Gaston County Superintendent Ed Sadler To Serve As NCHSAA President For 2003-04 Academic Year

CHAPEL HILL—Dr. Ed Sadler, superintendent of the Gaston County schools, will serve as president of the North Carolina High School Board of Directors for the 2003–04 academic year. East Carteret High School principal Ralph Holloway will serve as the Association vice-president, replacing Sadler in that position. Dr. Bill Harrison, superintendent of the Cumberland County schools who last year served as president of the NCHSAA, moves into the role as immediate past president.

A 34-year veteran educator, Sadler has spent his entire educational career with the Gaston County Schools. During that time he served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction. He was named superintendent of Gaston County Schools, March 1995.

Sadler holds an educational specialist degree and doctorate of education from UNC-Chapel Hill. He has a bachelor's degree from North Carolina Central University and a master's in education from UNC-Charlotte.

Through his exemplary leadership in the Gaston County system, parent involvement has increased, student achievement and scholarship funds are up, the graduation rate increased, teacher retention has improved, and a model citizenship education program was developed. A New Teacher Induction Program for Success was established that has become a national model.

He has also held key community leadership roles ranging from the president of the Cancer Society to the campaign chairman of the United Way.

An active member of Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church of Gastonia, he serves as a trustee, Sunday school teacher, choir member, and lay minister. His wife Thomasina is a retired teacher. They have two children.

New Board members were recommended by the NCHSAA’s Nominating Committee, based on the requirements of the Association’s constitution and by-laws. The member schools at eight regional meetings select nominees for consideration across the state, then from among those nominees individuals are selected by the Nominating Committee to fill the available slots and then approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

New Board member terms will expire in June of 2007. New members include Michael Baker of Fairmont, Joe Miller of the New Hanover County schools, and Ron Singletary of the Onslow County schools. Laryr McDonald of Southern Durham and Karen Stephens of Davie were reappointed to full terms after completing unexpired stints.

“We believe that we will continue to have outstanding leadership,” said NCHSAA executive director Charlie Adams. “We certainly look forward to Ed Sadler stepping into the role as president and we feel sure that he will give us the same sort of great direction we have gotten from our last several presidents. He has certainly been a valuable member of the Board in his previous years of service.

“We are also really excited about the caliber of people who will be joining the Board of Directors, which should help us to maintain an outstanding Board to help us serve our membership.”

Sportsmanship Recognition For NCHSAA Student-Athletes As “Heart Of A Champion” Winners Honored

CHAPEL HILL—Some 36 student-athletes from North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools were recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship as winners of “Heart of a Champion” recognition.

The sportsmanship recognition is part of the program offered by the NCHSAA Student Services Division and is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline. Que Tucker, NCHSAA associate executive director, and student services assistant Amy Peacock administer the program.

GlaxoSmithKline Heart of a Champion 2003 Honorees:
- Jack Britt High, Fayetteville: Ashley Anderson, George Bell
- Bunker Hill High, Claremont: Justin Sigmon, Stephanie Stewart
- Clinton High: Alexis Marie Coleman, Lewis Fetterman III
- Davie High: Brian Hunter, Brittany Walker
- East Columbus High: Sheena Patrick
- East Rowan High: Traci Burleson, Will Hannah
- Erwin, Clyde A. High, Asheville: Teryn Gull, Ronnie West
- Green Hope High, Morrisville: Jon Stanley
- Greene Central High: Quinton Harper
- James Hunt High, Wilson: Jacob Bagley
- Millbrook High, Raleigh: Charlotte Diuguid, Nicholas Pilley
- North Iredell High: Brandon Johnson
- Northside High (Beaufort County) :Danielle Selby, Justin Waters
- North Wilkes High: Jessica Pierce
- Ragsdale High, Jamestown: Wesley Pope, Stephanie West
- J.O. Sanderson High, Raleigh: Melissa Parana, Montre Robinson
- Seventy-First High, Fayetteville: LaToya Pringle
- South Johnston High: Justin Barefoot, Lisa Dewey
- South Stanly High: Mark Lisk, Summer Patterson
- Southern Alamance High: T.J .Clegg, Lindsay Dehart
- Southern Guilford High: Meredith Sink
- Sun Valley, Monroe: Kathryn Smith
- Western Harnett High: Cameron Thomas
NCHSAA Lists Student Services Sportsmanship Winners; Record Number Of Schools Are Ejection Free For 2002-03

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced the winners of its eighth annual NCHSAA Student Services Sportsmanship Awards.

The winners for the 2002-2003 academic year include James Kenan High School of Warsaw in the 1-A classification, while Ashe County High School and North Wilkes High School were co-winners among 2-A schools. Lake Norman High School of Mooresville was named the winner among 3-A schools and Orange High School of Hillsborough took top honors in either the 4-A classification.

To be eligible for the Student Services Sportsmanship Awards, schools had to meet three criteria. First of all, the school could have no players or coaches ejected from any athletic contest during the course of the 2002-2003 academic year. The school also had to receive an overall positive rating from the game officials and booking agents who actually work with the school’s athletic program. Finally, the school had to submit an outline or written action plan of how it attempts to promote sportsmanship and positive behavior at its events, and those plans were evaluated by a special committee.

Que Tucker, associate executive director of the NCHSAA and director of the Association’s Student Services Division, noted that a whopping 149 schools, not quite half of the NCHSAA membership, went ejection free in 2002-2003. That is the best ever, up from 114 schools the year before that went through the entire academic year without having any players or coaches ejected from a contest.

That figure itself had represented a marked improvement, up from 92 in both 2000-2001 and the year before that. A total of 82 schools were ejection-free in 1998-99, and 75 schools went without an ejection during the 1997-98 year. The guidelines record ejections for unsportsmanlike acts such as fighting, taunting, profanity, obscene gestures or disrespectfully addressing or contacting officials.

“We are certainly pleased to recognize these schools as winners of this honor,” said Tucker. “It is part of our continuing commitment to provide opportunities and recognize schools which are promoting the kind of behavior we want to see as part of a wholesome athletic environment.”

Several other schools continued long streaks without a single player or coach ejected. Among 1-A schools, Ocracoke and Highlands completed their ninth years without an ejection, while the North Carolina School for the Deaf in Morganton finished seven years and Midway six. North Moore and Nantahala have had five straight.

In the 2-A classification, Bunn is working on a string of five consecutive years while Southwest Onslow has four straight. Mitchell, Northwest Halifax and Greene Central each have had three straight unblemished years.

At the 3-A level, East Gaston, Kinston and Mooresville have been without an ejection for three straight years.

Among 4-A schools, Fuquay-Varina, Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds and North Forsyth all completed three consecutive ejection-free years.

All schools with no ejections for the year will receive a certificate of recognition. Those schools include:


Region 2 (22 schools): 1-A: Heide Trask, Hobbiton, Midway, Pamlico, Rosewood, Seven Springs Spring Creek, Wayne Technical Academy; 2-A: East Carteret, Greene Central, Northside (Onslow), Richlands, South Lenoir, Southwest Onslow; 3-A: Eastern Wayne, Goldsboro, Kinston, Pender, West Brunswick, West Craven; 4-A: Wilmington Laney, New Bern, Wilmington New Hanover.


East Wins Pair Of 1-0 Games In All-Star Soccer

GREENSBORO—The East took the measure of the West in a pair of 1-0 games in the North Carolina Coaches Association Oasis Shrine East-West all-star soccer games at UNC-Greensboro.

A first-half goal by striker Melanie Cobb of Richlands provided all the scoring in the women’s game as she tallied in the eighth minute of play. Cobb was named the Most Valuable Player of the game.

The women’s all-star series now stands at 4-4-4.

In the men’s contest, Apex’s Chris Showers tallied in the second half for the East’s 1-0 victory. The East outshot the West 19-4 as Showers was named the MVP. It was the East’s fifth straight win in the men’s series, giving it a 6-5-1 margin over the West.
Athletic Administrators From Across Nation Meet In North Carolina For Special Summit

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association building was the site of a special meeting in June that was a big success.

Jerry McGee, a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors and executive director of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association, spearheaded a summit meeting of athletic administration leaders from across the country, hosted at the NCHSAA building.

Executive directors from 22 state athletic director organizations were present, along with Bob Kunaby and Frank Covaleski of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), representing the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

“We had an awesome meeting,” said McGee. “People were so impressed with the building and the memorabilia and the hospitality, and we had a wonderful sharing time. I think it was a very beneficial three days together.”

During the summit, the group addressed common problems with which they deal as well as discussing elements of their individual job descriptions with their organizations.

Walter Sargent of Massachusetts led a discussion about corporate sponsorships and Colorado’s Gary Leeper headed up a session on member communication and technology.

The group also had a chance to taste some North Carolina specialties (such as pork barbecue) and tour some of the University of North Carolina athletic facilities.

The group plans to continue to meet and Jerry McGee was named chairman of the executive directors/secretaries organization.

“We’re proud of Jerry and he did a great job organizing this event,” said Charlie Adams, executive director of the NCHSAA.

“We’ve been fortunate to have a great relationship between the NCHSAA and the AD’s association and now people across the country are aware of how that can work.”

Scholar-Athlete Winners Named By Association For Spring

CHAPEL HILL—Over 7,000 individual awards have been earned by students for the spring semester from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for achievements in the classroom as well as on the playing court or athletic field.

The NCHSAA made the awards in its Scholar-Athlete program, which includes recognition of varsity teams which attain certain grades as well as individual athletes.

A total of 3,621 student-athletes earned the individual Scholar-Athlete award, and 232 varsity teams in sports captured team honors.

Individual Scholar-Athletes attained at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester in which he or she competed. The award is based on first semester grades for fall and winter sports and second semester grades for spring sports, and the school submits the nomination form verifying the grade point average on behalf of the athlete or team.

In the team division, a varsity team earns Scholar-Athlete recognition by attaining a 3.1 aggregate GPA for that designated semester. The school receives a certificate from the Association honoring the accomplishment and each member of the squad will also receive a certificate. A total of 3,775 individual awards were given in this category.

A minimum of five individuals is necessary to constitute a team, and all team members must be included in figuring the team GPA. The team achieving the highest grade point average in the state in its particular sport and submitting its application by the appropriate deadline receives a plaque commemorating that achievement.

North Moore captured two top awards, in men’s tennis and in baseball.

“We are very proud of the achievements of the students involved in our Scholar-Athlete program,” said Charlie Adams, executive director of the NCHSAA. “We think this is definite proof that we have a tremendous number of athletes that are playing sports and succeeding in the classroom.”

The Scholar-Athlete program recognized well over 20,000 individuals during the course of the 2002-2003 academic year. This recognition has completed 17 years as a part of the NCHSAA program.

NCHSAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM AWARD WINNERS
NCHSAA Spring Sports 2003

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North Carolina Staff Members Attend NFHS Summer Meeting

CHICAGO—A number of North Carolina High School Athletic Association staff members attended the 84th annual National Federation of State High School Associations Summer Meeting here.

Executive director Charlie Adams, deputy executive director Dick Knox, associate executive directors Que Tucker and Rick Strunk, assistant executive director Carolyn Shannonhouse and director of development Karen DeHart all attended the conference, which was held at the Chicago Marriott Downtown.

Staff members attended general sessions, available for all delegates, as well as specific breakout sessions and workshops. Knox was a speaker during a workshop entitled Medical, Liability and Catastrophic Insurance while DeHart was a speaker in a session for finance and business managers.

Among other offerings were a technology workshop, a current issues forum, round tables for executive directors, associates and assistants, and sports information directors, a session on the “No Child Left Behind” legislation, and character and coaches education.

All members of the North Carolina group attended the National High School Hall of Fame ceremonies on the last night of the conference. Among the inductees was former high school and college football star Herschel Walker. Charlie Adams of the NCHSAA is a previous inductee into that prestigious Hall.

State Athletic Directors Have Busy Week During Coaches’ Clinic In Greensboro

GREENSBORO—North Carolina’s athletic directors were also busy during the week of the North Carolina Coaches Association clinic here.

The North Carolina Athletic Directors Association held its 19th annual summer breakfast in Greensboro, with a record number of 228 of the state’s athletic directors attending, according to NCADA executive director Jerry McGee.

The group heard updates on North Carolina High School Athletic Association items from NCHSAA staff, including executive director Charlie Adams.

A total of 63 athletic directors took one of the Leadership Training Courses (LTC) offered through the NCADA, and eight took the Certified Athletic Administrator exam.

There were 78 middle school athletic directors who attended the second middle school AD meeting, organized and run by Don Patrick of Newton-Conover High School. And there were 28 new athletic directors who attended a Mentoring Committee meeting, which was directed by Bobby Guthrie of Wake County.

The mentoring approach is to pair a new athletic director with an experienced AD so that the new AD has the benefit of one who may “know the ropes” a little better.

A number of standing committees established by the NCADA met during the week and also reported excellent attendance.

McGee noted that he wished to thank both the NCHSAA and the NCCA for all their help and support and that the week was very successful for the athletic directors.

Schools Recognized For Outstanding Sportsmanship At NCHSAA Championships

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced the recipients of the NCHSAA Championship Sportsmanship awards for winter and spring sports for the 2002-2003 academic year.

The awards are based on exemplary sportsmanship exhibited by players, coaches and fans of schools competing for a state title at one of the NCHSAA’s championship venues. Each school receives a certificate noting the accomplishment.

In some cases, the awards are not done by classification; for instance, if all of the championships are held at one site, such as soccer, then one winner is chosen from among all the teams competing there. A special committee on site at each championship makes the recommendations.

“We are pleased to continue our emphasis on sportsmanship and congratulate these teams on their achievements,” said Que Tucker, NCHSAA associate executive director and director of the Student Services Program, which administers the program.

2002-2003 NCHSAA Championship Sportsmanship Awards Winter and Spring Sports

Wrestling: South Davidson and Southern Vance (co-winners)

Indoor Track: Southwest Guilford

Outdoor Track:

1-A: South Stanly
2-A: Canton Pisgah
3-A: Pikeville Charles B. Aycock
4-A: Greensboro Grimsley

Men’s Golf:

1-A: Dixon
2-A: Canton Pisgah
3-A: Pikeville Charles B. Aycock
4-A: Greensboro Grimsley

Outdoor Track:

1-A: South Stanly (men)
2-A: Brevard (women)
3-A: Southern Wayne (women)
4-A: Apex (men and women)

Men’s Tennis:

Tournament Championships: Shelby
Dual Team Championships: Elkin

Women’s Soccer: Richlands
Softball: Midway
Baseball: Gastonia Ashbrook
NCHSAA Western Regional Basketball Tournament Coming To Winston-Salem

WINSTON-SALEM—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced that the Western Regional basketball tournament will move to Winston-Salem after a long run in the Hickory area.

Charlie Adams, executive director of the NCHSAA, said that the regional tournament would be held at the Lawrence Joel Memorial Coliseum and the Coliseum Annex. The Lawrence Joel arena seats 14,407 for basketball while the Annex will seat about 4,500.

Details of the contract were not disclosed. The first tournament in the Winston-Salem would be scheduled for March 2-6, 2004. The top four teams in the West, for both men and women and in each of the NCHSAA four classifications, qualify for the regional tournament. Winners from the regional advance to the state championship game.

The regional concept began in 1981, and then the whole tournament moved to the Hickory area for the first time in 1983. Games were played at Lenoir-Rhyne College’s Shuford Memorial Gymnasium, Hickory High School and East Burke High School. Later on Newton-Conover High School and Catawba Valley Community College were used as regional sites.

“We enjoyed a terrific run in the Hickory area and the people there did a wonderful job with the tournament,” said Adams. “The last several years, though, the crowds have just been bigger than the facilities were able to handle and we have discussed this with them for some time. Winston-Salem has proven to be a wonderful host for sports such as cross-country, wrestling and football, and we have no doubt the city and the arena will be a great host for basketball, too, with these excellent venues.”

A press conference to announce the move was held at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The conference was hosted by the NCHSAA, the Greater Winston-Salem Sports Commission and the Joel Coliseum.

Chairman Mark Doughton spoke on behalf of the Sports Commission and noted that it was the goal of the organization since its inception to bring quality events like this to the Winston-Salem area.

Bucky Dame, director of the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum complex, noted the great moments the arena had already seen in basketball and that the Western Regional tournament would just add to those great moments.

Atlantic Coast Conference Lists League Championships Held In North Carolina

GREENSBORO—The Atlantic Coast Conference has listed a number of its conference championships for the coming year that may be of interest to North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools.

The conference has always believed that NCHSAA member schools, coaches and athletes might want to attend an ACC championship being held in the state of North Carolina.

Here is a list of sports, dates, sites and contacts for information on a variety of ACC events being held in our state:

- men’s and women’s cross country at Wake Forest University on November 1, 2003; for more information contact Dee Todd at (336) 854-8787;
- men’s soccer at the SAS Soccer Complex in Cary on November 5, 7 and 9, 2003; for more information contact Davis Whitfield at (336) 854-8787;
- women’s soccer at the SAS Soccer Complex in Cary on November 12, 14, and 16, 2003; for more information contact Davis Whitfield at (336) 854-8787;
- women’s basketball at the Greensboro Coliseum on March 5-8, 2004; for more information contact Kara McBurney at (336) 854-8787;
- men’s basketball at the Greensboro Coliseum on March 11-14, 2004; for more information contact Kathy Hunt at (336) 854-8787;
- men’s and women’s tennis at Millbrook Exchange Tennis Center in Raleigh on April 15-18, 2004; for more information contact Davis Whitfield at (336) 854-8787;
- women’s golf at Salem Glen Country Club in Clemmons on April 16-18, 2004; for more information contact Davis Whitfield at (336) 854-8787;
- men’s and women’s outdoor track and field at the University of North Carolina on April 16-18, 2004; for more information contact Dee Todd at (336) 854-8787;

NCHSAA Student Services Makes Individual Sportsmanship Awards

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced eight individual winners of sportsmanship awards in the NCHSAA Student Services Team Recognition Program.

The Student Services Division of the NCHSAA recognizes schools whose teams have gone ejection free for the entire academic year. In an effort to expand that recognition, individuals from any team that was ejection free may be submitted by their coach for further consideration.

These students must not only have exhibited good sportsmanship but exemplified citizenship, character and community spirit. Then all those individuals who were nominated are eligible for a drawing, each to receive a $100 scholarship.

Winners of the special individual recognition include the following:

- men’s soccer player Kevin Nance of Lake Norman High School
- cheerleader Pheneacia Jones of Southern Guilford High School
- women’s cross country runner Ashley Burrow of Southwestern Randolph High School
- volleyball player Stephanie Duke of Bear Grass High School
- women’s basketball player Kellyn Gaddy of Enka High School
- football player Blake Robinson of Perquimans High School
- baseball player Kemper Booth of West Henderson High School
- men’s cross country runner Josh Pate of East Carteret High School

The Bulletin is pleased to provide this service to its readers.
We are indeed living in a strange day and time. Each new day brings forth issues and occurrences that many of us never thought we would see in our lifetimes. More often than not, we tend to think “that could never happen to me” or “that only happens to other people”. However, the stark reality is that things can happen to us and they will if we don’t act proactively in regards to the situations that are within our control.

Such is the case with the sweeping trend known as “pay-to-play” (also known as pay for play or participation fees). Many have heard about this funding trend but we hope it will never happen in the state of North Carolina, especially not to our beloved schools or to the state association office. Unfortunately, pay-to-play is becoming more commonplace than ever and is prevalent in over 35 states, some at the local high school level, some at the state association level, and some with a combination of the two.

Consider the following. In the state of Connecticut, sub-varsity programs are being eliminated, plans are being made to “institute a pay-to-play concept [where] every athlete will pay a predetermined amount per sport”, and the number of away contests is being reduced. In Missouri, Montana, and North Dakota, pay-to-play fees are “on the increase”. In Alaska, Illinois, and Kansas, many junior varsity programs have been cut. In an effort to “keep existing high school activity programs intact, Idaho schools have resorted to the following: a reduction in the number of coaches per sport, number of teams in a specific sport (sub-varsity, B teams), and number of contests per sport”. The fourth largest school district in Alaska recently “gave notice to all of its 200+ coaches that they do not have coaching contracts for next year”. Kentucky is worried about the “possible elimination of coaching positions”, and in Alabama, “some systems are even cutting out all coaching supplements”. (Based on data collected through an Activity Funding Survey conducted by the Alaska School Activities Association, Inc.) In a survey compiled in 2002 by the National Federation of High School Associations, attorney John Black reported that “the vast majority of state associations indicated that some of their schools have pay for play; per state, anywhere from <1% to 70% of the member schools have a pay for play fee; participation fees can range from $10 to $175+ [per student]; and state associations have gone to pay for play as a source of revenue”.

At this juncture, a tremendous opportunity has presented itself to us all...we have the challenge to help prevent widespread pay-to-play from happening in our great State, at any level, by taking a proactive stance. The state association sought to do just that when it started a special restricted fund over a decade ago. In 1991, with a futuristic vision, the state association embarked upon the challenging task of establishing a fund, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Endowment Fund. The original intent of this fund, as developed by committees of administrators statewide, was three-fold: to preserve and create opportunities for student-athletes involved in NCHSAA programs; to provide a vehicle for North Carolinians to become involved in active support of wholesome programs that produce lasting results; and to ensure that the state association can continue to provide quality programs/services, including non-revenue sports, classified championships, and special programs.

During the past twelve years, the fund has slowly grown through donations from individuals, various organizations, schools, central offices, officials associations, and small businesses to the point that its current value is $3.7 million – nothing to take lightly.

Perhaps it will help to explain how an endowed fund works in order to clear up some common misconceptions concerning what an ‘endowment’ is. Money is solicited, collected, and placed into investments (in our case, investments that are very conservative in nature, thus offering lower return rates but also less chance of losing the invested money, known as the principal). Depending on the economy and the nature of the investments (stocks versus fixed vehicles), the interest generated off the initial investment, the principal, can vary.

Therefore, while the principal amount in the endowment fund is valued at $3.7 million, the NCHSAA cannot use this money directly to fund programs and services or give back to member schools. The Association can use only the interest generated off the $3.7 million for program needs and typically, the interest has fluctuated between $60,000 and $100,000 annually during the past few years. Obviously, the more principal we can accumulate, the more interest earning potential there is and thus, more funds would be available to use for designated needs (as approved by the Board of Directors).

How has the Endowment Fund helped member schools? During the past few years, the Association has been able to partially reimburse member schools for catastrophic insurance. The NCHSAA has returned $270,000 over the last three years and looks forward to returning more money to member schools again this year, depending on the interest earned. Relative to the amount we will have available to send to our membership, please keep in mind that the current economy is not a good one with respect to interest rates so we may have only a relatively small amount. The economy recently hasn’t been a friend to any of us, whether personal investments, college endowments, or the NCHSAA Endowment Fund.

A few years after the endowment fund was established, the concept of ‘endowment games’ was put into motion. These games are extra games that schools can voluntarily elect to play in revenue-producing sports with a percentage of gate receipts coming to the NCHSAA and the remaining gate receipts split between the two participating teams after expenses are deducted. To date (years 1994 through 2003), participating schools have earned revenue totaling almost $3 million. This is $3 million that participating schools could have used for purchasing equipment, bleachers, uniforms, etc. for their respective local athletic programs. This is $3 million that would not have been recognized if the ‘endowment game’ concept had not been instituted in 1993-94.

Back to the pay-to-play issue...many may not acknowledge that it is a real problem. Fortunately, we have had a healthy economy in North Carolina for many years and it has just been recently that the state budget has been deeply slashed. This can have a profound negative impact on everyone including companies statewide, our schools [and the NCHSAA’s student services program] relative to finances, more so than in previous years. In one specific area in our state, a county was forced to charge each athlete a fee to help pay for transportation costs. This is an example of pay-to-play in North Carolina.

At the state level, as a 501©(3) nonprofit organization, we strive diligently to find corporate support to offset the costs of
The NCHSAA Endowment is designed to avoid pay-for-play and preserve athletic opportunities.

championship events and special programs. However, in recent years, we have seen some sponsors redirect their dollars elsewhere and we have been forced to scramble to find new funding sources. The replacements are getting scarcer as everyone is “tightening up their purse strings”. The Association could be forced to make decisions down the road concerning whether we continue to offer certain programs or cut them out altogether due to loss of funding. The other alternative would be to charge a fee to participants, pay-to-play, an alternative that frankly, we do not want to even consider.

The NCHSAA’s answer is the endowment fund. Funds generated can be used to help fund future state playoff and championship costs, reimburse travel expenses to participating schools, offset catastrophic insurance costs to the schools, and provide grant money on a needs basis to assist schools at the local level. As funding dwindles for all of us, we will need to seek creative and innovative measures through which to pay for our programs and services. Several other states have taken North Carolina’s lead and have established, or are in progress of establishing, their own endowed funds because they see the impending threat of pay-to-play/participation fees or have already been forced to implement these fees. Our state is light years ahead of many other states because the NCHSAA has such a fund in place already.

What happens if we don’t act now? The possibilities abound. The very athletic programs that provide stability, guidance, and teach life skills to our students may be cut or severely reduced. The very athletic team(s) that coaches coach could cease to exist. Female athletes’ opportunities might be compromised. Students may not have the opportunity to participate in sports that are starting to attract a growing audience such as field hockey and lacrosse. Some kids and their families will simply not be able to afford to participate if pay-to-play is implemented at any level. At the state level, classified championship playoffs could cease to exist or be severely cut and neutral sites may become a thing of the past. Scholarships and other special recognition programs could be dropped. There are many “what ifs” and no one knows with absolute assurance whether these specific examples will or will not happen. However, when you look at the 35 states that have already succumbed to pay-to-play or participation fees in an effort to keep their programs working for the benefit of the students in their respective states, it’s hard to sit back and do nothing to try to prevent it from happening on a wide scale level in North Carolina.

We all recognize the benefits that participation in high school athletics afford our kids: higher grade point averages, higher graduation rates, fewer school absences, fewer discipline referrals, and a lower incidence of drop-out as compared to their non-participating cohorts. It would be a shame to look back years from now and see the countless numbers of North Carolina youths who did not have the same benefits, opportunities, and experiences that we all have enjoyed through participation in high school athletics.

We owe it to our youth, present and future, to try to ensure that our high school athletic programs are preserved. The NCHSAA Endowment Fund is our statewide vehicle to do just this. It’s in place and it has already helped North Carolina schools and students. But, to be able to help on a grander scale, we have to step the effort up several notches through a statewide campaign that will take the fund to over $10 million and therefore, offer us the opportunity to do more for all of us. Is it a good time to solicit the state for funds? Is it ever a good time to raise money? The answer is “no”. But there is a need and therefore, no time like the present is a good time to at least try! We believe years from now, we could look back at this time where we all stepped up to the challenge and did something that has long-term, positive benefits for high school athletics.

Charlie Adams
Executive Director

North Carolina Schools Have Great Year With Websites

Talk about a great year!
The national internet company high.com has released its list of the Top 100 websites from schools all across the nation, and North Carolina High School Athletic Association schools are well represented.

In fact, a whopping 26 of the top 100 are NCHSAA schools—congratulations to all of those!
The NCHSAA schools on the list, are, in alphabetical order:

- A.C. Reynolds High School, Asheville
- Athens Drive High School, Raleigh
- H M Cummings High School, Burlington
- East Montgomery High School
- East Surry High School
- Farmville Central High School
- Franklin High School
- Freedom High School, Morganton
- Greene Central High School
- John Holmes High School, Edenton
- Monroe High School
- Myers Park High School, Charlotte
- North Brunswick High School
- North Iredell High School
- Northside (Jacksonville) High School
- Person High School
- Providence High School, Charlotte
- Richlands High School
- Rocky Mount Senior High School
- Scotland High School
- Southeast Guilford High School
- South Johnston High School
- South Mecklenburg High School
- Southside High School, Chocowinity
- SouthWest Edgecombe High School
- White Oak High School, Jacksonville
Overall Winners Named In NCHSAA State Farm Female Athlete Awards Of Excellence

CHAPEL HILL—Overall winners have been named by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in an awards program recognizing female high school athletes statewide who excel on and off the playing field or court.

Elizabeth A. Nance of South Mecklenburg High School, Renee Sanders of Graham High School and Summer Patterson of South Stanly High School have been named the winners of the NCHSAA/State Farm Insurance Female Athlete Awards of Excellence.

The NCHSAA/State Farm Insurance Female Athlete Award of Excellence Program awarded a one thousand dollar scholarship to each winner to use toward furthering her education at the college/university level after the 2002-2003 academic year.

In the 4-A classification, Nance played volleyball, soccer, and also ran indoor and outdoor track. She captained three of those squads and was the Southwestern Conference Player of the Year in soccer, in addition to being to earning the academic honor as South Mecklenburg’s Outstanding Senior. Nance has also worked with Operation Christmas Child and the Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

West Carteret’s Filzen, the 3-A finalist, was a three-sport standout in volleyball, basketball and soccer. She was the Eastern Carolina Conference Player of the Year in volleyball and selected as West's Female Athlete of the Year.

She served as chairman of her school’s National Honor Society, was active in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and involved in various programs at her church.

Chosen in the 2-A ranks, Sanders was valedictorian of her senior class at Graham, president of the National Honor Society and president of her school’s DREAM (Daring to Role Model Excellence as Athlete Mentors) team.

She was the NCHSAA state 2-A runner-up in singles in 2002 and was a four-time conference and regional singles champion. Renee was also the MVP of her women’s soccer team.

Patterson, the 1-A recipient, was a varsity cheerleader while also earning all-conference honors in soccer and finishing sixth in the pole vault at the state track championships. She was ranked first academically in her class at South Stanly.

She was active at South in SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) and also tutored at an area elementary school.

East All-Stars Take Two In Basketball

GREENSBORO—The East swept past the West to win both basketball games in the 2003 North Carolina Coaches Association Oasis Shrine East-West all-star contests at the Greensboro Coliseum.

Tarboro’s Marquetta Dickens scored 28 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the East to a 78-72 victory in the women’s contest, while in the men’s game the East pulled away in the final quarter for a hard-earned 84-77 victory.

Dickens, headed to North Carolina State, was named Most Valuable Player in the women’s game and also had five assists and three steals. Cassie King of East Wake scored 19 points and hauled down 10 rebounds for the winners.

Camille Little of Winston-Salem Carver paced the West with 23 points and 15 boards and also had six steals, while Mary Ann McArver of Gastonia Forestview chipped in with 20 points.

In the men’s game, P.J. Tucker of Raleigh Enloe was the MVP as he led the East to victory with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Tucker will continue his career at the University of Texas.

Greg Benton of T.C. Roberson pumped in 20 points for the West while Chris Paul of West Forsyth, headed to Wake Forest, added 10. Drew Williamson of Burlington Cummings had nine points and a team-leading nine rebounds for the West.
Durham Hillside, Greensboro Smith Successfully Defend NCHSAA Track Crowns

RALEIGH—Both Durham Hillside and Greensboro Smith successfully defended their North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A track and field championships at the Pugh Derr Track on the campus of North Carolina State University.

Durham Hillside dominated the women’s field, winning by a massive 96 points in capturing its second straight team title, while Greensboro Smith emerged from a tightly bunched men’s field for its second title in a row.

Hillside rolled up 137.5 points to 41.5 for Monroe Weddington, led by a tremendous effort by Most Valuable Performer Michelle Duffey. Duffey won the 300 intermediate hurdles and also ran legs on two state championship relay teams, the four by 400 and the four by 800. All three of those Hillside performances set new NCHSAA state 3-A records.

Kernersville Glenn and Southwest Guilford tied for third with 36 points. The rest of the top ten included West Rowan at 33, Greensboro Smith with 32.5, Asheville T.C. Roberson and Northwest Cabarrus with 24 points apiece, High Point Central with 21 and Greensboro Dudley with 20.

In the men’s meet, Smith captured the team crown with 52 points to 43 apiece for Winston-Salem Carver and T.C. Roberson, who deadlocked for second. West Carteret placed fourth with 37 points and West Rowan was fifth at 36.

Piedmont’s Brandon Helms had an outstanding performance to win the men’s MVP honor. He won both the 1600 and the 3200 meters, although his regional qualifying time for the 1600 was the second best in the field and his 3200 meter qualifying mark was just the sixth fastest.

North Rowan Men, Southern Vance Women Win NCHSAA State 2-A Track And Field

RALEIGH—Led by meet Most Valuable Performer Terry Wood, North Rowan sprinted to its first North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A men’s track and field championship since 1998, winning the team title in action at the Paul Derr Track on the N.C. State University campus.

North Rowan tallied 83.5 points to 64 for defending champion North Henderson, which finished second. North Rowan had won five straight state titles until North Henderson snapped that streak in 1999, and then North Henderson had won three of the last four championships.

Wood won the triple jump, was third in the 110-meter high hurdles and sixth in the long jump to earn MVP honors.

Eastern Alamance was third in the men’s competition with 47 points, with Reidsville fourth with 40 and Burlington Cummings fifth with 31 points. A total of 47 schools scored points in the meet.

Robert Tillman of South Robeson won his third consecutive state title in the long jump.

Freshman Leigh Ann Taylor of Monroe had a stellar individual performance, but Southern Vance took the team title in women’s action.

Southern scored 68 points to 44 for runner-up North Rowan. Wilkes Central was third with 36 points, followed by Burlington Cummings with 35 and Monroe with 34. A total of 42 schools scored in the women’s meet.

Taylor won both the 1600 and the 3200-meter events after capturing the 2-A individual cross country title in the fall.

Mount Tabor Women, West Charlotte Men Take NCHSAA Team Titles In Close Races

RALEIGH—A couple of very tight battles for the team championships went down to the final event on a chilly, damp night in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A track and field championships at the Paul Derr Track on the North Carolina State University campus.

Winston-Salem Mount Tabor and Charlotte Harding went down to the 1600 meter relay battle for top honors before Mount Tabor prevailed to win the women’s title by taking third in the final race, capturing the championship by a mere one-half point, 81.5 to 81 for Harding. Charlotte Zebulon Vance wound up third, well back with 43 points, while Cary was fourth with 42 and Asheeval A.C. Reynolds fifth with 36 points.

Melissa Council of Cary was named the Most Valuable Performer in the women’s championship as she recorded a tremendous individual effort to lead the Imps. She took first place in three events, including the 200, the 300 intermediate hurdles and the long jump.

West Charlotte, Charlotte Vance and North Forsyth were within five points of one another in the men’s competition entering that 1600-meter relay. West Charlotte held on to win the title, the Lions’ first state men’s track crown since 1999 and breaking the two-year hold Mount Tabor’s men had on the team championship.

West Charlotte tallied 50 points to 47 for runner-up North Forsyth. Charlotte Vance and Southeast Raleigh tied for third with 44 points and Mount Tabor finished fifth with 35.

Corey Brown of the state men’s champions was named the MVP of the meet. The West Charlotte standout won both the 100 and 200, ran a leg on the state champion four by 200 relay team and was a member of the second-place four by 100 relay squad.

It was the 32nd annual women’s track and field championship and the 83rd renewal of the men’s championships.
Pisgah Wins 2-A Team Title

Of Forest Hills Takes Crown; Defending Champ Sean Moore Crown, J-M Captures Team Title

Wood Of Jordan-Matthews Takes Individual Crown, J-M Captures Team Title

SILER CITY—Burton Wood of Siler City Jordan-Matthews fired an even-par 72 to take top honors in the sixth annual North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A men's golf championship at Siler City Country Club.

Wood's 36-hole total of 146, two over par for the tournament, was good for a four-shot margin over runner-up Casey Flattery of Alleghany. J-M teammate Cameron Creek, who also had a 72 on Tuesday, had a 152 total in third place.

Defending individual champ Matt Cook of Murphy wound up finishing fifth, eight shots behind Wood. Last year Wood finished in a tie for fifth, 12 shots behind Cook.

Jordan-Matthews, which was one shot behind Elkin in the team standings after the first day of play, pulled away to take the team championship by 11 shots over Elkin after finishing second a year ago. Williamson was third at 647, 23 strokes out of first.

HICKORY SETS 3-A TEAM MARK; JERRY RICHARDSON OF BURLINGTON WILLIAMS IS INDIVIDUAL WINNER

BUIES CREEK—Hickory's Red Tornadoes set a 3-A record as a team en route to the title in the 18th annual North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A men's golf championships at Keith Hills Country Club.

Hickory recorded the best team total ever by a 3-A school with a blistering 584, including a 295 on the final day of play. The Red Tornadoes bested runner-up Burlington Williams by 14 shots, with Wilson Fike in third with a 600 total.

Hickory won the 2001 3-A crown and last year finished second to Wilson Hunt in the team standings. The best four of six individual scores count toward the team total.

Jerry Richardson of Burlington Williams, with a two-under 70 on Tuesday, finished with a 141 total, good for a one-shot victory over Daniel Burns of Statesville and Josh Sandman of Southeast Guilford, who tied for second.

A total of 90 golfers competed in the championships. Wendy's and the Carolinas Ford Dealers are the presenting sponsors of the event.

GREEN HOPE'S TODD WINS THIRD 4-A MEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP; BROUGHTON STRING SNAPPED

PINEHURST—Brendon Todd of Morrisville Green Hope became only the second three-time men's golf champion in the history of the North Carolina High School Association as he won the 65th annual NCHSAA state 4-A men's golf championships at Pinehurst course number four.

Todd, who was tied with Greensboro Grimsley's Jake Chominsky at the end of Monday's opening round, shot a 72 in the final round for a 144 total, two shots ahead of Chominsky at even par 144. The Green Hope standout won the 2000-4-A crown as a freshman, finished ninth in 2001, and then won it all again last year.

Chuck Merriam of South Mecklenburg is the only other three-time winner, taking crowns in 1963-65 when the tournament was an open event with all four classifications competing in one championship.

There was a six-way tie for third, and in the playoff for two medal spots Eddie Brock of Wilmington New Hanover took third on the second
hickory doubles final highlights 3-a tennis

eastern wayne's drew wins singles, all-hickory doubles final highlights 3-a tennis

GREENSBORO—eastern wayne's charlie drew outlasted east chapel hill's dan greenberg in a grueling three-set match to win the singles crown in the north carolina high school athletic association state 4-a tennis championships at the piedmont indoor tennis center.

friday's opening day of play was held at the burlington tennis center, but rain forced the move indoors on saturday.

greenberg had beaten top-seeded kevin fleck of statesville in a morning semi-final, rallying after losing the opening set to advance 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-0, in another marathon match. the east chapel hill standout then gamely battled cramps throughout the championship before drew prevailed 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4.

in doubles, it was an all-hickory final. the top-seeded red tornado team of zack williams and andrew crone beat teammates alex king and jay williams for the state title, 6-0, 6-2.

king and williams had upset the second-seeded pair of michael dooling and stockton perry of kinston in a three-set morning semi-final.

tournament director bob owens noted, "i've been involved with high school tennis for many years, but the sportsmanship displayed especially in the singles championship was remarkable. you really couldn't ask for any better tennis or any better sportsmanship shown by these young men. we were proud to be involved with this."

Dennis Myers Of My Park, Broughton doubles team take titles in state 4-A tennis

CHAPEL HILL—senior dennis myers of charlotte myers park won a pair of matches on the final day of play to win the singles championship in the north carolina high school athletic association state 4-a tennis championships at the cone-kenfield tennis center on the campus of the university of north carolina.

Myers, the second seed, defeated junior will plyler of Raleigh Broughton in straight 6-3 sets in the championship match. it was the third consecutive year that Plyler has finished as the singles runner-up.

Myers, who will continue his tennis career at N.C. State, outlasted fourth-seeded David Stone of greensboro page in a long three-set morning semi-final, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Plyler ousted defending singles champion Andy Orban of Fayetteville Terry Sanford in the other semi-final, rallying to win another grueling three-set match 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

in doubles, the top-seeded team of mat stein and Jason steinhorn of greensboro page defeated second-seeded teammates Scott simmons and Ryan Shilling with little trouble for the title, 6-1 and 6-0.

the Page team, third-seeded in the tournament, rallied after getting blasted in their first set in the morning semi-final to come back and beat greensboro grimsley's Daniel Pascale and Ricky Sherwood 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, to advance to the championship.

DUAL TEAM TENNIS

Broughton, East Chapel Hill, Elkin win dual team tennis

CARY—raleigh broughton won two out of three doubles matches in a down to the wire battle to edge greensboro page 5-4 and win the north carolina high school athletic association's state 4-a men's dual team tennis championships at the Cary tennis center.

Chris Poole of Broughton was selected as the most valuable player of the championship. the number-six singles player for the Caps won his match there and teamed with Mac Stewart to get a narrow win in the third doubles, which proved to be the margin of victory.

Broughton, which finished 24-1, won its second straight state title over Page and its sixth men's dual team title overall.

East chapel hill continued its tennis dominance as the wildcats won their fifth state crown in the last six years. East downed hickory 5-2 in its seventh consecutive trip to the championship match.
East’s Mike Greenberg, a freshman who played well in the fourth singles slot despite a bad back, was the match MVP. The Wildcats finished the season 22-0 while Hickory lost for the first time after 19 straight wins. In the 1-A final, Elkin rolled to victory, taking five of the six singles matches in the 8-1 triumph over the Durham School of the Arts. The Elks’ number-two player, Erik Ashman, was named the MVP of the match.

DSA’s only tally on the day came from number-one singles player Shawn Kwatra, who won the state 1-A singles crown earlier.

**Shelby Defeats Greene Central To Win State 2-A Tennis Crown**

CHAPEL HILL—Shelby rolled to victory in the first five singles matches and downed Greene Central 5-1 to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A men’s dual team tennis championship.

The event had been scheduled for the Cary Tennis Center but was moved indoors to the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina due to rain.

Shelby took all of its victories in straight sets. Tyler Holden, who won at number-four for the Golden Lions, was named Most Valuable Player of the championship.

It was Shelby’s third consecutive dual team tennis title and the second straight year the Golden Lions beat Greene Central in the championship.

Charlotte Catholic Rolls Past Richlands To Win 1-A/2-A Women’s Soccer Title

CARY—Four different Charlotte Catholic players scored goals as the Cougars rolled to a convincing 4-0 victory over Richlands to win the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A/2-A women’s soccer championship at SAS Soccer Park.

Senior midfielder Courtney Tighe, who assisted on the game’s first goal and played stellar defense throughout the match, was named Most Valuable Player of the championship.

Rachel Werth opened the scoring at the 23:38 mark after she garnered a rebound to give Catholic a 1-0 lead, which was the halftime score.

But the Cougars exploded for three goals in just over 11 minutes in the second half, including a pair of tallies in a 42-second span, to blow the game open.

Jessica Hartman scored off an assist from Christine Liberto at the 55:11 mark to put the Cougars ahead 2-0. Then Brooke Stewart knocked in a goal at 66:11 for a 3-0 advantage.

Richlands had won the opener 3-0 in eight innings.

The state championship was Catholic’s second straight as the Cougars finished unbeaten with a 21-0-3 mark, the first women’s team later to close the scoring.

The teams battled through a scoreless first half, with Cristietello coming up with some excellent stops. Then White Oak took a 1-0 lead early in the second half on a long shot from sophomore Lauren Meadows.

Meadows, who also made her penalty kick in that session, also played a stellar game defensively and earned the championship game Most Valuable Player award.

T.C. Roberson tied the match with just over four minutes remaining on a tally by Lindsey Trexlor.

With the score still knotted at 1-1, the exhausted teams battled through two scoreless overtime periods and then two sudden death periods before going to penalty kicks.

White Oak won its first NCHSAA women’s title, completing an unbeaten season with a 24-0-1 mark. T.C. Roberson finished 22-3-3.

**Raleigh Broughton Downs Greensboro Grimsley In 4-A**

CARY—Raleigh Broughton won its fifth North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-A women’s soccer championship in the last six years as the Caps downed Greensboro Grimsley 2-0 in the 18th annual title match at SAS Stadium.

Broughton controlled the tempo early, and Stephanie Bernabe’s goal at the 15:50 mark opened the scoring to give Broughton a 1-0 lead. Then the Caps’ Gena Villari scored following a corner kick with just over 10 minutes to play to make it 2-0.

Sophomore striker Molly Skinner of Broughton was selected as the championship match MVP.

Broughton completed an unbeaten season, finishing with a 22-0-2 mark, while Grimsley wound up 16-3-1. It was the seventh meeting in the state finals between these two women’s soccer powers, with Broughton now holding a 5-2 edge in the series.

It was the 10th appearance in the finals in the last 12 years for head coach Izzy Hernandez and the Caps, and Broughton earned its seventh NCHSAA women’s soccer state crown.

Gastonia Ashbrook Sweeps East Chapel Hill In State 3-A

ZEBULON—Josh Duncan’s arm and bat made the difference in the final game as Gastonia Ashbrook downed East Chapel Hill 8-2 to sweep their North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A baseball championship series at Five County Stadium.

Ashbrook had won the opener 3-0 in eight innings.

Duncan, a sophomore, went three for three, including a double, and scored twice. He also carried a no-hitter into the sixth inning and picked up the pitching victory. His performance earned him the championship Most Valuable Player award.

The Green Wave jumped on the Wildcats for four runs in the third, keyedy by a two-run double by catcher Stevie Klenovic. Drew Martin scored on an error and Michael Bogart also had a run-scoring single in the frame.

Patrick Christmas of East Chapel Hill broke up the no-hitter with a single to lead off the sixth and later scored to make it 5-1. But Ashbrook responded with three runs in its half of the sixth.

Trey Brenner’s solo homer in the seventh provided the other East
East Rutherford Rolls To Victory, Beats Myers Park

ROSE WINS STATE 4-A BASEBALL TITLE, BEATS MYERS PARK
IN THIRD GAME OF SERIES

ZEBULON—Greenrose Rose jumped to an early 6-0 lead and then held off a Myers Park comeback to take a 6-4 decision in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A baseball series at Five County Stadium.

Rose had won the opening game 6-4 but Myers Park evened the series with a 4-1 win in the second game.

Senior pitcher Mike Flye of Rose, who got the win on Friday night and then earned a save on Sunday, was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship series.

The Rumpants broke to a 3-0 lead in the first inning on an RBI-single by Alex White and then a two-run single by Justin Hardee. Then Rose pushed the margin to 6-0 in the second, with Tyler Holcombe and Kevin Hodges getting key back-to-back doubles in the frame.

Myers Park got its first run in the half of the second when Jason Kennell doubled home a run, and then the Mustangs made it 6-2 in the third when Rob Wilson tallied on the front end of a double steal.

Myers Park pulled to within 6-4 in the fifth when Logan Smith hit into a fielder’s choice to score one run and sophomore Tim Frye followed with a pinch-hit run-scoring single.

Holcombe and Hardee each had two hits for the Rumpants, who finished 26-2 overall and won the NCHSAA 4-A crown for the third time in the last seven years. David Forth reached base three times on walks.

The Mustangs, 23-8 overall, got a single and double from Wilson while Jim Berger and Logan Smith also had two hits apiece.

In the second game of the series, Rob Wilson of Myers Park picked up the pitching victory, striking out 11, to run his mound record to 10-0 on the season. He also led the Mustangs at the plate with two hits.

East Rutherford Rolls To Victory, Sweeps East Columbus

ZEBULON—East Rutherford sent 13 men to the plate in a seven-run third inning and the Cavaliers went on to clinch the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A baseball championship by a 14-4 count over East Columbus at Five County Stadium.

The Cavaliers swept the best-of-three series in two straight games called due to the 10-run rule. East Rutherford had won the opener 11-0.

East Columbus had cut the margin to 7-3 in the Gator half of the third before the Cavaliers broke it open, scoring seven runs with just one out in the inning.

Chad Flack of East Rutherford was named the Most Valuable Player in the series. He was just one for three on Sunday with three runs scored, but was intentionally walked twice after he blasted a pair of home runs and knocked in four runs batted in the opener.

Garland Jones and Marcus Covington each had three hits for the Cavaliers, who won their second straight NCHSAA 2-A title and finished the year with a 27-4 record.

Preston Shytle also had two hits and Stephen Harris had two, including a two-run triple, for the Cavaliers.

East Columbus got two hits apiece from Chris Baker, Justin Bordeaux and Dustin Proctor. The Gators, who were playing in the first NCHSAA state championship in any sport in school history, ended the year 19-10.

South Stokes Sweeps Ayden-Grifton In State 1-A Baseball

GARNER—Nick Conaway went the distance on the mound, scattering three hits as South Stokes defeated Ayden-Grifton 3-1 to take the state championship by sweeping the best-of-three North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A baseball series at Garner High School.

The series was originally scheduled to begin Saturday and then the opening game was suspended scoreless in the fourth inning on Sunday when the rains came again. In the opener earlier on Monday, South Stokes exploded five runs in the ninth to win the suspended game 6-2 after regulation had ended in a 1-1 deadlock.

The Sauras got three runs in the first inning of the second game and made them stand up as their first four batters reached base.

Conaway and Timmy Smith, who had pitched his team to victory in the series opener, shared the championship MVP honors. Both also had timely hits for the Sauras in the two games.

South Stokes finished with a 28-4 record, winning its last 12 games in succession, and earning its second straight state title while Ayden-Grifton wound up 23-7.

In the opening game, Bryan Ford of Ayden-Grifton blasted a solo home run in the bottom of the sixth to put the Chargers on top 1-0. But the Sauras tied the game in the seventh on two singles, a walk and a passed ball.

Ayden-Grifton appeared to win the game in the eighth when a towering blast by Ford was leaving the park, but Hairston made a game-saving catch to rob Ford of the home run.

A Hairston sacrifice bunt plated courtesy runner Aaron Finchum with the go-ahead run in the Sauras’ five-run ninth. Run-scoring singles by Daniel Brown and Nick Conaway and a two-run single by Travis Brewer also highlighted the outburst.

Timmy Smith went the route on the mound for South to improve his record to 11-0.

Ervin Sisters Lead Hopewell To Second Consecutive NCHSAA 4-A Softball Title

RALEIGH—Led by identical twins Shaina and Miranda Ervin, Huntersville Hopewell won its second consecutive North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A softball championship, shutting out Wilmington Ashley 3-0 in the 2003 championship game at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Shaina, who was the Most Valuable Player in last year’s championship, went the distance on the mound and fired a no-hitter, striking out 12.

Catcher Miranda had a double and a three-run homer in four trips to the plate in the decisive game.

For the state championship weekend, Shaina allowed just two hits and whiffed 37 in 19 innings and Miranda went seven for 11 at the plate with nine runs batted in. They were named co-MVPs.

Hopewell got a run in the first when a two-out double by Miranda Ervin scored the courtesy runner for Shaina, who had singled. Then the Titans scored four runs in the third, aided by Miranda’s three-run homer.

Hopewell won its second consecutive NCHSAA state softball title and finished with a 27-4 record. Ashley wound up 24-6 overall.
NCHSAA STATE 2-A SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Raleigh

STATE SEMIFINALS
Avery, Wilmington Ashley 4
Huntersville Hopewell 10, Northwest Guilford 0 (5 innings)

WINNER'S FINAL
Huntersville Hopewell 10, Apex 0

ELIMINATION ROUNDS
Wilmington Ashley 7, Northwest Guilford 0 (5 innings)
Wilmington Ashley 2, Apex 1

CHAMPIONSHIP
Huntersville Hopewell 5, Wilmington Ashley 0

West Rowan Nips Harnett Central
For NCHSAA 3-A Crown

RALEIGH—West Rowan strung together three excellent bunts in the eighth inning and the Falcons nipped Harnett Central 1-0 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A softball championship at Walnut Creek Softball Complex. After a scoreless regulation seven innings, Harnett Central got a pair of runners on base with one out but winning pitcher Devon Williams worked out of the jam. Then in the bottom of the inning, West's Emily Wallace laid down a great bunt. Williams followed with an excellent bunt that wound up putting Wallace at third. Then Cara Graham's bunt scored Wallace with the winning run.

Williams was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the state championships, earning all three Falcon victories on the mound.

Kayleigh Snyder had a pair of hits for Harnett Central, which ended its season with a 28-4 record. Emily Wallace had two hits for West, which earned its second consecutive NCHSAA 3-A title and won its 27th game in 29 starts.

NCHSAA STATE 3-A SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Raleigh

STATE SEMIFINALS
Harnett Central 1, Charles B. Aycock 0 (12 innings)
West Rowan 5, Hickory St. Stephens 2

WINNER'S FINAL
West Rowan 5, Harnett Central 3

ELIMINATION ROUNDS
Charles B. Aycock 6, St. Stephens 2
Harnett Central 7, Charles B. Aycock 1 (6 inn., rain)

CHAMPIONSHIP
West Rowan 1, Harnett Central 0 (8 innings)

Angel Tosses Perfect Game
In 2-A State Championship

RALEIGH—Junior pitcher Hannah Angel fired a perfect game in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A softball championship as East Bend Forbush survived a trip to the loser's bracket and beat East Duplin 4-0 for the title at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Angel, the championship MVP, struck out 12 in earning the win in the final game. She had 52 strikeouts in 29.2 innings of work during the state championship weekend.

Forbush scored two runs in the second and two more in the sixth, taking advantage of five East Duplin errors. Lydia Swortzel, Brandy Reece and Brittany Snow each had one hit for Forbush against losing pitcher Liz Hatcher. Snow's double was the only extra base hit of the game.


The final game Sunday evening, after a lengthy rain delay, was forced by Forbush taking a 3-0 win over East Duplin earlier in the afternoon. East's first loss in the double-elimination event.

Forbush scored three unearned runs in the first inning and pitcher Angel made them stand up, striking out 15.

NCHSAA STATE 2-A SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Raleigh

STATE SEMIFINALS
East Duplin 2, Randleman 1
East Bend Forbush 4, West Stanly 0

WINNER'S FINAL
East Duplin 3, Forbush 0

ELIMINATION ROUNDS
West Stanly 4, Randleman 1
Forbush 7, West Stanly 1

CHAMPIONSHIP
Forbush 3, East Duplin 0
Forbush 4, East Duplin 0

North Brunswick Overcomes
North Moore In 1-A Softball

RALEIGH—North Brunswick battled its way through the loser's bracket and clinched the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A softball championship at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

The Scorpions dealt North Moore its first loss of the championship weekend by a 4-3 score, and then after a length rain delay erupted for 16 hits in the deciding game to take an 8-4 decision. Britney Lehrsahl was the winning pitcher in the final game and earned Most Valuable Player honors for the championship series.

Marsha Pugh and T.T. Perkins each had three hits for North Brunswick, which finished the campaign with a 25-2 mark and won the NCHSAA state title for the second consecutive year.

Ashley Marley had three hits for North Moore and Bailey Garner had a two-run double in the seventh. North Moore finished with a 25-5 record.

In the first Sunday meeting between the two, Lehrsahl and Perkins had two hits apiece to lead the Scorpions to the 4-3 triumph.

North Moore led 2-0 before North Brunswick came up with a three-run third and then broke the 3-3 tie with a run in the sixth. Kim Johnston recorded the win for the Scorpions on the mound.

North Brunswick blanked Boonville Starmount 3-0 in the loser's bracket final earlier on Sunday, which had been suspended from Saturday due to rain.

Lehrsahl was the winning pitcher, whiffing eight and limiting Starmount to two hits. Kim Johnston drove home two runs for the Scorpions to put them in the championship game.

NCHSAA STATE 1-A SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Walnut Creek Softball Complex, Raleigh

STATE SEMIFINALS
North Brunswick 4, Midway 2
North Moore 4, Boonville Starmount 2

WINNER'S FINAL
North Moore 14, North Brunswick 7

ELIMINATION ROUNDS
Starmount 8, Midway 2
North Brunswick 5, Starmount 0

CHAMPIONSHIP
North Brunswick 4, North Moore 3
North Brunswick 8, North Moore 4
Wachovia Cup Winners Announced For 2002-2003

Wachovia Bank, N.A., and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced the final standings in the Wachovia Cup competitions for the 2002-2003 sports season.

The Wachovia Cup award, sponsored by Wachovia Bank, N.A., and the NCHSAA, recognizes the high schools that achieve the best overall interscholastic athletic performance within each of the state's four competitive classifications. The Wachovia Cup program is concluding its 24th year.

This year's winners include Hendersonville in 1-A, Charlotte Catholic in 2-A, East Chapel Hill among 3-A schools and Winston-Salem Mount Tabor at the 4-A level.

In the 1-A classification, Hendersonville reclaimed its hold on the Cup by beating out Durham School of the Arts, last year's winner. With a top finish in men's outdoor track, a tie for third in baseball and a sixth-place finish in women's outdoor track, Hendersonville finished with 452.5 points. That was 50 points ahead of runner-up Durham School of the Arts, at 402.5 points. A tie for the state title in women's outdoor track, a second-place finish in men's tennis and a fifth place finish in women's soccer landed Durham School of the Arts in second.

In the 2-A classification, Charlotte Catholic wins the Cup for the fifth straight time with the most points accumulated this year among any schools in any classification. A state title in women's soccer along with a third-place finish in men's tennis and a sixth-place finish in men's golf gave Catholic 505 points for the year. Eastern Alamance, with 340 points, used a third-place finish in men's outdoor track, a second-place finish in women's tennis and a fifth place finish in women's soccer to round the year out with 415 points. Providence, totaling 410 points, tied for sixth in women's soccer, but needed a stronger spring season to take the top spot.

Wachovia Cup points are determined by a system based on performance in state-championship events. All schools that finish in the top eight positions (plus ties) earn points. In the play-off events involving teams from more than one classification, Wachovia Cup points are awarded based on the school's standing against other schools in its own classification. If fewer than eight schools from a classification compete in a sport, only those schools that are represented are eligible to receive the Wachovia Cup points.

Wachovia Cup standings are announced three times each school year: once after the fall and winter sports, concluding with the winner after the spring sports season ends in June. The engraved silver cups are presented during NCHSAA Day activities at UNC-Chapel Hill each fall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCHSAA FINAL WACHOVIA CUP STANDINGS 2002-2003</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Hendersonville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Durham School of the Arts</td>
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<td>3. Surry Central</td>
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<td>4. Albemarle</td>
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<td>5. Elkin</td>
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<td>6. Starmount</td>
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<td>7. Williamson</td>
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<td>8. Murphy</td>
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<td>9. South Stokes</td>
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<td>10. Mount Airy</td>
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<td>11. Lejeune</td>
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<td>12. West Davidson</td>
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<td>13. East Surry</td>
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<td>14. Farmville Central</td>
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<td>15. Polk County</td>
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<td>6. West Henderson</td>
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<td>7. North Rowan</td>
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<td>8. Wilkes Central</td>
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<td>10. Reidsville Senior</td>
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<td>11. Western Guilford</td>
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<td>12. North Henderson</td>
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<td>13. Southern Vance</td>
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1-A CLASSIFICATION-SCHOOL-POINTS

4-A CLASSIFICATION-SCHOOL-POINTS

1. Winston-Salem Mount Tabor                  | 415  |
2. Charlotte Providence                       | 410  |
3. Raleigh Broughton                          | 335  |
4. Zebulon Vance                              | 325.5|
5. Apex                                      | 285  |
6. Morrisville Green Hope                    | 280  |
7. Wilmington Hoggard                         | 260  |
8. Greensboro Grimsley                        | 257.5|
9. Myers Park                                | 257.5|
10. Raleigh Millbrook                         | 242.5|
11. Greenville J.H. Rose                     | 237.5|
12. Durham Riverside                         | 235  |
13. North Forsyth                             | 232.5|
14. A.C. Reynolds                            | 227.5|
15. Statesville                              | 250  |
13. Eastern Wayne                            | 242.5|
14. West Carteret                            | 230  |
15. High Point Central                       | 222.5|

2-A CLASSIFICATION-SCHOOL-POINTS

3-A CLASSIFICATION-SCHOOL-POINTS

1. East Chapel Hill                           | 470  |
2. Monroe Weddingd                           | 425  |
3. Skyland T.C. Roberson                     | 405  |
4. West Rowan                                | 350  |
5. Hickory                                   | 334.17|
6. Jamestown Ragsdale                        | 292.5 |
7. Pikeville C.B. Aycock                     | 267.5 |
8. Walter Williams                           | 262.5 |
9. Durham Hillside                           | 255  |
10. Asheville                                | 255  |
11. Wilson Ralph L. Flke                     | 250  |
12. Statesville                              | 250  |
13. Eastern Wayne                            | 242.5|
14. West Carteret                            | 230  |
15. High Point Central                       | 222.5|
