

Squinter's Comments

The Annual (State) Match

The match was a success, in fact, a very large success from what I hear. I do hate that I missed it. We had the largest turnout ever and Harpe and Leatherneck did a wonderful job in making the match flow without any problems.

I want to thank all of you who included me in your prayers and thoughts, without the help of the good Lord I would not be recovering as well as I am. Thank you to all the friends that called and wished me well, it has made a world of difference.

I expect to see you at the May shoot, but I won't be able to shoot again until July.

Take care, be safe.

Squinter

The Gipper was Down (only temporarily)

Five heavy linemen slammed the Gipper on practice day. From the field he waved in his backup. The Gipper knew he couldn't play come game day.

The captain of the second string had never played a down, the Gipper had never fallen. 2nd string hadn't kept up with the playbook and there was little time. Cheerleader Ms Harpe shooed 2nd string on to the field. Cheerleaders are all alike; you are either a race horse or glue.

A team meeting was needed. Coach Lill threw down the playbook and the Gipper's game plan. FB Neck had some missing pieces. Dirty the Center said glad to see you step up. Randy the lineman said I got you covered. The guard Homewood Turtle was the opposite of optimistic; Homewood doesn't like changes at last minute. Freestate the fast HB said I don't think you can throw the long ball like the Gipper and shook his head in doubt. He said are you sure the Gipper will not be here. I said we are sure. Whitey the other HB was holding judgment. Shortstuff was listening. Rookie Grumpy McSwade listened silently.

T.O. (Dead Eye Doc) was AWOL with a gimp leg, but he assured he would be there come game day. If he lets us down, we gonna cut him. Gringo Ben, Homewood Lefty, FreeState, Parson, Winchester, Fleetwood Mac, Dead Eye Doc will be the RO's. We will red shirt T.J.Wild, Cooper York and Crazy Emit to help out.

The Friday pregame drills were run; side matches went well until we received tornado warnings about 5:00. We shut down rather than take a chance. The consolation was they could go eat seafood as they look forward to each year.

Game day came. 2nd string hadn't been nervous until the fireworks and music began. He pledged his allegiance to the flag so hard that all the butterflies were exhausted from his chest the kickoff was made. The RO's put the ball in play and never stopped running up good scores.

Big Nasty(Randy) and U.S.Marshall Big Daddy Jenkins were sent down field the first play, nobody wanted to tackle them.

The Posse leaders scored their four mandatory touchdowns by noon. Dirty called the six serving line play and it worked. The Mendenhall Fire Department fed 175 people or so in 20 minutes. The players rested under the big building and by 1:00 the Posse leaders took the field. They scored two more touchdowns by 2:30. All the players had plenty of time to rest for the halftime banquet that evening at the Ms Agriculture Museum. The chefs formed two lines and all the people were fed quickly. A lady sang to all the crowd as they dined. Beaux Beaux Lewis and Kid Charlemagne brought a total of eight family members back this year to the banquet.

Cheering and howling support of the side match award winners was encouraged. All the ladies who made the effort to dress in costume were rewarded with whistles covetous eyes from the cowboys. Whitey and FreeState delivered the awards without confusion.

The Gipper came on the stage to throw a few long passes at the Banquet. Whitey McCall did an end zone celebration dance of sorts after catching Stirrer Award. The Gipper received the Trail Boss award is exactly what it says. Squinter has been President for over five years.

Sunday morning the four remaining stages were completed by Noon. By 12:30 or so Diamond Lilly had the scoring done and the sterling silver buckles and other award were handed out. We called it a day and wished all the shooters a safe trip home. Many of them were not ready to go and would have stayed with indefinitely it appeared.

We had several workdays getting ready. A lot of people gave a lot of time and work. In the future we have to get back to keeping up with the work done and making sure the right worker bees get the credit. FreeState made 10 new targets at home and helped rework all the old targets. Dirty, Gringo Ben, Parson, Homewood, Buckbow, James Henry Parker, Hawg Runner, Rebelhawk, Smoking Preacher, Cataluma, Grumpy McSwade, Rockhammer and Big Nasty were always working without a fuss.

As the excitement of 3-day neared, Ms Harpe begged a job. She helped Dirty doing registration. Having fun is contagious and others want to help. Bonita (Ms Whitey McCall) has decided to also help Dirty with registration next year. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Squinter over saw the stage writing and wrote some of the stages. He organized the work days and getting the range ready. Diamond Lilly put the stage book together, oversaw the plaques, registration, organizing the posse grouping and tracking the winners of awards. Dirty organized the food vendors and registration at the range. Whitey coordinated the vendors. Leatherneck organized the banquet and took on the responsibility of Rangemaster in Squinter's absence.

So who is volunteering to be Posse Marshal next year?

harpe

Well, the dust has settled, all the cowboys and cowgirls have faded back into the mists of fantasy from whence they came and Purgatory is once more that sleepy little outpost on the Chickawaddie Creek RR. Our house is getting back to normal as match stuff is put away till next year and now we have a moment or two to reflect on friendships renewed, relationships mended, and all the hard work folks put in to make this the best annual match we've ever held.

Homewood Lefty and Buck Bow earned their awards many times over by always being there asking "what can I do now?" New members like Grumpy McSwade, Big Nasty Ten, James Henry Parker, Box Canyon and his dad Bob Bradford made a tremendous impact at workdays, proving the old saying that "Many hands make light work." Free State and Homewood Lefty welded targets, Hawg Runner repainted the train and the front gate, and Tex Kennedy made the great signs for the road. Short Stuff and Lilly walked the stages cleaning and picking up trash as well as straightening up around the church and Caledonia Parker did a wonderful job cleaning the big building. Gringo Ben and Parson never sat down and the odd jobs just kept getting done. Diamond Lilly also repainted all our sign buildings which brightened the place up. Squinter decided no home was complete without a welding machine and generator, but guess where they got used? Whitey McCall was always on the move, Iron Mule and so many others really put a shine on the range.

Pig Farmer cooked red beans and rice, and contrary to the stage in his Hash House, it was great. Bob Bradford made peach cobbler and Dirty and I almost fought over who was going to lick the Dutch ovens. Sharing was not an option.

I'd like to give special thanks to Kentucky Tom, Tobin Kid, and the Bayou Bounty Hunters for bringing their targets and running the Wild Bunch side match, and to Soiled Dove, Cameo Rose, Apache Bell, and Miss Charlotte for helping Lilly with scoring. Miz. Harpe and Hawg Runner helped tremendously with registration and bless Polly Scanlon's heart for laying out all the trophies. Also, muchas gracias to T.J. Wild, Crazy Emmitt, Cooper York, and Winchester for letting us rope them into being posse marshals, even though they were our guests. The Cowboy Way is alive and well in Purgatory.

We've received many complimentary emails, notes on the website and posts on the SASS wire concerning the match, but what makes me feel the best is all the comments about our hospitality. Nate Kiowa Jones said we treated him like a long lost son. Many of our out of town guests remarked that we were the friendliest match they'd been to. That truly exemplifies the match theme, "Deep in the heart of Mississippi."

Standing in front of the Bank and looking down the "street" at all the cowboys, cowgirls, and sutlers, it was hard to believe that a little less than 10 years ago, there was nothing here but "prairie"; who'd 'a thunk how far we could come, but I know it's just the beginning. Thanks to all the Peacemakers who helped in so many ways, and to Harpe who stepped in at the last minute to keep the train on the tracks when we needed him the most. Most of all, thanks to all of our friends for thinking enough of us to come play with us during these uncertain times.

Via con Dios,
Leatherneck

Howdy Folks,

Wow, the April shoot has come and gone. It being the first time the MS Peacemakers had put on the State match turned out very well. My thanks and gratitude to those who sacrificed so much so that so many could have a wonderful time. I would also like to thank the Blackfish Kid for coming down from TN and helped me to accomplish something I had only dreamed of in the side matches. Hopefully I can make the trip this year to their match and we can get together and really push the envelope. I know many will be headed to Mule Camp in May and I want to wish each one the best of shooting. God speed and I hope to see ya'll soon.

Parson

A few words from the Editor

Comments from others just sort of says a lot, check out what others had to say about the 2008 Mississippi State Mach at Purgatory.

<http://sassnet.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=96710&hl=mississippi>

SO MANY folks had such a large part in the overall success of the match that we would run out of room on the website to say THANK YOU to all of YOU. Read over Leatherneck's article, lots and lots of folks just doing what had to be done and doing it in the 'cowboy way'. What more can be said?

Read Harpe's article and you'll begin to see that there is no end to the 'spirit of the game' that lives in the hearts of the cowboys and cowgirls of Purgatory.

And to our cowboy and cowgirl pards from other clubs who helped to make this Annual Match one of Mississippi's best ever. Thank You from your Purgatory pards.

And "behind the scenes", so many little things that needed doing got done and it seems that nobody knows how, just did.

And the food wasn't bad either. Hats off to the Mendenhall Volunteer Fire Department.

And to our vendors we hope you felt welcome and that business was GOOD!

Well, 2010 is just a short two years away and I'll wager we do better.