

## AN OUTDOORSMAN'S JOURNAL

# Mississippi Duck Hunt/ The Best of Times

MARK WALTERS  
COLUMNIST

Fifty-one opening days of duck hunting ago, I was a very young boy in a very low income, single-parent family, and my dad was raising my brothers Mike, Tom, myself, my sister Lynn and sometimes my brother Bob.

We lived kind of like I do now, which is a very busy life that is often centered around the next outdoor experience.

One of our annual "can't miss" trips was living on an island on the Mississippi River near Ferryville and hunting ducks.

I am now 61, low income, running hard, and still on that "can't miss" trip.

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 30**

**HIGH: 75. LOW: 52.**

By the time I hit the cot two days after today, 17 people will have camped together and all of that is due to my dad.

Though there is no ringleader anymore, I am the guy that is always here and now much of our group is 15-year olds to age 34.

My daughter Selina and I hunt out of a canoe; we kind of suck when it comes to bagging ducks, but we have a great time with our golden retrievers – Ruby and Red being the center of our attention.

Today was a great day. We all converged on the island as we could, built our camps, checked out our spots and, as always, tonight was a campfire, excellent food and lots of happy talk.

**SATURDAY, OCT. 1**

**HIGH: 72. LOW: 48.**

When shooting began, Selina dropped a hen wood duck and now the pressure was off.

In reality, Selina does not care about duck hunting, and she will only do this hunt all season. With a double major at UW-Stevens Point, and a minor, a job working in the Aquatic Biomonitoring Lab and lots of weekend events that are related to school, this hunt and three weekends at deer camp are the best she can do.

So, I drop a goose and a drake woody, it becomes very warm. Selina takes a net and catches aquatic insects, puts them in a mason jar that has alcohol in it and, in the end, she will take them to school and do research. A person catching insects in your decoys does not help when it comes to ducks being



A good haul of woodies on the Mississippi.

MARK WALTERS PHOTO



Selina takes a snooze with Red as Ruby keeps a watchful eye.

MARK WALTERS PHOTO

attracted to your decoys, but neither of us cared.

At about noon, we paddled back to camp had lunch and a two-hour siesta.

The evening hunt was very enjoyable, but I have to tell you, I love the campfire time on this particular trip. On Saturday night everyone cooks duck. A half dozen hunting dogs are exhausted, and, for myself, I can look at every one of these kids in camp, and I am well aware that they are here because of my dad and, in reality, because of me, as my dad passed away before most of them were born.

I will give you one example.

Grant Wandler is around 30, he grew up with my stepson Joey Dushek and started coming here when he was in high school. Conrad Wandler is two years younger; Vlad Wandler is 20 and Silver is 15. Grant is a lineman as is Conrad and soon Vlad will be. Grant lives in California and flew to Wisconsin for this hunt.

When Grant and Conrad were 16-22, all of their gear was junk, but what they had was a love for this trip and now they have the latest, greatest gear and these boys put a hurting on the ducks, and they are a hoot around the campfire.

On this particular hunt, there were 13 kids. I could say that I have all of them beat in age by 30 to 46 years.

The following morning, Selina and I, as well as everyone else in camp, were on the water before daylight and many ducks fell out of the sky. Sunday is always kind of sad for me, because Selina has to go back to school and our three-day gab session is over.

For myself and my nephew, Trent Schuster, it was a new beginning. Trent's dad, Dick Schuster, and my brother, Mike, came to camp for 24-hours as they generally put a hurting on the local perch population.

The perch were not hungry, but Trent and I had a great hunt, and his two-year-old golden retriever, Ivy, had a light turn on and it became very obvious that she's going to be a duck dog.

I am ahead on my deadline; In real time, as you are reading this, I should be on top of the Rocky Mountains near Bozeman, Montana on a solo, go-for-it elk and mule deer hunt.

Get them kids outside and keep it fun!

Sunset

# Racine Lutheran Ends Horicon/ Hustisford Playoff Run

CLARICE CASE  
JOURNALIST

Number-seven Husticon battled (#2) Racine Lutheran in a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Division 5 Level 1 playoff game on Friday, Oct. 21. After a tough fourth quarter, Husticon fell, 35-14, putting an end to the co-op's comeback-season in which the team clinched a playoff berth in the regular season's final week.

Despite the loss, there were some fantastic moments from Husticon, especially in the first half. Going into halftime, Horicon/Hustisford and Racine Lutheran were tied at 14 apiece.

It all got started with Payton Vincent running for a one-yard touchdown in the first quarter, giving Husticon the first lead of the contest.

Racine Lutheran added two scores in the first and second quarters – a 15-yard scamper, making it 7-7, and a three-yard run, which made it 14-7 – but Husticon was resilient in the opening half.

Ethan Frazee responded with a five-yard touchdown with 3:22 left in the first, which proved to be the final points for either team.

The game was tied up, 14-14, at halftime, and the underdog Husticon squad was sniffing an upset.

Hopes remained high, as there was no action from either team in the third quarter, as both defenses proved adept at preventing points.

Racine Lutheran finally broke the scoring drought with 8:45 remaining in the fourth when the quarterback connected on a three-yard strike with his receiver in the end zone.

Husticon needed a response, but would not find one on their next posses-

sion, nor the rest of the contest, as two more fourth-quarter touchdown runs from Racine Lutheran salted away a game that could have gone either way for three quarters.

Husticon's playoff run was short-lived, but certainly exciting, as they'll look for the young team to grow from the experience. Husticon finished fifth in the Eastern Suburban Conference with a conference record of 3-4, and an overall record of 3-7.

## BOX SCORE

**Horicon/Hustisford, 14  
at Racine Lutheran, 35**

Friday, Oct. 21

HH 7 7 0 0-14

RL 7 7 0 21-35

### Team Statistics (HH)

First downs: 12. Rushes-yards: 29-108.

Passing yards: 69. Penalties-yard: 3-25.

### Individual Statistics

**RUSHING**—Frazee 5-50 TD, Howard 7-27, Bushkie 4-21, Vincent 3-(-3) TD, Davis 6-10, Schwartz 4-3.

**PASSING**—Schwartz 8-17-2-69.

**RECEIVING**—Frazee 2-20, Strieff 2-11, Davis 2-20, Vincent 2-18.

**SCORING SUMMARY—1Q:** 8:03, HH, Vincent 1-yard run for TD, PAT good.

2:09, RL, Ormond 15-yard run for TD, PAT good. **2Q:** 8:12, RL, Rossa 3-yard run for TD, PAT good. 3:22, HH, Frazee 5-yard run for TD, PAT good. **4Q:** 8:45, RL, Rossa 3-yard run for TD, PAT good. 6:07, RL, Rossa 10-yard run for TD, PAT good. 0:54, RL, Ormond 2-yard run for TD, PAT good.

## QUALIFIERS

from page 8

"Her race was picture perfect," he said. "At the halfway mark, I yelled, 'If you are ready, make a move.' You could see she was ready, and I knew it was going to be a good day."

Danner also made it clear that Doyle earned this trip to the state meet, as she put in the time and effort throughout the year.

"She ran all summer and came to every practice except one including optional Saturday practices," he said. "She earned this trip to the state meet."

Doyle will be looking to improve on her 57th place at the state meet last year. After that race, Danner is confident she is ready to run well.

Three sophomores finished next for the Lions with Zoey Bauer taking second for Lomira and 23rd in the race with a time of 21:52.

Bauer got trapped behind runners early in the race but did an excellent job of passing people over the last half of the race.

Ellie Rhodes was not far behind Zoey with a time of 22:10 and in 13th place. Rhodes has run exceptionally well for the Lions in the last three races playing a significant part in the team's success.

Fellow sophomore and first-year runner Natalie Hargrave had an amazing race, finishing in 23:16 and fourth for the Lions. She was just six seconds off a career-best time finishing in the top half.

"It has been so exciting seeing Natalie improve this year," said Danner. "She has dropped eight minutes off her time. With a few offseason miles, she will be vying for all-conference honors next year."

The juniors captured the next three spots for the Lions with Amber Weiss crossing the line in 23:37, Piersten

Litterick in 24:32 and Zoe James in 25:21.

Coach Danner was pleased with their effort.

"It was warm today, and I think that took a toll on the girls, but they fought through it and continued to push to the end," he said. "They have traded finish places on the team all year and have never been anything but supportive of each other. That is why we are successful as a team."

In fact, the Lions finished an impressive fifth out of 15 teams at the sectional meet.

When Coach Danner asked who was coming to the state meet next weekend to support Sasha, every hand on the bus went up.

*The 2022 State Boys & Girls Cross Country Championships will be held at Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids on Saturday, Oct. 29. Races for the girls start at noon. The boys' races start at 2 p.m.*

THE  
**ROCK**  
RIVER  
TAP  
BAR & GRILL

110 W. Lake St.  
Horicon, WI 53032

(920) 485-4241

www.rockrivertap.com

A Great Place to Eat Lunch & Dinner!

118530