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Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

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1 Wildcat boys reach Division IV Final Four

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3 TEXT BODY:

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4 Throughout the regular season, the Twin Valley Wildcats
5 established themselves as one of top teams in Division IV boys'
6 basketball.

7 With the one-two scoring punch of Brayden and Landon
8 Brown and a strong supporting cast, the Wildcats had seven wins
9 when they scored more than 90 points, including three 100-plus
10 point games.

11 They earned the No. 5 seed in the Division IV
12 tournament and kept their regular season momentum rolling by
13 winning their first two playoff games to advance to the Final Four
14 at the Barre Auditorium.

15 At press time, Twin Valley was set to face top-seeded
16 Twinfield in a semifinal at the Aud on March 9. The winner will
17 face the winner of the other semifinal that night between No. 2
18 West Rutland and No. 6 Williamstown in the championship on
19 March 14 at the Aud.

20 In their first-round game on March 4 in Whitingham, the
21 Wildcats blasted the No. 12 Poultney Blue Devils, 95-35. Junior
22 Brayden Brown was the high scorer with 33 points, plus seven
23 rebounds and nine assists. His younger brother, Landon Brown,
24 had 21 points, 10 rebounds, seven assists, and six steals. Junior
25 Niko Gerding finished with 17 points and senior Steve Oyer
26 added nine points. Eric Kendall led the Devils with 13 points.

27 Twin Valley took control early with 27-3 run to take a
28 36-6 lead by the end of first quarter. The lead was 54-11 by
29 halftime, and the Wildcats played their reserves for most of the
30 second half. It was the second time this season that the Wildcats
31 had scored more than 90 points against Poultney. During a Dec.
32 13 game, Twin Valley thumped the Devils, 110-32, to set a new
33 school record for most points scored in a boys' game.

34 The Wildcats' quarterfinal game in Rutland on March 6
35 against the No. 4 Mount St. Joseph Mounties was more
36 competitive, but Twin Valley came away with a 77-62 victory.
37 Brayden Brown led the Wildcats with 27 points, including a 19-
38 for-21 performance at the free throw line. Landon Brown
39 followed with 20 points, and Gerding and Sullivan added 12 and
40 nine points, respectively.

41 Twin Valley led 36-14 at the half. The Mounties put up a
42 good fight in the second half, as Gavin Treanor led MSJ with a
43 game-high 28 points; 24 of them coming in the third and fourth
44 quarters.

45 ***Boys' basketball***

46 • Both Brattleboro and Bellows Falls had quick exits
47 from their respective first-round tournament games on March 4.

48 In Division I, No. 9 Brattleboro lost to No. 8 Mount
49 Mansfield, 71-50, in Jericho. The Bears ended their season with
50 an 8-13 record and will lose only two players — Alasdair Jenks
51 and Matthew Worden, to graduation.

52 In Division III, No. 12 Bellows Falls lost on the road to
53 No. 5 Vergennes, 76-55. The 8-12 Terriers will lose several player
54 to graduations — Coby Leveque, Dean Ryea, Reed Hill, Brayden
55 Wyman, Declan Lisai, and Camden Perry.

56 ***Ice hockey***

57 • Both Brattleboro teams were eliminated on the road in
58 the first round of their respective tournaments in Division II.

59 The ninth-seeded Brattleboro girls lost at No. 8 Stowe, 9-
60 1, on March 3. The Bears finished with an 0-18-1 record,
61 including a 3-3 tie against Burr & Burton at home on Feb. 9.

62 The 12th-seeded Brattleboro boys lost to No. 5
63 Middlebury, 8-1, on March 4. They ended a difficult season at 2-
64 18-1.

65 ***Public hearing on deer and moose***
66 ***management set for March 16 at BUHS***

67 • The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department and the
68 Vermont Fish & Wildlife Board will hold a public hearing on deer
69 and moose management for 2026 on Monday, March 16, at 6
70 p.m. at Brattleboro Union High School.

71 This hearing, one of three scheduled around the state this
72 month, will include results of Vermont's 2025 deer seasons and
73 prospects for deer hunting next fall as well as an opportunity for
74 people to provide their observations and opinions about the
75 current status of the deer herd. The hearing will also include a
76 review of the 2025 moose hunting seasons and an opportunity
77 for the public to provide feedback on the number of moose
78 permits recommended for 2026.

79 Pre-recorded videos of the moose and deer presentations
80 that will be given at these meetings will be available by going to
81 the “Public Hearings Schedule” at vtfishandwildlife.com. The Fish
82 & Wildlife Department’s 2026 Moose Season Recommendation is
83 also available on that page.

84 In addition to the public hearings, anyone can leave a
85 comment on the proposals by emailing
86 ANR.FWPublicComment@vermont.gov. Comments on moose
87 must be received by March 31 and for deer by May 12.

88 ***Volunteer at a state park this summer***

89 How would you like to spend a season at a state park
90 and get a free full hookup campsite for your RV in exchange for
91 volunteer hours? It can happen through the Vermont State Parks
92 Volunteer Program.

93 This program was started to expand work experiences
94 available in state parks and to strengthen the range of services the
95 parks provide to visitors. Volunteering may include visitor
96 registration, fee collection, customer service, leading nature
97 programs, cleaning restrooms, cleaning campsites, lawn mowing,
98 landscaping and beautification, park cleanup at opening or
99 closing, or staffing special events.

100 Volunteers work 30 hours per week, per site, and receive
101 free use of a campsite with hookups (most have water, electric
102 and sewer), propane refills, free admission to State Parks, and
103 discounted or free admission to many Vermont tourist attractions.
104 Volunteers provide their own self-contained camping equipment.

105 Campground volunteers are provided with identification
106 and staff uniforms. Duties and schedules vary and are set by the
107 Park Ranger at a specific park depending on the needs of the
108 park, staff, and volunteers. Generally, volunteers work between 3
109 and 5 days per week and receive consecutive days off.

110 Campground volunteer slots are available locally from
111 May through October at Fort Dummer State Park in Brattleboro,
112 Jamaica State Park, and Molly Stark State Park in Wilmington.
113 Camping volunteers are asked to commit to a minimum six-week

114 stay. They welcome people of all interests and abilities to fill roles
115 in all areas of their operation. If you're interested, visit
116 vtstateparks.com/volunteering.

117 ***A reminder to remove ice shanties***

118 • Vermont state law requires that ice fishing shanties be
119 removed from the ice before the ice weakens according the
120 Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department. The shanty must be
121 removed before the ice becomes unsafe or loses its ability to
122 support the shanty out of the water, or before the last Sunday in
123 March — the 29th this year — whichever comes first.

124 All contents, debris, wood, and supports must also be
125 removed so they do not become a hazard to navigation in the
126 spring. Leaving your ice fishing shanty on the ice can result in a
127 fine and points on your license, and shanties may not be left at
128 state fishing access areas.

129 ***Sign-ups begin for Rec. Dept. summer*** 130 ***programs***

131 • The Brattleboro Recreation & Parks Department says
132 that registration for summer camps and programs will begin both
133 online and in person on Monday, March 16. Individuals can
134 register online at vtbrattleboroweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web
135 or in person Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m. at
136 the Gibson-Aiken Center.

137 For all programs, events, facility information, and more,
138 visit their website at brattleboro.gov. Once you are on this page
139 hover over the Departments tab on the blue horizontal bar. A
140 new drop-down menu will appear and click Recreation and
141 Parks. If there are special needs required for these programs, let
142 them know at least five days in advance. For more information,
143 call the Gibson-Aiken office at 802-254-5808.

144 ***The Caldwell legacy***

145 • When talking about Nordic skiing in the U.S., the
146 Caldwell family has had a big role in shaping the sport. At the

147 head of the family tree is John Caldwell, who died Feb. 28 at age
148 97.

149 The longtime Putney resident skied in the 1952
150 Olympics, and coached the U.S. cross-country Olympic teams in
151 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972, and 1984. He also coached at The
152 Putney School from the mid-1950s until his 1989 retirement. He
153 is considered one of the seminal figures in the growth of Nordic
154 skiing in the U.S. in the second half of the 20th century.

155 One of his sons, Tim Caldwell, competed in four
156 Olympics, finishing sixth at the 1976 Winter Games, and John's
157 best known protege, Bill Koch, became the first American to win
158 an Olympic medal in Nordic skiing in the 1976 games. Another
159 son, Sverre, set up the SMS Nordic program, which he coached
160 for three decades until his retirement. His daughter Jennifer, who
161 died in 2011, won the American Birkebeiner, the largest cross-
162 country skiing race in North America.

163 Sverre was one of the founders of the SMS T2 Nordic
164 training team with help from Koch. Jesse Diggins and Landgrove's
165 Ben Ogden were both medalists at this year's winter games, a
166 testimony to the strength of SMS's training program. Sverre's
167 daughter, Sophie, became the third Caldwell to ski in the
168 Olympics in 2014.

169 John Caldwell has left us, but his contributions to Nordic
170 skiing live on has been carried on by his children and
171 grandchildren. John's star pupil, Bill Koch, helped Ogden become
172 only the second U.S. male to win an Olympic medal in Nordic
173 skiing. And John's children and grandchildren and nieces and
174 nephews have built upon his considerable legacy, both as
175 competitors and coaches, ensuring that the tradition of Caldwells
176 leading the way will continue for years to come.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

177 **RANDOLPH T. HOLHUT** , deputy editor of this
178 newspaper, has written this column since 2010 and has covered
179 sports in Windham County since the 1980s. Readers can send
180 him sports information at news@commonsnews.org.

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

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