

The Living Room Times

All the Nose that's fit to print... weekly!

257th overall edition — Fifth regular weekly edition of 1995-1996 season

Tuesday, October 10, 1995

Girls' soccer gets 200th win

Boisvert, Donlin score goals in landmark victory



Newington 2
Southington 0

It was a game to remember for both coach and team.

Newington kept their perfect record this season and gave themselves more solid footing as the first-place team in the CCC South division as they defeated Southington 2-0.

At the same time, the victory gave head coach Paul Mallia his 200th win in a CCC South game as Newington's head coach. He has coached the Newington girls soccer team since its first season, 16 years ago.

Since the girls soccer program began in 1980, their record is 200-53-16. Mallia has been at the helm for all 269 games, and he has a winning percentage of over 74% to show for it.

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Newington players hold up a sign reading "Happy 200th win coach Mallia"



Newington players dump water on coach Paul Mallia after his 200th career coaching victory.



Newington players, from left, Tara Boisvert, Nicki Boisvert, Kerri Donlin, Emily Bartkoski, and Danielle Thomsen run out onto the field after winning their seventh game of the season. At far right, Coach Paul Mallia holds his hands up in celebration after winning his 200th career coaching victory.

Please see page two for a special "Interview With Professor Taco."

Plus... MORE NEWS INSIDE BEGINNING ON PAGE THREE OF THE TIMES

An interview with **PROFESSOR TACO**

Last year, he was one of the most popular teachers among Kellogg eighth graders. This year, he's teaching a seventh-period class at Newington High School. In the last month, he's been the victim of a car accident and a robbery, and he's planning to buy a house. Life is hectic for Ned 'Taco' Turner...



(Continued from column at left)

BRENDAN: You have a lot of things going on. You had a car accident, a robbery, and your buying a house... Plus, you're teaching here, which has to be pretty stressful with all us kids bugging you. Are you pretty much completely stressed out with all this stuff going on?

TACO: No, no. The teaching here is the least of my worries. Buying a house? Yes, that's high on the stress index, because that's a commitment. The robbery? We're [mostly just] annoyed about that [rather than stressed out].

(Continued in column at right)

BRENDAN: First of all, the car accident. Now, for anybody who doesn't know already, just describe briefly what happened with your accident on August 30.

TACO: We were hit by a drunk driver while we were coming out, for my mother's birthday, over at the Whitman in Farmington. The last we've heard now is that the guy has gone into rehab. And our lawyer thinks that it may be kind of a like a ploy to get off a little bit easier, since we said we're not going to drop any charges against him.

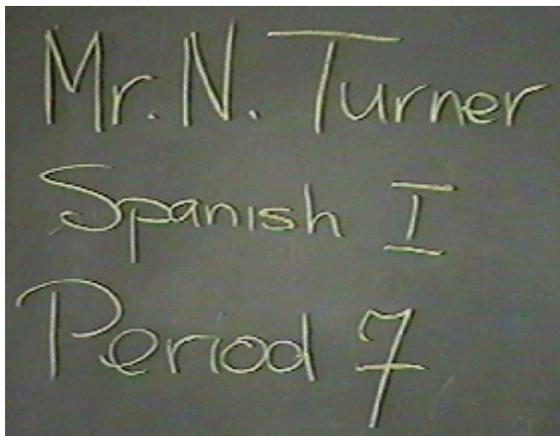
BRENDAN: Yeah, you said that you were going to press charges, and you wanted to have your day in court with him. What's the latest on the trial situation?

TACO: We're just going to wait. It's not going to be as exciting or as dramatic as O.J.'s. We figure, we'll just go with the flow with that. That's sort of, like, the least of my worries right now, because I figure that's more the guy's problem than it is mine.

BRENDAN: Are you and your mother pretty much physically and mentally recovered now?

TACO: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

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Tropical Storm Pablo lives, dies; Roxanne forms off Yucatan

At 11:00 AM Thursday morning, Hurricane Opal, which had hit the Florida Gulf Coast the previous day, was officially declared a non-tropical storm.

Also on Thursday at 11:00 AM, Tropical Depression Eighteen, off the coast of Africa, was officially upgraded to tropical storm status, and given a name: Pablo.

But on Sunday at 11:00 AM, Pablo was downgraded from a Tropical Storm back to a Tropical Depression, and then three hours later was downgraded even more, all the way back to a tropical wave. A tropical wave is basically just a mass of clouds without a separate identity, meaning we won't be hearing any more about Pablo. In fact, if the clouds related to Pablo were to form into a Tropical Storm again, they would probably get a new name.

Early Monday morning, Tropical Depression Nineteen in the Caribbean Sea became Tropical Storm Roxanne. It is expected to move northwest, over the Yucatan Peninsula and into the Gulf of Mexico by Wednesday or Thursday.

There are only four more names on the tropical storm name list: Sebastian, Tanya, Van, and Wendy.

Newington football still winless at 0-4 Lose by 19 points to Maloney

If the second half were the whole game, Newington would have won 24-6.

Unfortunately for the Indians, if the first half were the whole game, Maloney would have won 37-0.

Newington lost 43-24, their fourth embarrassing loss in four games this season.

In their season opener September 15, they lost 41-12, by a 29-point margin. On September 22, they were defeated by a score of 21-0. On September 29, it was 20-0. With Friday's 19-point loss, they continued the trend of losing by fewer points each game.

But when you've been getting better every game, and the closest you've come is a 19-point loss, you know you're season isn't going too well.

Newington's first score came on a safety by Jaron Cohen on Maloney's Rahshon Spikes in the third quarter. Cohen, Robert Post, and quarterback Trevor Fisher all rushed for touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

Hurricane Opal battered Florida panhandle

By DAN SEWELL

Associated Press Writer

DESTIN, Fla. (AP) --

While O.J. walked, Opal charged.

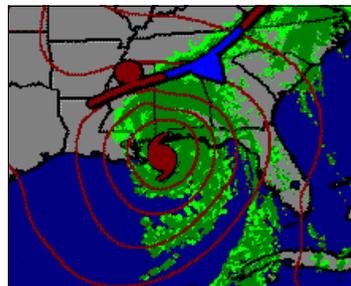
On Tuesday afternoon, as much of the nation came to a standstill to watch O.J. Simpson's acquittal, forecasters in the National Hurricane Center watched nervously -- and unusually alone -- as Opal's strength mounted.

It had been a busy year for hurricanes and a busy week for news, and the forecasters couldn't round up any reporters when Opal, idling near Mexico at the beginning of the week, strengthened far faster than the center's 100 years of records suggested it could.

Tuesday afternoon, Opal's winds were 100 mph; by Wednesday morning, they were 150 mph and threatening to go higher, and the storm was moving swiftly north.

"I think everybody was watching the O.J. trial. We were yesterday, all of it," Bill Fanning said Wednesday as he, his wife and their four children fled their home in Destin. "Now it's a panic."

If Opal didn't get any respect before its arrival, its departure left ruin and destruction that will provide reminders for years of its stunning fury.



Above: Opal at 6:00 PM Wednesday

Entire island communities were virtually destroyed. Half-million-dollar beachfront homes were obliterated. Houseboats were sunk and pleasure boats flung a half-mile inland.

The gentle slopes leading to the sugary sand that provides the southern Florida Panhandle's economic foundation were gouged; beaches that glittered a week ago were transformed into 10-foot cliffs that plunged into debris and sludge.

At least 18 people were killed as Opal swept north through Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina. Initial estimates were of \$1.8 billion in damage to insured property, making the storm that followed the Trial of

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An interview with 'Professor Taco'

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BRENDAN: Now, the robbery—which is something I don't know very much about—But, you mentioned recently that someone stole your car, or something like that. What's the deal on that?

TACO: Not *my* car. One of the family cars. We had gone up to Maine for the weekend, and when we came back, it was really strange. It was like, 'What's going on? Something is wrong with this picture.' And we realized, all of a sudden, that the Toyota Celica was missing. We had left it locked and alarmed; it had been in the front yard. The police told us that, since the gentlemen downstairs in my two-family house had died, and the address was in the paper and everything like that, most likely it was a professional who reads the obituaries and wedding notices and other types of things, and goes around to houses that he thinks are vacant.

BRENDAN: Do the police have any leads in finding this person?

TACO: None. None whatsoever. The police said, since it's a Toyota Celica, in fairly good condition, it's probably in a chop shop at this point.

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An interview with El Taco

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BRENDAN: You said this wasn't your car. Whose car was it?

TACO: It was my stepson's.

BRENDAN: And now the house story—one more story out of your personal life, your active personal life—you said something about your landlord dying and you buying the house. What's the deal on that?

TACO: Well, last night we pre-qualified for a mortgage. And, with my teaching salary, and all the other money that's involved in there, plus money that my aunt left me when she died back in May, all that's going to be going into buying this house. And with the real estate market as depressed as it is right now, we can get the house at a fairly good deal.

BRENDAN: Is there anything *else* that's going on that's newsworthy, aside from in school, in your life?

TACO: Nothing, really. I've noticed with my cats, the five boys have sort of banded together, and they have a little boys club meeting on my bed, usually in the afternoon. They keep the girls pretty well excluded to the kitchen. And I guess that's just the way they're going to be.

BRENDAN: Sexist cats.

TACO: Yeah, very sexist cats. But that's just the way things happen.

BRENDAN: Now, in school, aside from all that stuff... How have your classes been?

TACO: Excellent, excellent. The kids are really good this year. The respect factor is a major thing, and I think I'm getting that. Plus, the fact that I came in knowing a lot more—in other words, handing out seating assignments on the first day, telling people what my expectations were, and, you know, being a mean guy and handing out detentions for the first couple of weeks. I think that's helped. The class here at the high school? Very good bunch of kids. Very good bunch of kids.

BRENDAN: Now, I thought you were going to Wallace

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Boisvert, Donlin fuel coach's 200th victory

(Continued from page 1)

"I feel great," Mallia said after the game. "I'm really happy for the kids, that's number one."

"200 wins, to me, means nothing, but for the kids to have that is something to remember no matter what happens this year. It's probably the best thing."

At 6:30 into the first half, Tara Boisvert put Newton ahead with a shot past the Southington goalie and into the left corner of the net. Kristin Donlin was credited with an assist on Tara's goal.

"Give an assist to the whole team," suggested a fan.

After the game, when how it felt to have scored the winning goal in her coach's 200th win, Tara, the only freshman on the varsity team, said it was "cool."

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Hurricane Opal hits Florida panhandle

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the Century the third-costliest hurricane in U.S. history.

When Panhandle residents awoke Wednesday morning, they began realizing they were in harm's way. The evacuation began quickly; it lasted hours. The Fannings quickly got stuck in heavy traffic; it took them six hours to travel 30 miles.

Wednesday afternoon, as hurricane-force winds began reaching inland, people began begging for shelter.

"You can't say no to anybody," said Micki Ransom, who had 15 people in her home in Crestview, 25 miles inland from the Gulf shore.

American Red Cross volunteers at the Crestview High School shelter had been told they could house 500. Nearly 1,000 lined locker halls and classrooms as the wind began crumpling storefronts and tearing down trees and utility poles.

As the hurricane struck, Destin resident Cindy West opened her door to find a desperate woman and her elderly mother, drawn to her home's generator-provided light as a beacon amid the dark whirlwind.

"It was so black, the wind was screaming. They felt like they were going to flip over if they kept driving,"

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**TOP TEN SIGNS
YOU'RE GOING
THROUGH O.J.
SIMPSON TRIAL
WITHDRAWAL**

10. When your husband asks you to pass the ketchup, you start screaming, "Objection!"
9. During a week-long vacation in Bermuda, you never take off the knit cap
8. You pay thousands of dollars to have your cat's DNA tested
7. After ordering a Big Mac, you present a ten-hour closing argument
6. You won't get into bed unless your wife puts on the fake Ito beard
5. You start watching C-Span -- just to hear people lying again
4. Whenever you see a Japanese guy on the street, you go up to him and request a sidebar
3. You drop sixty bucks to watch Kato Kaelin take a pay-per-view nap
2. You go to the supermarket, sit down in front of a carton of O.J., and stare
1. *****CENSORED*****

Monday, October 2, 1995
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**LATE SHOW
TOP
TEN**

**TOP TEN ITEMS
ON O.J.'S
LEGAL BILL**

10. Three cans of eyebrow mousse for Robert Shapiro
9. Rhyming dictionary for Johnnie Cochran
8. One jumbo jar of hand swelling cream
7. Subliminal "not guilty" cuff links worn by Barry Scheck
6. "Prison guard" disguise for Divine Brown
5. F. Lee Bailey's million dollar "refreshment" tab
4. Gas used to keep Bronco idling outside courthouse for 15 months
3. Cake with file in it (unused)
2. 10 copies "1001 Ways To Hypnotize A Jury"
1. Conjugal visits with Robert Shapiro's briefcase

Thursday, October 5, 1995
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**TOP TEN
THINGS O.J.
SIMPSON HAD
TO TAKE CARE
OF TODAY**

10. Plant bloody "thank you" note at Mark Fuhrman's place
9. Buy wedding gift for Michael and Lisa Marie
8. Ask Johnnie Cochran who the hell was that guy in the courtroom with the knit hat
7. Buy new gloves
6. Watch tape of Academy Awards to see if Letterman was as bad as everyone said
5. Reprimand Kato for leaving Jacuzzi running for an entire year
4. Single-handedly save CBS by agreeing to star in "Central Park West"
3. Tell J. Crew to send catalogs to home again
2. Talk to Hallmark about line of "race cards"
1. Two words: pinch himself

Wednesday October 4, 1995
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Girls soccer coach gets 200th victory

Milestone adds excitement to 2-0 win over Southington

(Continued from page 5)

Newington had several other good scoring chances in the first half, and they were often able to get past most of the Southington defensive players. However, several spectacular saves by goalie Elisa Scirocco kept Southington down by only one goal at halftime.

When Scirocco was injured late in the first half, it seemed to threaten her team's chances to stay in the game, considering that she had been doing most of the work on the defensive end. However, Michelle Miller took over in goal and was able to keep the game close.

On the other end, there was just no getting past the Newington defense and goalie Sara Reginio (6 saves). On those rare occasions when Southington's offense got past Newington's defense, Reginio was there to stop them. One dramatic moment in the second half came when a Southington player broke away from the Newington defense and rushed down the field toward Reginio. In what amounted to a penalty kick, Reginio got the save, but let the ball roll back out onto the field. A few seconds later, the same Southington player took another shot, and again, Reginio stopped it, preserving Newington's 1-0 lead.

With just over ten minutes to go in the game, Kristin Donlin gave Newington some breathing room. She kicked a high, arching shot towards the Southington goal. Miller, the replacement goalie, jumped up, but the ball was just beyond her fingertips. It landed in the goal and gave the Indians a 2-0 lead.

Neither team scored after that. Seconds before the buzzer sounded, Coach Mallia began walking down the sidelines holding his hands in the air. When time ran out and the win became official, the whole team ran out onto the field and celebrated, hugging and sliding in the mud.

A few minutes later, the team lined up and unfurled a sign reading "HAPPY 200TH WIN COACH MALLIA."

After that, parents rushed out onto the field to take pictures of the team. After the team lined up for the picture, Coach Mallia, drawing cheers from the players, slid in the mud and into the center of the group.

"Is this something you're happy to have over with, like the Cal Ripken streak?" *Times* chief editor Brendan Loy asked Mallia in an interview after the picture was taken.

"Yeah. Definitely. Now we can concentrate," the coach responded. "We've been gearing up to this, and I was hoping it wasn't going to be the Southington game, but in a way, I'm glad it was. Now it's over, and we can think about the rest of the season."

"Was this the closest, tensest game you've had so far?"

"This year? Yeah, definitely. Definitely. Southington came to play, and the girls just responded very well."



Kristin Donlin prepares to kick in Newington's second goal.



Coach Mallia clenches his fist as his team, in the background, celebrates after Kristin Donlin's goal put Newington up 2-0.



A group picture of Newington's girls varsity soccer team.

"So you're happy with the way they played?"

"They played tremendous. I think we missed some opportunities early that would have made—we would have gotten the second goal early. But in a way, it forced us to play harder the rest of the game, and the outcome was a pleasure."

Florida copes with Opal's aftermath

(Continued from page 5)

she said. "They said, 'You're our only hope.' "

At Harry T's Boathouse Restaurant on the harbor between Destin and Holiday Isle, manager Wayne Anderson decided he had begun evacuating too late and would have to ride it out in the sturdy restaurant. He took in eight other people, and they watched the hurricane through the harborside picture window.

As Anderson videotaped, a pontoon boat was pushed nearly a mile, ripping through two docks and then through "the Shark Shack," built for the filming of the movie "Jaws II," and onto shore. Boats were swamped, flipped and tossed, some landing on the other side of U.S. 98.

In the restaurant's terrace room, wind threw tables and chairs up and down and napkins and sweetener packets swirled eerily around and around in circles. "I call this the Poltergeist Room," Anderson said.

On Thursday morning, evacuees began returning to the waterfront, not sure what they would see. Some were shocked at what they couldn't see -- entire homes had vanished amid the storm's powerful surge, along with miles of beach.

"This is just unreal," said Santa Rosa Beach resident Jo Henderson. "I'm in shock."

"I expected to see some beach erosion, but I didn't have a clue it would be anything like this," said Joan Harris, looking at the ravaged gap between her Miramar Beach condominium and the gulf.

Down the street, residents scratched their heads and tried to remember how many houses had been there before. On the beach at Destin, Greg Lockley started drawing a diagram with his finger in the sand.

"It's so hard to tell anymore where anything was," he said. "That dune used to come quite a ways," he said, pacing off about 20 steps. "Now it's all gone."

Jan Oswell walked 10 miles up and down her beloved beaches around her home in Blue Mountain Beach. Hours later, she was still stunned.

"I haven't had a good cry yet," she said, shaking her head and showing Polaroid snapshots of beach scenes from a few weeks earlier.

It will take years to restore the beaches, if they can ever be restored, and many months to rebuild the ruined homes. Some Panhandle residents still hadn't been able to get their homes repaired from Hurricane Erin's damage two months earlier because workers were too backlogged.

There were outbursts of frustration and anger, especially from some residents kept away from barrier islands where authorities were trying to create safe conditions and account for missing people. A National Guardsman carried an M-16 as Destin residents lined up Friday for the first gasoline available since the storm.

Yet, as the week ended, many residents seemed philosophical and determined, relieved to be alive. One evacuee placed a large sign outside his house, reading simply: "Thanks, Lord."

"I won't be without a boat for long," said Dennis Johnson, who lost his uninsured \$20,000 houseboat. "This is just a price we have to pay for living here."

"It's just a small setback," carpenter Billy Forrest said as he resumed work Friday on a new \$175,000 beachfront house. "We'll just build back better and stronger, I guess."



It's a massive traffic jam as Floridians evacuate Wednesday morning. Some may have been caught on the road as Opal made landfall.

Living Room Times interviews Mr. Turner



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this year and you wouldn't be at Newington High. Why are you here?

TACO: Because at the last minute, they needed two more teachers up here for foreign language. So, they asked Mrs. Gammatteo, who was teaching full-time at Kellogg, and then they asked me, who was teaching full-time at Wallace, to do some. So, this became an extra duty of ours.

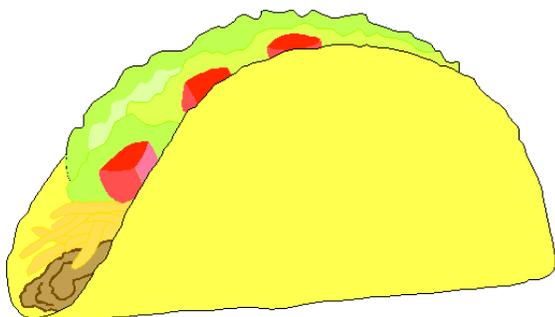
BRENDAN: And you're just here for one period?

TACO: One period, yeah. Period seven.

BRENDAN: Also, I understand that you're not letting

students call you 'Taco' in class anymore.

TACO: No. What happens in the corridors, that's another story. But, in class, I want to be known as señor Turner, or señor, or Mr. T. I don't care. But the Taco business, that kind of belongs back in the middle school.



BRENDAN: Is it actually okay with you for students to call you 'Taco' in the hallway, or do you just accept it because you have no control over it?

TACO: The hallway is outside of the classroom, so I don't concern myself with that.

BRENDAN: So, in the

hallways, people can call you 'Professor Taco'?

TACO: If they're going to do it, they're going to do it. I'm not too concerned about it, because most of the time, it's in a very friendly sense anyway. It's like, 'Hey, Taco!' And I think more people know me as 'Taco' than they do as Mr. Turner anyway, so maybe it's the only name that they know how to call me.

BRENDAN: What kids do you have in your class who you also had in middle school last year.

TACO: I'd say about three-quarters of them. Just thinking of the Kellogg kids, we've got Don Braman, Paul Labowski, Greg O'Donnell, Mike Fahr, Amy Parks, you know from our class, the 12:30 [Wednesday and Friday at Kellogg] class. A couple of kids from Wallace—Shanil, Ellen—oh, Anand, Anand Desai from Kellogg as well. And then a couple of kids from Wallace, and I have one sophomore, Peter Claffey, and a junior, Dan Frazee.

BRENDAN: How would you compare the class you teach here to last year's classes, in the way students are treating you, and the way you're teaching them?

TACO: Much better. I think everybody—I think we're all working together a lot more. They know I'm a second-year teacher, they know that I have some expectations. I also know them a little bit better, so they—I hope they don't feel too threatened by me, or—they know a little bit more what I'm looking for, and they know that I'm trying to help them out as much as I can, which is really what I try to do as a teacher.

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Ned ‘Taco’ Turner speaks with *LR Times*

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BRENDAN: Have you been using a lot of dittos?

TACO: Oh, *muchísimos*. *Muchísimos*. I had a lot of handouts for this class at the beginning of the year because I wanted to spike the vocabulary up. The book doesn’t introduce all that much vocabulary in the beginning, and I wanted to get vocabulary going. I’m showing “*Destinos*,” which is a 52-series episode. It’s a *telenovela*. It’s sort of like a Spanish soap opera/adventure/detective type of thing, and I wanted them to be able to at least have enough vocabulary to be able to understand the initial episodes of this, so they can be watching this in addition to hearing me speel off.

BRENDAN: Okay. Now, just a few miscellaneous questions....First of all, does the cafeteria serve tacos here?

TACO: I don’t know. I haven’t eaten up here yet. I always eat at Wallace. At Wallace, they do have *burritos*, and *fajitas*, and they had taco salad there once.

BRENDAN: And, since you’re planning to press charges in the car accident, you may be involved in a courtroom drama of your own. So now that the O.J. Trial is over, do you think the ‘Taco Trial’ will get all the headlines?

TACO: We’ll see. We’ll see what happens. If the guy is really trying to break his habit and everything, I still want to deal with him, I still want him to be responsible, but at the same time, if he’s trying to turn his life around, I certainly don’t want to hinder him doing that either.

BRENDAN: Okay. And, is there anything you want to say as the conclusion to the interview that I should put in?

TACO: *Adios muchachos, comen los tacos.*