



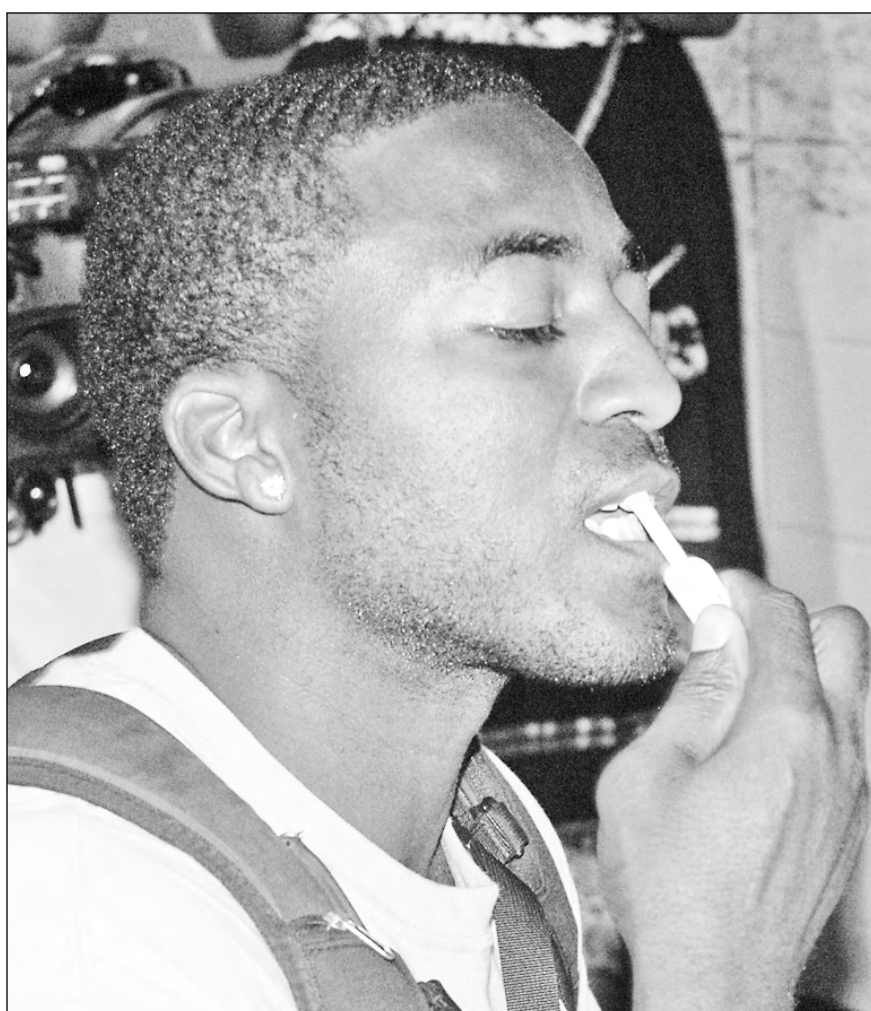
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Sports & Outdoors



THE PANOLIAN / BATESVILLE, MS

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2009 A11



At the first annual Pay it Forward Health Fair in Batesville, Mississippi, Batesville native and two-time Superbowl champ DeShea Townsend swabs his mouth with the OraQuick ADVANCE® Rapid HIV-1/2 Antibody Test to draw attention to the critical role of HIV testing and prevention education play in stemming the spread of AIDS in Mississippi. The OraQuick ADVANCE test is the first and only FDA approved rapid oral HIV test that provides greater than 99% accurate results in less than 20 minutes— no needles, no blood, no waiting.

The Panolian photo by Myra Bean

Small town hero gives back

By Angie Ledbetter

The 33-year-old grew up in this small town of Batesville with three brothers and two sisters. He had two parents who made sure he went to school and teachers who made sure he did his work.

Deshea Townsend, a cornerback for the 2009 Superbowl Champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers, gives most of the credit to his teachers, his parents and a community who has supported him since he went off to college at the University of Alabama.

Everything was not handed to Townsend on a silver platter. He had to work hard to accomplish the success that he has had in his football career.

As Townsend thinks about all the people in this community that have given so much to him, he wants to continue to give back. His Pay It Forward Football Camp just finished its 10th year in Batesville. It started off with 200 participants per year but has grown to over 1,000 on the football field where he played his high school years.

"The camp was great but I don't know the final head camp," said Townsend. "It was amazing how smooth the camp went and I give credit to my players that showed up and the community that supported it. It was a great turnout."

The camp is such a big success because people in the community are aware of it, Townsend said.

"Everybody wants to be a part of something that's positive," he continued. "As long as you're giving something from your heart, I think people really attach themselves to it."

Townsend gave credit to all the people who helped him starting with the Boys and Girls Club.

"I always have a lot of help. The Boys and Girls Club does a lot of hard work for me and I basically

just show up."

The other NFL players who help out at the camp think it is "pretty neat" that they have seen kids grow up at football camp because they've been coming so long.

"Hines Ward has been coming for nine or 10 years so he has seen Peria Jerry come through the camp," Townsend said. "Casey (Hampton) remembers Cameron Wagner when he was a kid at camp. It's pretty neat to see the guys that have come through the camp and see what they're doing now."

Townsend added a new event to the camp this year. The health fair was at Batesville Middle School across the street from the field.

"The health fair was great also," Townsend said. "I wished I had a head count of how many people were up in that area between the camp and the health fair. I would say that we had at least 1,500 to 2,000 people. It was amazing."

Officials estimates were well over 600 at the health fair and 1,300 at the camp between campers, football players and volunteers.

Townsend worked with the Heinz Foundation in Pittsburgh that was started by Teresa Heinz Kerry to get the health fair in Batesville.

"They told me about this health benefit that they're trying to provide in the Delta, Mississippi and Pittsburgh," he said. "With me being from Mississippi, I thought it'd be great. With Panola County being in the delta, I thought there might be a service that I could provide to people who couldn't afford health insurance in my neighborhood. So when they brought that to me, I most definitely jumped on it."

"A lot of times people will wait until something happens before they go to the doctor," Townsend continues. "There are a lot of times that you could save yourselves a lot

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All-Star Coach

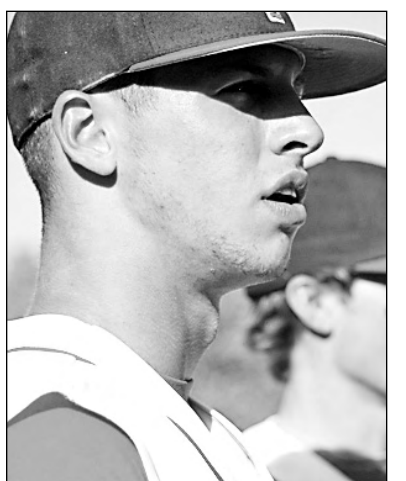


North Delta head baseball coach Stoney Stone has been selected to head coach the North A All-Star team with Greg Watkins, head coach of Hebron Christian as his assistant.

"The North Delta family is proud of what our baseball team accomplished this year under Coach Stone, and we are all excited about what he and his young team could accomplish next season," said headmaster John Howell Jr. "To get to the north half championship game and compete so well was a big step for our baseball program."

The game will be played at Smith Wills Stadium in Jackson tomorrow at 2 p.m., following the AA-AAA game at 11 a.m. Admission is \$8.

Directions to Smith-Wills Stadium, Jackson: From I-55 North take the Lakeland Drive exit. From the exit (at the light), take a left onto Lakeland Drive. The entrance to the Stadium is the 2nd light past the exit. It will be on your left.



At the South Panola baseball banquet Tuesday night, recent graduate David Renfroe was announced as the 5A All-State player of the year.



At the South Panola baseball banquet Tuesday night, recent graduate Ethan Bright was chosen as All-State infielder. Bright was also chosen to play in the All-Star game Saturday, June 6 at Trustmark Park in Jackson. A complete listing of baseball awards will be announced in Tuesday's edition of The Panolian.

The Panolian photos by Myra Bean

Space available for St. Jude bass tournament

There is still room for boats and anglers at the 37th annual St. Jude Open Bass Classic to be held this weekend at Sardis Lake.

As of Tuesday, only 205 boats have been registered for the event.

"We have had the same economic downturn as the rest of the nation," said organizer Dennis Morlok.

Last year 247 boats participated in the popular event.

The bass tournament, the nation's oldest and largest charity fishing event in the nation, will be held on Sardis reservoir on May 24. The tournament is a pick-your-partner format with all proceeds being donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Winners will be determined by the total weight of a five fish limit of bass per team.

The entry fee is \$275 per boat, cash or credit card. Entries will be taken until the boats are put to the water Sunday morning. However, to be eligible for the grand prize, entries must be received by 11 a.m. on Saturday.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m Saturday, a cookout will be held at Perfor-



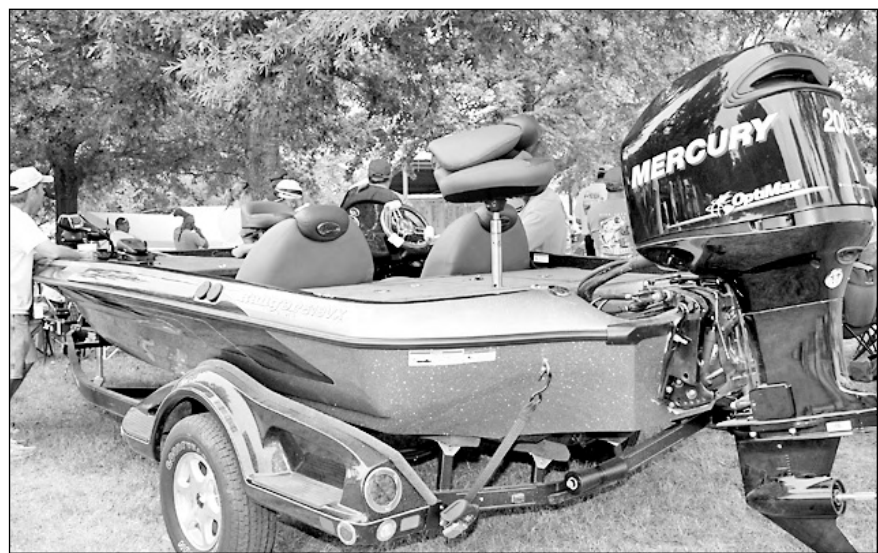
This young angler assisted with weigh-in last year at the St. Jude Bass tournament at Sardis Lake.

The Panolian photos by Andy Young

mance Marine for the general public. Plates will be sold for a nominal fee, according to Morlok. All proceeds will go to St. Jude.

The 2008 tournament raised \$50,000 for the hospital. In spite of record gas prices, 498 anglers from seven states participated in last year's event. The grand prize in 2009 is a fully rigged 198 Ranger boat powered by a 200 Mercury Optimax outdoor riding on a de-

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Grand prize from 2008 is same type boat and motor that is the grand prize for this year's St. Jude Classic.

A's win in squeaker

By Brad Greer

Jessie Pearson scored on a balk call in the bottom of the sixth inning to give the A's a 2-1 victory over the Red Sox in 13-15 year-old Summer league play Monday night at American Legion Park.

Pearson led off the bottom of the sixth with a double off Red Sox reliever Blake Snyder. After a Deon Mix groundout moved Pearson to third, Snyder got Scotty Daugherty to pop up for the second out. Then with a 1-0 count to Levi Wilson, Snyder attempted a pickoff to third but was called for a balk that allowed the winning run to cross home plate.

Pearson scored the first run for the A's in the fourth by reaching on a fielders' choice and then

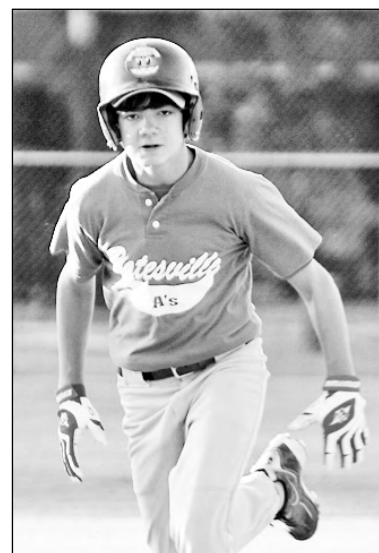
later scoring on a Mix single. Will Daugherty picked up the win in relief of Mix, scattering four hits over

four innings, striking out two and walking two along the way. Mix meanwhile surrendered one run on one hit while fanning two in two innings of work.

The Red Sox, who out-hit the A's 5-2, left 10 men on base during the game including the bases loaded with one out in both the fourth and sixth inning. Calvin Hawkins scored the only run for the Sox by drawing a leadoff walk in the top of the first and then later scoring on a run-producing single by Austin Smith.

James Wilder led the Red Sox offensively with a pair of singles while Renic Greenlee and Bryan Byford each recorded singles. Greenlee started on the mound and went four innings, giving up one run on

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Austin Epps heads to third for the A's in Monday action.

The Panolian photo by Glennie Pou

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