



Snowiest December ever for CNY

By Carson Metcalf

This past December turned out to be a month of extremes in the weather department. From huge swings in temperature to record-breaking accumulations of snow, 2010 sure did end on an interesting note.

December 2010 started off quite mild. On the very first day of the month we saw a high temperature of 63 degrees, just 5 degrees shy of breaking a record set in 2006, but still well above the average high for the day of 41 degrees.

Soon, we found ourselves back in the cold that you would expect in Central New York for this time of the year, as temperatures dropped the very next day into the mid-30s. As it would turn out, the highest temperature we recorded after December 1 turned out to be on December 31. On New Year's Eve we had a high temperature of 49 degrees.

Despite the warm weather we had to start and end the month with, only six above-average highs were recorded in December and no record high or low temperatures were recorded. December was quite cold on the whole however, coming in overall in terms of temperatures about 3 degrees below average. The cold temperatures we saw throughout the month definitely coincide with the heavy accumulations of snow we received.

This past December will go down in history as the snowiest December on record for Central New York. In Fulton, 79.9 inches of snow were recorded for the month, and in Syracuse, 72.8 inches. The previous record for the snowiest December in Syracuse was 70.3 inches, set back in 2000. It is safe to say that the meteorology buffs in the area were quite disappointed with the fact that we were just inches away from achieving the snowiest month of all-time for Syracuse, which is still January 2004, in which 78.1 inches were recorded.

For the most part, the snow came in the form of lake-effect in two distinct bursts. One took place from December 4-9, when we accumulated 38.1 inches of snow. The next period occurred from December 14 to December 18, when 31.5 inches of snow fell. Many local students, including those here in Fulton, were

quite pleased, of course, as the snow caused the first snow days of the year to occur.

Heading into the New Year we're being teased with some snow, but will it be enough

to afford us some mornings to sleep in? We'll have to wait and see.

Information for this article was obtained from the National Weather Service, AccuWeather,



Scenes like this have become far too familiar to the residents of Central New York as December brought a record snowfall. And just think, winter is barely two weeks old! (Kayla Hanczyk photo)

Going someplace cool? Take
RaiderNet

Daily

with you and get your picture taken for this year's
Fultonian Yearbook feature

"Where in the world is The Raider?"

Winter photo contest is underway

The G. Ray Bodley High School Photo Club is proud to announce the second annual winter theme photo contest. Students and teachers are invited to submit 1-3 printed pictures to Ms. Amerault in room 120. The deadline for photos is March 7. See Ms. Amerault for details.

Opinion

Donating blood: if at first you don't succeed...

By Kaitlyn Lauber

Personally, giving blood was always a hassle; especially because I have been turned away more times than I have ever been allowed to do it. I was deferred once because of my iron levels, another time I was turned away because of my height, and another because they couldn't find a vein big enough to stand the needle. Deferral and rejection happen all too often to those who want to donate.

My first attempt at giving blood was very nerve wrecking, especially because I was so afraid that something would go wrong. And of course, if you think negatively, negative things will happen to you. After passing the entire evaluation to see if I was able, I was on the stretcher, ready to donate my pint, when they just couldn't seem to find a vein in my arm. And so ended my first disappointment.

After being turned away so many times, I didn't think that it was possible for me to give blood. It was just like the cat, or the jelly telling the peanut butter what's up. But, I thought "Oh. Why not? Might as well try again, you never know." And with that thought in mind, I drove to the Liverpool donation center and went in for one last try. The receptionist was quiet as usual, as I sat to read my pre-donation materials as I had done so many times in the past.

After skimming through the thick packet of things that can disqualify

"The actual donation was a complete breeze. I was talking and feeling great. It felt so wonderful, that I could actually help others like I had been trying to for years."

a person, they called me in for the routine iron test. That dreaded needle stick was less than a second and the test felt like it took forever. After what seemed like an eternity, the phlebotomist turned to me and said, "That's odd. You don't seem to have any iron in your blood." This, in turn, had me welling up in tears, because I'd heard this response so many times before. As I was becoming a little emotional, she decided to tell me that the iron machine had measured an air bubble in my blood sample, and not my real blood. It turned out that I actually did have enough iron and was all set to donate.

At this point I was literally shaking from anxiety, because now all that had to be done was that needle being put through my skin and sucking a pint of blood right out of my body. I was sitting and waiting

for her to start my actual donation, when I saw a man, doing the double red cell donation watching *Jersey Shore* and joking around with the Red Cross staff. The sound of Snookie and Mike actually helped me relax and I just get it over with.

The actual donation was a complete breeze. I was talking and feeling great. It felt so wonderful, that I could actually help others like I had been trying to for years. I felt so accomplished. Like something I had been trying to do finally went right.

The very same receptionist I had seen in the beginning had a bottle of water and a bag of pretzels waiting for me at a table across from the donation station. I ate and right as I was about to leave, I felt very odd. It was kind of like the feeling when all of your blood rushes out of your head and you get really dizzy. Mind you, this isn't as common as I make it seem. As soon as I felt sick, I was whisked off into a recovery room and had my legs above my head and was drinking lots of water. That whole feeling was over relatively quickly and I was sent on my way with one less pint of blood, and twice as much satisfaction for helping others.

Since that day, I have donated again and plan to in the spring at the next school blood drive. The satisfaction of donating your blood and time is well worth the rejection that can so easily take place, and not really affect your entire life of donating. So I encourage you, the girl with the fear of rejection, or the boy who might be a little afraid of needles, to donate your blood and save lives. Because you can truly make a difference, with just the touch of a needle.



RND reporter Kaitlyn Lauber finally succeeded at donating blood after several foiled attempts.

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Weekend features two new movie offerings



Tired of snow and football? Then this is the weekend to get out to the movie theater and watch a new flick. While the first weekend of the new year is traditionally a slow one in terms of new major releases, there are two noteworthy offerings from two contrasting genres.

As always, consult the local listings for times and availability.

an Os-
Season of the Witch, a high anticipated action-drama-fantasy.

This film is led by a heroic Crusader and his fellow soldier who must transport a woman accused of being a witch to a remote monastery.

The journey across vast terrain ultimately leads to be a test of their

Season of the Witch: Nicolas Cage, car winning actor premieres in *Sea-*

courage and strength as they discover a girl's secret and find themselves battling a powerful force that will determine the fate of the world.

Country Strong: A drama centered on a rising country-music songwriter, Garrett Hedlund, who sparks with a fallen star, played by Gwyneth Paltrow. Together, they mount his ascent and her comeback, which leads to romantic complications involving her husband/manager, country singer Tim McGraw, and a beauty queen-turned-singer (Leighton Meester).

Bizarre News of the Day

Almost 1,000 people flocked to a wedding in Cambodia between two snakes, believing the nuptials will bring peace and prosperity to those who attended. The bride, a 16-foot long python weighed about 200 pounds, married her smaller mate in a village south of Phnom Penh.

Buddhist monks blessed the snakes and they were showered with flowers from villagers during the two-hour ceremony. The man who owns the female snake bride said, "we organized the wedding ceremony for the pythons in order to oust bad things and bring good luck and happiness for our villages." The man found the python while fishing in 1994 and says no misfortune has befallen his family since the snake was welcomed into his home.

By Morgan Firenze

Quote of the day:

"I'm pretty sure there's a lot more to life than being really, really, ridiculously good looking. And I plan on finding out what that is.

Derek Zoolander, Zoolander

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NFL Picks



Brett Williams
 Last week: 17-15
 Overall: 129-71

Saints Over Seahawks
 The New Orleans Saints finished the season strong this year at 11-5 and looked solid in their recent games. The Seahawks, however, snuck their way in with a 7-9 record. The Saints high powered offense will be too much for a very weak Seattle Defense. Drew Brees should have a field day against the Seahawks secondary and lead the Saints to Victory.

Brett's Picks:
 New Orleans
 Green Bay
 Baltimore
 Baltimore



Max Fobes
 Last week: 20-12
 Overall: 124-76

With the regular season coming to a close, it's time to get serious, and kickoff for the post-season is just moments away. Cancel all plans this Sunday, you will not want to miss this.

When the Packers travel to Philly this weekend everything is on the line. Andy Rogers and his club have much to prove, while Michael Vick has led the Eagles to the post-season tallying up career numbers this year. Green Bay's unstoppable pass game versus the dynamic rushing attack of Philadelphia.

Both teams stand at 10-6, and in the battle to eleven I see the Eagles flying high with the offense leading the way.

Max says:
 New Orleans
 Philadelphia
 Baltimore
 NY Jets



Mr. Senecal
 Last week: 21-11
 Overall: 122-78

My usual nature is to go with the home teams when the playoffs roll around, and maybe next week I will follow my own advice. But this week's matchups lend themselves toward big performances from the road teams, especially in the case of the defending Super Bowl champion Saints and the AFC wild-card Baltimore Ravens.

Seattle made it into the playoffs at 7-9, the worst mark ever for a playoff team, and I just can't see them besting Drew Brees and company. Likewise the Chiefs are only in by virtue of a weakened AFC West, and will be no match for the playoff tested Ravens.

The Jets and Packers are also on the road and will face stern tests, but something tells me that this will be a 4-0 weekend for the visiting sides.

Mr. S's Picks:
 Saints
 Packers
 Ravens
 Jets



Nick Mattice
 Last week: 18-14
 Overall: 118-82

The Green Bay Packers in their last two games have shown a lot of improvement and proven that they belong in the NFC Wildcard game. The Eagles this year are one of the top teams in the NFL with Michael Vick taking snaps. The Packers beat the Eagles in week one, but as of right now both teams are very different than they were in September.

After Aaron Rodgers' return in week 16 against the Giants he has racked up 663 yards and five touchdowns. He will look to carry this momentum into the first round of the playoffs and keep it going throughout. The key for Green Bay will be containing Mike Vick and taking away the long ball. If the Packers can execute they will surely win this game.

Nick Says:
 New Orleans
 Green Bay
 Kansas City
 New York J



Don Wilmot
 Last week: 16-16
 Overall: 115-85

With the series of these two teams tied 2-2, I believe that the Baltimore Ravens will have no problem beating the Chiefs in this game.

Not only the arm of Joe Flacco, but also the dual running back threats Ray Rice and Willis McGahee will prove too much for the Kansas City defense. It will not be a blow out however, with wide receiver Dwayne Bowe with 72 catches and over a thousand yards receiving this year, and the powerful arm of Matt Cassel, the Chiefs could be dangerous. But in the secondary lurks safety Ed Reed, and he always comes to play. Baltimore: 21 Kansas City: 10

Don Says:
 New Orleans
 Philadelphia
 Baltimore
 Indianapolis

Sports

Bowlers highlight tough night for Raider sides

Smiles were at a premium for Raider sporting sides on Thursday when the volleyball, hockey, and both boys and girls basketball teams all came away disappointed after losing efforts. Only the Raider bowlers were able to emerge victorious, as the boys cruised to 5-0 on the season with a 4-0 shutout over Solvay and the girls upped their count to 4-1 by also blanking the Bearcats by a 4-0 count.

Elsewhere Chittenango topped the Raider spikers in four games and Cazenovia blitzed the icemen 8-1 while ES-M used a similar approach to top the boys and girls basketball teams 66-45 and 59-46 respectively.

Dan Wahl was in top form for the Raiders on Thursday with a match high 695 series topped by a high game of 267. Also rolling well for Fulton were Alex Stanski (254-622) and Kyle Denson (202-588).

The girls were paced by an outstanding 645 series from Mikayla Guernsey, who counted a 248 high game among her totals. Teammate Jamie Elen followed up with a 547 series and Kylie Clifford was right behind at 538.

Top-ranked Caz prevails

The long ride to Cazenovia produced the most lopsided contest of the season for the Raider icemen on Thursday as top ranked Cazenovia handed Fulton an 8-1 defeat. Fulton found themselves in a hole early, as the Lakers quickly put two goals in the net in the first period, but senior captain Steven Segouin found the net in the first frame, which ended with a score of 3-1.

The second period was a solid period for both teams, as only one goal was scored, giving the Lakers a 4-1 lead before a catastrophic third period. Cazenovia came out strong and proved why they are the top team in the state. Netting four goals in the third period, the Lakers sealed the game, sending the icemen home in defeat. In net for the Raiders was Kevin Niver, who recorded 39 saves, and an 83.0 save percentage.

The Raiders travel to Baldwinsville tomorrow to take on the Bees for an afternoon contest. The puck drops on the ice at 3:30 for the non-league showdown between the 4-4-1 Bees and the 2-5-1 Raiders. *By Colin Shannon*
ES-M bests hoopsters

Raider Sports



Fresh off their big win over local rival Phoenix on Wednesday night, the Fulton wrestling team will carry the banner for Section 3 wrestling this weekend when they attend the prestigious Union-Endicott Duals on Saturday and Sunday. The annual gathering draws many of the best teams in New York State and has served as the unofficial NYS championship over the past decade. Fulton's Nick Muckey, above, is one of many Raiders who will be looking for a good showing at U-E. (Kayla Hanczyk photo)

It was another tough loss for the Raider varsity boys as they fell to the ES-M Spartans 66-45. The game proved too much and although Fulton was only down 12 at the half, the Spartans would ultimately pull away in the start of the third quarter.

The main focus of the Raiders at half was the boards; the team was simply getting out rebounded. Although the team was bigger in stature there was no excuse for not boxing out.

The quick trigger of Sharif Nero a senior with 15 points and Kieth Caiello who had 14 points with 2 threes would lead the Spartans to the victory. Overall the 0-6 Raiders are not looking to give up and will continue to fight for their first win!
By Hunter Gorton

It was a similar story for the girls as ES-M used a 16-8 second quarter doubling to pull away from a tight, 18-15 first quarter struggle. Gabby Eure did major damage for the Spartans with 21 points to offset performances of 15 and 12 from Fulton's Ashlynn Palmitesso and Anna McKay, who both connected twice

from beyond the three point line.

Spikers fall to Bears

Chittenango showed itself to be a rising power in the Class A ranks by improving to 7-2 overall with a four game win over the two-time defending champion Raiders. Fulton started well with a 25-17 first game triumph, but after that it was all Bears as Chittenango prevailed 25-21, 25-21 and 25-17 to leave the Raiders at 4-3 overall and 3-2 in league play.

Erika Johnson delivered 14 kills with three blocks and Kirsten Francis had 11 kills for a Fulton side that also picked up five digs from Ciara Chapman.

This week in Raider Sports

Saturday, Jan. 8: Hockey @ B'ville (3:30); JV V'ball @ Marcellus Tourney (9 a.m.); Girls B'ball vs. New Hartford (JV-noon/V-2 p.m.); Indoor track @ Grieve Meet (11 a.m. @ Colgate); Wrestling @ Union-Endicott Duals (all day)

School of Thought compiled by Nick Mattice & Brett Williams

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?



"The Packers are going all the way."

Haley Noel



"Rashad Mendenhall will be named Superbowl MVP."

Ross Maxam



"The Packers will pull through and have a heck of a turnout."

Mrs. Ryan



"Tom Brady is hot, so New England all the way."

Ashley McCann

Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



Today:



Cloudy with snow showers. High in the low-20s.
Record high-64 (2008)
Avg. high: 32

Tonight:



Cloudy skies. Low around 10.
Record low: -11 (1996)
Avg. low: 15

Tomorrow:

Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the mid-20s, low in the upper-teens.
Record high/low: 62/-22 (2008/1968)
Avg. 32/15

Sunday:

A few snow showers. High in the mid-20s, low in the upper-teens.
Record high/low: 63/-22 (2008/1968)
Avg. 32/15

*GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com
Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.*