



Grady County Historical Society. CA-002 Series 3: Files from Sections Hawthorne Papers - I

Sunday, July 24th, 2005

Joey Hester Newspaper

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Recommended Citation:

Hawthorne Papers – I. Grady County Museum and History Center, *Grady County Historical Society Collection: Hawthorne Papers – I*. Series 3, Item 7. Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7268>

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7-24-2005

Hester succeeds with character

Editor's Note: This is the sixth in a series of articles celebrating Cairo's Centennial, which is on Aug. 20. The Times-Enterprise is recognizing former Cairo athletes that have excelled on the playing field and in the community. Coming Tuesday, Duke Donaldson shares lessons he learned at Auburn with current Cairo students.

By Clint Thompson
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THOMASVILLE — Joey Hester's athleticism made him a legend on the football field.

His humbleness, however, is what made him stand out among the rest.

Even after nearly 20 years away from the game of football, Hester does not gloat about the All-American status he achieved his senior year at Cairo or the time he signed a free agent contract with the Green Bay Packers. Rather, he prefers to talk about his family and his gratefulness for being given the shot to play.

"When you step away from it, you can respect it," said Hester. "I was just glad they have it in America."

"It's just an era in your life. I guess it's something to have and enjoy."

"He never talks about himself," said his proud dad, Billy Hester. "I guess he's always

been that way. He's always let his playing speak for his actions."

Joey Hester's playing spoke volumes, especially his senior year. The Syrupmaker quarterback/kicker finished with 1,485 passing yards, 18 touchdowns and belted 32 of 54 kickoffs out of the end zone. Hester's play earned him player of the year honors by the Macon Grid Club and a spot on the Parade All-American team. But Hester will be the first person to give credit to those around him, starting with his coaches at Cairo.

"It's good that you have adults that see something and develop it," said Joey Hester.

Hester's development as a player started much earlier, when he was involved in punt, pass and kick competitions. It hit its peak his senior year when he was heavily recruited by colleges across the country. At one game that season, Georgia's Ray Goff, Florida State's Bobby Bowden and Auburn's Pat Dye were in attendance scouting the future All-American.

"It was very exciting to have college coaches seek you out and come to games," said Hester.

"I really didn't have to tell Joey much," said his father. "He was able to handle that himself."

Hester settled on playing

with the Bulldogs and much of that decision was based on Goff's devotion to Joey during one of the toughest times of his life. Hester's career nearly was cut short during the summer between his freshman and sophomore years at Cairo. Hester was involved in a car accident in which he broke his neck. Billy Hester said Goff told Joey he didn't have to play another down, that the Bulldogs will take him like he was. The future Bulldog recovered and eventually donned the Red and Black. But before he could play his first game with Georgia, adversity struck again. He injured his throwing arm and was forced to redshirt his freshman year.

"It just threw a whole monkey wrench in it," said Hester.

But it didn't stop him from playing with the Dawgs, as he served as the team's punter the rest of his collegiate career. Following his stint at Georgia, Hester signed a free-agent contract with the Packers and also played with a semi-pro team, the Alabama Raiders. But while he will always be remembered as one of the best quarterbacks to come out of the Syrup City, he's just glad to be given the opportunity.

"I got where I wanted to be," said Joey Hester. "God was good."



Submitted photo
Joey Hester overcame a broken neck suffered in a car accident to earn All-American honors as a senior quarterback with Cairo before heading to the University of Georgia.



SPORTS BRIEFS

Armstrong wins final time trial

SAINT-ETIENNE, France (AP) — As if Lance Armstrong had anything left to prove, as if his crowning achievement really needed an emphatic stamp, cycling's greatest champion gave his best performance Saturday — claiming the stage win he lacked and all but guaranteeing a seventh consecutive Tour de France victory.


Armstrong swept away any notion that this Tour would be somehow incomplete without winning a complete without winning a stage, pouring on speed at the end of Saturday's time trial to round out his unparalleled career. Unlike his previous six winning Tours, the American had not won an individual stage — until Saturday's 20th.

He beat stage runner-up Jan Ullrich by 23 seconds and extended his already comfortable overall race lead to 4:40 over Ivan Basso of Italy, setting him up for a victory ride on the last leg into Paris on Sunday, when the 33-year-old will retire.

Padres acquire Randa from Reds

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The slumping NL West-leading San Diego Padres acquired third baseman Joe Randa from the Cincinnati Reds on Saturday and demoted slug-

SCOREBOARD

SPORTS ON TV

By The Associated Press
Today, July 24

AUTO RACING
1:30 p.m.
TNT — NASCAR, Nextel Cup, Pennsylvania 500, at Long Pond, Pa.

CYCLING
7:30 a.m.
OLN — Tour de France, stage 21, Corbel-Estoules to Paris, Champs-Élysées

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL
3 p.m.
WGN — Boston at Chicago White Sox
4:30 p.m.
TS — Atlanta at Arizona
8 p.m.
ESPN — Chicago Cubs at St. Louis

NASCAR

NASCAR-Nextel Cup
Pennsylvania 500 Lineup
By The Associated Press
Today
At Pocono Raceway
Long Pond, Pa.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

- 142 Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 168.761
- 97 Kurt Busch, Ford, 168.530
- 16 Mark Martin, Ford, 168.362
- 12 Ryan Newman, Dodge, 168.248
- 21 Ricky Rudd, Ford, 167.867
- 20 Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 167.532
- 16 Greg Biffle, Ford, 167.230
- 25 Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 167.230
- 48 Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 167.072
- 29 Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 167.072
- 22 Scott Wimmer, Chevrolet, 166.911
- 49 Ken Schrader, Dodge, 166.713
- 27 Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 166.583
- 21 Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 166.472
- 9 Casey Mears, Dodge, 166.217
- 19 Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 166.136

Colorado (Chacon 1-6) at Pittsburgh (Redman 4-10), 1:35 p.m.
San Diego (Lawrence 5-9) at Philadelphia (Myers 7-5), 1:35 p.m.
Florida (A.J. Burnett 6-6) at San Francisco (Conesa 1-1), 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Ramirez 8-5) at Arizona (Vazquez 8-9), 4:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Prior 7-3) at St. Louis (Suppan 9-7), 8:05 p.m.

Monday's Games
Arizona at Milwaukee, 8:05 p.m.
San Francisco at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Colorado, 9:05 p.m.
Cincinnati at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

American League
At A Glance
By The Associated Press
All Times EDT
East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	53	43	.552	—
New York	51	44	.537	1 1/2
Baltimore	50	45	.528	2 1/2
Toronto	48	48	.500	5
Tampa Bay	33	64	.340	20 1/2

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	63	32	.663	—
Minnesota	52	44	.542	11 1/2
Cleveland	50	48	.510	14 1/2
Detroit	48	48	.500	15 1/2
Kansas City	35	61	.365	29 1/2

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	58	39	.598	—
Oakland	51	45	.531	6 1/2
Texas	48	47	.505	9
Seattle	42	54	.438	15 1/2

Friday's Games
Detroit 12, Minnesota 8
Seattle 4, Cleveland 3
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 5
Oakland 11, Texas 10
Chicago White Sox 8, Boston 4
Kansas City 5, Toronto 3
L.A. Angels 6, N.Y. Yankees 3

Saturday's Games
Detroit 2, Minnesota 1, 1st game
Cleveland 4, Seattle 3
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 7:05 p.m., 2nd game
Boston at Chicago White Sox, 7:05 p.m.
Toronto at Kansas City, 7:10 p.m.
Oakland at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, 10:05 p.m.

Today's Games
Seattle (Sole 6-10) at Cleveland (Milne 3-9), 1:05 p.m.
Minnesota (Loise 7-8) at Detroit (Bordeman 12-4), 1:05 p.m.
Oakland (Harden 7-4) at Texas (Park 8-4), 2:05 p.m.
Toronto (Juby 8-9) at Kansas City (Carrasco 4-4), 2:10 p.m.
Baltimore (Bedard 5-1) at Tampa Bay (Fossum 4-8), 2:15 p.m.

STOLEN BASES—Podsednik, Chicago, 50; Figgins, Los Angeles, 32; Crawford, Tampa Bay, 30; Lugo, Tampa Bay, 28; Suzuki, Seattle, 23; Thayer, Minnesota, 21; Womack, New York, 20.

PITCHING (9 Decisions)—Crain, Minnesota, 9-1, 900, 2.18; Garland, Chicago, 15-4, 789, 3.19; Buehler, Chicago, 11-3, 786, 2.66; Hernandez, Chicago, 7-2, 778, 4.98; Clement, Boston, 10-3, 769, 4.30; Halladay, Toronto, 12-4, 750, 2.41; Cilew, Cleveland, 11-4, 733, 3.87; Rogers, Texas, 11-4, 733, 2.71.

STRIKEOUTS—JoSantana, Minnesota, 149; RajJohnson, New York, 131; Lackey, Los Angeles, 125; Halladay, Toronto, 108; Bordeman, Detroit, 107; Clement, Boston, 106; Cabrera, Baltimore, 102.

SAVES—Nathan, Minnesota, 26; Rivera, New York, 24; Wickman, Cleveland, 24; Rodriguez, Los Angeles, 23; FClenden, Texas, 22; Hemanison, Chicago, 22; Guardado, Seattle, 22.

LPGA

LPGA Evian Masters Scores
By The Associated Press
Saturday
At Evian Masters Golf Club
Evian, France
Purse: \$2.5 million
Yardage: 6,258; Par: 72
a-amateur
Final

Paula Creamer, \$375,000	68-68-66-71	—	273
a-Michelle Wie	75-70-68-68	—	281
Lorina Cochran, \$246,064	71-69-72-69	—	281
Lorie Kane, \$178,502	71-74-66-71	—	282
Heini Alfredsson, \$90,486	74-72-72-65	—	283
Marie Hjorth, \$90,486	69-72-74-68	—	283
Meena Lee, \$90,486	71-74-66-70	—	283
Carin Koch, \$90,486	66-73-74-70	—	283
Christina Kim, \$90,486	68-68-75-72	—	283
Karina Icher, \$90,486	71-70-68-74	—	283
Liselotte Neumann, \$54,561	74-71-71-68	—	284
Anrika Sorrenstam, \$50,520	72-66-72-75	—	285
Karin Webb, \$47,152	70-70-71-75	—	286
Cande Kung, \$40,416	70-75-74-68	—	287
Gloria Park, \$40,416	72-73-72-70	—	287
Maria Baera, \$40,416	66-75-73-73	—	287
Laura Davies, \$40,416	69-70-70-78	—	287
Iben Tinning, \$34,219	72-72-74-70	—	288
Michelle Redman, \$34,219	72-73-70-73	—	288
Sophie Gustafson, \$30,447	70-74-76-69	—	289
Hee-Won Han, \$30,447	71-73-72-73	—	289
Kirsty Taylor, \$30,447	69-75-71-74	—	289
Shari Waugh, \$30,447	72-72-70-75	—	289
Jennifer Rosales, \$26,720	77-70-71-72	—	290
Shari Steinhilber, \$26,720	71-72-74-73	—	290
Paula Math, \$26,720	74-69-71-78	—	290
Grace Park, \$22,929	73-75-74-69	—	291
Rosie Jones, \$22,929	74-76-70-71	—	291
Veronica Zozz, \$22,929	75-70-74-72	—	291
Becky Morgan, \$22,929	74-75-68-74	—	291
Bo Bai Song, \$22,929	72-75-69-75	—	291
Nastie Gulbis, \$18,366	72-80-70-70	—	292
Jiyoung Jang, \$16,366	75-76-70-71	—	292
Caecilia Matthew, \$16,366	78-72-71-71	—	292
Cecilia Ekelund, \$16,366	79-73-69-72	—	292

Denis O'Sullivan, Ireland 76-77-72— 225 +12
Don Reese, United States 77-76-72— 225 +12
Mike Ferguson, Australia 77-79-70— 225 +12
Alan Tape, United States 74-75-77— 226 +13
Bruce Heuchan, Canada 77-79-71— 226 +13
Norm Jarvis, Canada 77-71-78— 226 +13
Maurice Bembridge, England 77-75-75— 227 +14
Sam Torrance, Scotland 77-75-75— 227 +14
Russell Weir, Scotland 79-74-74— 227 +14
Katsuyoshi Tomori, Japan 79-76-73— 227 +14
Jim Rhodes, England 76-73-76— 227 +14
Kevin Spurgeon, England 76-75-75— 228 +15
Luis Carbonell, Argentina 76-78-74— 228 +15
Gary Player, South Africa 82-74-72— 228 +15
John Harris, United States 77-75-76— 228 +15
Bob Shearer, Australia 78-75-75— 228 +15
Adrian Morow, Ireland 79-78-71— 228 +15
John Grace, United States 82-73-73— 228 +15
Yoshimi Nizeki, Japan 82-72-74— 228 +15
Martin Poxon, England 81-73-74— 228 +15
Joe Imman, United States 85-72-71— 228 +15
Hex Caldwell, United States 80-75-74— 229 +16
Bernus Smit, South Africa 84-72-73— 229 +16
Terry Gale, Australia 73-81-75— 229 +16
Christy O'Connor Jr., Ireland 81-73-75— 229 +16
Donald Stirling, Austria 79-76-74— 229 +16
Mike Sullivan, United States 76-77-74— 229 +16
Gery Watne, France 76-79-72— 229 +16
John Baldwin, United States 80-75-75— 230 +17
Eamonn Darcy, Ireland 78-74-79— 230 +17
Bob Charles, New Zealand 76-78-74— 230 +17
Gary Koch, United States 84-73-73— 230 +17
John E. Morgan, England 77-80-74— 231 +18
John Jacobs, United States 79-78-74— 231 +18
Manuel Piore, Spain 81-76-74— 231 +18
Gavan Levenson, South Africa 77-79-76— 232 +19
Nick Job, England 76-81-75— 232 +19
Brian Evans, England 76-74-80— 232 +19
Doug Johnson, United States 75-81-78— 232 +19
Peter Jacobsen, United States 83-74-75— 232 +19
Delsey Cambridge, Jamaica 80-74-79— 233 +20
William Mine, Scotland 79-78-76— 233 +20
Guillermo Encina, Chile 78-77-79— 234 +21
Ray Camacho, United States 82-75-77— 234 +21
T.R. Jones, United States 84-75-79— 235 +22
Tony Price, Wales 75-80-80— 235 +22
Martin Foster, England 77-79-80— 236 +23
Denis Dorman, England 77-80-80— 236 +23
Andy North, United States 76-79-84— 239 +26

FLORIDA

Cash 3
7-5-1
(seven, five, one)

Play 4
4-8-1-8
(four, eight, one, eight)

GEORGIA

Cash 3 Midday
1-3-1
(one, three, one)

Cash 4 Midday
6-4-0-4
(six, four, zero, four)

Cash 3 Evening
5-3-0
(five, three, zero)

TRANSACTIONS

Saturday's Sports Transactions
By The Associated Press
BASEBALL
American League
DETROIT TIGERS—Recalled RHP Justin Verlander from Erie of the IL. Optioned INF Kevin Hooper to Toledo of the IL.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Recalled RHP Kyle Snyder from Omaha of the PCL. Optioned LHP J.P. Howell to Omaha.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Optioned OF Michael Ryan to Rochester of the IL. Recalled RHP Scott Baker from Rochester.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Recalled RHP David Bush from Syracuse of the IL.

National League
17. Bobby Julch, United States, CSC, 24.08

LOTTERY

FLORIDA

Cash 3
7-5-1
(seven, five, one)

Play 4
4-8-1-8
(four, eight, one, eight)

GEORGIA

Cash 3 Midday
1-3-1
(one, three, one)

Cash 4 Midday
6-4-0-4
(six, four, zero, four)

Cash 3 Evening
5-3-0
(five, three, zero)

5. Ivan Basso, Italy, CSC, 1:54.
6. Floyd Landis, USA, Phonak, 2:02.
7. Cadel Evans, Australia, Davitamon-Lotto, 2:06.
8. George Hincapie, USA, Discovery Channel, 2:25.
9. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Balears, 2:51.
10. Vladimir Karpets, Russia, Illes Balears, 3:05.
11. Yaroslav Popovych, Ukraine, Discovery Channel, 3:09.
12. Carlos Sastre, Spain, CSC, 3:10.
13. Christophe Moreau, France, Credit Agricole, 3:11.
14. Levi Leipheimer, USA, Gerolsteiner, 3:13.
15. Oscar Pereiro, Spain, Phonak, 3:25.
16. Sebastian Lang, Germany, Gerolsteiner, 3:26.
17. Luke Roberts, Australia, CSC, 3:47.
18. Dario Cioni, Italy, Liquigas-Bianchi, 3:51.
19. Jorg Jakobsch, Germany, Liberty Seguros, 3:51.
20. Fabian Cancellara, Switzerland, Fassa Bortolo, 4:03.

Overall Standings
(After 20 stages)

1. Lance Armstrong, United States, Discovery Channel, 82 hours, 34 minutes, 05 seconds
2. Ivan Basso, Italy, CSC, 4 minutes, 40 seconds behind
3. Jan Ullrich, Germany, T-Mobile, 6:21
4. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Balears, 9:58
5. Levi Leipheimer, United States, Gerolsteiner, 11:25
6. Alexandre Vinokourov, Kazakhstan, T-Mobile, 11:27
7. Michael Rasmussen, Denmark, Rabobank, 11:33
8. Cadel Evans, Australia, Davitamon-Lotto, 11:55
9. Floyd Landis, United States, Phonak, 12:44
10. Oscar Pereiro, Spain, Phonak, 16:04
11. Christophe Moreau, France, Credit Agricole, 16:26
12. Yaroslav Popovych, Ukraine, Discovery Channel, 19:02
13. Eddy Mazzoleni, Italy, Lampo, 21:06
14. George Hincapie, United States, Discovery Channel, 23:42
15. Heiner Zibelda, Spain, Euskaltel-Euskadi, 23:43