

Toomb Receives Award



KENT TOOMB, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Toomb, Lebanon was awarded the Irvin Wall Memorial Outstanding Freshman Athlete Award at Lebanon Union High School this year.

He broke the freshman defensive scoring record in football, and was voted the most improved player on the freshman basketball team. He earned his varsity letter in track with his high jump, long jump and triple jump. In the triple jump he broke the freshman school record by over three feet, with a best jump of 39 ft. 70 inches.

His father held the high jump record in the SRV Conference for 17 years. His 6 ft. 2 1/2 in. record was set at Nyssa High School back in 1955 under the coaching of Kinsey Keveren.

Kent is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. John K. Mullins, Nyssa, Mrs. Florine Winter of Fruitland and the late Robert Toomb.



JUVENILE PRAIRIE FALCONS note: more striped breast than adults and moustache stripe.



ADULT PRAIRIE FALCON note: black patch at base of wings.

Prairie Falcon Most Common Locally

Photo by Bradford D. Price,
Wildlife Technician

Falcons are the quickest flying of all raptorial birds. The most common falcon to our vicinity is the prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*).

Prairie falcons are primarily open country birds, built for speed chases and steep plunging dives. They have powerful eyes and a large head, marked with a dark moustache stripe on either side of their beak. The falcon's body is highly streamlined with long stiffly pointed wings, for fast flight. Their large strong feet and sharply curved talons are designed to strike their prey a devastating blow in mid air.

Prairie falcons are easily distinguished from other falcons, by having a dark black patch on the underside of their wings near their body. Their great speed of over 200 miles per hour in a dive, swift maneuverability and powerful striking ability enable these birds to take a greater variety of prey than other hawks and owls.

The diet of the prairie falcon varies between mammals and birds, depending on the abundance of prey in their feeding area. They feed

on ground squirrels, rabbits, kangaroo rats, small rodents, blackbirds, doves, kingbirds and other small birds.

In our open, rough sage-brush country, prairie falcons nest on outcroppings of rocks and cliffs, 30-400 feet in height. When neither cliffs or crevices are available, they will nest in any sort of niche in any kind of wall or dirt bank. Generally, there is no nesting material, the eggs being laid on the bare sand or gravel, occasionally on bits of fur or feathers. Usually there are 4 or 5 eggs. After five weeks of age, the young, having a pinkish colored chest, more striped than the adults, are able to fly. Within 2-3 weeks of flying and learning to hunt with their parents, the young leave the nesting area.

The female is noticeably larger than the male. She will protect the nest while the smaller, more agile male will do the hunting. Female prairie falcons are very aggressive and protective of their young. When approached by an intruder she will make continuous swoops and dives with several loud shrieks.

Sappe Named "All Around"

Dirk Sappe was named "All Around Cowboy" at the Little Britches Rodeo in Emmett over the weekend. He took a first place in the bareback division and tied for 4th place in the bull riding contest. Both of these were in the senior division. He was awarded a belt buckle and two plaques.

Gary Sparks took second in the senior division, bareback riding and Kevin Cleaver claimed a 4th place in the same event.

Nyssa Swim Team Attends "B" State

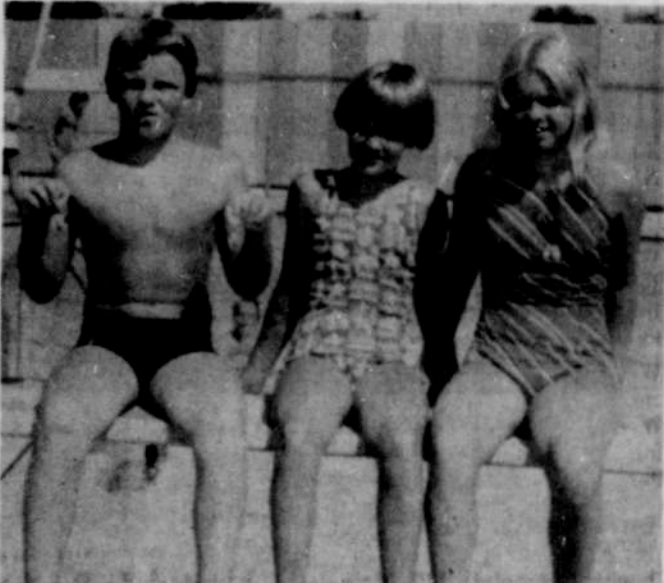
Six members of the Nyssa swim team went to "B" State in Pocatello, Idaho this past weekend. They all came home with medals and with two of them receiving more than one.

Leslie Jessop entered three events, 50 yard back stroke, 100 yard breast stroke and 100 yard free style. She made an "A" State time in 50 yard back stroke, so received an "A" State certificate instead of a medal. She received a 6th place medal in the 100 yard breast stroke division.

Julie Adams entered two events and won 5th place medals in both events, the 50 free style and the 50 breast stroke.

Jairus Taylor entered two events and won 3rd place medals in both the 50 yard back stroke and the 50 yard breast stroke.

Barbie Burbank entered in three events and won a 4th place medal in the 50 yard



THOSE WINNING MEDALS at "B" State in Pocatello, Idaho were left to right, Jairus Taylor, Barbie Burbank and Julie Matthews. Those not pictured were Leslie Jessop, Holli Pittz, and Julie Adams.



HAVING FUN as just youngsters can, are children from the Day Care Center in Nyssa. Playing in the covered sand box is Patricia Lopez, Elizabeth Gaitan and Leticia

butterfly.

Holli Pittz entered one event, the 50 yard free style and won a third place medal.

Julie Matthews entered one event, the 200 yard free style, this was her first time to swim this event and she got a 6th place medal.

"B" State medals are determined by those making the best time under "A" State times in each event. Some of those who went have made "A" State times, so could only enter those events in which they had not made "A" State times.



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