't bother us, as we weren't taking any fish home, releasing all that we caught.

After this trip, we'd have a long wait before we had an opportunity to

hit the ice and this trip was one you would want to have to close the season, with allot of hungry fish anxious to take our offerings, allowing us to spend some time on the last ice.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Nebraska, is a former tournament angler, fishing and hunting guide. He is the Producer/Host of the award winning Outdoorsmen Adventures television series, seen in the Yankton area on local channels 2 & 98 Saturday at 6:30 pm and Sunday@ 7:00, on KTTM/KTTW-TV Fox-Sioux Falls and Huron at 6:30 am Saturdays and on the MIDCO Sports Network Thursday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:00 am. He and Simon Fuller Co-Host the Outdoor Adventures radio program on Classic Hits 106.3, ESPN Sports Radio 1570 in Southeastern South Dakota and Northeast Nebraska. In Northwest Iowa, it airs on KCHE 92.1 FM. If you are looking for more outdoor information, check out www.outdoorsmenadventures.com.

SPORTS DIGEST

Tri-Valley Standout Headed To MMC

Sammy Kasowski of Hartford will attend Mount Marty College and play women's basketball for the Lancers, the institution announced on Friday.

Kasowski, a 5-10 forward/center at Tri-Valley, is the all-time leading scorer at Tri-Valley with 949 career points. The four-time all-conference selection (two in Big Sioux, two in Dakota XII) averaged 12.16 points and 9.2 rebounds per game, shooting 60 percent from the field.

"Sammy will bring good experience and a positive work ethic to the program. She is a natural athlete and that will translate well to the collegiate level," said MMC head women's basketball coach Tom Schlimgen. "She is an all-around great recruit and we are excited for her to become a Lancer."

The daughter of Dave and Marcia Kasowski, she plans to major in secondary education, English and creative writing at MMC. She will receive an Academic Excellence Scholarship, a Scholastica Scholarship and a Catholic Leadership Award in addition to her basketball award.

Washington's Geu Earns Gatorade Honor

CHICAGO — Sioux Falls Washington standout Deng Geu has been selected as the Gatorade South Dakota Boys' Basketball Player of the Year. He is the first Gatorade South Dakota Boys Basketball Player of the Year to be chosen from Washington High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the court, distinguishes Geu as South Dakota's best high school boys basketball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Basketball

Player of the Year award to be announced in March, Geu joins an elite alumni association of past state boys basketball award winners, including Dwight Howard (2003-04, SW Atlanta Christian Academy, Ga.), Chauncey Billups (1993-94 & 1994-95, George Washington HS, Colo.), Jason Kidd (1991-92, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, Calif.), Paul Pierce (1994-95, Inglewood HS, Calif.) and Chris Bosh (2001-02, Lincoln HS, Texas).

The 6-foot-9, 180-pound senior forward has led the Warriors to a 21-2 record and a berth in the semifinals of the Class AA state quarterfinals against Huron, scheduled for March 19. Geu is averaging 17.5 points, 7.8 rebounds and 1.2 blocks per game entering the state tournament. He was selected to the All-City Team and the All-State Tournament Team as a junior.

Geu has maintained a B average in the classroom. He has volunteered locally on behalf of an elementary school literacy-outreach initiative.

Geu has signed a National Letter of Intent to play basketball on scholarship at North Dakota State University this fall.

Zenner Awarded Post-Graduate Scholarship

CLEVELAND — Former South Dakota State University running back Zach Zenner has been selected as one of two recipients of the 14th Division I Football Championship Subdivision Athletics Directors Association Scholar-Athlete of the Year award.

Zenner, along with University of San Diego linebacker/safety Troy McClelland, will receive a \$5,000 postgraduate scholarship. The duo was selected from a group of 10 finalists, which also included Jackrabbit wide receiver Jason Schneider. Zenner and McClelland will receive their awards in June during the FCS ADA's annual membership meeting held in conjunction with the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) Convention in Orlando, Florida.

A native of Eagan, Minnesota, Zenner has compiled a 3.86 grade-point average while majoring in biology/pre-medicine, earning Capital One

Academic All-America honors three times. On the field, he capped a stellar collegiate career by becoming the first player in Division I football history to rush for 2,000 yards in three consecutive seasons, finishing the 2014 season with 2,019 yards and 22 touchdowns on the ground. A three-time consensus All-America selection, Zenner ranks third in FCS career rushing with 6,548 yards. Zenner is the third Jackrabbit football student-athlete to be named a recipient of an FCS ADA postgraduate scholarship, joining Cory Koenig in 2008 and Ryan Berry in 2009.

Strom Named To All-Star Basketball Team

CROFTON, Neb. — Elijah Strom has been named to the Nebraska Bison Green all-star basketball team. The squad is comprised of 10 players from across the state of Nebraska and selected by the Nebraska Basketball Coaches Association.

He is the son of former Crofton boys' basketball coach Todd Strom, who is leaving for an administrative position in South Sioux City, Nebraska, following the current school year.



Strom

S.D. FCA Night Of Champions To Feature Tebow

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Fellowship of Christian Athletes will host its Night of Champions event at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 13, at the Denny Sanford Premier Center in Sioux Falls. The event will feature Heisman Trophy winner and current college football analyst Tim Tebow.

Tebow was the first sophomore ever to win the Heisman and won two NCAA FBS Championships before being picked in the first round of the NFL draft in 2010.

For more information about the event and about ticket sales, go online to www.southdakotafca.org or contact Erika Hessemann at ehessemann@fca.org or 605-335-7555.

Sertoma Baseball Signups Continue

The Yankton Sertoma youth baseball program is taking registrations for its summer 2015 program. Registrations will continue through April.

Registration forms are available online at <http://yanktonbaseball.com>. Contact Matt Rumsey at 605-661-6219 or Kevin Gokie at 605-660-6749 for more information.

Braggin' Board



PHOTO: T.J'S MINIMART
Chris Gunderson, left, and Dick Maska caught these walleye during a recent outing.

Correction

Due to incorrect information on the NAIA website, the statistics listed for Mount Marty's Kelsey Schmidt that appeared in an article about members of the MMC women's basketball team earning All-America Scholar Athlete honors were incorrect.

Schmidt played in 21 games, averaging 2.8 points per game.

Spring Turkey Hunting Workshop In Norfolk

NORFOLK, Neb. -- A spring turkey hunting workshop will be held at the Norfolk Public Library on Saturday, March 28, 1-3 p.m. Local turkey hunting experts will discuss beginner basics, wild turkey biology, hi-tech scouting, equipment strategies and advanced hunting techniques.

Attendees must register prior to workshop; space is limited to 40 registrants. Workshop is free.

The Norfolk Public Library is located at 308 Prospect Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701. To register, please visit <http://www.register-ed.com/events/view/59633> or call 402-471-6144.

Outdoor Educational Rendezvous May 8 At Niobrara SP

LINCOLN, Neb. -- Northeast Nebraska's Niobrara State Park will become an outdoor classroom May 8 at the fourth annual Outdoor Educational Rendezvous at Niobrara State Park.

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m., school students, teachers, home-school families, parents and guardians will get an outdoor education from 40 master naturalist programs and activities such as fishing, archery, tomahawk throwing, Native American culture, mountain man programs, horseback riding, taxidermy and raptor release.

Ecologists Jasmine Cutter and Dillon Blankenship will present the program "Prairies are All Around Us" at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the J. Alan Cramer Interpretive Shelter.

Those interested in attending should email ngpc.niobrara@nebraska.gov or call 402-857-3373. A park entry permit is required of each vehicle entering the park.

Pine Ridge Mule Deer Counted

CHADRON, Neb. -- The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has completed the second year of an annual mule deer survey in portions of the Pine Ridge management unit in northwestern Nebraska.

On Feb. 6-9, Commission employees used a contracted helicopter to repeat the 2014 mule deer survey. Commission staff counted 758 deer in 429 square miles of the unit compared to 862 in the same areas in 2014. The data will be compared to mule deer numbers in other areas of the state to assess long-term trends.

Lower counts in 2015 may be attributable to less snow cover during the survey period, which makes spotting animals more challenging, said Todd Nordeen, a big game manager for the Commission. The data will be more telling when the survey completes its scheduled five-year cycle, he said.

The mule deer population has been a concern in the Pine Ridge and other areas of the American West experiencing declines despite quality habitat and harvest restrictions.

The survey is helping determine how the mule deer population responds to the prohibition of harvest of females, and is helping the Commission's goal of providing optimum hunting opportunities within the limits of the deer population and landowner tolerance. Since 2013, the Game and Parks Commission has prohibited mule deer doe harvest in the Pine Ridge unit to bolster the population.

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her-voice presents...

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Saturday, May 9th, 2015

NFAA Easton Archery Complex