

# Wreck

(Continued from pg. 1)

pulling a trailer with a golf cart on it.

Caleb wasn't so lucky - or maybe he was. "I think God was watching over him," said his mother. His femur was broken and penetrated through his leg on the left side. His tibia and fibula were both broken, as well. He was Cerebrated to Harris Methodist. At 6:30 p.m., Caleb was already in surgery.

He was in ICU trauma until Sunday afternoon. On Monday, his internal organs looked good, but it is going to take some time before he can walk without crutches. When he broke his femur, he lost a lot of blood. Caleb has had 4 to 5 blood transfusions already. He may need another one. His blood count was very low on Monday at 50% of what it should be. His hemoglobin count was 6.7 and is supposed to be 12-13 and his hematocrit count was 19.5. Normal level is 40.

He should be released from the hospital this week if they can get the blood count numbers up. "We don't know what the rehab will entail," said

his mom. "He's in horrible pain right now."

Caleb has been training for a 100 mile bicycle race and runs a lot. The doctors said they were amazed at his lung capacity while he was on a ventilator in ICU. "They said his lung volume was so great. I think that helped him through all of this," said Cheryl.

"He's doing pretty good for all the blood he lost. He's at a point where the doctors expected him to be. It just takes the body a while to adjust." Cheryl said Caleb doesn't remember anything until waking up in ICU a day and half later. "We still don't know what happened. We've looked at the skid marks and can't tell anything. Caleb has no recollection of the wreck."

His mom said Caleb's cell phone was in his pocket, so she knew it wasn't from texting or talking on the phone. "We may never know," she said. "Both drivers sides were damaged."

Caleb is majoring in Pharmacy at UT. He may be visiting his employer, S&J Pharmacy, a lot from the other side of the counter while he recovers from this. "He's on pain medication now and has a hard time moving," added Cheryl.

# THE IDLE AMERICAN



by Don Newbury

For serious college sports fans, these are fiftful days. Gobs of them linger in limbo, wondering where they'll land when all the wrinkles in conference affiliations are ironed out. In the span of a few weeks - if not days - much more will be known about the big-time collegiate alignments believed to eventually include 16 members in each of four mega-leagues.

The whole deal is big business for the big schools, even if viewed as "monkey business" by non-fans. The latter cock their heads sideways as ongoing "hard" news of oil spills, budget crises, health care issues and politicians' shenanigans, etc., is squeezed into smaller space, with reduced-size headlines and lower placement on the page - the front one, no less.

Be assured, too, that university chancellors and presidents are caught up in the angst. They're so harried that left hands don't know what the right ones are doing. You can bet that one of them is constantly checking the pulse of regents while the other alternately "glad hands" and probes donors' pockets. They'll huff and puff, vowing that conference affiliations are NOT about money. Mark it down: When such professions are made, a central truth emerges; it is MOSTLY about MONEY, ever-growing tubfuls of TV revenue. Their minds swirl with numbers, very big numbers....

All this shuffling makes one question the wisdom of the inclusion of numbers in the names of conferences. I mean, the "Big 12" works fine with 12 members, even if critics call it the "Dirty Dozen." With three other conferences expected to pluck at least seven of the "Big 12" schools, the old name won't have the same ring to it, if, in fact, it survives at all.

If "sweet 16" is the goal for the Pacific-10, Southeast, Atlantic Coast and Big Ten Conferences, it is foolish to include numbers in the names of the former and the latter.

Whatever finally comes down, these shifts provide golden opportunities for conference fathers (and mothers) to consider unnumbered names devoid of geographical ID's. Maybe they should consider foundational words like "liberty," "united" or "premiere," what with member schools scattered all over the

map. Different time zones could throw our "sleepy times" asunder, but legislatures may rise to the rescue by "jimmying" time zones. The reps have prevailed over tougher zones, and could even decree "time zone adjustment" during football season....

Numbers are dizzying in this entire saga. They do, however, handily establish odds and point spreads.

Back in the 20th century, I joined a half-dozen other small-college presidents to determine the name for a new athletic conference. The acronym I suggested was met by yawns. I liked "CASA," standing for "Collegiate Academic/Sports Association." I thought CASA sounded "homey," collegial and inclusive. Others didn't.

I don't think "academic" set well....

Maybe I'm not giving numbers their due. Actually, they come in mighty handy in many situations.

Bob Murrphey, the late East Texas humorist who charmed audiences for several decades, got a lot of mileage from a "numbers" yarn. "I'm from Nacogdoches, Texas," he'd draw, claiming his hometown to be the birth place of the ZIP code.

"None of us could spell 'Nacogdoches,'" he explained. "So the government decided to simply number it..."

Numbers also served prisoners well decades ago when they whiled away the hours telling jokes. It got so all of them knew every joke, word for word, so they decided it would be simpler to call out jokes by numbers.

Someone yelled, "Number 92," meriting ongoing laughter.

When it died out, another prisoner shouted, "Number 57," and again, the place was awash in giggles. "Number 14," exclaimed a new detainee. It was met with graveyard silence. He repeated the number two more times with the same "nothing" response. "What did I do wrong?" he questioned.

"Some can tell 'em and some can't," he was told....

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# AS I SEE IT



by Robert Koger

## Not Prepared

Everyone has seen pictures of the aftermath of the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig. There have been pictures of the massive oil slicks, and the birds, fish, turtles and other animals dead or covered in the oil. Little has been mentioned about the 11 workers killed when the rig went down on April 20.

British Petroleum, or BP, has had representatives on television constantly and have made commercials to explain what they are doing to clean up the mess they made. The problem is they are falling farther behind every day. From the start, BP underestimated or downplayed the amount of oil and gas escaping the broken pipeline.

Most companies that produce a product also prepare for the worst in case there is a problem. BP didn't. They weren't interested in problems and as a result when the explosion happened they had no solution or plan in place. They had no intention in mind, making money.

So far BP has spent \$990 million dollars on the cleanup and commercials to state what a great job they are doing. That doesn't take into consideration the money loss by the company due to the fall of the value of their stocks. Their stocks are down 40 percent and more and more investors are bailing out of the company causing the stocks to continue their downward spiral.

For many people in England who have BP stock as a primary part of their pension plans, their plans and the money they receive is dwindling. For years these people have drawn good money through their dividends from

BP stock. That may happen again, but not for a while.

The people of England who are losing money from the incompetence of BP have to blame someone, so they are blaming America. They have stated that the aggressive rhetoric from President Obama and others are making the problem worse.

With the oil slick increasing in size every day and with no fix in sight it appears that getting worse is a product of BP having no one who has any knowledge on how to fix the problem. Rhetoric by Governors, Presidents, and others, didn't cause the problem, and won't fix the problem.

It is easy to understand the frustration of the people who are losing their livelihood and the people who watch their wetlands and other critical aspects of the environment disappear. What isn't easy to understand is why the U.S. Federal and State governments and BP can't work together to implement a solution. We can send people into space, but we can't stop a leak from a broken oil pipe. We can invent the iPod, but can't figure how to clean up the escaping petroleum. We can fix a runaway gas pedal, but can't cap a pipe.

It's time to stop pointing fingers. It is BP's fault and everyone knows it. So let's quit bickering like little children and press on and work together to find a solution before the entire gulf coastline is covered with a black slime and is destroyed. Get the academics and politicians out of the mix, and let people who work with their brains and hands get the job done.

Robert "Bob" Koger is a self syndicated columnist that writes for weekly Texas newspapers. He is a Sanger, Texas, resident. Bob retired after spending 20 years active duty military and another 18 years as a civilian employee for the military. He is the author of 101 Great Youth Soccer Drills, The New Coach's Guide to Coaching Youth Soccer, The Baffled Parent's Guide to Fix-it Drills for Youth Soccer, and The Ultimate Guide for Stay-at-home Parents. You can contact Bob through this newspaper or through his web site at: www.robertkoger.com.

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