

It's that time of year

By Larry Pritchett

Past PCHS activities director

Back to school and back to high school sports!

Sounds like a pretty good thing to me, and it is an exciting time getting ready for all the other activities that go with this time of year.

There is also just a little feeling of sadness this year because it is the first time in the last 50 years that one of the Pritchett family is not coaching some sport somewhere.

I started here in Grant in August of 1964, then a few years later my sister started her college coaching career at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky., and then brother Craig started his basketball coaching career at Claflin, Kan., and then brother Monte hit the ground coaching football in Texas.

Then our boys got into the act with Troy starting at Kenesaw and later at Malcolm and Travis got into the business as an assistant coach in Malcolm for a number of years with his brother.

This year we can all coach from the stands. I have found through the years the bleachers is where a lot of experts sit anyway. In the past few years I have found that not only is it less stressful sitting there, it is easier to make decisions from there. Funny how that works, and if I had just experimented with that concept when I started in the profession, coaching would have been so much easier.

This time of year coaches and players from high school to the professionals are hoping that all the work in the off season will pay off and the season will be a successful one. It doesn't take too long to see which athletes paid the price in the off season and did the things to help make themselves quicker, stronger and faster.

It is hard to get players to understand how important the off-season is and how important it is to work through the year to keep from losing all that was gained during the summer.

Good luck to all the players and coaches as we get the 2013-2014 season started.

Summer News

There have been a number of newsworthy items going on during the summer, but a couple that have been kind of interesting to me are the ongoing circus with A-Rod and Johnnie Manziel.

Alex Rodriguez admitted only that he used some PED's while a member of the Texas Rangers. Baseball had a banned substance list then, but did not yet discipline for PED use. I don't know if A-Rod was using them or not since then, but he must have always stopped using them at play-off time because he seemed to always struggle when the World Series or getting to the World Series was on the line.

Right now, I would be willing to bet that if MLB commissioner Bud Selig is willing to suspend A-Rod for 211 games, baseball has plenty of evidence to back the discipline measure.

Johnnie Manziel, on the other hand, might be borderline stupid or extremely arrogant. You can also have a major discussion that if the universities can make money off the football and

basketball players, what is wrong with the players making a little money for themselves?

First thing, for those who think they shouldn't make money, they have this really good argument: Rule one is that it is against the rules. Rule two would be to see rule one.

Part of me says that maybe it should be okay. I know that there are inner-city kids who do not have extra money for college stuff. I also know that some inner-city kids sold some of their equipment for tats, so maybe they shouldn't be able to earn extra money.

Manziel is not an inner-city kid, and by all reports, doesn't have to worry too much about food, clothing and a ride. Supposedly, he was signing all the stuff so he could put a set of "rims" on his Mercedes Benz. That is a true college necessity, to say the least, and reason number one why college freshmen should not be eligible for consideration in the race to win the Heisman Trophy.

Maybe arrogant would cover both A-Rod and Johnnie Football.