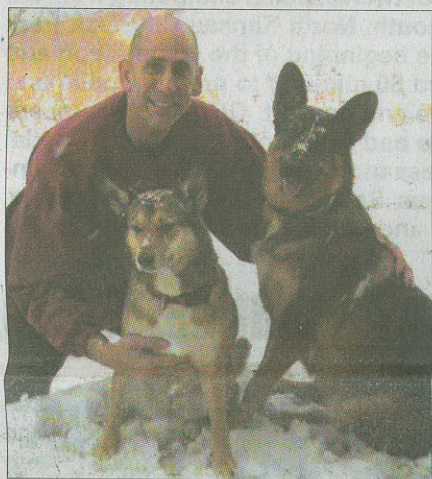


Thawing Out from 'The Worst Winter in KC's History'

KSHB Meteorologist Gary Lezak gives his insight on a historic winter, being a cancer survivor, and his recent brush with Conan O'Brien

by Joe Dimino • JCA Contributing Writer

According to local NBC Meteorologist Gary Lezak, March has officially come in like a lamb, following one of the toughest winters in Kansas City history. It has now been 116 days since our last 70 degrees.



Gary with his dogs Stormy and Breezy

may come out with some records, but the way it's lasted for so long and such long stretches below 55 degrees, it's one of the longest and harshest winters Kansas City has ever had.

What have been the biggest weather events you have either witnessed or covered?

I would have to say it was the depth of storm that we just had over Christmas (2009). It was amazing to have a white Christmas and have such a huge snow storm fall on that holiday. Also, the big tornado outbreak on May 4, 2003 when Kansas City was impacted by EF4 tornadoes that tracked near the Kansas Speedway and across the northland to Liberty.

What is your favorite season and why?

My favorite season is winter because I love snow. Maybe it's because I grew up in Los Angeles where there was never snow. It's amazing how the weather can produce these white, fluffy flakes that accumulate and affect everything that we do. So because I love snow, I love winter the best.

What is your system of medium and long range planning?

One of my life goals is to try to convince Kansas City that there is a weather forecast that can be counted on and that is accurate. I'm not 100% accurate. I still feel like I have a long way to go. But I bump into people all the time that say, "Oh yea, the forecast, no one can get that right." Or they say, "He can't predict weather 5 to 7 days at a time."

I am trying to show that you can. Not just 5-7 days, but I've got a theory that can predict much further in advance. I'm working on that theory. It's called the LRC (Lezak Recurring Cycle) and it's at my popular Action Weather Blog (<http://community.nbcactionnews.com/blogs/weatherblog>). During this winter we have had anywhere from 5,000 – 8,000 hits a day to learn about the weather. I've developed a theory way back from the 80's and 90's when I noticed that there's organizations of chaos in the atmosphere and a weather pattern that is set up for the fall between October and

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"I am sure we will make a run at 70 sometime this month," Gary said Monday, giving his spring forecast.

Here's what he said to some of our other questions as well:

Has this been the worst winter in Kansas City history?

Absolutely. This has been the worst winter we have had in a very long time. There may have been a couple bad ones in the late 70's, but when it's all said and done in three or four weeks, we'll be able to stand back and see how it stands statistically. It

Lezak:

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November 10 cycles and repeats over and over again. So right now, end of February/early March, we are in the third cycle of the pattern that is set up in October and it's going to continue. So, once I can tell what that pattern is, then I can use my meteorological expertise to project into the future. That's what my theory is all about. We can project a week, three weeks, six weeks and even months ahead and amazingly get it right.

So what are your thoughts on global warming and climate change?

What I have learned is that the earth has been warming up and it has been caused by man, at least partially. Can it change in the next 100 years? Maybe. That is why we are trying to do something about it. I'm with 90 to 95% of the scientists out there that look at the facts. What we should do from here becomes a little more political and there's a lot of debate on what's going to happen. For me, there is little debate as to what is happening.

How did your view on life change after successfully overcoming cancer?

Only a very little bit. I don't define myself as a cancer survivor. I do like to promote that when I go to schools and

talk to kids and go into public appearances. I am involved in different agencies like the American Cancer Society and Cancer in Action. I'm proud and glad to help and to tell my story. I like to inspire others by saying I'm a 10 year cancer survivor and it is possible to be cured. I believe that I'm cured. When somebody says "There is no cure for cancer," but there actually is because I'm a 10-year cancer survivor. Being a survivor doesn't define me. I do appreciate life everyday just by going through life. Life is very difficult for all of us. For every single person out there it's a struggle to be happy and my

cancer experience may have enhanced my happiness a bit, but other than that it doesn't define me.

I noticed on a promo that Conan O'Brien stopped by the station, how did that go?

Conan O'Brien was great. I cannot believe what happened to him on NBC. It's really bad. I'm a Conan O'Brien fan. He came in on the set and we did commercials with him. It was fun. I wish I could have worked more with him. I like his energy and he was genuine. He is definitely an odd ball, but that's what makes him so great.



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