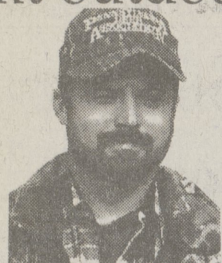


Bmt outdoors



Chris Denmon

Pennsylvania furbearing predators are comprised of many species. In our area the animals that are most often thought of when hearing the word predators are red fox, gray fox, bobcat, and especially the Eastern coyote. Most of the time these elusive creatures will stay out of sight, but on occasion one of them will give us a glimpse and make their presence known. All of these animals have one thing in common — for the most part they are nocturnal. During most of the year their hunting hours will be the first few hours before dark, at night, and the first couple of hours after sunrise. As winter progresses and food becomes increasingly hard to find, their hunting may last throughout the day.

Calling these predators for hunting or photography is perhaps the ultimate challenge for any experienced outdoorsman. If you thought that calling a turkey into range was a challenge, try a fox or coyote. An animal that can smell a mouse at 200 yards, hear a mouse at 100 yards, and has excellent eyesight is not easy to fool. Although you may be able to call any of these animals within range, you are prohibited from shooting a bobcat except with a camera. Regulations on fox and coyotes will be addressed at the end of this article.

The first step to successful predator calling is complete camouflage. Being camouflaged from head to toe is of utmost importance, especially during daylight hours. The next and most important step is proper scent control. Unless you are as scent free as possible your time afield will most likely end without a response from these wily creatures. Starting with scent-free body soap, using scentless clothes detergents that do not have added fabric brighteners, and a good cover scent (fox scent works well) will help to keep your scent to a minimum.

Now that you are scent free, what will it take to hunt them? The first item is a good call. Whether it is an electronic caller or a mouth call, the most-often-used one is a rabbit in distress. There are many manufacturers of these calls on the market, but it is important to buy a call that gives easy mobility and allows you to vary the sounds produced and has pitch adjustments so you can tone the hand call to your needs.

The next item is a good, accurate firearm. The best rifle calibers for predators are .22-.250 or a .220 swift. For close terrain or at

On the trail of fox, other predators

night the best choice is a 12 gauge shotgun with #4 or #6 shot and a full choke. With some of the new technology on the market these days, it is possible to use a rifle at night, but I find it best to use a shotgun, both because most shots at night tend to be close ones, and in the best interest of domesticated pets such as dogs or cats that have gotten loose and may respond to your calls. Using a shotgun forces you to allow the animal into close range. That way you can clearly identify the target as a predator and not someone's pet.

For best results, scout the area you plan to call in ahead of time to check for their presence and to have your calling locations pre-planned. Each of these animals has a favored type of terrain. For instance, a red fox is most often found in more open woodlands and open farm areas. The gray fox prefers more dense, brushy areas and swamplands. The Eastern coyote is much more diverse and can be found in nearly every type of habitat in Pennsylvania, even in suburbs.

When predator calling it is possible to start calling and within minutes have one of these animals at very close range. The amount of time for an animal to respond depends on several factors: the difference in species, hunting pressure in the area, and the individual animal itself. A gray fox may take up to 30 minutes, a red fox may take slightly more, and a coyote may take an hour or more.

There are also safety factors to be considered when calling predators, especially at night. The most important item is to cover your back by sitting against a large tree or hunting with a partner so an animal has the least chance of attacking you by accident.

When these animals come running in at night it can be very exciting and many times even a little nerve-wracking. When a predator comes in very fast his adrenaline is pumping and in the heat of the moment can mistake you for its prey. If you harvest one of these animals, be especially watchful of how you handle it to prevent accidentally contracting the rabies virus.

Foxes may only be hunted with a furtaker's license until Feb. 27, while coyotes may be hunted with either a furtaker's or a general hunting license and can be taken throughout the year.

Remember that you are not allowed to hunt coyotes during the antlered or antlerless deer seasons or extensions without a valid deer tag. It is also prohibited to hunt these animals during the spring turkey season without a valid turkey tag and shot sizes are restricted to no larger than #4. You are, however, permitted to hunt these animals on Sundays.

7-8 boys

(continued from page 9)

Eastern Penn held on for the win. Eastern Penn's offense was led by McCue with a game high 24 points followed by Kerestes with nine. Pioneer's offense was led by Fehlinger with 17 points, followed by Domzalski with 13.

Burger King 52 - NAPA Auto Parts 48

Burger King's Ryan Gryskevicz pumped in 11 first quarter points, and NAPA's Eric Mahle canned eight to give their respective teams a 13-13 first quarter tie. Gryskevicz drilled two 3-point baskets and gave his team a 27-23 halftime lead. NAPA's Mike English caught on fire in the third quarter and recorded 12 points and helped his team outscore Burger King 18 to 7 and give his team a 41-34 lead at quarter's end. Burger King answered back and outscored NAPA by the same margin that NAPA had done, in the third quarter. Burger King's offense was led by Gryskevicz with 35 points, followed by Frank Buzin with five. NAPA's offense was led by English with 25 points, followed by Mahle with 21.

American Asphalt 72 - InterMetro 37

American Asphalt outscored InterMetro 17 to 12 early on the shooting of Jon Barbose and Brian Dempsey. InterMetro's Tyler Droppers and Tommy Mulhern kept the game close with key baskets. Asphalt continued the scoring pace in the second quarter, with Barbose and Dempsey leading the way. Asphalt led at half-time 29-18. Asphalt exploded in the third and scored a record 31 points, behind the shooting of Barbose, Dempsey and Francis Shovlin. American Asphalt's offense was led by Barbose with 41 points, followed by Dempsey with 19 and Shovlin with 10. InterMetro's offense was led by Mulhern with 15 points, followed by Droppers with 12.



Frank Buzin, right in top photo, raced downcourt side-by-side with Jason Demnicki during boys grade 7-8 action last week. His Burger King team nipped NAPA Auto Parts 52-48. At right, Kevin Domzalski went up high for a bucket. He scored 13 points for Pioneer Construction in a 41-36 loss to Eastern Penn Supply.

POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Josie's prevails in overtime

Josie Italian Water Ice 30 - Luzerne Nat'l Bank 28 (OT)

Jackie Hardwick led all scorers with a game high 16 points including many big rebounds.

DYB 7-8 GIRLS

Other scorers for Josie's were Ashleigh King eight points, followed by Lauren Suppon four points and Gabriella Huh two points. Luzerne National Bank was led by Halli Williams 10 points, followed by Caitlin Dukas, Brooke Blase seven points apiece, Jessica Roberts and Erin Swebston two points apiece.

Penn State Seed 26 - III Guys Pizza 17

Shannon Thomas was 3-for-3 from three point range in the third quarter to put Penn State Seed at 10-0 after the regular season. Thomas ended with a game high 16 points, including 4-for-5 from

three point range, followed by Nicole Bostock six points, Jaime Sulewski and Laura Stark two points apiece. III Guys was led by Meredith Lacey and Kara Ringle six points apiece, followed by Rosalyn Wentko's five points.

Back Mt. Leader 36 - Dallas Rotary 17

Rachel Kukosky's game high 24 points was all Leader needed to put up a victory over Dallas Rotary 36-17. Also scoring for Back Mountain Leader were Jaime Youngblood six points, Jonelle Dickson four points and Loni Pickansky two points. Dallas Rotary was led by Sherry Senausky, Kristy Schmid eight points apiece and Krista Carpenter one point.

Finals for the seventh and eighth grade girls will be held Sun., Feb. 21, at 5 p.m. at the Dallas Middle School.

Kraszawski seven points and Adam Snider two.

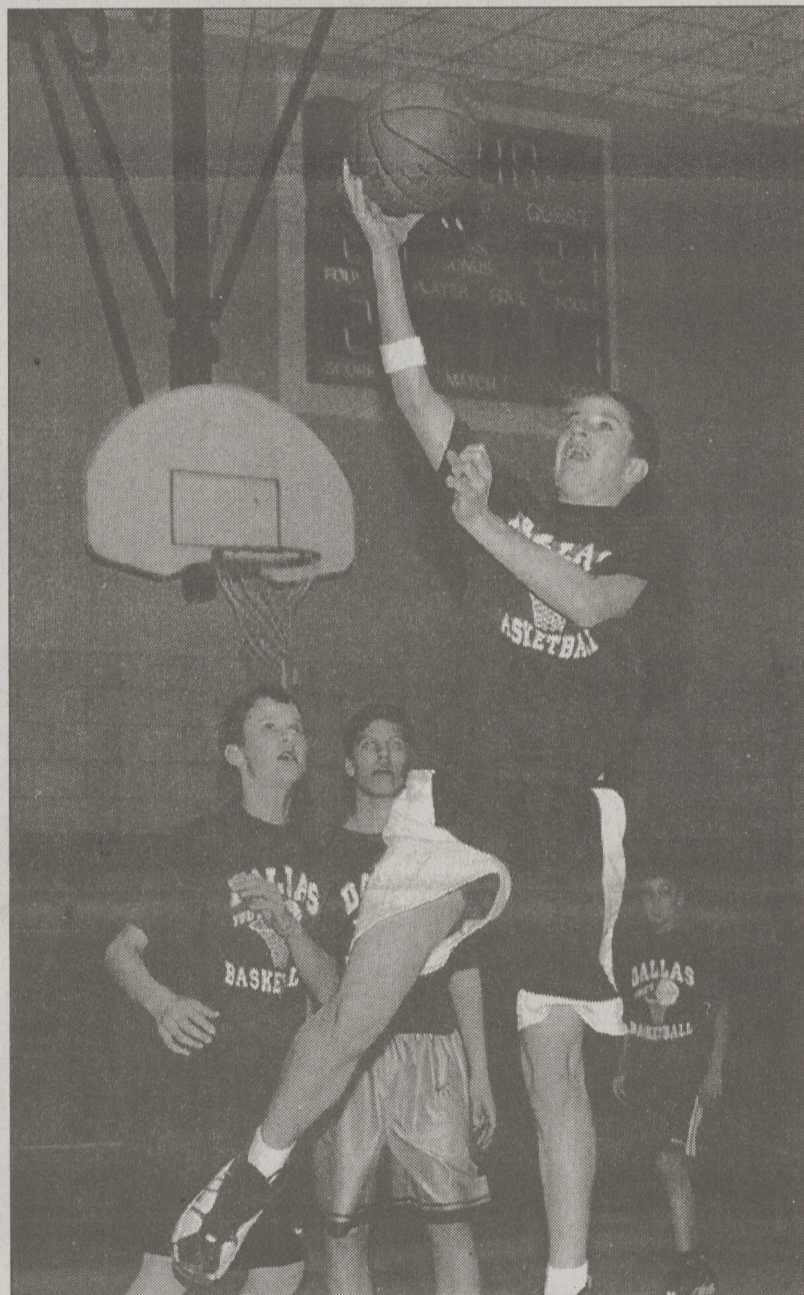
Applewood Golf Course 67 - Marsh and Yanik 40

Matt Wilson led all scorers with a game high 32 points, followed by Mike Lloyd, 28 points, John Paul Parulski eight points. Joshua Mounce led the defense for Applewood Golf Course. Marsh and Yanik was led by Boomer Coslett's eight points, Jonathan Stephens and Jeff Decker two points apiece. Joey DeGraba led the defense for Marsh and Yanik.

Gilroy Better Homes 44 - Wyo. Valley Physicians 38

Timmy Crossin led all scorers with a game high 30 points, followed by Steve Fritz and Jonathan Pall eight points each. Wyoming Valley Physicians was led by Matt Kelly 18 points, Eric Domzalski and Jared Nothstein 10 points apiece.

Fifth-Sixth Grade Boys finals will be held Sunday, Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. at the Dallas Middle School.



Central Clay 47 - Wilkes-Barre Pallet 46

Brad Fagula scored a season-high 47 points to lead Central Clay to a 47-46 win over previously unbeaten Wilkes-Barre Pallet Co. Leading the defense for Central Clay (4-3) was Jason Darling and Zach Breck. For Wilkes-Barre Pallet Co. (6-1), David Luksh scored 24 points, Connor Lenahan 14 and Daniel Taroli two. The defense was led by Paul Kowalek.

DYB 3-4 BOYS

Robert Monk scored 19 points while Kyle Hazleton and Guy Carpenter chipped in with two points apiece as the Back Mt. Leader improved their record to 5-3 with a 23-13 win over Llewellyn & McKane Inc. (0-7). Jeff Kelly led the defense for the Back Mt. Leader, while Llewellyn & McKane was led by Kyle Arnaud with five points, Alex Baltimore with four and Dan Anderson and Mark Covert with two each.

Back Mt. Leader 23 - Llewellyn & McKane Inc. 13

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Fieldhouse 45 - Dough Company 39

Adam Singer scored 36 points and Max Millington seven as the Fieldhouse clinched at least the second seed in the playoffs with a 45-39 win over the Dough Company. Evan Razawich added two points and Chris Wilson played fine defense for the Fieldhouse (6-1). The Dough Co. (5-2) was led by Brenden Delaney with 29 points, David Hanadel with six and Brian Kerpovich with two. Paul Green led the rebounding.

Quality Collision 26 - E.M. Video 11

Ryan Konopki scored 16 points and Greg Jerzak added seven as Quality Collision (3-4) topped E.M. Video 26-11. Leading the defense for Quality was Brenden Carr, Chris Klais, and George Yanchuk. For E.M. Video (1-6), Greg Nothstein scored six points and Eric Tucker five. The defense was led by Billy Barnes and Cliff Pisaneschi. The regular season will conclude next Saturday, with the playoffs scheduled to begin on Tues., Feb. 9.

DYB Skills Competition winners

5th Grade Boys Foul Shots

1st place, David Harding 8 of 10; 2nd place, Ronnie Shiner, 7 of 10; 3rd place, Bobby Lenahan 6 of 10.

Lay-Ups

1st place, Bobby Lenahan 11; 2nd place, Eric Domzalski, 10, 6, 6; 3rd place, Mike Race 10, 6, 5.

6th Grade Boys Foul Shots

1st place, Matt Wilson 8 of 10; 2nd place Jared Northstein 6 of 10; 3rd place, Adam Snider 6 of 10.

Lay-Ups

1st place, Kenny Regan 11; 2nd place, Jimmy Schwerdtman 11; 3rd place, D.J. Molino 11.

7th Grade Girls Foul Shots

1st place, Shannon Thomas 7

of 10; 2nd place, Katie Smith 5 of 10; 3rd place, Caitlin Dukas, 5 of 10.

Lay-Ups

1st place, Halli Williams, 12, 7; 2nd place, Ashleigh King, 12, 6; 3rd place, Kara Ringle 12, 5.

8th Grade Girls Foul Shots

1st place, Rachel Kukosky 6 of 10; 2nd place, Amanda Coleman 3 of 10; 3rd place, Ashley Razawich, 3 of 10.

Lay-Ups

1st place, Jonelle Dickson, 11, 7; 2nd place, Sherry Senausky, 11, 6; 3rd place, Kelly Brzozowski, 11, 4.

Foul Shots (1st attempt 10 shots, tie breakers were played off with five attempts.)

Lay-Ups (How many made in one minute, tie breakers were played off 30 seconds.)

BMT Baseball, Softball registration Feb. 6

Back Mountain Baseball and Softball will conduct player registration for the 1999 season for all players who have not yet registered on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9 a.m.-noon at the Dallas Middle School. All children age 6 and older who wish to participate in T-ball, major and minor league baseball, major and minor league softball and all teen programs should register at that time. All prospective players should bring their Social Security numbers to registration. Any child who has not previously participated in Back Mountain Baseball or Softball should bring his or her birth certificate to registration as proof of age. The cost of registration is \$35 for the first child in a family, \$15 for the second child and \$10 for each additional child.

Strikers place at Milton

The Noxen Strikers wrestled at Milton on Sat., Jan. 23 and placed the following wrestlers.

Pee Wee - 38 lbs., Jake Winters, 1st; 47 lbs., Keith Sulewski, 4th; 52 lbs., T.J. Pearson, 1st.

Junior - 90 lbs., Matt Dragon, 1st; 90 lbs., John Hetttes, 4th.

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