North Carolinians Play Prominent Roles At NIAAA Convention

SAN DIEGO—North Carolinians certainly had prominent roles in the 31st annual National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics at the Hilton Hotel here in December.

The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) conducts the annual conference.

Rick Strunk, associate executive director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, a prestigious NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. These are presented in recognition of length of service, special accomplishments and contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local, state and national levels. Nominations are submitted by state athletic director associations, screened by the Awards Committee and selected by the NIAAA Board of Directors.

Strunk is just the seventh North Carolinian to earn the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award. He has been with the Association since 1986 and is in charge of special programs such as Coca-Cola Scholar-Athlete, the NCHSAA Hall of Fame and Wachovia Cup, among others. He also initiated the NCHSAA intern program and maintains the state record book. He has worked with the athletic directors’ association in a number of ways, including helping to write their history and assisting with the NCADA Hall of Fame.

Jerry McGee, executive director of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association, is serving on the NIAAA Advisory Committee and was one of the speakers at the convention. He discussed establishing a hall of fame for the state athletic directors association, although much of what he discussed would be applicable to a local high school beginning its own hall as well.

North Carolina had a tremendous contingent in San Diego, with 56 athletic directors attending the conference. Many of those in attendance were taking the Leadership Training Courses now offered through the NIAAA which go toward certification as an athletic administrator.

Coaches Earn Recognition From National Federation

INDIANAPOLIS—A number of coaches who serve at North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools have been recognized as either sectional or national award winners by the National Federation Coaches Association.

Tommy Cole of Burlington's Williams High was named the

Leak Earns Player Honor; Knotts, Brown Share Award

Sophomore sensation Chris Leak of Charlotte's Independence High School was named the 2000 North Carolina Player of the Year by the Associated Press.

The award topped a tremendous season for the young quarterback. He was The Charlotte Observer's Player of the Year, state Player of the Year by Gatorade, and Southwestern 4A Conference Player of the Year. He earned the Wendy's Most Valuable Player award in the NCHSAA state 4-A championship game which Independence won 24-19 over Hope Mills South View.

Leak threw for 51 touchdowns and 4,529 yards, both state records. He earned 15 of the 17 votes from a panel of North Carolina sportswriters for the AP award.

The Associated Press also named co-Coaches of the Year: Tom Knotts of Independence and Rick Brown of Durham Jordan.

Knotts led the Patriots to a 15-1 mark and the state 4-A title. It was the third time he has taken a school to a state championship, with previous trips at Harding and West Charlotte.

Brown completely rejuvenated the Durham Jordan program, leading the Falcons to their first winning season in three decades and their first playoff victory ever. Jordan finished with a 12-2 mark in 2000, just a few seasons removed from a long losing streak.
North Carolina Athletic Directors Association Names Seventh Hall Of Fame Class

Four members have been named by the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association as the seventh class for induction in its own Hall of Fame.

The new NCADA Hall of Famers include Carl Bolick of Charlotte, Herman Bryson of Winston-Salem, Chip Gill of Durham and Ed Peeler of Shelby. The four will be recognized at the annual North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association state conference at the Atlantic Beach Sheraton, with the banquet scheduled for April 7.

The NCADA Hall of Fame has been established to recognize achievement and excellence for athletic administration. The inductees are honored at the NCADA's annual state convention, and a permanent display honoring the athletic directors' Hall of Fame is located in the offices of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association in Chapel Hill. The new class brings to 34 the number in the Hall.

This year’s inductees include:

CARL BOLICK
Born in Lincoln County, Bolick was an outstanding athlete at Cramerton High and later enlisted in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He was shot down over Germany and spent over a year in a German prisoner of war camp.

After the war, he wound up graduating from Catawba College and embarked on his career in coaching and administration, including stops at Lee Woodard and Charles Coon in Wilson and then 25 years at West Mecklenburg. He compiled a record of 287-148 and was AD at West for 20 years. He also helped formulate the constitution and served in various offices in the Southwestern 4-A Conference. After his retirement at West he served as athletic director at Charlotte Country Day for eight years.

He is a member of both the West Mecklenburg High School Hall of Fame and the Charlotte Baseball Hall of Fame.

HERMAN BRYSON
Herman Bryson, a 1943 graduate of Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds, later returned to his alma mater for a brilliant career in coaching and administration.

After serving in the Pacific campaign in the Navy in World War I, he returned to enroll at Appalachian State University where he starred in football. In 1952, Bryson came back to R.J. Reynolds and worked there for 33 years.

He was athletic director at the Winston-Salem school for 21 years and compiled a record of 58-18-4 as head football coach, coaching in both the Shrine Bowl and East-West all-star games. He also served as director of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A basketball tournament at Reynolds for several years.

Bryson is a member of the Appalachian State University Hall of Fame and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Sports Hall of Fame. The gymnasium at R. J. Reynolds is named in his honor.

CHIP GILL
A native of Durham, Chip Gill was a three-sport standout at Southern Durham and then played football under Red Wilson at Elon College.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Person Senior High in 1970 and later coached at Burlington Cummings. In 1980 he became head football coach at South Johnston, leading the school to its first winning season, conference crown and playoff berth in school history. He became athletic director at South Johnston in 1982 and held that position until he became head football coach at Southern Durham.

His teams were in the playoffs nine times in 12 years there and he also served as AD at Southern for several years. He has been a tireless worker in the NCHSAA's championships, serving as host director for finals in football, volleyball, basketball, softball and track. He was named the NCADA Region 3 Athletic Director of the Year in 1998.

ED PEELER
A graduate of Shelby High School, Ed Peeler went on to Gardner-Webb Junior College and then graduated from Appalachian State in 1959.

He returned to Cleveland County to coach and teach at Mooresboro and then moved to Crest. During a great career at Crest, he served as athletic director, head basketball and head baseball coach and also coached cross country at one time. His basketball teams won a whopping 566 games and 14 league titles, going to postseason play 17 times. He has also been president of the Northwestern 4-A Conference and helped start the Cleveland County adult chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Peeler is a member of the Charlotte County Sports Hall of Fame and back in December the Crest gymnasium was renamed in his honor. He retired in 1998 after 39 years of service to the Cleveland County schools.

Honorees in the charter class, inducted in 1995, included NCHSAA executive director Charlie Adams, former Charlotte-Mecklenburg director of athletics Dave Harris, Russ Blunt of Durham's Hillside High School, long-time Greenville Rose athletic director and NCADA executive secretary Richard “Bud” Phillips; former High Point athletic administrator A.J. “Tony” Simeon, and Norma Harbin of Winston-Salem, the first female athletic director at a 4-A school in North Carolina.

Chapel Hill High Institutes Unique Sportsmanship Program For Tournament

CHAPEL HILL—In an effort to highlight positive sportsmanship, Chapel Hill High School instituted a unique program for its holiday basketball tournaments.

Chapel Hill hosts a pair of Tiger Holiday Classics over the Christmas break, one tournament for women’s teams and one for men’s teams. With two gymnasiums on campus, the school has the ability to host good-sized events, and athletic director Hal Wertich noted that 36 games were played in the two holiday events.

One of the innovative ideas which was instituted for these tournaments had to do with the presentation of a sportsmanship award at the conclusion of each contest. A panel of three selectors sat at the scorer’s table for each game and watched the contest from a sportsmanship perspective, watching for reactions to officiating calls, interplay between players and the like.

Wertich noted that the panel “wanted to recognize a good attitude and good sportsmanship, the kinds of things we want to emphasize in high school athletics.” The committee often awarded one sportsmanship certificate to a player from each team in a post-game ceremony on the floor.

Wertich noted that in one particularly hard-fought men’s contest between Cary and Durham Riverside that went right down to the wire, that the sportsmanship displayed by both teams was so positive that it was very difficult to single any body out.

“Based on the feedback we got from players, coaches and fans, this was a very positive thing,” said Wertich. “We’re looking at ways to try to do something similar at other events.”

Our thanks to Chapel Hill High for sharing this idea, which other NCHSAA member schools might be willing to try.

New Book Chronicles Story Of Special Team In State High School Annals

WILSON—Anybody with an interest in North Carolina high school athletics should enjoy a new book which was published last November.

The book Cyclone Country traces the rise of Wilson’s Fike High School to the top of the heap in North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-A football, as the Cyclones went on to win three straight state championships in the late 1960’s under head coach Henry Travathan.

Author Russell Rawlings grew up in Wilson and followed the progress of the Cyclones. A 1978 graduate of Atlantic Christian (now Barton) College, he spent 10 years with the Wilson Daily Times as reporter and assistant sports editor and later served a three-year stint as managing editor. He left a position at Barton in development and public relations to research and write the book.

Fike was the smallest 4-A school in the state in the late ’60s and was coming off some hard times in football. So the story is not only one of inspiration and determination, but of an interesting time in North Carolina as the schools were being integrated. The saga of Carlester Crumpler, a great athlete who was a key performer on the teams as well as one of the students who helped to integrate Fike, provides a fascinating chapter in this story.

Fike has a rich tradition and was coming off some hard times in football. So the story is not only one of inspiration and determination, but of an interesting time in North Carolina as the schools were being integrated. The saga of Carlester Crumpler, a great athlete who was a key performer on the teams as well as one of the students who helped to integrate Fike, provides a fascinating chapter in this story.

Those who follow football in the eastern part of the state will certainly recognize many of the personalities and may recall many of the games chronicled here. But those that don’t actually know much about the story will appreciate the community support for its high school team and how it captured the imagination of its citizens.

“This is a heartfelt and accurate report of the excitement, enthusiasm and personalities during a fascinating period in North Carolina high school sports,” says Charlie Adams, NCHSAA executive director. “I personally watched those great teams in action, and any fan or athlete will be riveted by this story of a town and its love for its team.”

The quality hardback book was published by the Wilson Daily Times and contains 32 pages of photographs.

It may ordered by sending a check for $31.75 to Cyclone Country, The Wilson Daily Times, Box 2447, Wilson, NC 27894-2774.

South Carolina Rolls To Shrine Bowl Victory

CHARLOTTE—South Carolina set a record for scoring as the high school football all-stars from that state rolled past their North Carolina counterparts 66-14 in the 64th annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

The Sandlappers rolled up 466 yards in the air and 558 yards of total offense. South Carolina led 19-0 at the half but then exploded for 33 fourth-quarter points, including three defensive touchdowns.

Jacques Lewis of Elizabeth City Northeastern and Donvonte Edwards of Chapel Hill scored the touchdowns for the North Carolina team. Maiden’s Tom Brown served as the Tar Heel head coach.

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Tickets Available For NCHSAA Hall Of Fame Ceremonies

CHAPEL HILL—Tickets are available to the general public for an event that has become a highlight of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association year: the annual NCHSAA Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremonies.

The event is scheduled for the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on Saturday, April 21, with a reception at six o’clock and dinner starting at seven. Glaxo Wellcome, now GlaxoSmithKline, has underwritten the NCHSAA Hall of Fame to enable it to honor individuals who have spent a lifetime in education, and one of the Association’s most prestigious accolades.

This year the NCHSAA is honoring individuals who have made major contributions to high school athletics in North Carolina. This marks the 14th induction class for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame, which now numbers 58. Each new inductee will be introduced by a special video presentation and will receive a commemorative NCHSAA Hall of Fame ring in honor of their induction.

Honorees at this year’s event will include:

- Marion Kirby, currently the head football coach at Greensboro College after establishing Greensboro Page as a state football power over 20 years. Kirby, a native of Hickory and Lenoir-Rhyne College graduate, had a 275-65-8 mark at Page with four state 4-A crowns and 16 trips to the playoffs;
- Don Patrick, long-time Newton-Conover head football coach, leading the Red Devils from 1974 through ‘98 with a 197-88-1 slate: the native of Shelby is a former member of the NCHSAA Board of Directors and a former president of both the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association and the North Carolina Coaches Association;
- Hilda Worthington, an outstanding coach and administrator at Farmville Central High School from the early 1970’s to the late 90’s; she coached women’s basketball teams to over 300 victories and also won seven conference track championships while also serving on a number of key NCHSAA committees;
- The late Charles England spent almost 40 years in education, amassing an outstanding record as a football coach. Born in Newton, he went on to become head football coach at Pattillo High School in Tarboro from 1949 through ’58 and then at Dunbar High in Lexington from 1958 to ’67, winning five NCHSAC state championships. Later he was an assistant coach at Lexington for many years.

“We would hope that these communities would really turn out to support these great individuals who have meant so much to so many people,” said Charlie Adams, NCHSAA executive director. “The Hall of Fame ceremonies have really evolved into a special event and it is a great opportunity for former players and other supporters of these honorees to get together.”

Tickets are priced at twenty-five dollars for the general public and are available by contacting the NCHSAA at (919) 962-7784.

In Memoriam

This is information of which the NCHSAA has been made aware since the publication of the last Bulletin. We appreciate all those who share information with us for the benefit of the membership.

David Watkins

CHERRYVILLE—Long time Cherryville High School men’s basketball coach David Watkins died of cancer in December at the age of 53.

Watkins led the Ironmen to the 1985 state 2-A championship and was the winningest basketball coach in Cherryville history. He led six teams to 20 or more victories and took four teams to the regionals, winding up with a record of 280-156 since the 1984-85 season at Cherryville.

He is survived by his wife Lynne, and two children, Bryant and Kristen. Bryant is a senior forward on the Cherryville basketball team this season.

Memorials in memory of Watkins may be donated to Southminster Presbyterian Church Columbium Fund, 1401 Hoffman Road, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Rock Harrison

WAKE FOREST—Long-time Wake Forest-Rolesville coach Rock Harrison passed away on December after a long battle with a brain tumor at the age of 45.

He was the retired head football coach at Wake Forest-Rolesville High School where he served for 22 years. During his tenure his teams made numerous playoff appearances, and he had served as an assistant coach for the East team in the East West All Star game in 1995.

Among the survivors are his wife, Debra Wyatt Harrison; daughter, Mary Caitlin Harrison; and sons, Robert Harrison and Brock Harrison, all of Wake Forest.

Memorials in memory of Harrison may be made to the Rock Harrison Memorial Fund c/o CCB P.O. Box 832, Wake Forest, NC 27588.

Hal Greene

NORTH WILKESBORO—Former West Wilkes High School principal Hal Greene passed away in November at the age of 73.

He became principal when the school opened in 1957 and served in that capacity until his retirement in the early 1980’s.

Jerry Daniel

TROY—Just as the Bulletin was going to press for this issue, Jerry Daniel was killed in a tragic automobile accident.

Daniel, 58, was a long-time coach and teacher and most recently had served at East Montgomery High School.
A True Story Of Kindness
At A Football Playoff Game

This is a true story.
Okay, I know a lot of guys who always preface what they’re going to say with “this is a true story,” to make it more believable before you hear the punch line of some elaborate joke.
But this is true. Really. And it makes me proud to be a part of high school athletics, which I happen to think is one of the few places this could occur.
Late last fall I decided to go to a North Carolina High School Athletic Association state football semifinal, and my wife and 10-year-old son would go with me.

There were several factors at work: first, this particular game was at Eastern Randolph, a 45-minute drive from my house, so I could get back fairly quickly to work that night getting ready for our Monday morning championship press conference. Secondly, the powerful Eastern team was playing my alma mater, Newton-Conover, whom I had seen play when we were home over Thanksgiving visiting family and friends.

I had been an athlete of extraordinarily modest performance while wearing a Red Devil uniform, but I had broadcast their games on the radio for some eight years earlier in my career. In addition, lots of people we knew would be making the trip to Ramseur, so we could see many people from home.

With all that in mind, we headed out on an unusually cold Friday evening, stopped at a nice seafood place to eat on the way and got to the stadium in pretty good shape. However, the facility was already almost full and parking was tight. I wanted to hustle in so at I could at least speak to the coaches and officials before the game. So my wife and I were rapidly pulling blankets and cushions out of the car and I was urging our son Wes to get his coat and hat on so we could go in.

It was then that he informed me that he, well, he didn’t mean to but he hadn’t brought a coat. He hadn’t left it at the restaurant or anything, he just forgot to bring one.

I made a few fatherly sounding noises, but before I could really let him have it, my wife did. The prospect of his watching the game without a coat was not pleasant, but we informed him the best we could do would be to wrap him up in the blankets we had brought.

Yes, we said the other parental stuff too—what were you thinking, we told you to get a coat, don’t you know it’s really cold, you’re old enough to be more responsible, all that kind of stuff.

The parking lot was not well lighted where we were, but there was a car to our right and a lady was unloading her gear; too. Out of the darkness I heard her gently ask my son a question, something like “so you left your coat at home, did you?”

“Yes, ma’am.”

“Well, I think I’ve got an extra coat here in the car that you can wear so you don’t get too cold.”

We had never seen this lady before—to this day, we don’t know her name. All we know is that she was an Eastern Randolph parent with a ninth-grader in the band and she was there to support her kids and her school.

Before I could really protest, she had pulled a pretty nice jacket out and held it out to Wes to put on. “This is a woman’s coat,” she told him, “but nobody will be able to tell the difference. It’s just an extra one that I really don’t need.” It had sort of a cape on it but she tucked it inside the collar so you couldn’t tell a thing.

We thanked her profusely and asked about getting the coat back to her afterwards. “Oh, don’t worry about it,” she said. “If you get back to your car before I do, you can just leave it on my car if you want to.”

We all knew we had to hurry to grab seats, so we headed rapidly toward the stadium, thanking her again. As it turned out, the game went right down to the wire and Newton-Conover upset Eastern in dramatic fashion. I actually went up to the press box afterwards and did a radio interview with my former colleagues who were broadcasting the game. So we were among the last to leave.

We hurried back to the parking lot—but the car beside us was gone.

Wes was disappointed because he wanted to tell the lady that he was able to enjoy the game because of her kindness.

Nancy and I were disappointed because we wanted to tell the lady that WE were able to enjoy the game because of her kindness.

That, my friends, is a great fan. She was there to support her children and her school, but did something memorable and kind for someone whom she had never seen before.

This is one of my great memories of the 2000 football season; no, this is one of my great memories from ANY season.

Wes saw something special demonstrated to him on that cold Friday night—in fact, we all did. And this note to the Eastern Randolph High School administration: we still have a dark, caped woman’s jacket that we will be glad to send back to somebody whose gracious gesture shocked us so much I failed to get a name or address.

But, boy, do I have a good feeling about Eastern Randolph. I mean, I did before, just from my professional encounters with the school. But this is personal.

So, ma’am, from all the Strunks, thank you. Right now, whenever I see that jacket in the closet, I smile.

And that, my friends, is just another example of the true spirit of high school athletics.
Sloop Takes Second Straight Title; Murphy Keeps Winning

CHARLOTTE—Heidi Sloop of West Wilkes won her second consecutive individual crown and the Murphy women captured their sixth championship in the last seven years at the 2000 North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s state 1-A and 2-A cross country championships at McAlpine Greenway.

Sloop, a senior, ran to her second straight crown by a 23-second margin over runner-up Jessica Stackhouse of Hayesville.

In men’s action, Surry Central put together a strong overall performance by placing five runners among the top 20 in team competition to take the 2-A title with 64 points.

North Henderson senior John Henderson won the individual crown in a time of 16:14, the best time of the day.

South Davidson seniors Clarence Kinley and Clemens Tinn were one-two in the men’s 1-A competition to lead the Wildcats to the team title, stopping Swain’s bid for a third consecutive state crown.

South tallied 35 points to 68 for Yeatesville Northside, with Lejeune in third.

NCHSAA 1-A, 2-A STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
McAlpine Greenway, Charlotte

MEN’S 2-A TEAM TOP FIVE (of 15)
1) Surry Central 64
2) Lincolnston 84
3) North Henderson 134
4) Charlotte Catholic 137
5) Salisbury 145

MEN’S 2-A INDIVIDUALS/TOP TEN (118 total runners)
1) John Henderson (North Henderson) 16:14
2) Mark Hoffman (Lincolnston) 16:25
3) Elliot McKenzie (Union Pines) 16:25
4) Joe Lindsay (Charlotte Catholic) 16:35
5) Daniel Trantham (Pisgah) 16:46
6) Matt Whitman (Ledford) 16:44
7) Jared Crain (Mountain Heritage) 16:44
8) Vincent Horn (Madison) 16:46
9) Cal Wilson (Weddington) 16:49
10) Perrell Bess (Lincolnton) 16:52

MEN’S 1-A TEAM TOP FIVE (of 12)
1) South Davidson 35
2) Yeatesville Northside 68
3) Lejeune 118
4) Hayesville 123
5) Swain County 124

MEN’S 1-A INDIVIDUALS/TOP TEN (86 total runners)
1) Clarence Kinley (South Davidson) 16:39
2) Clemens Tinn (South Davidson) 16:41
3) Matt Owen (Rosman) 16:49
4) Ben Godfrey (Perquimans) 16:55
5) Rumley Everett (Northside) 16:55
6) Greg Gurganus (Northside) 17:10
7) Michael Leinig (South Davidson) 17:17
8) Jamie Vetten (Murphy) 17:18
9) Evan Penland (Hayesville) 17:22
10) Bradley Newcomb (Graham) 17:33

NCHSAA 3-A AND 4-A CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS
McAlpine Greenway, Charlotte

MEN’S 4-A
TEAM STANDINGS (Top five of 16)
1. North Mecklenburg 71
2. Winston-Salem Mount Tabor 90
3. Chapel Hill 135
4. Apex 177
5. Watauga 180

TOP TEN (out of 132 runners)
1. Stephen Haas, North Mecklenburg 15:12
2. Matt Debole, Mount Tabor 15:26
3. Jeff Gosselin, North Mecklenburg 15:36
4. John Wadsworth, North Mecklenburg 15:48
5. Wes Boone, Apex 15:51

WOMEN’S 2-A TEAM TOP FIVE (of 15)
1) North Henderson 62
2) Brevard 72
3) Charlotte Catholic 83
4) Monroe Weddington 118
5) Swannanoa Charles D. Owen 170

WOMEN’S 2-A INDIVIDUALS/TOP TEN (118 total runners)
1) Heidi Sloop (West Wilkes) 19:20
2) Jessica Durant (North Henderson) 19:43
3) Carley Matthews (Ledford) 20:08
4) Katie Holt (Forbush) 20:13
5) Caitlin Gill (Charlotte Catholic) 20:15
6) Lindsay Lancaster (Brevard) 20:19
7) Kasey Smith (South Stokes) 20:20
8) Jessi Oitzis (Mitchell) 20:21
9) Sarah Dawes (Weddington) 20:29
10) Natalya Gryson (Brevard) 20:39

WOMEN’S 1-A TEAM TOP FIVE (of 12)
1) Murphy 72
2) South Davidson 75
3) Hendersonville 93
4) Yeatesville Northside 147
5) Graham 150
6) Lejeune 150

WOMEN’S 1-A INDIVIDUALS/TOP TEN (86 total runners)
1) Erik Schneble (Hendersonville) 19:45
2) Jessie Stackhouse (Hayesville) 20:22
3) Ginger Tankard (Northside) 20:57
4) Jamie Vetten (Murphy) 21:10
5) Sarah Towery (South Davidson) 21:14
6) Jessica Mack (Hawassee Dam) 21:23
7) Melissa Harrison (South Davidson) 21:26
8) Brittany Chovan (Hendersonville) 21:34
9) Lacey Straw (Murphy) 21:35
10) Analissa Anguiano (Lejeune) 21:41

North Mecklenburg Rolls, Roberson Wins Fourth Straight

CHARLOTTE—Led by individual champion Stephen Haas, North Mecklenburg put together an outstanding performance to capture the team title in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s state 4-A men’s cross country championships at McAlpine Greenway.

North Meck placed four individual runners among the top eight to capture the title with 71 points, 19 ahead of Winston-Salem Mount Tabor. Chapel Hill was third with 135.

Winning time by Haas in the 4-A men’s race was 15:12, 14 seconds ahead of second-place Matt Debole of Mount Tabor and just 9.1 seconds off the meet record set last year by Ricky Brookshire of Watauga.

The 4-A women’s team title went to Eastern Wayne, a scant seven points ahead of Mount Tabor, 122-129. Raleigh Leesville Road finished third.

Ginger Wheeler of Mount Tabor took the individual 4-A women’s crown in 18:28, edging Amelia Slagle of North Meck by just three seconds.

T.C. Roberson of Asheville swept to its fourth consecutive 3-A women’s title, scoring 82 points to 69 for runner-up North Buncombe. Roberson placed three runners in the top nine for team scoring and all seven finished in the top 30.

Alicia Vattin of Western Harnett won her second consecutive 3-A individual title, covering the course in a time of 18:39.

Lance Hall of Jamestown Ragsdale hit the tape in 16:04.0 to take top individual honors among 3-A men and led his squad to the team title, stopping Sun Valley’s bid for a third consecutive state crown.

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NCHSAA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 3-A and 4-A cross country championships at McAlpine Greenway.
BURLINGTON—Raleigh Broughton and East Chapel Hill kept impressive streaks going in state championship competition and capped perfect seasons in the 11th annual North Carolina High School Athletic Association state dual team women’s tennis championships at the Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center.

Broughton captured its third straight 4-A title and fifth in the last six years as the Caps rolled past Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 6-0. East Chapel Hill grabbed its third straight 3-A title, nipping Asheville by a 5-3 count.

Coach Steve Spivey’s Broughton team posted a 24-0 slate while Reynolds finished 20-3. The Caps swept all the singles in straight sets, four at love, so doubles were not played.

East, under head coach Lindsey Linaker, finished at 23-0 while Asheville wound up 16-4. East Chapel Hill had to win two doubles to clinch the crown, and then the remaining match was stopped.

Jordan-Matthews made its fourth consecutive appearance in the finals successful as the Siler City school finally captured an elusive 1-A state title, nipping Hendersonville 5-4. Jordan-Matthews took two of the three doubles after splitting singles in the tight match.

Jordan-Matthews completed a perfect 16-0 season while Hendersonville lost its first after winning 19 straight.

Statewide swept the singles to finish an unbeaten 21-0 campaign, rolling past Greene Central 6-0 for the 2-A crown. Greene Central closed the season at 18-10 overall.

NCHSAA 11th ANNUAL STATE DUAL TEAM TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center

1A Championship: Statesville 6, Asheville 3

Singles
Laura Fanjoy (S) def. Allison Cobb 6-1, 6-2; Kelly Fleck (S) def. Kelly Bryant 6-2, 6-4; Mary Bruce Carter (S) def. Amy Beaman 6-0, 6-2; Beth McFarland (S) def. Bonnie Gietz 6-2, 6-1; Jessica McFarland (S) def. Amy Ivey 6-4, 6-1; Catherine Sherrod (S) def. Sarah Slane 6-1, 6-1.

No doubles matches were played

3A Championship: Statesville 6, Asheville 3

Singles
Marilyn Clark (ECH) def. Christina Brown 6-2, 6-2; Lauren Williams (ECH) def. Meg Howard 6-2, 6-1; Sarah Brown (A) def. Brittany Hauchman 6-3, 6-4; Allison Curtin (ECH) def. Wynne Hillier 6-3, 6-1; Andrea Brown (A) def. Kenlyn Merritt 6-4, 6-1; Ashley Young (A) def. Sarah Boak 6-1, 6-1

Doubles
Clark/Williams (ECH) def. C. Brown/Howard 6-1, 6-1; Hauchman/ Merritt (ECH) led S. Brown/Young 5-4 before stopped; Boak/Curtin (ECH) def. Martha Stradley/Patty Lee 10-1.

4A Championship: Raleigh Broughton 6, Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds 0

Singles
Rankin Williams (B) def. Courtney Flezanni 6-0, 6-0; Christine Simpson (B) def. Kara Worley 6-1, 6-1; Bonnie Baird (B) def. Morgan Flezanni 6-1, 6-0; Julie Roach (B) def. Margaret Greven 6-0, 6-3; Frances Blanton (B) def. Emily Brown 6-2, 6-0; Rachel Cash (B) def. Scottie Smith 6-1, 6-0

No doubles matches were played

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Rankin Williams Dominates, Wins Second 4-A Crown

CHAPEL HILL—Defending champion Rankin Williams of Raleigh’s Broughton High School made it two consecutive state titles, dominating the field en route to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association women’s state 4-A singles championship at the Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center at the University of North Carolina.

The top-seeded Williams, a junior, did not lose a single game, much less a set, in the state tournament, beating sophomore teammate Bonnie Baird 6-0, 6-0 in the second consecutive all-Broughton final.

In doubles, the top-seeded pair from Ashevile A.C. Reynolds, Ashley and Lindsay Duck, went back-to-back, taking their second consecutive state championship. The Ducks defeated Christina Simpson and Julia Roach of Raleigh Broughton 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, in the finals.
NCHSAA WOMEN’S STATE 4-A TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Singles Semifinals
Rankin Williams (Raleigh Broughton) def. Melissa Patterson (Cary) 6-0, 6-0; Bonnie Baird (Raleigh Broughton) def. Erika Kullberg (Gastonia Ashbrook) 6-2, 6-1.

Singles Championship
Williams (Broughton) def., Baird (Broughton) 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles Semifinals
Ashley Dack-Lindsay Dack (Asheville A.C.Reynolds) def. Lauren Sears-Lauren Della Volpe (Eastern Wayne) 6-0, 6-3; Christina Simpson-Julia Roach (Raleigh Broughton) def. Becky Emmers-Kelly Lehman (Charlotte Providence 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles Championship

Kernodle Upends Defending Champ In Marathon; East Chapel Hill Wins Doubles
BURLINGTON—Third-seeded Elizabeth Kernodle of Burlington Williams and doubles partners by beating Statesville’s Laura Fanjoy in a grueling three-hour marathon for the singles title in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A women’s tennis championships, and when it was over Kernodle had scored the upset at the Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center.
Kernodle outlasted Kiser 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 for the championship in a courageous effort as both fought their way through injuries. Kiser battled leg cramps starting late in the second set and had to utilize the trainer during each changeover. She had rallied to win a tough three-set match in the morning semifinal against Ashley Harris of Belmont South. Kernodle also overcame playing with painful blisters on her feet. The Williams standouts had lost three previous matches to Kiser this season and had not ever beaten her previously.
Marilyn Clark and Lauren Williams of East Chapel Hill captured the doubles title, beating the Vestal sisters Lori and Kristi of Burlington Williams 6-0 and 6-2 in the final.
Each of the participants in the finals, both singles and doubles, were representatives of the perennially tough Triad 3-A Conference.

NCHSAA WOMEN’S STATE 3-A TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center

Singles-Semifinals
Sallie Kiser (Eden Morehead) def. Ashley Harrr (Belmont South Point) 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 6-3; Elizabeth Kernodle (Burlington Williams) def. Amanda Haines (Eden Morehead) 7-6 (7-5), 6-2.

Singles-Championship
Kernodle (Williams) def. Kiser (Morehead) 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

Doubles-Semifinals
Marilyn Clark-Lauren Williams (East Chapel Hill) def. Amanda Clark-Rachel LeBruyere (Asheville T.C.Roberson) 6-1, 6-0; Lora Vesta-Kristi Vesta (Burlington Williams) def. Ali Benton-K.K.Walston (Wilson Fike) 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles-Championship
Clark-Williams (East Chapel Hill) def. L.Vesta-K. Vesta (Williams) 6-0, 6-2.

Top Seeds Win In Women’s 2-A Tennis Championships
RALEIGH—Seeds held true to form as the top seeds went on to capture both the singles and doubles titles at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s women’s state 2-A tennis championships at North Carolina State University.
Top-seeded Catherine Koontz of Lexington, the runner-up a year ago, took top honors in singles by beating Statesville’s Laura Fanjoy in straight 6-3 sets. In doubles, the Shelby duo of Ashley Willis and Michelle Williams was seeking its third consecutive state title, but the Golden Lions were denied in the finals by top-seeded Kelly Fleck and Mary Bruce Carter of Statesville. The Statesville pair scored a 7-6(7-5), 6-3 triumph in the championship match after winning their semifinal in two love sets.
It was the fourth straight year a Shelby team had qualified for the state doubles finals in the women’s 2-A tournament.

NCHSAA WOMEN’S STATE 2-A TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
North Carolina State University, Raleigh

Singles-Semifinals
Catherine Koontz (Lexington) def. Hannah Priest (Cameron Union Pines) 6-2, 6-1; Laura Fanjoy (Statesville) def. Michelle Alexander (Charlotte Catholic) 6-0, 7-5.

Singles Championship
Koontz (Lexington) def. Fanjoy (Statesville) 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles-Semifinals
Kelly Fleck-Mary Bruce Carter (Statesville) def. Michelle Leonard-Lindsay Hampton (Salisbury) 6-0, 6-0; Ashley Willis-Michelle Williams (Shelby) def. Allison Cobb-Kelly Bryant (Greene Central) 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.

Doubles Championship
Fleck-Cartner (Statesville) def. Willis-Williams (Shelby) 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

Pharr Remains Unbeaten; North Stokes Wins Doubles
BURLINGTON—Hendersonville’s Jennifer Pharr ran her record on the season to 24-0 as she captured the singles crown in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s women’s state 1-A tennis championships at the Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center.
The top-seeded Pharr rolled past defending 1-A champ Megan Bullins of North Stokes 6-3 and 6-2 in the afternoon final after downing Abby Hancock of Elkton in the semifinals.

NCHSAA WOMEN’S STATE 1-A TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS
Burlington Recreation and Parks Tennis Center

Singles-Semifinals
Jennifer Pharr (Hendersonville) def. Abby Hancock (Elkton) 6-1, 6-2; Megan Bullins (North Stokes) def. Lauren Hightower (South Stanly) 6-0, 6-1.

Singles Championship
Pharr (Hendersonville) def. Bullins (North Stokes) 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles-Semifinals
Leslie Watts-Kayla Tucker (North Stokes) def. Rynn Deaton-Christie Tuile (Siler City Jordan-Matthews) 6-2, 6-0; Charity Phillips-Laura Edwards (Siler City Jordan-Matthews) def. Natalie Blake-Blake Jordan (East Montgomery) 6-3, 6-2.

Doubles Championship

VOLEYBALL

Western Teams Sweep Titles In Volleyball Championships
RALEIGH—The West swept the East, earning all four titles in the 25th edition of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association’s state volleyball championships at Reynolds Coliseum on the campus of North Carolina State University.

The dominant play of senior Molly Pyles lifted Hendersonville to its fourth consecutive state volleyball championship as the Lady Bearcats captured the 1-A crown in three consecutive games over previously unbeaten Perquimans.
Hendersonville swept to a 15-5, 15-6, 15-7 triumph to record its 57th consecutive victory and finish the season at 30-0. Pyles, who is headed to the University of North Carolina, was named the MVP of the championship for an unprecedented fourth consecutive year.
Perquimans closed out its season at 30-1 and finished as state runner-up for the second straight year.
Hendersonville earned its sixth volleyball title, tying Durham Jordan for the most NCHSAA titles in that sport.

In the 2-A championship, Charlotte Catholic kept its perfect record intact and rolled to victory over Southern Guilford in three straight games,15-2, 15-12, 15-4. Sophomore Brittany Zahn of Catholic was named the Most Valuable Player of the final.
Catholic won its second straight state championship and finished the season with a perfect 29-0 mark. Southern Guilford, which had entered the final on a 20-match winning streak, closed the campaign at 25-6.
Senior setter Juli Pack of the state champs was named the Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. East Henderson finished the year at 24-3.
East Chapel Hill, appearing in its third consecutive state volleyball final and making its fourth postseason trip in the school’s five-year existence, closed with a 24-4 record.
The final match of the night was a marathon that lasted almost two and a half hours and was very evenly matched, and when it was over West Charlotte got the 15-13, 14-16, 15-11, 17-15.
Chapel Hill jumped on top in the first game 7-1 before West rallied to tie it at 13 and then grabbed the victory. The second game was tied seven times and both teams stayed off game points before Chapel Hill evened the match with a victory.
Behind the effective play of Setui Tonga and Ashley Fails, West took control in game three with a seven-point run to lead 14-4. But the Tigers fought back with seven straight points of their own to make it a battle before West captured the win. And then the fourth and decisive game saw Chapel Hill lead 9-5, West roar back to take a 10-9 advantage, and then the teams trading the lead before West clinched the crown.

Fails was named the Most Valuable Player as West Charlotte, the '97 4-A champs, finished its year at 21-7. Chapel Hill, which had earned the '94 4-A crown, wound up at 25-5.

**FOOTBALL**

**NCHSAA STATE 1-A/2-A MEN’S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**

Paul Derr Track, N.C. State University

Swansboro 0 0  — 2
Charlotte Catholic 0 0  — 0


**Rankins Passes Bertie Past Ragsdale In 3-A Final**

CHAPEL HILL—Bertie quarterback Randall Rankins threw for 322 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Falcons to a 32-15 decision over Ragsdale and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A football title at Kenan Stadium.

Rankins set a championship game passing record which was broken the following night by Independence’s Chris Leak. Jejuan Rankins caught two TD passes and also returned a fumble 89 yards for a score to stake Bertie to an 18-0 lead in the second quarter before Wes Pope of Ragsdale connected on the first of his two scoring tosses to cut it to 18-7.

The Falcons responded with a seven-play, 67-yard drive capped by a one-yard run by Randall Rankins to go up 24-7. Bertie had won the 1995 3-A crown.

Post Game Awards: Wendy’s Most Valuable Player: Bertie QB Randall Rankins, Bertie-Outstanding Defensive Player DB Clarence Wilson; Outstanding Offensive Player WR Jejuan Rankins; Ragsdale-Outstanding Defensive Player DL Ben Whitney; Outstanding Offensive Player WR Doug Brown.

**STATISTICS**

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**RAGSDALE** 0 7 0 8 — 15
**BERTIE** 6 18 8 0 — 32

**SCORING**

1st  6:28 BERTIE-Jejuan Rankins 3 pass from Randall Rankins (pass failed)
2nd 6:18 BERTIE-Jejuan Rankins 50 pass From Randall Rankins (pass failed)
2nd  4:43 BERTIE-Jejuan Rankins 89 fumble return (pass failed)
2nd  1:16 RAGSDALE-Brown 47 pass from Pope (Bennett kick)
3rd  7:43 BERTIE-Williams 31 pass from Randall Rankins (run failed)
3rd  0:47 BERTIE-Safety. Smith tackled in end zone by Lee
4th 1:18 RAGSDALE-Byers 19 pass from Pope (Brown pass from Pope)
INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING-Bertie: Bazemore 11-44, R. Rankins 18-36, Ruffin 8-19, Murphy 3-12; Ragsdale-Goadle 16-49, Smith 2-11, Ingram, Pope 5-1.

STATISTICS
First Downs 11 14
Rushes-Yards 39-206 49-179
Passing Yards 64 81
Passes Com-Att-Int 5-10-1 3-10-0
Punts-Avg 4-31.5 3-34.0
Fumbles-Fumbles Lost 1-1 3-1
Penalties-Yards 3-35 3-25
Time of Possession 21:43 28:17
Third Down Conversions 5 of 11 4 of 13

NEWTON-CONEVER 7 0 0 6 — 13
SW ONSLOW 0 7 7 0 — 14

SCORING
1st 3:35 N-C-Wilson 66 run (Stewart kick)
2nd 2:27 SW-Brooks 29 run (Sunday kick)
3rd 1:11 SW-Koonce 2 run (Sunday kick)
4th 0:54 N-C-Dukes 1 run (kick failed)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
RUSHING-N-C: Wilson 19-102, Dukes 10-70, Shuford 10-34.
PASSING-N-C: Dukes 10-3-0-72-0TD; SW Onslow: Brooks 10-3-0-72-0TD.
RECEIVING-N-C: Wilson 2-21, Gore 1-17, Connor 1-10, Lineberger 1-10; SW Onslow: Ingle 3-41, McCullough 1-19, Nichols 1-12.

Graham Defense Tough, Red Devils Down Northside

CHAPEL HILL—Southwest Onslow held off Newton-Conover 14-13 to capture the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A football championship.

Southwest closed out a 15-1 season with the state title after finishing second in 1999. Newton-Conover wound up 12-3 and had an eight-game win streak and possession.

The Red Devils opened a 7-0 first-quarter lead when LaDoux Wilson broke loose for a 66-yard scoring jaunt. But the Stallions tied it 2:27 before the half when game MVP Kendrick Brooks scampered 29 yards for a score two plays after Southwest had recovered a fumbled deep in N-C territory.

Trailing 14-7, Newton-Conover put together a late drive after recovering a fumble at the SW 39. Nine plays later, quarterback Curt Dukes went over from the one with 54 seconds left to cut it to 14-13. But the Red Devils missed the PAT and then Southwest recovered the onside kick and held on to win.

Post Game Awards: Wendy's Most Valuable Player: QB/DK Kendrick Brooks, Southwest Onslow; Newton-Conover-Outstanding Defensive Player LB Blake Cooke; Outstanding Offensive Player RB LaDoux Wilson; SW Onslow—Outstanding Defensive Player DE J.J. Nichols; Outstanding Offensive Player RB Travis Wells; Outstanding Defensive Player E Richard Koonce.

STATISTICS
Passing  Yards 82 0
Rushes-Yards 34-219 43-106
First Downs 10 4

Return Yards 49 66
Passes Com-Att-Int 3-9-0 0-5-1
Punts-Avg 5-24.4 7-32.3
Fumbles-Fumbles Lost 5-4 5-4
Penalties-Yards 3-15 2-15
Time of Possession 21:04 26:56
Third Down Conversions 3 of 9 3 of 13

GRAHAM 0 14 0 17 — 31
NORTHSIDE 6 0 0 0 — 6

SCORING
1st 2:28 N-Leathers 7 run (run failed)
2nd 11:56 G-Breeze 21 run (Duarte kick)
2nd 2:41 G-Benesch fumble recovery in end zone after Breeze 48 run (Duarte kick)
4th 10:54 G-Warren 1 run (Duarte kick)
4th 8:51 G-FG Duarte 35
4th 5:22 G-Warren 7 run (Duarte kick)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
PASSING-Graham: Cameron 9-3-0-52-0TD; Northside: Leathers 5-0-1-0-0TD.
RECEIVING-Graham: Martin 5-1-87-2TD.

Independence Passes Past South View 24-19 In 4-A

CHAPEL HILL—Lots of records fell in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A football championship game as Charlotte Independence threw its way past Hope Mills South View 24-19 at Kenan Stadium.

Independence quarterback Chris Leak completed 25 of 44 for 359 yards and three scores, setting a new Kenan Stadium championship game passing yardage record. He also became North Carolina's all-time single-season passing yardage leader with 4,529 yards, eclipsing the record previously held by Donnie Davis of Burlington Cummings.

Brad Hinton caught 11 passes for the Patriots for 225 yards, establishing new championship game marks. Mario Raley added to his single-season reception yards state record and finished with 107 catches, one short of East Wilkes' Justin Call's 1998 mark.

All the scoring came in a wild first half, capped by three touchdowns in the final 62 seconds. The Tigers scored on three of their first four possessions and Independence scored the first four times it had the ball.

Post Game Awards: Wendy's Most Valuable Player: QB Chris Leak; Independence; Outstanding Offensive Player QB Josh Taylor; Outstanding Offensive Player WR Brad Hinton; South View—Outstanding Defensive Player DE J.J. Nichols; Outstanding Offensive Player FB Wesley Fulmore.

STATISTICS
Passing  Yards 359 87
Rushes-Yards 11-39 49-289
First Downs 22 17

Return Yards 36 50
Passes Com-Att-Int 25-44-1 3-9-0
Punts-Avg 2-24.5 3-39.0
Fumbles-Fumbles Lost 1-1 3-2
Penalties-Yards 1-11 6-73
Time of Possession 18:06 22:54
Third Down Conversions 4 of 10 7 of 13

INDEPENDENCE 10 14 0 0 — 24
SOUTH VIEW 7 12 0 0 — 19

SCORING
1st 11:14 I-Lyon 37 pass from Leak (Fields kick)
1st 3:51 S-Goldbach 13 pass from Roncketti (Whitfield kick)
1st 1:01 I-FG Fields 28
2nd 7:36 I-Hinton 21 pass from Leak (Fields kick)
2nd 1:21 S-Johnson 2 run (kick failed)
2nd 0:21 I-Crowe 12 pass from Leak (Fields kick)
2nd 0:08 S-FG Bright 67 pa as from Roncketti (pass failed)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS
PASSING—Independence: Leak 44-25-1-359-3TD; South View: Roncketti 9-3-0-87-2TD.