

## Traveling trophy



Athletes at Carroll and Delphi will vie for the new Mike Landis Traveling Trophy when the two schools play each other in varsity sports beginning this season. The 'skillet' will remain as the trophy for the annual Bacon Bowl. Delphi athletic director Vince Burpo said he hoped the trophy would honor Landis and help spark the friendly rivalry between the schools. Landis was athletic director at both schools and a football coach at Carroll for several years. He died in an automobile accident while he was athletic director at McCutcheon in Lafayette. "Mike made a lot of friends at Delphi and Carroll," Burpo said. "We hope this will be a fun and meaningful way to keep the healthy spirit of competition he offered going." Comet photo by Kevin Schnepf

# Cougars get first victory

By Mike Hoffman  
Contributing sportswriter

The Carroll Cougars recorded their first victory of the season with a hard fought 28-13 win over the Tri Central Trojans.

The win was Carroll's first Hoosier Heartland Conference game of the year, even sweeter because the coaching staff had to rely on the backups with the team's number one quarterback and leading rusher home sick. The Cougars also have a few walking wounded on the sidelines with injuries such as a torn ACL, hand cast, and one with an ankle injury in this game.

Junior Derek Finley filled in at quarterback for Riley Eller who was home sick. Finley did a good job, running for three touchdowns and throwing a 26-yard TD pass to Drew Yoder.

Carroll's offensive line did a good job as the backs had room to run. Finley rushed for 82-yards, as the Cougars had 112 total yards rushing to just 24 yards for the Trojans.

However, the Trojans won the air attack. They were 14 of 26 with 2 interceptions for 250 yards. They rushed 31 times for 24 yards.

On Carroll's first touchdown drive, Finley scored on a 5-yard run. Skylar Bagwell's kick was good; 7-0 Cougars.

The Trojans took the kickoff and the Cougar defense forced them to go 4 and out. The Cougars started at the Trojans' 32-yard line. Bagwell carried for 4-yards, then Ben Bennington carried for a first down. The Cougars ran the ball, and then Justin

Mathews caught a Finley pass for a first down. Finley finished the drive with a 2-yard touchdown run at 37.6 (1). Bagwell's kick was good; 14-0 Cougars.

Tri Central had a 14-yard return to the 26 on the kickoff. The Trojans ran twice and got nowhere before Broc Sheets threw a 48-yard pass for a first down. On the next play, the Trojan player found Thomas "Big Cat" Gillam waiting for him. Gillam wrapped him up for a loss. The Cougars took over on their own 13-yard line.

However, the Cougars couldn't move the football and had to punt. The Cougars also had a holding penalty that hurt them on the play.

The Trojans took over on the 45-yard line. Their offense had 2 connective 5-yard penalties that made it first and 20. The Cougar defense then had a major penalty called on them that gave the Trojans a first down. The Trojan receiver caught the pass and ran, holding the ball like a loaf of bread which he fumbled and the Cougars' Brandon Williamson recovered it.

The Cougars had the ball on the 40-yard line and carried and gained about 6 yards. The Trojans were called for off sides, giving the Cougars the first down and new life. Finley passed to Bennington for 9 yards. Bennington got the call and carried the ball for a first down. Finley found Drew Yoder for a 26-yard TD pass. Bagwell's kick was good for 21-0 at 1:54 left in the first half.

Tri-Central mounted its drive from the 37-yard line,

aided by an interference call on the Cougars.

The Trojans went to the air, knowing that was the Cougars weak spot. TC's Broc Sheets scored on a 2-yard run. The kick was good, 21-7 0:18 (2).

At the end of the first half Carroll was up 21-7. The third quarter was a defensive battle with neither team moving the ball.

At the start of the fourth quarter the Cougars came up short and had to punt. The Trojans just couldn't get over the hump. At times they had the momentum swinging their way, only to be intercepted. The Trojans were tackled for loss behind the line of scrimmage, were intercepted twice and lost a fumble.

The Cougars intercepted a Sheets pass at the Trojan 13-yard line. On the next play Finley went 13-yards untouched for the Cougars' final score. Bagwell's kick was good; 28-7.

The Trojans weren't giving up yet. After the kickoff the Trojans were called for a personal foul and started at their 15-yard line. Following a pass play and a run they had a first down. Sheets then had a big gain for the first down. But the Cougars stopped the drive and had the ball on the 39-yard line. Brandon Williamson came in and carried for a Carroll first down. The Trojan defense shut down the Cougar offense, stopping the Cougars at the 20-yard line; Tri Central ball.

Gillam hit Sheets for a loss. On a third down. Sheets found a receiver for the first down. Then the Trojans' quarterback found Sheets for

a 47-yard TD pass with 28.0 left in the game. The extra point was no good.

This was a great game for the young Cougars. They found out that they can win, even if their top quarterback and top rusher aren't there.

Finley rushed for 82-yards and 3 TDs; Bagwell rushed for 41-yards; and Bennington rushed for 59-yards.

Finley also had a 26-yard TD pass to Yoder, good job Mr. Finley.

On defense, Bennington had 8 tackles, 1 sack and caused a fumble; Finley 6 tackles and Bagwell had 3 tackles and 2 interceptions.

This weekend the Cougars have a late Saturday afternoon game at Fremont. Game time is 4 p.m. The Eagles lost their last game against Fairfield 66-6.



*Carroll  
County  
Comet*

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## Matt Benner writes cross country novel

By Jennifer Archibald  
Staff writer

Matthew (Matt) Benner is a local teacher, coach, and now, a published author.

His book is titled "Tales of the 5K." It will be officially released on Sept. 24.

With 200 pages and 28 chapters, Benner said the

book is mainly for teenagers and adults.

"It should appeal to anyone interested in running," he said.

The book is about "John," a senior at a small high school and captain of his cross country team. It's about all the challenges the team faces – not just the opponents, but

the injuries, conflicts between team members, legal technicalities, etc. Ultimately, there is a David versus Goliath showdown. There is also a contest between the cross country team and the football team to determine which sport is tougher.

Benner ran cross country at Lewis Cass High School and at Franklin College, and he's now junior high head coach for both the cross country and track teams at Carroll Jr.-Sr. High School.

He said his book characters and what happens to them were influenced by what he's experienced and seen as a runner and coach. He quickly added that the story is fiction and the characters do not represent real people.



Benner

"In fact, some situations in the book are the opposite of what happened in real life," he said.

This is Benner's first book. He said it took him a year and a half to write. He wrote in his spare time – when he wasn't coaching, or teaching

third grade at Carroll Elementary.

He first thought about writing a book after he took a teaching workshop on writing four years ago.

"When I first started writing, it was just to get a book written," Benner said. "I didn't think about getting it published."

Once it was written, he decided to look online for a publisher and chose PublishAmerica. Advance copies can be ordered from [www.publishamerica.com/shopping/index.htm](http://www.publishamerica.com/shopping/index.htm). After the book is released, Benner said it will be available at limited bookstores and from online book sites. He plans to donate a copy to the Flora-Monroe Township Public Library.

He autographed some of his books at the Caston cross country invitational on Saturday and plans to do the same at Carroll invitationals on Sept. 6 and 10.

Writing his first book was only the beginning. He said he has two more books in the works. One is a children's book about healthy lifestyles. The other is another cross country novel, although he said it's from an entirely different angle.

Benner, his wife Amber, son Kaden and daughter Kaitlyn live in Walton.

# Oracles bedeviled at West Side

By Todd Swank  
Contributing sportswriter

The Delphi Oracles football team went on the road for the third time in as many weeks, this time at West Lafayette. They limped home on the short side of a 45-21 score despite the workhorse effort of running back Cory Banes, who accounted for the bulk of Delphi's offense with over 30 carries.

On a beautiful Friday night, the combined bands of WL and Delphi started the show with the playing of the National Anthem. The Oracles received the opening kick and began their first possession on their 21-yard line. The Oracles could only manage one first down before punting the ball away. WL started their initial drive at their own 31. Three consecutive completed passes moved the ball to the Oracle 24. Three plays later a 7-yard run and extra point put the Devils out in front 7-0.

On the ensuing kickoff Michael Myers started up the middle when he was hit hard. This caused a fumble that WL recovered at the Delphi 38. Delphi held this time. A pair of illegal procedure penalties against WL and a pair of sacks by the Oracles - Cory Banes had one with Jarett Baird and Braden Atwood combining to get the other - gave WL a 4th and 32 at their own 40. After a Delphi punt, WL tried a backward pass that was dropped. The Oracles' Kyle Stonebraker picked up the ball and ran it in for a touchdown to tie the score at 7-7. On WL's next possession they moved the ball to the Delphi 16-yard line. Again the Oracles' defense stepped up. This time

on a 4th and 2, Michael Myers and Matt Lewis stopped the WL runner for a 1-yard gain and forced a turnover to end the first period.

WL made it 10-7 on a 34-yard field goal, following a ten-play, 47-yard drive. After stopping the Oracles, WL again scored to make it 17-7. Once more, the WL defense forced a turnover. This time a blocked punt gave the ball to the Red Devils at the Delphi 17. A 17-yard pass pushed the score to 24-7. That was how the first half ended.

Both teams came out of the locker room fired up; each team on their first possession scored a TD. A WL 50-yard drive, highlighted by a 40-yard pass to open the second half stretched the lead to 31-7. WL attempted to surprise the Oracles with a onside kick.

The Oracles' kick return team was ready to give the offense a short field to work with. Delphi had the ball at the WL 45 to start. Eight consecutive carries by Banes resulted in a TD to cut the lead to 31-14. It took less than two minutes for WL to get the score back, making it 38-14. A great punt return by WL to the Oracle 25 made it easy for the Red Devils to take a 45-14 lead into the final quarter.

Delphi moved the ball from its 38 to the WL 6 before stalling on a fourth and nine pass that fell incomplete. Delphi's final score came with 1:45 left in the game on a Banes' run. The final score ended at 45-21.

The Oracles have one more road game before returning home. They travel to Twin Lakes Friday night for a 7:30 p.m. kickoff.

## Carroll girls set new team golf record

The Carroll Girls Golf Team set a new 9-hole team record in defeating Lewis Cass and Winamac. Carroll won with a 178, followed by Lewis Cass with 191 and

Winamac 209. The previous record was 186.

Carroll was led by junior Megan Garrison and senior Krystal Brazel, both with a 37, earning them co-medal-

ist honors. Other Carroll scores were Taylor Sproul 49, Malena Zook 55 and Aurora Shands 56. Carroll is now 10-1.

## Vying for festival queen



Burlington Fall Festival Queen Contest will be held Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. in the Community Park Building. Contestants vying for the title are, from left: Front Row - Emmajo Cottrell, Megan Garrison, Caylin Hinkle, Lauren Bosley, and Lauren Wilkinson. Back Row - Ashley Davis, Cally Ayres, Kati Brewster, Tori Crum, and Amanda Plank. Not pictured are Kristen Arnett and Katie Pearson. Photo by Ty Wright Photography of Frankfort