

# Hunter gets 2nd chance



**BILL PARKER**

Thank heavens for second chances. It's a time for black powder and whitetails. Having gone deerless through the firearms and the first archery deer hunting seasons, I'm looking forward to my "second chance" as the nine-day muzzleloading, or black powder season, begins tomorrow in the Lower Peninsula. (Dec. 3-12 in the Upper Peninsula.) You can bet your powder flask I'll be spending as much time as possible in the woods through the next couple of weeks.

I guess I should be happy. I'm in position to enjoy a great muzzleloading season. Heck, I can still take two bucks and a doe with my 50 caliber. But it hasn't always been this way. Prior to the mid-1970s, muzzleloading was only a legal means of taking a whitetail during the regular firearms deer season. Thanks to the efforts of many hard-working traditionalists, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources initiated a special muzzleloading-only deer season in Michigan in 1975.

The first year of the special season, 8,500 hunters harvested 150 deer according to DNR statistics. Since then, the popularity of the sport has risen faster than Wayne Fontes changes quarterback. By 1981, there were 30,320 black powder hunters and they harvested 1,970 deer with their primitive long guns.

In 1986 the DNR opened the door for muzzleloaders by allowing a hunter to buy a second buck license. There were 61,430 black powder hunters in the field that year, harvesting 6,510 deer. By 1990 the number of muzzleloading hunters had risen to 145,490 and they harvested 22,490 deer. Last year a record 173,250 hunters took 23,240 deer, including 10,485 bucks.

**A primitive weapon**

Although serious black powder hunters can readily shoot three-inch groups at 100 yards, the muzzleloader is still considered a primitive weapon when compared to modern high-powered rifles such as the ever popular 30/30 or the 30/06.

Because of the manner in which the gun is loaded, it is susceptible to misfires in damp weather conditions. To load a muzzleloader, black powder is carefully measured then poured down the barrel of the gun. A projectile, such as a round lead ball with a cloth patch or a conical lead slug, is then inserted into the barrel and packed tightly against the charge of powder. The problem arises when the powder gathers moisture and will not ignite.

Another limiting aspect of the sport is the fact that most muzzleloaders are single-shot only. Patience is a must. The first shot must hit its mark since, in most cases, there is no chance for a second shot.

## Successful hunter report

Form all indications this year's whitetail harvest during the firearms season was considerably lower than many hunters had hoped. Judging by the number of success stories I've received, I'm not the only one with an empty freezer. It's not too late to report your success. Call 901-2573 Monday evening and leave your name, phone number and a brief description of your success. Four eccentric readers did call in with success stories:

■ Ray Pyoral, of Farmington Hills, took his first buck with a bow on Oct. 25 while hunting in Leabla County. Hunting from a tree blind near a bedding area the 62-year-old hunter arrowed a 145-pound spike horn. "My son got me started in bow hunting about four years ago," Pyoral said. "Let me tell you, I've been having a good thing. One year of bow hunting is worth five years experience of gun hunting."

■ Dean Caddick wasted little time filling his archery tag as the 34-year-old hunter dropped 7-point on Oct. 1 in Oakland County.

■ Rochester hunter Jack Ross had plenty to be thankful for on the recent holiday. Hunting private land in Leonard, Ross dropped a beautiful 10-point at 7:30 a.m. Thankgiving morning. The rack had a green score of 143.

■ Dan Poole, of Oakland Township, took a 3-point, drop-horn buck with his bow on Oct. 30. Poole was hunting from a ground blind in northern Oakland County.

(Hunters and anglers are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encouraged. Send information to Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to 664-1314 or call Bill Parker Monday evenings at 901-2573.)

# Madonna prospers with local talent



**BRAD EMMONS**

Not bad for a maiden voyage. The Madonna University women's volleyball team made quite a splash last weekend in San Diego. When the Lady Crusaders arrived at Point Loma Nazarene College, hosts of the 14th annual NAIA Championships, the name Madonna was strictly a curiosity.

It was the first appearance ever for the Livonia school in a national tournament, but once the slight seeds took to the courts, word quickly spread that the Lady Crusaders not only belonged, but were legitimate contenders for the NAIA crown.

Coach Jerry Abraham's club wasted no time in establishing itself in the national field. But more importantly, it laid the groundwork for a Madonna athletic program that is about to set sail.

Thanks to the hard work of Abraham and assistants Scott Blanchard and Brian McClain, Madonna's volleyball program is doing it with local talent.

Five Observeland high school products — outgoing senior Mazie Pilut (Redford Bishop Bergese), Laura Fisher (Wayne Memorial), Lauren Taulin (Farmington Hills Mercy), Julie Martin (Livonia Stevenson) and Kelly McCausland (Redford Union) — all played pivotal roles in pushing Madonna into the quarterfinals.

Two Schoolcraft College grads, Julie Wood and Kari Van Deusen, a second team All-Tournament pick, also made heavy contributions.

Henderson State of Arkansas, the No. 2 seed, ran its winning streak to 40 games when it elimi-

nated the Lady Crusaders in the round of eight.

But looking closer at Henderson's roster, the Lady Reddies are big time, importing players from such places as Mountain View, Calif., Peoria, Ill., Austin, Calif., Naples, Texas, and Hayward, Calif.

Puget Sound, the NAIA champion, boasted several players outside the state of Washington. Tournament MVP Andrea Egan, a sophomore walk-on, resides in Hillsboro, Ore. Other players come from Colorado, California, Hawaii and Montana. Runner-up Hawaii-Hilo also draws heavily from the continental United States.

The Lady Crusaders earned instant credibility when they sent No. 1 seed Montevallo, Ala. packing in the final match of pool play, 15-12, 15-4.

After losing a tough three-game bout Friday morning with Westmont, Calif., Madonna rebounded by dominating a Montevallo team that had won 39-straight, including a win against Mississippi State of the SEC. They also had the NAIA Coach of the Year (Judy Green).

So where does Madonna go from here? Losing only two seniors, Pilut and Van Deusen, Abraham's team is a good bet to return to the nationals in '94.

But now the attention will shift to the school's other sports. Coach Mike George's baseball program, drawing similar paral-

els, is also on the verge of making a run to the nationals.

But the school's athletic director, Ray Summers, is now faced with some critical decisions with the next year concerning the rest of the athletic program.

Summers, who made the trip to San Diego, is trying to land Madonna into the newly formed Wolverine Athletic Conference, but has been met with some resistance for membership by a couple of the state's small colleges. Some opponents say that Madonna's low tuition gives the school a recruiting advantage.

Summers is also in the process of launching a new men's soccer program, while trying to get a soccer-only-year women's basketball and first-year men's varsity basketball program off the ground.

Shortly, Summers will also announce the hiring of a new women's softball coach. Dave Racer, who started the program three years ago, bailed out last summer for personal reasons.

But the most important decisions regarding athletics will have to be made by school president Sister Mary Franceline.

Sister Franceline, along with Sister Nancy Jones, vice president and director of Student Life, gave Abraham's team quite a send-off at Metro Airport. They sang the school fight song, brought good-luck pennants and prayed for the group.

The fact they showed up at 7 a.m. for the departure is a good sign.

They were also on hand for the arrival Sunday night, but now there is much more work to be done.

The administration needs to take even more of an active role in the athletic program. They have to do some Bill Clinton politicking and fund-raising, not only on the state level, but on a national level.

Here some items they must consider:

- Joining a league is paramount. Beginning next year, the NAIA is eliminating district play. Automatic berths will be given to league members. Being an independent would hurt Madonna.
- Hiring a sports information director. The school needs at least a part-time person to market the programs. In this age of communications, information is vital. Coaches need to coach and recruit, not be heavily involved in fund-raising and other distractions.
- New facility. Let's face it, if Madonna is going to become a viable athletic program, the current gym is inadequate. Ladywood High School built itself a new gym. Madonna will eventually have to follow suit.
- On campus soccer field.
- Form a booster group with help of local businesses. It's time to get the local community involved, not just proclamations from the city council.

With some long-range planning and hard work, these steps can be attained.

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