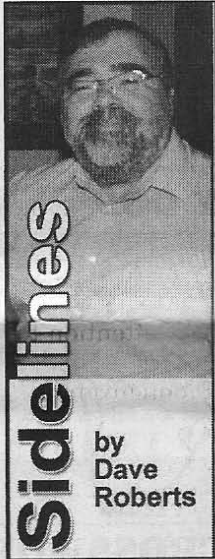


# 'thank you'

## Licking Summer Camps mean \$\$\$

If officials from The City of Rolla and the Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce were smart, they'd be falling all over them-



by  
Dave  
Roberts

selves  
wining  
and  
dining  
Dave  
Almany.

Al-  
many is  
the  
founder  
and di-  
rector  
of the  
Licking  
Sum-  
mer  
Camps,  
cur-  
rently  
in its

17th year of existence.

The Licking Summer Camps, as one would expect, began in Licking, when Almany was the then Athletic Director/boys' basketball head coach for the Wildcats.

The event offers basketball and volleyball team camp games and matches to middle school-, junior high school- and high school-age girls around the state.

Almany started the camps and they began to grow. And grow. And grow.

As the number of individuals and teams took off Almany headquartered the event in Rolla, because of the facilities, lodging and restaurants here.

See **SIDELINES, 11A**

## SIDELINES

Continued from Page 10A

Now the Licking Summer Camps are rooted throughout the state, and Almany has kept Rolla as one of the key locations.

What does that mean to Rolla? Well, money.

Lots of it.

This year's Licking Summer Camps are the largest ever. By the time the summer of 2010 ends the Licking Summer Camps will have included more than 16,000 youths and 950 teams throughout Missouri as well as surrounding states this year.

This year Rolla/St.

James hosts five basketball sessions as well as a couple of volleyball sessions. Rolla and St. James hosted basketball team camps Thursday and Friday. The next basketball session here is slated to be held July 9-10 at Missouri S&T. The next volleyball session here is July 16-17 at Missouri S&T, Rolla Junior High School and The Centre.

Last year the Licking Summer Camps brought more than 7,500 players, 1,100 coaches and 8,000 spectators for a total of 20,000 visitors to the Rolla/St. James area.

That's a lot of motel rooms and breakfasts, lunches and dinners out.

The much more highly-touted Tour of Missouri, for which Rolla had to pay a pretty penny for the honor of being a host city for a couple of years, didn't come close to touching the type of revenue numbers that the Licking Summer Camps bring to Rolla and St. James EVERY year.

So I thank Almany for keeping Rolla a very important stop for these events. It has given our city a much-needed economic boost during the past several lean years here.

I just hope it's appreciated by the city high-ups.