

MSR: MONTGOMERYSPORTSREPORT

The Paper of Montgomery County

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INSIDE MSR:

- **SAGAMORE BASKETBALL STANDINGS**
- **BRENT WHEAT**

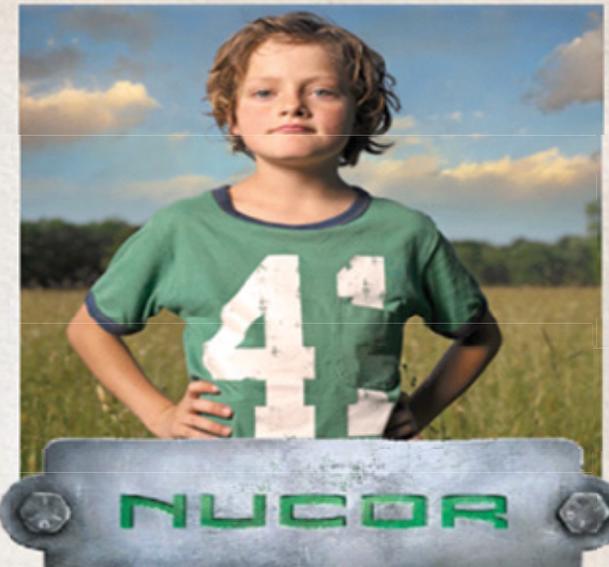
Sagamore **Girls Basketball Standings**

	CONF	AG	OA	DA	AM	Streak
 Danville	4- 0	12- 3	56.8	39.9	16.9	Won 6
 Tri-West	4- 0	10- 3	63.5	46.6	16.9	Lost 2
 Western Boone	2- 1	9- 7	56.6	49.6	7.1	Won 1
 Lebanon	1- 2	7- 8	46.0	46.7	-0.7	Won 2
 Frankfort		1- 2	6-10	42.8	49.6	-6.8 Won 1
 Southmont	1- 2	4- 9	40.6	51.8	-11.2	Won 2
 North Montgomery	1- 3	3-14	35.0	52.2	-17.2	Won 1
 Crawfordsville	0- 4	2-12	39.4	58.4	-19.0	Lost 9

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Sagamore **Boys Basketball Standings**

	CONF	AG	OA	DA	AM	Streak
 Crawfordsville	2- 0	5- 3	56.4	53.0	3.4	Lost 1
 Tri-West	1- 0	4- 3	65.0	59.6	5.4	Lost 2
 Lebanon	2- 1	5- 6	45.5	50.5	-5.0	Lost 2
 Western Boone	1- 1	4- 3	52.1	55.0	-2.9	Lost 1
 Danville	1- 1	5- 4	61.3	52.7	8.7	Won 2
 Southmont	1- 2	1-10	39.9	57.0	-17.1	Lost 6
 Frankfort		0- 1	1- 8	42.2	60.9	-18.7 Lost 8
 North Montgomery	0- 2	2- 8	40.5	51.1	-10.6	Won 1

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MSR: SPORTSTALK

OUT IN THE OPEN- Adventures in Flying

It's been a little while since Your Humble Servant has written a column but there was a really good reason: I was languishing in a Turkish prison.

No, not really. Actually, I was someplace far worse- stuck inside various commercial airplanes while heading to fire-arms-related events. This meant sitting for hours in a cramped aluminum tube filled with sick and smelly people while hurtling through the sky in complete defiance of both the laws of gravity and hygiene.

When I was hired this summer as the Editor-in-Chief of GUNS Magazine, they asked, "Do you like to travel?" "Of course," I said, excited with the possibilities.

"We'll break you of that," they said laconically.

They were right.

I don't travel as much as some road-warrior salespersons of my acquaintance but I do my fair share. Over the past few months, I've discovered the defining attribute of business travel is driving to the airport when you'd really, really rather be doing anything else.

Moreover, you end up going places and doing things that weren't your first choice while trying to overlook the dirty, potentially-lethal, socks in your carry-on bag. When you add in the humiliating security checkpoint experience, flight delays



BRENT WHEAT
Out in the Open

and the passengers who bring along a pie safe as a carry-on item, flying isn't as fun as it used to be.

Don't even get me started on the "emotional support animals" that now clutter every single flight. I'm not "shaming" those with legitimate needs but for those travelers who scam airlines so their beloved pet can fly for free, the rest of us have already figured out you ordered that cheap-looking "service dog" vest off the internet. I've seen rabid badgers with better manners than some of the allegedly-trained dogs.

Trust me: everyone hates you for ruining a worthwhile program.

Anyway, with my rant has concluded, I'm going to talk about airlines and the outdoors enthusiast. Because of the unique requirements of our shared passions, dealing with airlines can present a distinctive set of challenges when you are headed to far-off adventures.

Guns are the most



obvious. First off, unless you are an on-duty law enforcement officer, forget carrying a firearm on board. Most folks already know that rule but I've had a couple of friends who got caught at security checkpoints with a loaded firearm or ammunition in their carry-on bags. I now better understand how such mistakes happen but a standard part of my pre-flight checklist is to make sure all bags and packs have been 'swept' for forgotten guns, magazines, knives or ammo.

If you do plan on taking a firearm, it can be declared inside your checked luggage. Keep in mind that many ticket agents don't have a clue as to firearm policies so be prepared ahead of time by knowing the

rules by heart and bring along printed copies of TSA and airline's policies regarding firearm transport. Always be polite and deferential but ask for a supervisor if things are going sideways. In my experience, the supervisors usually have a good grasp of the procedures.

Other large items such as skis, golf clubs, paddles and other bulky items must be checked. Most airlines will let you tag the item itself without additional packaging but keep in mind the baggage process is not kind to items passing through the cargo hold. I'd always have some type of covering for such gear, even if it was comprised of duct tape and packing foam.

Backpacks make a

great carry-on as they fit into smaller places than bulky square-wheeled cases. They also are easier to haul while sprinting through an airport, as I did last Friday evening in Dallas. Try to find a bag with detachable straps or ones that tuck into a pocket because the straps are the most useful yet most annoying part of using the pack in an airplane.

I'm very partial to 'Messenger' bags. They hold a considerable amount of stuff, they stow and carry easily but best of all, they fit under the seat. This avoids the dreaded gate-check procedure that slows everything down when you discover the overhead bins are full by the time you board last because of your 'Basic Econo-

my" ticket. My personal messenger bag is made by Osprey but there are plenty of good ones on the market.

In any event, take a backpacking approach when packing a carry-on bag. I've learned that by adopting a minimalist attitude, lowering expectations and using a few "Frequent Flyer" hacks, I can easily make a two- or even three-day trip using only a moderately-stuffed messenger bag slid under my seat. Even if you're on a longer trip that requires checked luggage, having only that small carry-on dramatically reduces your stress level.

That way you won't mind so much when the faux service dog pees on your leg.