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A Family Tradition

JULY 25TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

A Family Tradition

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

Athletic ability runs strong in the men of the Windham family. Wayne Windham played basketball at Mississippi State University. His son Don played football and baseball at Northeast Mississippi Community College. Don's oldest son, Eric, played baseball at St. Louis Community College - Florissant Valley, and was recruited by several schools for his abilities on the football field. Eric's little brother, Ryan, is currently following in their footsteps.

Ryan is playing basketball at Williams Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. The 19 year old son of Don & Vicki Windham is a 2010 graduate of Dexter High School and just finished his freshman season with the Eagles. He was a three-sport athlete at DHS until his senior year, when he decided not to play tennis. Despite not getting a lot of playing time during his freshman season, he is optimistic about his future at the school.

"I didn't get to play a lot this year, but hopefully that will change this season," he said. "We have a new coach and a new system, and I think it will be a good system to play in. It's fast paced, which is what I like and play the best in, and that makes it more fun for me."

The Eagles struggled last season, ending with an 11-17 (4-10 American Midwest Conference) record, but hopefully with new blood in the system, things will begin to

change.

“Jeff Rider was our coach, and he had just finished his fifteenth season at Williams,” Windham added. “Coach Nichols actually played for him. Our new coach is John Austin, who used to be at Central Baptist in Conway.”

One would think that there would be a lot of pressure with such a prolific family history in athletics, but it wasn't the case.

“There was never really that much pressure on me,” Windham noted. “Everybody always just told me that if I wanted to play, then go play. If not, that's fine too. The only demand was that I give my best effort if I decided to play.”

Windham began playing basketball at a young age, and even went on to win the Show-Me State Games with one of his teams.

images/Sports/Athlete Features/Ryan Windham/Williams Baptist.jpg

“I started playing AAU ball in fifth grade - we won the Show-Me State tournament,” Windham recalled. “Amos Smith was the coach - he started shooting with me and teaching me a lot, but I've played with the same group since third or fourth grade. Guys like Ben Mills, Sawyer Smith, Hunter Bruce and Chance Holden.”

“Amos always taught me left hand,” he added. “He told me that I'd never be the strongest or the fastest, so I'd have to be the smartest. That's really stuck with me over the years - it's all about reading the defense and seeing what they're going to do.”

Moving into junior high and high school, Ryan had a great person to learn from: his older brother Eric, who was a starter on the varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams.

“My brother didn't teach me a lot directly, but I learned a lot by watching him. We always played one on one growing up, but I still can't beat him...its just that little brother thing. He always beats up on me in the driveway,” Windham said, laughing. “He was someone I could watch and mimic myself after, especially with ‘the shot’ - he has one of the best shots I've ever seen. Even today, when we play together, I still try to make myself shoot like him. He's hard-nosed and likes to hit people, so I've tried to move that into my game as well. I'm not the biggest guy, so I have to make up for it with a little extra physicality sometimes.”

lessons from during his youth, as well as a former Duke Blue Devil.

“Amos Smith, I took his passing and ball-handling. I used to go across the street to his house; we’d sit in his basement and watch videos of Michael Jordan doing crazy moves with the ball and try to learn how to do them. I also liked watching Matt & Kyle Christian play when I was a kid, as well as Shannon Wright. I loved watching J.J. Redick when he was at Duke. He can hit shots at any time, averaged like 30 points a game. Great free-throw shooter too.”

A three sport athlete for all but his senior year, Windham enjoyed success on the football field and tennis court, as well as the basketball court.

“I liked whichever sport was in season the best, but I really liked football. The teamwork aspect that Coach Pixley pushed, I really got behind that and made it a part of my mentality in all sports,” he said. “We always just had fun in football - I was out there as a sophomore with my brother, and just kept going through and grew up and quit getting knocked around so much.”

Windham also noted the persistence of his high school basketball coach, Rob Nichols, in helping him to get where he is now.

“Coach Nichols always stayed on me about shooting the ball more,” he said. “He made me come in and shoot all the time, and I think it really helped me in getting a college basketball scholarship.”

Williams Baptist wasn’t the only school to recruit Windham: he was also contacted by Bethel University - where fellow Bearcat alum Derek Demaree played basketball - and Northeastern Mississippi Community College.

“I was looking at Bethel, where Derek Demaree went,” Windham recalled. “He talked to their coach about me and got me a tryout; I just didn’t feel that I’d really fit in there.”

“I like the people down there - everyone’s super nice,” Windham said of his school. “The Christian atmosphere is great. We’re in the middle of a corn field - literally - so there isn’t much to do other than go to Jonesboro, which is like 20 miles away. Being down there with Tyler [Tanner] really helps things a lot. It’s a really nice campus. They’ve been renovating a lot of the buildings recently.”

Windham is planning on finishing a business degree at Williams Baptist College, and expects to graduate in May of 2014.

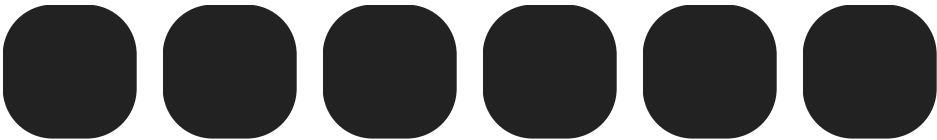
Regardless of what he does in life or when he graduates, Ryan Windham will live up to both of his ‘family traditions’ - he’s an outstanding collegiate athlete and he always has been, and always will be, a hard working man.

*Make sure to check back with the **ShowMe Times** for updates on Ryan’s future basketball seasons at Williams Baptist College!*

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Dexter Golfer Brings Home Whampions Trophy

JULY 24TH 2011 BY STAFF WRITER

Dexter Golfer Brings Home Whampions Trophy

It was a great weekend for a group of 22 guys that attended the annual Tournament of Whampions in Hot Springs, Ar., this past weekend. From college-age to the more mature, the group is a broad section of friends and family that make the trip this tournament every year.

The Tournament of Whampions began over 30 years ago with a group of friends and professionals that began to get together for a weekend of golf and fun. The tournament has been played on great courses throughout Texas, Louisiana, and most recently, the event has been held at the Hot Springs Country Club in Hot Springs, Ar.

Overall, the tournament is designed to allow any and all golfers a chance to compete on a level playing field. The group uses a modified Stableford scoring system which gives points per the score a player gets on each hole. A bogey is worth 1 point, par is worth 2 points, birdies are worth 4 points and eagles are worth 8 points in this scoring method. Your handicap is established per your home course, verified and adjusted to make sure your needed points are high enough to be fair to other players. Therefore, a person with a 20 handicap would need to get 16 points in a 36-par round of golf to break even.

The group from the Dexter area included several members from the Holden Family, led by the patriarch Demp “Boot” Holden. Other members of the family were Bill Holden, Steve Holden, Tim Holden, Jason Comfort, Josh Comfort, Tyler Holden, Chance Holden and Ryan Holden. The Christian family was also well represented, with Terry Christian, Bruce Christian and Kyle Christian on hand for the tournament. Other members of the field included Mike Gaylord, Alan Hedrick, Terry Hill, Darren Hillis, Nathan Mauer, Dennis Meeks, Matt Mills, Jamie Ralph, Andy Riley, Dale Stites and Doran Vancil.

The first event of the weekend was a 'Horse Race' contest, where two-man teams are selected and play an alternating shot format. In the under 27 handicap division, the winners were from the Dexter area, with Nathan Mauer of Poplar Bluff and Josh Comfort of Dexter, who narrowly defeated the team of Ryan Holden and Chance Holden on the final hole.

The event normally begins with an early morning shotgun start on Saturday and tee times on Sunday. A twist is always added to the two-day tournament, as the course is played from the deepest tips of each tee box, making the course play extremely long. Further, the greens are set up with the extremely difficult pin placements on the green, with slants,

breaks, and speed always being a problem with gaining points.

After the first day of the tournament, Terry Christian of [images/Blog Images/show/ujea](#) Dexter and Terry Hill of Jackson, MO were tied, leading the field with a +8 score. Jason Comfort also battled the extreme heat and was on the heels of the leaders with a +3 score.

With tee times beginning at 7:00 A.M. on Sunday, the field of 56 golfers all started with high hopes of either continuing the success of the previous day or to make a major improvement to their scores. When all the cards were turned in, Jason Comfort of Dexter became the 2011 Tournament of Whampions Champion with a +9 ½ score for the overall tournament. Bruce Christian of Dexter had an incredible second day and finished in second with an overall tournament score of +6. Terry Christian finished with a score +4 on Sunday for 3rd Place in the contest.

[images/Blog Images/show/ujee](#)

Previous winners from the Dexter area of the Whampions Tournament include Steve Holden and Chance Holden.

Plans are already being made for 2012 Whampions Event. There is a discussion that the

tournament will be moved to another location in the Midwest.

Photos Above: *Top Photo: Jason Comfort receives 2011 Whampions Trophy from Greg Procell of Shreveport LA.*

2nd Photo: Group Patriarchs Demp Holden and Doran Vancil continue to enjoy the tournament.

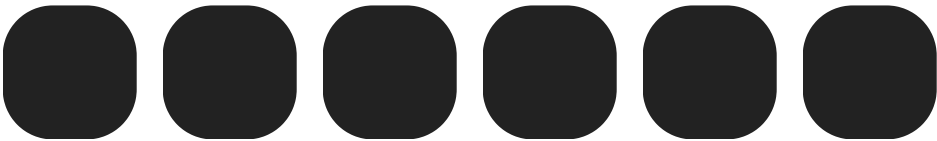
3rd Photo: Josh Comfort and Nathan Mauer were the winners of Friday's Horse Race contest.

4th Photo: After dinner Friday Night, Holden and Christian Families get a picture made together with a newcomer and friend, Jack Greene.

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Boys Wrap Up Rib City Shootout

JULY 24TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Boys Wrap Up Rib City Shootout

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

The action was fast and furious on the basketball court this weekend, as over thirty teams from the area competed in the second annual Rib City Shootout.

Basketball fans were treated to over 100 games, spanning three courts in the Bearcat Event Center, as well as the T.S. Hill Middle School gymnasium.

Several teams backed out of the tournament at the last minute, forcing a somewhat chaotic rescheduling of games. The 'Cats were represented well by the junior varsity and eighth grade squads, but the varsity team was unable to compete.

Sophomores Cody Neldon and DJ Dowdy both had solid performances on the JV squad, with Dowdy hitting a deep three at the buzzer to put the 'Cats over Naylor's Varsity squad during pool play on Friday afternoon. Freshman Drake Mitchell showed some promise as well, hitting several key perimeter shots and having a great defensive showing during the tournament.

This weekend's tournament saw the last round for the boys, but the girls have one more round left, scheduled for July 28-29. 36 teams, from as far as Du Quoin, Ill. and Manila, Ar. , will be competing in the final round of this summer's shootout.

Full details of next weekend's shootout, as well as a schedule and a list of the event's sponsors, can be found at www.ribcityshootout.com.

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*Make sure to check back with the **ShowMe Times** for full coverage of next week's final round of the Rib City Shootout!*

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Heat Wave Continues To Affect Anglers

JULY 21ST 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Heat Wave Continues To Affect Anglers

From the Missouri Department of Conservation

The extreme heat felt throughout Southeast Missouri this week is only going to continue - and that means anglers will have a tough go at trying to catch any fish this weekend. Below is an excerpt from the July 21 MDC Fishing Report for Southeast Missouri.

LAKES

Clearwater Lake: 88 degrees, clear; largemouth bass fair late evening and early morning on topwater lures; channel catfish fair at night on trotlines. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Council Bluff: 87 degrees, normal, clear; channel catfish fair on liver and worms after dark; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Cypress Lake: 87 degrees, high, dingy; channel catfish good in 2'-3' depths using crickets, worms, and stinkbait; crappie slow in 3' depths using minnows and jigs; bluegill and redear sunfish fair in 1'-3' depths using crickets, small jigs, and small pieces of worms; largemouth bass slow in 2'-3' depths on spinnerbaits and jigs; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Duck Creek: 88 degrees, high, clear; bluegill and redear sunfish good on crickets; largemouth bass fair on topwater lures. (Report made on 7/21/2011)

Lake Girardeau: 86 degrees, normal, clear; channel catfish fair on worms; largemouth bass fair on topwater lures; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Perry County Lake: 91 degrees, normal, dingy; channel catfish fair on worms, liver, stinkbait and live sunfish; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Robert DeLaney Lake: 86 degrees, normal, channel catfish fair on worms, liver, stinkbait and live sunfish; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Wappapello: normal, black bass fair early and late on spinnerbaits and plastic worms; crappie fair on minnows and jigs; bluegill good on crickets and worms; channel catfish fair on trotlines and jug lines at night using live bait and nightcrawlers; crappie fair in spillway on minnows and jigs.

Anglers should note the 9" minimum length regulation for crappie on Wappapello Lake. All areas around the lake are now open since the lake water level has dropped. Call the Wappapello Lake Recreation Hotline for updates at 573-222-8139. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

RIVERS

Black River (near Annapolis): 80 degrees, normal, clear; all species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Castor River (above Zalma): low, clear; black bass good on minnows; all other species

slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Lower Black River (Clearwater Dam): high, dingy; crappie good on minnows; bluegill good on worms; black bass fair on worms and topwater lures; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Mississippi (below Charleston): high, muddy; channel catfish and blue catfish good on cut baits; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

Mississippi River (Cape Girardeau): high, muddy; channel catfish and blue catfish good on cut baits; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

St. Francis (above Wappapello): low, clear; largemouth and smallmouth bass good in morning and evening on topwater lures; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

St. Francis (below Wappapello): 80 degrees, normal, dingy; channel catfish good on stinkbait and chicken liver; flathead catfish good on live bait, sunfish and goldfish; bluegill fair on waxworms; black bass fair on artificial bait and spinnerbaits; all other species slow. (Report made on 7/20/2011)

*Anglers are invited to send photos of their fishing trips to the **ShowMe Times**. Just email acato@showmetimes.com. Be sure to include the name of the fisherman, the date of the catch, where it was caught, weight and - if you care to share - what type of bait you were using!*

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Boy's Rib City Shootout Starts Friday

JULY 20TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Boy's Rib City Shootout Starts Friday

By Andrew Cato, ShowMe Times Sports Editor

It's time for the second round of the Rib City Shootout in the Boy's division!

Teams will take to the courts this Friday and Saturday (July 22-23) to compete in the tournament's second year.

The first round of the tournament was held June 9-10 for the boys, and June 17-18 for the girls. Middle School, JV, and Varsity teams are all invited to attend and compete in separate 'age' divisions. Teams are guaranteed to play in at least six - with a maximum of eight - games during the two-day basketball extravaganza.

Over 40 schools, some from as far away as St. Louis and Dyer County, Tn., made the trip to Dexter for the first round. Sikeston and Soldan faced off in the finals, with the Soldan Tigers dominating the championship and defeating the Bulldogs of Sikeston by over 20 points.

"This is the best shootout that I've ever been to and we are coming back," Soldan International Head Coach Justin Tatum said after the first round. "I'm sure going to tell every school in St. Louis about this."

Event organizer - and LBB head coach - Chad Allen thought the first round “went extremely well”, and also noted the crucial support of the event’s sponsors.

32 teams are scheduled to face off during this week’s tournament, with games played at the Bearcat Event Center and the T.S. Hill Middle School Gymnasium. The full schedule for the tournament can be found **here**.

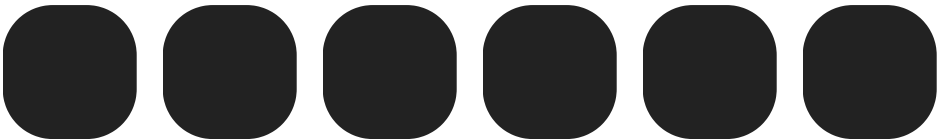
Admission is five dollars for an all-day pass, and a full concession stand is provided. Games are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on Friday and at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, with the championship games at 5:30 p.m. Saturday.

*Make sure to check back with the **ShowMe Times** for full coverage and photo galleries of the tournament!*

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