



## Play Ball

Leroy McIlhaney gives his all at MSU sporting events

ADRIAN McCANDLESS  
PHOTO EDITOR

At any campus athletic event, one fixture remains the same. At men's basketball games he can be found in a suit and tie sitting next to the coaches. At soccer games, he can be spotted near the ticket booth checking student IDs. At a volleyball match, he is usually sitting at the announcer's table. At football games he paces back and forth on the sideline cheering away.

His name is Leroy McIlhaney. He isn't a coach nor is he a student. Leroy is a 55-year-old mentally challenged man who simply loves sports.

Leroy spent the majority of his life northwest of Wichita Falls in the neighboring town of Vernon. He moved to a group home in Wichita Falls not long before he became involved with the athletic department. Leroy moved to nearby apartments to be closer to MSU and his job at Taco Bell.

Defensive Coordinator Cary Fowler met Leroy at the Special Olympics where Leroy excelled in softball and long jump.

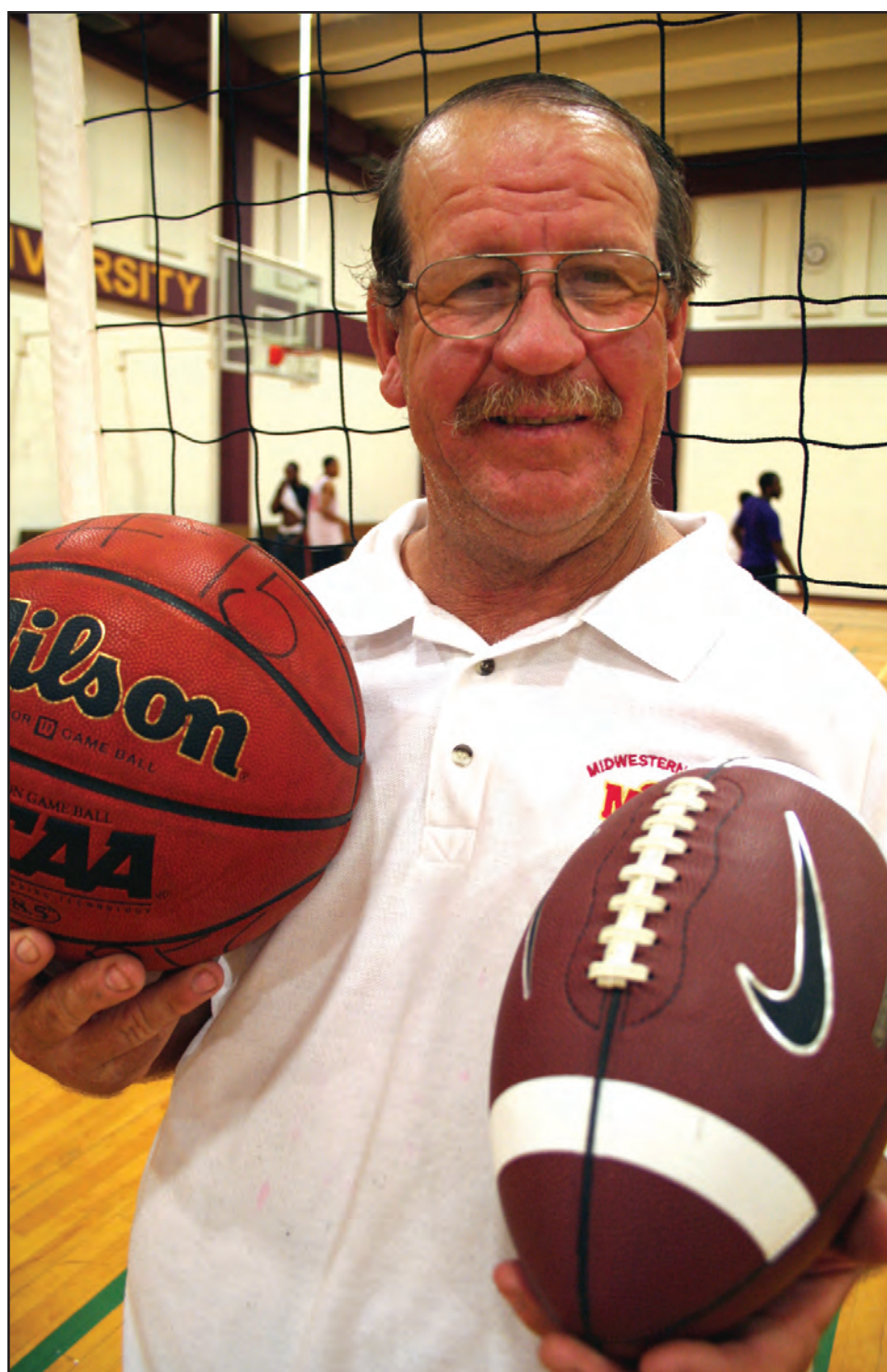
"I worked at the Special Olympics and that's where we started talking," Fowler said. "He wanted a schedule for the games and we asked him to come help us coach."

Fowler said Leroy helps set up drills in practice and insures players stay off of the sidelines during the games to avoid penalties.

"I never have to worry about missing a campus event. Leroy is the human schedule," said assistant basketball coach Rob McIlhaney. "He knows that thing by heart."

McIlhaney, Leroy's cousin, came back in touch with him when he started coaching at MSU in 2003.

"When I got here," McIlhaney said. "I



ADRIAN McCANDLESS | THE WICHITAN

Leroy McIlhaney helps many of the MSU sports teams in practice and during the games.

remembered him and we realized who each other was."

Leroy started attending the men's basketball practices and helping the team on and off the court. Whistle in hand, he attends their practices and makes sure the team runs lines if they mess up.

"He handles a lot of our manager type duties. If laundry isn't out for the guys to put on their clothes yet, he'll go pull them out of the dryer and roll it out to them," Mc-

Ilhaney said. "He also gets the basketballs out and the clock."

As for basketball games, Leroy does not sit in the stands like the rest of the fans. He gets closer to the action.

"The coach lets him sit on the bench during the home games," McIlhaney said.

"When they introduce the starting line up for each team it's a tradition for the opposing five to come over and shake the hand of

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## Graduates benefit from in-state tuition

SHERA TAYLOR  
FOR THE WICHITAN

The Graduate Studies program at MSU is now offering out-of-state graduate students in-state tuition costs.

Tuition for graduate students is \$30 per semester hour more than undergraduate tuition. The \$30 extra will stay the same, but as of this fall, U.S. citizens from other states will only pay in-state tuition.

Formerly, the waiving of out-of-state tuition applied only to undergraduate students. Graduate students will now benefit as well.

According to Dr. Emerson Capps, graduate dean, MSU has increased the funds given to students in the graduate program.

"Many students don't know that a Graduate Merit Scholarship is available to them," Capps said.

MSU offers graduate master's degrees in 28 majors that will help students prepare for doctoral studies and advanced professional positions.

Another graduate studies program at MSU sets it apart from all others. It was the first university in the United States to offer a Master of Science Radiologic Science degree.

The program is designed to transfer students who are already working in the radiology field into administration or education. A master's degree helps students in any field advance into higher positions.

While studying to earn a master's degree, students also have the opportunity to apply for graduate and teacher assistantships.

Currently, 114 students hold teacher and graduate assistant positions. The assistants help with research, lab work and teach classes.

Most graduate assistants are training to be teaching assistants. They must complete 18 hours before they can become a teaching assistant. Teaching assistants are able to teach up to six hours of college courses while still working on their degree.

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## Pride Poll

Students, employees give raves to MSU

CARRIE SULLIVAN  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Are you proud of MSU and why?

A News Writing I class ventured out to ask that question to students, faculty and other MSU employees.

Many students said they liked the overall environment at the school.

"It's a positive environment and I like working with kids and getting them into college," said DaNette Stalnaker from admissions.

Mickey Matlock, assistant director of the Annual Fund, said he likes the atmosphere of higher learning.

"I enjoy being around college students with goals, hopes and dreams," he said.

"The people are so nice," said Tiffany Alexander, sophomore criminal justice major. "I have made good friends since I started school

here."

It helped when students had another institution to compare MSU to.

"MSU has a great environment compared to the school I previously attended. It seems to have more pride," said Elizabeth Welch, sophomore communications major.

Some people expressed their appreciation of the campus's smaller size.

"The small size of the campus makes it an easy commute. Also the apartments of Sunwatcher are nice," said Marlena Y. Hanna, senior criminal justice major.

Senior nursing student Jacqueline Lockart said she liked the fact that the school isn't big and that there aren't too many people on the campus.

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## Required proficiency exam not a write-off

SHERA TAYLOR  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Midwestern State University testing services will be administering the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE), formerly the English Usage Exam, on Thursday, Oct. 12 and on Saturday, Oct. 14. The testing site for the exam will be in Bolin 100 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. on Saturday.

All students who are seeking a bachelor's degree from MSU have to take the WPE. The exam must be taken between the student's completion of 60 to 90 credit hours.

The writing proficiency requirement can also be met by enrolling in and passing English 2113; which is also called Composition Skills. If a student fails to meet the requirement, a registration hold is placed on their record so students need to make sure that they take the exam.

Composition Skills, or English 2113, is a course that is designed to help students build their skills in composition and in correct grammar usage. The course requires students to write a final essay that is similar

to the WPE, and it is graded using the same WPE standards.

Some students decide to take English 2113 instead of taking the WPE.

Mark McCloskey, a senior criminal justice major, needed an extra class last semester so he chose to take the course and was exempt from the WPE.

"I needed the three extra credit hours," McCloskey said. "So, I chose to take Composition Skills as my elective, and I didn't have to take the exam."

The exam itself is a two-hour essay test, and it cannot be retaken. Student's are asked to write a persuasive essay that addresses one of two prompts. The essay should be at least 300 words in length.

Addressing prompts is sometimes difficult for students because they don't know what to write about.

Jay Whaley, a senior biology major, said that the prompt on his exam was so broad that he had a difficult time choosing something to focus on. When he turned in his essay, he was worried about failing the exam.

"I ended up writing a pretty good essay, but I still felt like I could possibly have failed the exam," Whaley said. "But it turned out that I passed it after all."

Members of the MSU English faculty grade the exam, and they look for certain criteria in each one. The members check for a clearly stated thesis statement that is supported throughout the essay. They also grade the organization of the paper as well as the number of spelling and grammar errors.

Students who fail the exam usually do not write on the topic that they are given or they turn in an essay that is too short and not well-developed. Another reason students fail the exam is because they do not proofread their paper to check for errors in spelling and grammar usage.

Writing a practice essay before taking the exam is a good idea for students who have not taken any English courses since their freshman year. Students should also review all grammar and usage rules beforehand so they will not lose points for usage mistakes on the exam.

When a student's paper is graded, the grade is marked pass or fail. A number grade is not issued.

The grades given to students on the exam are final and cannot be disputed.

Results of the WPE are kept confidential. The registrar's office only posts the exam results of students who pass the exam. The results are posted to the individual student's transcript.

The results of the exam are not available until about six weeks after the exam. Students can check their transcripts on the MSU web site, however, results are not given out over the phone.

All students who will be taking WPE must pay a registration fee of \$25 at the business office. Students should take their receipt from the business office, a photo ID and pens or pencils to the test site.

Students who are seeking additional information about the WPE can contact the writing proficiency office in the English department or the testing services office in Hardin South, room 224.

## Caribfest



HERSHEL SELF | THE WICHITAN

A Caribbean student joins in the festivities during Friday's Caribfest.

### Caribfest

Caribbean students enjoy annual festivities.

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### 'The Departed'

Mob movie gets rave reviews.

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### Winning streak ends

Buffaloes are the first team to beat the MSU Mustangs.

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