



Choctaw Sun photo by Marcus Gates

SCA first baseman Tyler Fulcher laces a single into center during the Rebels 7-3 loss to Jackson on Monday in Toxey.

# Rebels fall to Jackson

■ South Choctaw pounds out seven hits, but it's not enough in 7-3 loss

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — South Choctaw (1-3) couldn't keep the momentum going after breaking their 21-game losing streak in their last outing against Sumter, losing to Jackson on Tuesday at Skinner Park in Toxey.

The Rebels, trailing just 3-0 in the sixth, got a good starting performance from pitcher Matt Etheridge and pounded out seven hits, including a two-run double from catcher Jacob Sullivan.

Jackson iced the game, however, with a four-spot in the top of the sixth thanks to six Rebel errors. The big inning put Jackson up 7-0 before Sullivan's RBI-double, followed by a run-scoring single from Trent Gibson, pulled the Rebels to within 7-3. In all, South Choctaw committed 11 errors.

Etheridge went the complete game allowing seven hits with three strike outs and two walks. Trent Gibson finished 2-for-3 at the plate with an RBI, while Jacob Sullivan got one hit in four at-bats with two RBI. Cody McIlwain, Matt Etheridge, Tyler Fulcher and Trey Waddell each added a hit.

South Choctaw (1-4) lost 10-0 to Patrician in Butler at presstime on Thursday.

Next, SCA will host Faith on Monday (3/12) and travel to Monroe on Tuesday (3/13).



## They're Baaack!!

While cleaning his backyard, M.L. Coody came across a visitor in the form of this big rattlesnake that sported seven rattlers and a button.

# Safety tips for getting your boat back in the water

By Officer Pat Oliver  
Alabama Marine Police

DEMOPOLIS — It has a rather cold winter in West Alabama this but we all know Spring will arrive very soon. Many peoples attention will turn to boating and fishing. This article is to refresh your mind about boating safety and a few pointers to make your

first outing on the water a safe and pleasurable event.

Cold weather just has a way of killing your boats batteries, so begin charging them well in advance of your planned trip. A slow trickle charge is usually better. First off, just make a visual inspection of your boat and trailer. Look for obvious signs potential problems.

Things like rat's nest in enclosed compartments may be an indicator of a problem. Rodents may use insulation off wires, or foam from your PFD (personal flotation device) to construct a warm winter home in your boat. Inspect wiring and fuel lines. Note to see if where your boat is sitting there is any unexplained grease spots. You may have a

slow leak in the lower unit. You will want check the level of your lower unit fluid even if you don't see any sign of a leak. Switches have a way of getting corroded and just don't work. Often times a shot of a lubricant like WD-40, then working the switch back and forth numerous times will take care the problem.

Once your batteries have charged and you have made the visual inspections, it will do no harm to just turn the engine over a few times. Be sure to inspect the gas in the fuel tank. If the gas don't smell like gas, but like paint stripper, you will need to drain the fuel tank and replace it with fresh gasoline. If you have a connector to water through the engine that is a really good way to be sure you won't be disappointed at the boat ramp. Do not run the engine without water running through it as it is designed to draw water through the lower unit to cool the power head. Hook up the water hose with the connector and let your engine run several minutes. If you don't have a connector to run the boat, when you get to the boat ramp, just back the trailer into the water until the lower unit is submerged, leaving the boat on the trailer then start the engine and let it run a few minutes. At least if it doesn't start your boat is still on the trailer.

Most of us have to trailer our boat to the lake, so inspect the trailer bearing and ensure they are well greased. It is a good idea if you haven't pulled your trailer in a while, after you have pulled it for a mile, stop and check to see if the wheels hub is getting too hot. If it is too hot to hold

your hand on it, you need to re-pack the bearing.

Now that you have checked everything mechanical on the boat and trailer, including trailer lights, it is time to check your required safety equipment. Even though the equipment was there last fall, it has away of being moved, your type IV PED may now be a cushion on you son's deer stand, and the wife used the fire extinguisher to put out the pot roast.

Basic safety equipment to check is PFD's (Personal Flotation Devices), fire extinguisher, Emergency Shut-off switch, running lights, and horn or whistle. Make sure the registration decal on your boat is current and the registra-

The 4,969 boating accidents reported in 2005 resulted in 697 fatalities, 3,451 injuries, and \$38,721,088 in property damage.

— U.S. Coast Guard

tion certificate is aboard the boat.

Have a safe boating season and please don't drink and drive... if I find an impaired driver or boat operator they will be arrested without exception.

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