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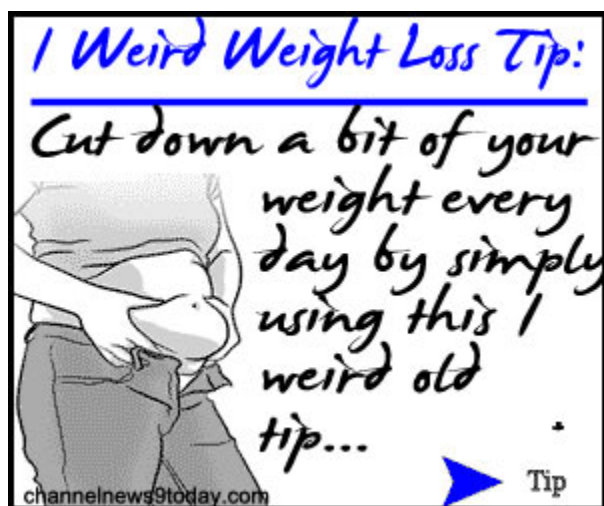
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## DIALOGUES: Best of 2010: The envelope, please...

Commentary by Matt Hickman  
Herald/Review

Put away your pins and needles, the time for waiting has passed. The Sierra Vista Herald/Bisbee Daily Review's list of the area's top female and male athletes, as well as its top coaches and organizers is here.

Rest assured our list has been compiled with no less strenuousness than usual, but at the same time, with no more science than usual — so take it for what it is worth.



All false modesty disclaimers aside, in the category of top male athlete, we went with Buena High School senior Colin McCarty, who had a fall to remember.

McCarty, the younger brother of standout former Buena golfer Neal McCarty, began October by winning the Sierra Vista Open by holding off collegiate golfers and top seasoned golfers who've been playing Pueblo del Sol Country Club since before he was born to win the amateur portion of the tournament, which was elevated in importance given the tournament's reduction in its pro field.

But that paled in comparison to his feat at the end of the month when he ran away from the field in the Division I state championships at the Randolph North Golf Course in Tucson. Arizona takes a back seat to many if not most well-populated states when it comes to most high school sports, but not golf, and against the best of the best in the state's biggest classification and its best public and private school golfers, McCarty ran away from the field on day one and had room to spare coming down the stretch on day two to win what is believed to be Buena's first individual state title.

McCarty has since signed to play golf collegiately at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville where his brother, Neal is in his senior year on the golf team.

It's not often on our list that we name the same athlete of the year twice, and, in fact, it's never happened on the female side. But when it comes to athletics, there is really nothing that draws the ultimate sportsman quite like triathlon. And in the Sierra Vista area there is no one who does it better and with more consistency than Buena senior Bora Leonard, who adds a stellar record on the Colts' cross country and track teams to regular victories in local and statewide triathlons and bike races.

Coach of the year was an tough choice, but ultimately when any sport looks at its top coaches it tends to weigh coaching performance according to wealth of talent. And while it didn't hurt for Tombstone High track coaches Jake Winslow and Joe Thomas to have the state's top distance runner in Cody Rosengarten, the fact remains that Tombstone sports, while likely on deck to have another influx of talent come through its programs, is struggling to find wins and talent right now. With this in mind, the Tombstone boys' track team's Class 2A state championship in May is all the more impressive.

Our choice for organizer of the year is tied in to what was, apart from the death and memorials of legendary Bisbee High football coach Truman Williamson, the biggest story of the year.

It's been said that the downfall of President Nixon had more to do with his covering up of crimes more than the crimes themselves. This thinking had to be in the mind of the Sierra Vista Unified School District when it conducted an internal and external investigation of its extracurricular fundraising practices. The audits, much like *The Murder on the Orient Express*, ultimately proved everyone, and therefore no one, guilty, and really only managed to heap more embarrassment on a school system that can ill-afford it, more suffering on the student-athletes who already are spending an indecent amount of their time fund-raising, and more reasons for the next generation of would-be Colt Booster Club officers to balk at their calling.

It was the Colt Booster Club that took the brunt of the blame for the long-running flaw in the way Buena athletics deposits and uses funds, and though they were as guilty, and at the same time as not guilty as everyone else involved, there was never any suggestion that any of its members did anything nefarious. These folks, headed by President Frank Valdez, who give of their time to try to give Buena High athletes all the opportunities they deserve, deserve our thanks and recognition.

Perhaps the lesson of this whole debacle is best relayed in the wisdom of Shakespeare's fool Falstaff who reminds us that sometimes discretion is the better part of valor.

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#### Top Male Athletes

1. Colin McCarty, Buena High School golfer
2. Cody Rosengarten, Tombstone High School track
3. Josue Miranda, Bisbee High School football
4. Jeremy Tuttle, Buena High School track, football
5. Brian Grimm, Bowling

#### Top Female Athletes

1. Bora Leonard, triathlete & Buena High School runner
2. Ashley Weber, Buena High School track and field thrower
3. Anne Herbst, cyclist and triathlete
4. A'jha Edwards, Tombstone High & Pima CC basketball
5. Keyondra White, Buena High School basketball

#### Top Coaches

1. Jake Winslow & Joe Thomas, Tombstone High track and field
2. Mark Schaefer, Buena High School football & softball
3. Karyn Olson, Buena High School cheerleading
4. Chris Vertrees, Bisbee High School and Ironmen football
5. John Page, Buena High School wrestling

#### Top Organizers

1. Colt Booster Club
2. Friends of Warren Ballpark
3. Pastor Dennis Nitschke, Upward Sports Ministries
4. Misty Briseno, Sierra Vista Little League President
5. Terry and Denise Celentano, Cochise County golf pioneers

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