

LESSON 4 – CASE STUDIES

4.1 Eagles' season in limbo

Gearing Up Daily News

Aledo – What was looking to be a Cinderella season may turn out to be one of disaster for the Aledo High School football team. After numerous seasons of despair and a school record that is nothing to smile upon, it seemed that the tide had turned. The first five games of the season the Eagles found themselves riding the coattail of star quarterback Adam McCollough, whose outstanding plays dazzled the fans and stumped his opponents. But the Eagles' success may be in jeopardy after an accident that happened Saturday which could end the fairytale story that was being written.

While working on the family farm this past weekend, McCollough decided to take a break from working on a tractor to relax in the shade away from the 90-plus degree temperatures. While dismounting his tractor, McCollough fell fracturing his arm in two places.

"I was jumping from the seat when my foot got caught on something making me fall directly on my arm," McCollough said. "The pain was terrible and I knew that I had broken my arm; I just didn't realize how bad it really was."

Soon after his accident, McCollough was rushed to Shackelford County Medical Center where x-ray's indicated that the breaks in his arm were too complex to set back and cast. "The break wouldn't have set correctly without surgery," Dan Bowers, McCollough's doctor, said. "Without surgery he (McCollough) might never throw a football again."

With McCollough out for the season, the Eagles will be led by sophomore Lance Taylor. "Hopefully Lance will be able to keep the season going," McCollough said. "But for me, there is always next year."

4.2 Tractor flips, pins driver

Gearing Up Daily News

Jacksonville – A Jacksonville man was seriously injured Thursday when the tractor he was driving on a hillside flipped over and pinned him.

Peter McCown, 25, was transported by Life Flight to Tyler Medical Center about 10:15 a.m. after a neighbor, Rob Peters, 42, used his own tractor to pull McCown's tractor off him.

"I have a (police) scanner in the house and heard the call," said Peters.

Another neighbor, Michelle Bowen, 20, was the first person to arrive at the scene, in a field next to Kinder Care Day Center, about a mile north of Jacksonville.

Bowen said, "I knew not to move him. I felt for a pulse, and he started making a gurgling sound. He was breathing, so I stroked his arm and talked to him."

As Peters lifted McCown's tractor with a chain, Cherokee County Police Dept. Capt. Jason Lechler and Lt. Bill Jones pulled the victim out. He was treated by Cherokee County EMTs and responders from the Flint Volunteer Fire Department.

McCown's girlfriend, Becky Summers, was soon by his side. She is a medical assistant for Drs.

Joyce Stroshine and George Seinfeld in Jacksonville.

"Mr. McCown has a congenital condition where all of his internal organs are on the opposite side from where they should be," said EMT Brady Ramos. "Luckily, a friend of Mr. McCown was on the scene and could give us that information."

He had injuries to the chest and lower extremities," Ramos said. "We're not sure he knew what happened to him, but he knew something had happened."

Apparently McCown was hauling hay in the bucket of his farm tractor down an incline, when the tractor became unstable and overturned.



4.3 Man trapped under tractor

Gearing Up Daily News

Bloomingtondale – A Greene County man remained in satisfactory condition in Bloomfield Hospital Thursday after he lost control of his tractor and it rolled on top of him Wednesday.

Darren Lackey suffered a broken left wrist and a chest injury in the accident, which happened on his property off IL 54, near Paris, about 4:20 p.m.

Lackey was moving dirt with his tractor and front-end loader when the tractor apparently rolled backwards down an embankment, said Larry Beasley, chief of the Eastern Green Fire Department.

The tractor then overturned, pinning Lackey beneath it, Beasley said.

Lackey's son, Jason Lackey discovered his father and called for help. Jason Lackey is an Eastern Green firefighter.

Beasley said that Darren Lackey was pinned by the tractor's gear shift lever. It took firefighters about 20 minutes to free Lackey after slowly raising the tractor with a combination of braces and jacks.

Given the size of the tractor and the way Lackey was trapped, he was "real, real fortunate," Beasley said.

4.4 Youth dies after falling from tractor

Gearing Up Daily News

Smithville - A Smithville youth died in a tractor accident around 2 p.m. Friday. Sheriff Chuck Madsen responded to the 911 call near a farm owned by Lee Patrick, 25 in the 1900 block of Old Smithville Road. Patrick and his younger brother, Victor, age 16, had finished raking hay and were heading home. Victor was riding on the rear fender of the tractor, driven by Patrick, when he fell off. Madsen said Victor appeared to have been run over by the tractor's wheels. He suffered a fractured skull and shoulder injuries and was transported to the Lake County Memorial Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

4.5 Tractor rollover injures worker

Gearing Up Daily News

Rotan – A Roby man escaped serious injury Wednesday after the tractor he was riding slid on wet grass and mud and rolled down an embankment.

Rescuers were called about 1:15 p.m. to 6th Street near MT 17 where passersby saw Bradley Allsup and the tractor roll down the grassy hill, said Tom Shuler, Rotan's deputy fire marshal.

The Roby man had been cutting grass on 6th Street, Shuler said.

When he turned the tractor around, the tractor's wheels slid on the grass. Firefighters found Allsup lying about 10 feet from the tractor, Shuler said.

Allsup is employed with the Department of Public Works. Rescue workers were not sure of his age, but believe he is in his mid-20s.

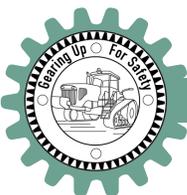
Tractor rollovers are the number one cause of farm accidents that kill, according to the Montana State University Agricultural Safety and Health Office.

Rollovers took the lives of three Montana farmers during the most recent crop season. Mowing road sides is a common cause of rollover accidents.

According to information from the Montana State Agricultural Department, the most common type of tractor rollover is when a tractor turns over on its side.

Overall, side rollovers account for 85 percent of tractor rollover accidents. The tractor Allsup was riding tipped on its side. It was equipped with a rollover protective structure, but Allsup was not wearing his seat belt causing him to be thrown from the tractor seat.

Firefighters at the scene worked quickly to contain fuel leaks from the tractor.



4.6 Tractor mishap is fatal Comanche man dies after he's pinned

Gearing Up Daily News

Comanche - A retired Comanche man usually greeted his working wife with supper on the table on weeknights, but Wednesday there was no meal.

When Mary Mason returned home after working all day at Nearlyready Electric Sign Co. in South Minter, she didn't find her husband of 44 years anywhere in sight.

So, she went looking for him.

On her second search of the field behind the couple's home at 1234 Highway 27, she spotted her husband's sheep dog, Paco, standing near an overturned tractor.

She discovered her husband's body pinned under the tractor. "He was just buried underneath," Mary Mason said.

She called 911, but it was too late.

Charlie Mason, 62, was pronounced dead at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, according to Tom Floyd of the Racine County Medical Examiner's office.

Although the official cause of death will be determined after an autopsy set for today, Floyd said Mason likely died from head and neck injuries suffered when the tractor flipped over on him.

Mason had been combining beans in the rear field when his combine got stuck in mud. He was using the tractor to remove the combine when the accident occurred, authorities said.

Floyd said Mason had probably been pinned under the tractor since early afternoon. His wife found him about 7:30 p.m.

Mary Mason described her husband as a man who loved the outdoors, and who died doing something he enjoyed – working in the field.

4.7 Delhi youth overcome by carbon monoxide

Gearing Up Daily News

Delhi - William Bush of Rural Rt. Delhi was overcome by carbon monoxide in his parent's farm shop while working on a small tractor. Bush, age 14, was trying to adjust the carburetor on the tractor and his father, William, Sr., assumes that he had been working on the tractor for over an hour. When the youth was called in for lunch he didn't respond, so his father went to investigate.

A call was made to the Greene County Emergency Dispatcher at 12:32 p.m. and units responded from both Delhi and Greensburg. Bush was transported to Greensburg General Hospital for treatment and is being held overnight for observation.

4.8 Nylon tow rope injures Cherry Valley teen

Gearing Up Daily News

Cherry Valley - Karl Flint of Rt. 117, Cherry Valley, received eye injuries when the tow rope he was using to tow a second tractor failed and snapped back striking the rear cab window of the tractor he was operating.

Flint's brother, Charles, age 22, had his tractor become stuck in a wet hole in a field about two miles from their home and had asked Karl, age 16, to assist by operating a second, larger tractor to tow him out. A heavy duty nylon tow rope was hitched between the two tractors and the younger Flint proceeded to tow the stuck tractor out of the mud. During the procedure, the tow rope failed and snapped back striking the towing tractor operated by Karl. Karl was looking directly to the rear monitoring the operation and was hit in the face and eyes by glass pieces from the smashed rear window.

Upon examination of the towing rope by Sheriff's Deputy, Hank Olsen, it appears that a light weight chain being used to attach the towing rope to the rear tractor had failed causing the stretched rope to snap back like a rubber band. Olsen indicated that he had heard of similar incidents killing bystanders due to the tremendous amount of energy released when a large tow rope fails.

The condition of Flint following several hours of surgery to remove glass particles from his eyes is unknown. Several neighbors have showed up to help with milking and other chores while the family is at the hospital.

