

Buckeye Cub Tug pulling into Somerset

People from all over the United States (and their tractors) will be descending upon the Village of Somerset on Aug. 9 and 10 for the Buckeye Cub Tug and Cub Fest Reunion.

Organized by Doug and Bonnie Miller and Darrell and Janet Ratliff and family, this noncompetitive tractor pull is exclusively for Farmall/International Harvester Cub and Cub Lo-Boy tractors. It is sponsored by the Miller and Ratliff families and the Southeastern Ohio Garden Tractor Pullers Association.

Miller is part of an online tractor forum dedicated to the Farmall Cub. "In 2000, a few members of the forum began gathering together to talk about their tractors and help each other work on and use them. The gathering was called a Cub Fest and each year a different member would host the gathering," Miller explained. "Folks started traveling in from out of state to meet some of their online friends. Aside from doing mechanical repairs, some of the hosts provided an area where the members could plow and disk some ground."

The Ratliff family hosted their first Cub Fest in 2005 and since he had no ground for tillage, he looked for an activity where members could do something with their tractors. "The village park next door to Ratliff's property in Stoutsville has a tractor pulling track and the local garden tractor club holds a pull there once a month during the summer months. He talked with the club members and arranged for the garden tractor sled to be used in a tractor pull for cubs only.

According to Ratliff, the pull turned out to be a very popular activity for forum members because cubs are small farm tractors and can't compete with regular farm tractors, but they are bigger than garden tractors so tractor pulling was something that cub owners never got to do. "What makes this fun for cub owners is the chance to participate in something outside the normal gardening and mowing chores that most cub



Doug Miller pulling at the 2011 Buckeye Cub Tug.

owners do," he noted.

The Cub Fest moved on to a new site the next year, but Ratliff was soon asked by the group to host another pull. "So we put another pull together, named it the Buckeye Cub Tug and the rest is history," he laughed.

Held at the Somerset Memorial Park in Somerset, the tug is for entertainment purposes only. There is no entry fee and no prize purse. Miller said the winner earns only bragging rights and gets to provide a home for the coveted "Golden Shaft" trophy for a year, but added, "Even though we call this a non-competitive event and there are no monetary prizes, the competitive spirit is alive at the tug." Pulling begins at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, with a barn party and potluck dinner following at the Miller's. Spectators are welcome to come and enjoy the event, as well as Cub owners who would like to participate.

On Friday, prior to the Cub Tug the Cub Fest will be in full swing for those who want to learn how to work on their own Cub tractors. Experts are on deck to assist as well as other helping hands to get your favorite Cub tractor running. The annual Cub Fest Reunion expects to welcome about one hundred

forum members and their families from all over the United States. All of Friday's activities will take place at the Miller residence 416 S. Columbus St. in Somerset.

Village council President David Snider said the event is good for the community. "It brings people to Somerset and they can discover what a wonderful place Somerset is."

And don't worry about things to eat; there will be a pancake breakfast on Friday morning and an omelet breakfast on Saturday morning, with donations accepted to cover expenses. Somerset Boy Scout Troup 257 will serve lunch at trackside on Saturday.

There is a carry-in dinner and hog roast on Friday night

and on Saturday after the tug is over there will be a barn dance with Karaoke singing from 6 to 10 p.m.," Miller said.

The Cub Tug wouldn't be possible without the cooperation of the Somerset Memorial Park Board, the Southeastern Ohio Garden Tractor Pullers Association, Clay Haus Restaurant, Knight Excavating, Kroger Company, Landmark Auto Parts, Kuhn Turf Equipment and Somerset Boy Scout Troup 257. We also would like to thank the members of the forum at FarmallCub.com for making the Tug worth throwing," Miller added. More info on the Buckeye Cub Tug is available at www.cubtug.com.

Five OU position battles to watch

BY JASON ARKLEY
MESSENGER STAFF JOURNALIST

Ohio has 16 starters returning and among them several well-established senior leaders.

However, there are several key spots where the Bobcats will be looking to find starters or develop depth during the 2013 fall camp. Below are five of the most important position battles to keep an eye on over the next month with a look at who may fill those roles.

Place kicker
Contenders: Senior Ryan Lichtenstein (5-11, 164 pounds), sophomore Josiah Yazdani (5-10, 200), sophomore Matt Green (6-2, 225), freshman Matt Amicone (5-6, 173).

Outlook: This spot is wide open entering August as Ohio searches to replace four-year standout Matt Well continues. Green is an Oklahoma State transfer who got the OK from the NCAA to play this season. Lichtenstein is a graduate student transfer from Syracuse where he played three seasons. Yazdani was the heir apparent, until a knee injury in April of 2012 wiped his entire season last fall.

Nose/Defensive tackle
Contenders: Junior Antwan Crutcher (6-2, 300), sophomore Watson Tautiaki (6-2, 290), sophomore Brandon Purdum (6-3, 275), junior Tony Davis (6-3, 285), junior Cameron McLeod (6-5, 285).

Outlook: Ohio needs all five to play well. Crutcher fits the mold of a space-eater at NT, while Purdum got his feet wet as a backup last season. Tautiaki and McLeod are junior college transfers and will need to be ready from the get-go to give the Bobcats depth on the interior of the defensive line.

Center/Right guard
Contenders: Center — Sopho-

more Lucas Powell (6-3, 295), junior Mark Smith (6-4, 285). Right guard — Senior Sam Johnson (6-3, 310), sophomore Mike Lucas (6-4, 311).

Outlook: Ohio lost three brawlers on the interior of the offensive line to graduation including seventh-round NFL draft pick Eric Herman at right guard. Powell has been groomed for starter's role for two seasons. Smith is a multi-talented player who redshirted last year, and can fill in at left guard if needed. Johnson was playing at a high level last fall until a broken ankle prior to week five. Lucas filled in as Herman's backup after Johnson's injury. Senior Jon Lechner (6-6, 315) filled in at tackle last year, but should be the every-down player at left guard.

Outside linebacker
Contenders: Senior Keith Moore (6-0, 220), sophomore Javon Johnson (6-0, 224), junior A.J. Grady (6-1, 220), junior Brandon Atwell (6-2, 226).

Outlook: Ohio lost two starters on the outside to graduation, but Moore should seamlessly fill one of those spots if either sophomore Ben Russell (6-1, 230) or second-year freshman Blair Brown (6-0, 220) can do the job in the middle. Grady and Atwell (a former wide receiver) have the hybrid safety body types that Ohio likes at SLB. Johnson is a terrific athlete who has had to wait his turn.

Right tackle
Contenders: Senior Ryan McGrath (6-6, 300), freshman Troy Watson (6-6, 290).

Outlook: McGrath played at an all-conference level last year but suffered a gruesome broken leg injury in the regular-season finale at Kent State. If he's 100 percent, then he'll get the lion's share of the snaps. If not, Watson (a redshirt in 2012) will get the first crack to help fill the void

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GENERAL ADMISSION (Daily): \$9.00 (12 months and younger admitted free)
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EXCEPT THURSDAY, AUGUST 15th: FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE SHOW

Sunday, August 11 "VETERAN'S DAY"

Veterans admitted FREE ALL DAY
8:00 am - FAIR OPENS
12:30 pm - Tribute to the Veterans (Grandstands)
1:00 pm - HARNESS RACING
2:00 pm - RIDES OPEN
4:45 pm - GRAND OPENING OF THE 167th BLUE RIBBON FAIR (Grandstand)
7:30 pm - NTPA TRUCK AND TRACTOR PULL, (Free Show - Grandstand) (\$5 Track Chairs)

Monday, August 12 - "WENDY'S DAY" -

One Wendy's French Fry carton entitles you FREE admission to the grounds, 7:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.
11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
1:00 pm - HARNESS RACING
8:00 pm - Phil Dirt and the Dozers - Free Tack and Grandstand

Tuesday, August 13 - "SENIOR DAY"

Those 60+ Years Old Admitted FREE Until 5:00 pm.
11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
11:00 am - Karaoke in the Country Open Karaoke with Bill & Barb Marling
2:00 & 7pm - The Zerbini Family Circus
8:00 pm - NATIONWIDE DEMOLITION DERBY, (Free Show - Grandstand) (\$5 Track Chairs)

Wednesday, August 14 - "KROGER DAY"

One 14.5 ounce or 15.5 ounce can of Kroger Band Corn, Cut Greens Beans, Mixed Vegetables or Peas may be used for FREE admission to the grounds, 7:00 am Until 1:00 pm
11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
6:00 pm - Elvis Impersonator Bobby Russell (Entertainment Tent, near Gate #1)
8:00 pm - A-BAR RODEO BULL RIDING & GIRLS BARREL RACING (Free Show - Grandstand)

Thursday, August 15

11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
8:00 pm - FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE WITH SPECIAL GUEST COLT FORD CONCERT - SOLD OUT

Friday, August 16 - "PEPSI DAY"

One Pepsi can for FREE admission to the grounds, 7:00 am Until 1:00 pm
11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
7:00 pm - ROUGH TRUCK CONTEST, Sponsored by: (Free Show - Grandstand) (\$5 Track Chairs)

Saturday, August 17

11:00 am - RIDES OPEN
5:00 pm - TRUCK, TRACTOR & SEMI PULL, (FREE Show -Grandstand) (\$5 Track Chairs)

For a complete fair schedule, log on to: www.muskingumcofair.com

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