



NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Stewart Hobbs To Serve As NCHSAA President For 2012-13 Academic Year



NCHSAA President Dr. Stewart Hobbs
superintendent of Yadkin County schools

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And much more!

CHAPEL HILL—Dr. Stewart Hobbs, superintendent of the Yadkin County schools, will serve as president of the North Carolina High School Board of Directors for the 2012-13 academic year.

Kathy Spencer, the superintendent of Onslow County, is the incoming vice president.

Stewart is currently the superintendent of the Yadkin system after serving three and a half years as the superintendent of the Stokes County schools. He was at the helm of the Sampson County school system from 2003 until January of 2008.

A graduate of Clinton High School, Hobbs received his undergraduate degree from UNC-Wilmington, a Masters of Education from Fayetteville State University and his doctorate in education from UNC-Greensboro.

Hobbs had a successful coaching career before going into administration.

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. They are approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

The new Board members nominated were either filling vacancies produced by members going off the Board due to completion of their terms or those who are off due to retirement or leaving public school work.

They include: Region 2— 1-A, principal M.D. Guthrie, Wallace-Rose Hill High School; 2-A, principal Joe Poletti, Croatan High School; Region 8— Tony Baldwin, superintendent, Buncombe County Schools.

Since the Annual Meeting, Sally Bradshaw, principal of Fred T. Foard High School in Catawba County, has left her position and thus has left the Board of Directors. Filling that position on a one-year interim basis for this year is Teresa Evans of North Iredell High School.

Herman Little of Elizabeth City Northeastern has also recently announced his retirement, and Ron Butler of the Pitt County schools will be assuming that spot on the Board on an interim basis.

"These individuals will continue to provide outstanding leadership," said NCHSAA commissioner Davis Whitfield. "We look forward to Stewart Hobbs serving as president and the direction he will provide.

"We are also excited about those who will be joining the Board of Directors, which should help us to maintain an outstanding Board to serve our membership." ★

2011-12 Wells Fargo Cup Final Standings Listed

CHAPEL HILL—Wells Fargo, along with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, has announced the final standings in the Wells Fargo Cup competitions for the 2011-12 academic year.

The Wells Fargo Cup, formerly known as the Wachovia Cup, is sponsored by Wells Fargo and the NCHSAA. The award recognizes the high schools that achieve the best overall interscholastic athletic performance within each of the state's four competitive classifications. The Cup program is in its 33rd year.

Cary Green Hope maintained its lead after winter sports to capture the Cup in the final 4-A standings for the third consecutive year. Raleigh Cardinal Gibbons took the top spot in the 3-A classification with a great all around performance, while Carrboro was the Cup winner among 2-A schools for the first time ever. Kernersville Bishop McGuinness and Durham's North Carolina School of Science and Math finished in a dead heat for top honors among 1-A schools.

"We sincerely appreciate Wells Fargo's commitment to our overall program in recognizing our champions," said Davis Whitfield, NCHSAA commissioner. "These schools which win the Wells Fargo Cup do a tremendous job with their overall athletic programs, and we are grateful for Wells Fargo's desire to recognize their achievements."

In the 4-A classification, Green Hope finished first with 510 points to hold off Charlotte Myers Park for the second consecutive year, as the Mustangs finished in the runner-up spot with 400 points. Green Hope preserved its title by winning the women's lacrosse state championship, finishing as the state runner-up in women's soccer, and also getting to the state quarterfinals in men's dual team tennis and garnering sixth in men's golf. Myers Park had a third-place finish in men's golf to go with getting to the state semifinals in men's lacrosse and quarterfinals in women's lacrosse.

Raleigh Broughton wound up third with 377.5 points, while Cornelius W.A. Hough had its best year in its brief history with 357.5 points, good for fourth, and Charlotte Ardrey Kell was fifth with 355.

Broughton's top performance in the spring was a men's 4-A golf title, while Hough was the state champion in women's soccer and runner-up in baseball.

Cardinal Gibbons held on to the top spot in the 3-A standings with playoff points in an impressive five different spring sports, including winning the men's dual team tennis championship and taking top honors among 3-A men's lacrosse teams. Gibbons recorded a whopping 775 points, ahead of runner-up Waxhaw Marvin Ridge at 642.5.

Marvin Ridge's spring performances included three state runner-up finishes among 3-A teams in women's lacrosse, men's dual team tennis and men's golf.

Charlotte Catholic was third with 575 points, followed by Chapel Hill (435) and Northern Guilford (347.5).

Carrboro had an impressive spring to secure its first Cup ever, rolling up 280 playoff points in the spring for its 602.5 total, well ahead of runner-up Shelby at 415. Carrboro won the 2-A women's soccer title and the women's outdoor track crown and was also the top 2-A team in the open men's lacrosse championships, while Shelby was the 2-A men's dual team tennis champion.

Cuthbertson was third with 400 points, with its top spring performance a runner-up finish in the women's soccer playoffs. Two-time defending Cup champion Salisbury, the men's golf tlist, was fourth with 370 points and North Lincoln captured fifth overall with 362.5 points.

In the 1-A classification, Bishop McGuinness collected playoff points for positions in four different sports, including winning the state 1-A men's golf crown and making the semifinals of the men's dual team tennis state tournament, to surge into a tie with NCSSM. Science and Math was second in the men's 1-A state outdoor track and field meet and was also in the semifinals of the men's dual team tennis state tournament.

Lake Norman Charter, second in the men's 1-A golf and in the semifinals in women's soccer, tallied 447.5 points for third place.

Hendersonville, the school that has recorded the most Cups of any NCHSAA school with 13, finished fourth in the 1-A standings with 432.5 points, and Monroe was fifth at 325. Hendersonville won the men's state tennis title and Monroe was first in women's outdoor track and third in men's track and field.

Wells Fargo 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 playoff events involving teams from more than one classification, Wells Fargo 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 Cup points.

Points are awarded for all sports as follows: 50 for first, 45 for second, 40 for third, 35 for fourth, 30 for fifth, 25 for sixth, 20 for seventh and 15 for eighth. In the event of a tie, the schools receive an equal number of points based on the number of teams that tie and the number of teams that finish higher in the standings. Five points are awarded for each sanctioned sport in which a school competes.

Wells Fargo Cup standings are announced three times each school year: once after the fall and then the winter sports, and concluding with the winner after the spring sports season ends in June.

NCHSAA FINAL WELLS FARGO CUP STANDINGS 2011-12

1-A CLASSIFICATION

SCHOOL	POINTS
1. Bishop McGuinness	527.5
N.C. Science and Math	527.5
3. Lake Norman Charter	447.5
4. Hendersonville	432.5
5. Monroe	325
6. West Wilkes	320
7. Raleigh Charter	302.5
8. North Rowan	252.5
9. Riverside (Martin)	242.5
10. Ayden-Grifton	227.5
11. North Stokes	215
12. Thomas Jefferson Classical	207.5
13. Mount Airy	197.5
Gray Stone Day	197.5
15. Elkin	195

2-A CLASSIFICATION

SCHOOL	POINTS
1. Carrboro	602.5
2. Shelby	415
3. Waxhaw Cuthbertson	400
4. Salisbury	370
5. North Lincoln	362.5
6. Burlington Cummings	350
7. Wilson Beddingfield	307.5
8. Cedar Ridge	282.5
9. Northwood	255
10. First Flight	242.5
11. Kinston	237.5
12. Newton-Conover	222.5
13. Swansboro	220
14. West Davidson	210
15. West Stokes	207.5

3-A CLASSIFICATION

SCHOOL	POINTS
1. Cardinal Gibbons	775
2. Marvin Ridge	642.5
3. Charlotte Catholic	575
4. Chapel Hill	435
5. Northern Guilford	347.5
6. Weddington	305
7. Asheville	280
8. Hickory	277.5
9. North Buncombe	272.5
10. Rocky Mount	245
11. Orange	240
12. Burlington Williams	235
13. West Carteret	222.5
14. Charles B. Aycock	220
15. Berry Academy	217.5

4-A CLASSIFICATION

SCHOOL	POINTS
1. Green Hope	510
2. Charlotte Myers Park	400
3. Raleigh Broughton	377.5
4. Cornelius W.A. Hough	357.5
5. Charlotte Ardrey Kell	355
6. Southern Pines Pinecrest	345
7. Lake Norman	292.5
8. Pfafftown Ronald Reagan	285
9. Charlotte Providence	275
10. Raleigh Wakefield	270
11. Raleigh Millbrook	260
12. Apex	255
13. W-Salem Mount Tabor	242.5
14. Watauga	237.5
15. East Chapel Hill	227.5

NCHSAA Day Set For Kenan Stadium in September

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association will be recognized by the University of North Carolina on September 22 at Kenan Stadium.

The North Carolina-East Carolina football game has been designated as the 28th annual NCHSAA Day. The university actually spearheaded the founding of the NCHSAA in 1913.

Special halftime activities will highlight NCHSAA Day. The winners of the Wells Fargo Cup for the 2011-12 academic year, symbolic of the best overall interscholastic sports program in the state, will be honored. The winners include Kernersville Bishop McGuinness in the 1-A classification; Carrboro among 2-A schools; Raleigh Cardinal Gibbons in the 3-A classification; and Green Hope High School of Cary in the 4-A class.

In addition, the newest members of the NCHSAA Hall of Fame will be recognized. They include:

- Donnie Baxter of Asheboro, a great coach in football and baseball who guided Eastern Randolph to a state football crown and later served as a principal and then in the Randolph County schools central office
- Ronnie Chavis of Pembroke, an outstanding coach and administrator who worked at Magnolia, Pembroke and West Robeson and is a former president of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association
- Lawrence Dunn of Raleigh, who coached several sports at Garner and Athens Drive but really made his mark in basketball; his women's team at Garner won the 1978 NCHSAA state 4-A title and at Athens his men's teams went 445-193
- Doug Henderson of Greensboro, whose coaching stops included Shallotte, Elizabethtown, East Bladen and Western Guilford, with a career head football coaching mark of 216-102-5

- Lindsey Page of Burlington, who had a great career as a basketball coach at Bartlett Yancey in Caswell County, where his men's teams won 519 games, including the 1988 NCHSAA state 3-A title
- Larry Rhodes of Gastonia, who made his mark coaching primarily in men's basketball and golf at Gastonia's Ashley and Ashbrook High Schools; his basketball teams won 10 conference crowns and 336 games, including a 1967 state championship
- Robert Steele of Salisbury, one of the state's best coaches in track and field who has coached at both Oxford Webb and North Rowan; he has guided North Rowan to 15 state championships in outdoor track and field
- Jim Taylor of Shelby compiled a brilliant record as a head football coach, primarily at Shelby and also at Polk Central; his teams at Shelby were 201-54-2 in 21 seasons as head coach, including two NCHSAA state championships and two runner-up finishes

This is the 27th group of inductees to join the prestigious hall, bringing to 148 the number of individuals enshrined.

These eight will formally be inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame next spring during the Hall's annual banquet and induction ceremonies at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill.

"We appreciate the university's willingness to recognize the North Carolina High School Athletic Association on this special occasion," says Davis Whitfield, commissioner of the NCHSAA. ★

National Baseball Rules Committee Addresses Altering of Bats

INDIANAPOLIS—New language has been added to the high school baseball rules to re-emphasize that non-wood bats cannot be altered.

This additional note in Rule 1-3-2 was one of four rules changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee at its June meeting in Indianapolis. All rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

The new note in Rule 1-3-2 is as follows: "The NFHS has been advised that certain manufacturers consider alteration, modification and 'doctoring' of their bats to be unlawful and subject to civil and, under certain circumstances, criminal action."

"Not only is it a violation of NFHS baseball rules to alter a non-wood bat, this new language emphasizes that an individual could be subjected to a civil or criminal lawsuit for tampering with a bat," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and educational services and staff liaison to the NFHS Baseball Rules Committee.

Two other changes deal with the use of new technology. Rule 3-3-1f prohibits the use of video monitoring equipment for coaching purposes during the game, and Rule 3-3-1i prohibits the use of any electronic devices in the coach's box.

"Technology has improved to the level that mobile devices can accurately video different aspects of the game, which provides an unfair advantage to a coach by replaying the footage in the dugout during the contest," Hopkins said. "The committee also agreed that there was no reason to have any electronic devices in the coach's box."

The final change approved by the Baseball Rules Committee deals with the warm-up criteria for a pitcher who replaces an ejected player during an inning. If a pitcher is ejected, an incoming pitcher will be afforded the same warm-up criteria as a replacement for an injured player.

Under normal circumstances, a relief pitcher is allowed eight warm-up

throws; however, the umpire may allow additional pitches because of an injury, ejection or inclement weather.

A complete listing of all rules changes approved by the committee is available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org. Click on "Athletics & Fine Arts Activities" on the home page, and select "Baseball."

Baseball is the fourth-most popular sport for boys at the high school level, according to the 2010-11 NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, with 471,025 participants nationwide. The sport ranks third in school sponsorship with 15,863 schools sponsoring the sport. ★

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In Memorium

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 our membership.

JOE POPP

MOORESVILLE—Long time football coach Joe Popp died in late July at the age of 82.

Popp was born in Johnstown, PA., and coached collegiately at such places as North Carolina, George Washington, Wake Forest and Georgia Tech. In the 1970's he coached in the old World Football League and later was on the Cleveland Browns staff.

Popp coached at the high school level at Jonesville, then in Winston-Salem at Southwest High, and then at Mooresville. Mooresville won the Western North Carolina High School Activities Association football title in 1961.

Popp was a graduate of Catawba College. He is a member of the Catawba College Hall of Fame, the Cambrian County (PA) Sports Hall of Fame and the Mooresville Hall of Fame.

The Mooresville High School stadium bears his name.

GRADY STAFFORD

REIDSVILLE—Long-time coach Grady Johnson Stafford passed away at the first of July at the age of 81.

A native of Rockingham County, he attended Appalachian State University after serving in the Air Force. In 1959, he started his teaching career at Elliot Duncan School in Mayodan and then moved to Madison-Mayodan High School in 1960. The following year he went to Wentworth High School and spent 16 years there.

Stafford taught social studies and physical education, coached baseball and men's basketball and served as athletic director. In 1976 Wentworth won its first NCHSAA state championship in men's basketball.

In 1981 Stafford moved to Stoneville High School to teach and coach the basketball and two years later Stoneville earned its first state championship in basketball. Stafford retired in 1986 but continued assisting both Reidsville and Rockingham County's athletic programs.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that memorials be made to: The Stafford-Wall Scholarship c/o Rockingham County High School 180 High School Rd. Reidsville, N.C., 27320.

HERB YOUNG

CARY—North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame member Herb Young died after a lengthy illness in mid-July at the age of 84.

A native of Cary, Young distinguished himself as an outstanding game official at both the high school and college levels.

A three-sport standout at Cary High, Young played football at the University of North Carolina and then began his career in officiating. He was a high school basketball referee for 35 years starting in 1947 and officiated the state high school basketball championship in all four classifications. He officiated high school football for 24 years and umpired baseball for eight years. Young conducted state basketball clinics and also served as supervisor of officials for the Triangle Officials Association for 11 years.

He also officiated college basketball in the Carolinas Conference for 25 years, Southern Conference for 18 and the Atlantic Coast Conference for 11 seasons.

A charter member of the Cary High School Sports Hall of Fame, Young was active in civic affairs as well, including a stint from 1966 through '75 on the Cary Town Council.

National Federation Launches World Book's Learning Pro On NFHSLearn.com

Special From The National Federation

INDIANAPOLIS—The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has launched new online courses to help high school students improve study skills.

Learning Pro: Simple Ways to Improve Study Habits and Promote Learning, a new suite of online courses designed specifically for students, is now available on the NFHS Coach Education Program Web site at www.nfhslearn.com. The Learning Pro program, developed by World Book, Inc., delivers practical advice on improving study skills and grades through four courses: Homework Helper, Reading and Learning Strategies, Research Skills and Testing Tips.

Learning Pro is led by an on-camera host while peer correspondents file reports from the field for an entertaining spin on study skills. Interactive exercises allow students to learn about and practice their new skills, and printable resources are available for future reference.

"NFHSLearn.com is about delivering in-

formation that supports positive student experiences in athletics and after-school activities," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "With Learning Pro, we are expanding that mission by teaming with World Book to bring useful information to the students themselves."

"World Book is delighted to link its expertise in crafting informational and educational content that works for students with the NFHS' commitment to support students in and outside the classroom," said Don Keller, president of World Book, Inc. "NFHSLearn.com is a powerful tool for educators and students alike to use in today's extraordinarily challenging teaching and learning environment."

"Learning Pro is a great addition to NFHSLearn.com," said Tim Flannery, NFHS director of coach education. "This is another example of NFHS' mission of developing and supporting education efforts around interscholastic sports and activities. The collaboration between the NFHS and the education experts at World Book has resulted in a unique online learning experience that brings families and educators

together in helping busy students develop study and reading skills in an innovative way."

Learning Pro enables students, and parents, to focus on specific skills, and add more courses based upon their skill-building needs. Each course can be purchased online at NFHSLearn.com, or a Learning Pro purchaser can buy all four courses at one time to receive a free one-year individual subscription to the World Book Web (a collection of online reference sources geared to the varying needs of elementary, intermediate and secondary school students).

After launching on January 3, 2007, NFHSLearn.com became the online delivery vehicle for the NFHS Coach Education Program, with Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid for Coaches as the first courses available. Since then, the program has added 26 more courses on a variety of topics, with another dozen currently in development. Each year has seen a steady increase in learner activity on NFHSLearn.com, which has delivered nearly 700,000 courses to more than 530,000 unique users to date. ★

Boys Lacrosse Rules Changes Focus on Sportsmanship, Risk Minimization

INDIANAPOLIS—A focus on sportsmanship and risk minimization highlighted many of the rules changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee at its July meeting in Indianapolis. All 16 rules revisions were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

With the recent concentration on reducing head injuries in high school sports, the committee added new language to Rule 5-4 which states that “a player shall not initiate an excessive, violent or uncontrolled slash to the head/neck.” In addition, the rule now prohibits an offensive player in possession of the ball from blocking an opponent with the head or initiating contact with the head.

Kent Summers, NFHS director of performing arts and sports, said if the contact to the head/neck is considered deliberate or reckless, the penalty shall be a minimum two- or three-minute non-releasable foul. “In light of the potentially devastating, long-term effects of head injuries, it remains a priority to eliminate or minimize the frequency and impact of violent checks and collisions,” Summers said.

The committee addressed sportsmanship issues with changes in Rules 4-3-6 and 5-10-1d. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty will be assessed if a player deliberately uses his hands or fingers to play the ball, or if a player grabs an opponent’s crosse with the open hand or fingers.

“These revisions were made in response to situations where players attempt to deceive officials by using their hands or fingers to strip the ball from an opponent’s crosse on the faceoff,” Summers said.

Summers noted that inadvertent touching of the ball when the hand is grasping the stick should not be called as an unsportsmanlike conduct foul.

In other changes, an addition was made to Rule 4-3-5 stating that “the official shall vary the cadence of sounding the whistle for each faceoff.” In another risk-minimization change, a new article was added to Rule 1-9 recommending a protective cup for all players.

The committee also provided schools another option to mark the center faceoff spot on fields. In addition to the traditional “X” at the center of the field, schools can opt for a 4-inch square that is a contrasting color. Summers said this option will enable schools to play in college facilities without making changes to the fields.

Following is a summary of the remaining rules changes approved for high school boys lacrosse:

Rule 1-5: White balls shall be used unless both coaches agree prior

to or during the game to use a yellow, orange or lime green ball.

Rule 1-6-2: If a ball stop is used, only one may be used, and the dimensions shall be a maximum of 2 inches in length, 1½ inches in width and ¼-inch in thickness.

Rule 1-8: Any strings or leathers are limited to a hanging length of 2 inches.

Rules 1-2 and 6-5-2s: At the beginning of the game, the home team is required to provide a scorebook, a timing device, a table and a working horn.

Rule 2-5-2: The recommended uniform for officials now provides an option for black or white shorts. Also, all officials working the game are to be dressed the same.

Rule 4-15-2: The requirement for advancing the ball into the goal area is met when the ball touches anything within that area or a player in possession of the ball touches the line or is inside the goal area.

Rule 6-5-2v: Another example of illegal procedure was approved: “When no player from the team awarded possession picks up the ball and moves to the position of the restart within five seconds of when the officials are ready to restart play.” (Note: This only applies to situations in which Rule 6-5-f does not apply.)

Rule 6-6-3b: A coach or player may leave the bench/coaches area to exchange a crosse with a player on the field in the opposite end of the field from that team’s bench during a live ball or dead ball.

Rule 7-3 Exception: Deleted “live-ball” from the exception.

Rule 7-13: Regarding inadvertent whistles, the team with possession or entitled to possession when the whistle was blown shall retain possession.

Rule 2-6-1: Clarified the rule regarding state association authority as follows: State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the officials’ jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

According to the 2010-11 NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, 2,192 schools sponsor boys lacrosse at the high school level with 95,683 participants nationwide. ★

East Dominates To Win All-Star Football Contest

GREENSBORO—Ja’ Quil Capel of West Montgomery scored four touchdowns as the East rolled to a 34-9 victory over the West in the North Carolina Coaches’ Association all-star football game at Jamieson Stadium.

The East rolled to a 21-3 halftime advantage and rolled up 231 yards rushing to just 37 for the West.

Capel scored on runs of nine, one, 12 and 45 yards and rushed for 64 yards overall. Kinston running back Shaheed Swinson, with 79 yards on eight carries, was named the offensive Most Valuable Player of the game.

Terry Caldwell of Hoggard had seven tackles from his linebacker spot for the East and was the defensive MVP.

The West’s lone touchdown was a 21-yard pass from Enka’s Taylor McCurry to Marcus McDowell of East Lincoln in the fourth quarter. West quarterbacks completed 24 of 46 passes on the night for 214 yards.

Attendance for the game was announced at 7,623. The West still leads the series 37-26-1. ★



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The NCHSAA is pleased to bring you an expanded *Bulletin*,
with more news and information for the membership.

NCHSAA Athletes Earn Prestigious Gatorade Awards

CHICAGO—Several athletes from North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools have earned prestigious awards from The Gatorade Company.

In its 27th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPNHS, has announced state players of the year in several sports.

Craig Engels of Ronald Reagan High School is the 2011-12 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Lexi Davis of Porter Ridge earned the award in softball, while Corey Seager of Northwest Cabarrus took the corresponding award in baseball. Alexis Shaffer of Green Hope was selected as the Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year.

The award recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track or court or field.

Here is a further look at the North Carolina winners:

Craig Engles, Ronald Reagan:

The 6-foot senior won the 800-meter run with a time of 1:54.43 and the 1,600-meter run in 4:18.24 at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring, leading the Raiders to a second-place finish as a team. MVP of the Class 4A meet, Engels also anchored the 4x800-meter relay quartet, which won in a time of 7:50.60.

Engels has maintained a 4.16 GPA in the classroom. Also a soccer standout, he is a member of his school's Earth Club and has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

"Craig's dominance of the middle distance events is unmatched," said Ronald Reagan High coach Chris Catton. "His range of events is incredible, and he's also the leader of our team and an incredible young man."

Engels has signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in track and field on scholarship at North Carolina State University this fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

can always be found on the right side of the home page of the NCHSAA website, a helpful calendar function for member schools.

www.nchsaa.org.

Lexi Davis, Porter Ridge:

The 6-foot-1 senior right-handed pitcher led the Pirates (33-1) to the NCHSAA 4A state championship this past season and a No. 2 ranking nationally in the ESPNHS Feb 50. Davis posted a 33-1 record with a 0.23 ERA in the circle, and batted .450 with eight home runs and 42 RBI at the plate. She's a three-time Conference Player of the Year and three-time First Team All-State selection.

Davis has maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom. An elementary school tutor, she has volunteered locally on behalf of the Special Olympics and youth softball programs.

"Lexi Davis has been a dominant softball player for the last four years," said Don Mather, head coach at Parkwood High. "This season she's just outdone herself, in both hitting and pitching."

Davis has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball on scholarship at Auburn University.

Corey Seager, Northwest Cabarrus:

The 6-foot-4, 205-pound senior shortstop batted .519 with 10 home runs and 37 RBI this past season, leading the Trojans (23- 5) to the second round of the Class 3A state tournament. A returning All-American as named by Perfect Game USA, Louisville Slugger and Collegiate Baseball, Seager stole 13 bases while producing a 1.062 slugging percentage and .664 on-base percentage. In nine games for the 2010 USA Baseball 16-and-Under National Team, he batted .514 with a home run and 12 RBI, earning All-Tournament honors in leading his countrymen to a gold medal at the Pan-American Games.

Seager has maintained a 4.05 weighted GPA in the classroom. A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Farmers of America, the National Beta Club and the Athletes Who Share Unselfish Moments (AWSUM) Club, he has donated his time locally as a youth baseball instructor, on behalf of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and as a motivational speaker at a children's hospital.

"He's one of the greatest players—if not the best—to ever come out of this county," said Derek Shoe, head coach at rival Concord. "With that title, he wasn't pitched to very often, but he never showed any frustration. He's just an all-around great kid and one that we all wish we had on our team. From the outside, it looked like he was not only their best player, but also their best person."

Seager has signed a National Letter of

Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of South Carolina this fall.

Alexis Shaffer, Green Hope:

The 5-foot-8 junior forward and midfielder led the Falcons to a state runner-up finish in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association playoffs this spring. Shaffer scored 30 goals on the year, including one in the state final.

A member of the U.S. Soccer Under-18 Women's National Team and a 2011 Youth All-American selection for club play by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, Shaffer led her club team, the Capital Area Soccer League Chelsea Ladies 94, to the 2011 Under-16 national championship of the Elite Club National League.

Shaffer has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the classroom. She has volunteered locally with the Special Olympics, the Pink Ribbon Club Foundation and as a youth soccer coach and mentor.

"Alexis' ability to read the game is indeed one of her best strengths— it sets her on such a high level," said Kevin Todd, head coach of Apex, one of Green Hope's rivals. "I've seen her create scoring opportunities on a quick dime and also set up ones for her teammates that really exemplify her in-depth knowledge of the intricate tactical offensive components of the game."

Shaffer has verbally committed to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at the University of Virginia beginning in the fall of 2013.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com. ★

ESPNHS Honors Porter Ridge Pitcher With National Award

Special To The NCHSAA From ESPN

There was one constant during the first softball state title run for Porter Ridge High School.

Lexi Davis was in the circle for all 34 games.

The result: a 33-1 record, a North Carolina High School Athletic Association Class 4-A state championship, and the No. 2 spot in the final POWERADE FAB 50 national rankings.

For her performances as a pitcher and as a batter, the Auburn University recruit has been selected the ESPNHS National Softball Player of the Year. Players from the handful of states that conduct softball as a fall sport were not considered for the award.

"That's awesome," Davis said when informed of her selection. "Our team felt we had some unfinished business this season and we really bonded together to close the deal with the school's first state title. This is icing on the cake and I'm very grateful."

The 6-foot-1 right-handed pitcher has been a dominant player for four seasons, but the Pirates couldn't pocket a state crown until this year. Last spring, they lost in the state playoffs to eventual champion Alexander Central. This spring, they avenged the state quarterfinal loss with a 1-0 win over an Alexander Central team that was ranked No. 6 in the final FAB 50 and was led by two-time state player of the year Chelsea Wilkinson.

"That win was the first of two straight games which were keys to our season," Davis said. "The next playoff game was our only loss (4-1 to

North Davidson) and was our wake-up call that we had to stay focused to achieve our main goal of a state title."

The Pirates rebounded from their only loss of the season in the best-of-three semifinal series with wins of 2-1 and 1-0 over North Davidson before posting two 2-0 wins over Holly Springs in the state championship series.

Davis and her teammates played nine playoff games in 22 days with wins over teams ranked No. 1, No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5 in the final regular-season state poll. Porter Ridge was ranked No. 2 behind defending champion Alexander Central.

The National Player of the Year ended the season with a 33-1 record, 22 shutouts and a 0.23 ERA. The three-time all-state choice and Gatorade State Player of the Year as a senior also led her team at the plate. She hit .450 with eight home runs and 42 RBIs. She was one of only two seniors—along with shortstop Haley Secrest—in the underclass-dominated lineup.

"Our team has had some tough losses the last couple of years," Davis said. "We were sort of on a mission to go the distance this year and get the state title. It was the result of a lot of hard work by our team as we improved and grew together. I wouldn't change anything that's happened to us this season."

The softball diamond isn't the only place Davis excels. She maintained a 3.89 GPA in the classroom and plans to major in pre-medicine, specializing in biomedical science, at Auburn. ★

NCHSAA Lists Vision, Mission, Core Values in Strategic Plan

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association is approaching the celebration of its 100th anniversary, and even though the organization has been around for a while it has made a constant effort to deal with the changing landscape of education and the challenges which any organization can face.

To that end, the NCHSAA convened a special strategic planning committee last spring which studied the organization, what it does and what the future should hold. The committee was made up of superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and even had student-athletes. Their recommendations were then forwarded to the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

A new mission statement was developed and approved: The mission of the NCHSAA is to provide governance and leadership for interscholastic athletic programs that support and enrich the educational experience of students.

A vision statement was also developed to provide direction for the organization: The NCHSAA will be the national model for developing and inspiring greatness through interscholastic athletic experiences.

The Association's core values and beliefs were outlined. Core values and beliefs are shared among the stakeholders of an organization. Values drive an organization's culture and priorities and provide a framework in which decisions are made. The core values and beliefs are the principles that guide the association.

Sportsmanship—following the rules of the game, respecting the judgment of referees and officials, treating opponents with respect, respect for one's opponent and graciousness in winning or losing.

Integrity—consistency of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations, and outcomes—the truthfulness or accuracy of one's actions

Fair Play—a shared interpretation of the rules, the equal treatment of all concerned, sticking to the agreed rules, not using unfair advantages

Honesty—uprightness and fairness, truthfulness, sincerity, or frankness, freedom from deceit or fraud. To consistently seek and speak the truth

Respect—a positive feeling of esteem for a person or other entity and specific actions and conduct representative of that esteem

Equity—fairness, just and right, equitable treatment of all, dealing fairly and equally with all concerned

Fair Competition—competitors within a competition should have similar performance potential and performance strength

Development of student-athletes—participation in athletics should aid in the physiological and psychological development of the student-athlete. ★

The National High School Sports Record Book
can be purchased from the
National Federation of State High School Associations.
A number of North Carolinians are among the national
record holders. More information is available at
(317) 972-6900.

“Hit By Pitch” Procedure Revised In High School Softball By NFHS

INDIANAPOLIS—Batters in high school softball no longer will have to make an attempt to avoid being hit by a pitch in order to be awarded first base.

This revision to Rule 8-1-2 was one of four rules changes approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Softball Rules Committee at its June meeting in Indianapolis. All rules changes were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

A batter will be awarded first base if “a pitched ball is entirely within the batter’s box and it strikes the batter or her clothing. No attempt to avoid being hit by the pitch is required; however, the batter may not obviously try to get hit by the pitch.”

Theresa Wynns, NFHS director of sports and officials education and staff liaison for softball, said this rules change clears up the gray area of whether the batter made an attempt to get out of the way of the pitch.

“Since a batter is penalized for prohibiting a pitch from entering the strike zone, the committee thought there should be a penalty when the pitcher hits a batter when the pitch is completely inside the batter’s box,” Wynns said.

In Rule 6-1, the committee approved the following exceptions to the penalty for an illegal pitch:

1) If the batter reaches first base safely and each other runner advances at least one base, the illegal pitch is nullified. All action stands and the illegal pitch is canceled.

2) If the batter does not reach first base safely or if any base runner fails to advance at least one base, the coach of the team at bat shall have the option of the result of the play or the penalty of the illegal pitch.

3) If the batter is hit by an illegal pitch out of the strike zone, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

4) If ball four is an illegal pitch, the batter is awarded first base and each base runner is awarded one base.

A change was approved by the Softball Rules Committee regarding the color of gloves/mitts. As a follow-up to the change last year that required the color of all softballs to be optic yellow, the committee revised language in Rule 1-4-1 to state that gloves/mitts must not be entirely optic yellow or have that color of marking on the inside or outside of gloves/mitts that would give the appearance of the ball.

The final rules change was Rule 3-6-10, which will allow stopwatches to be used in the coach’s box.

A complete listing of all rules changes approved by the committee is available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org. Click on “Athletics & Fine Arts Activities” on the home page, and select “Softball.”

Fast-pitch softball is the fourth-most popular sport for girls at the high school level, according to the 2011-12 NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, with 373,535 participants nationwide. The sport ranks fourth in school sponsorship with 15,338 schools sponsoring the sport ★

West Wins In Men’s Soccer, NCCA Women’s Game Ends In Tie

GREENSBORO—Troy Hemphill of T.C. Roberson scored a pair of unassisted goals to lead the West to a 3-2 victory over the East in the North Carolina Coaches’ Association men’s soccer all-star game at the UNCG Soccer Stadium.

Hemphill was named the game’s Most Valuable Player. His tally with 19:27 left to play broke a 2-2 tie.

Jerry Zeller of Shelby had the other West goal while Adrian Gonzales of Fuquay-Varina and Topsail’s Logan McGlynn found the back of the net for the East. The West had a 14-8 advantage in shots.

It was the eighth victory for the West in the series, compared to nine for the East and four ties.

The women’s game was a very even battle and ended in a 1-1 tie. The East had broken out on top in the 33rd minute on a goal by Tristan Briggs of West Carteret, but the West knotted it in the 66th minute on a goal by Samantha Childress of East Forsyth with an assist from Lake Norman’s Taylor Waters. Childress was selected as the all-star game MVP.

The West took 12 shots to 11 for the East and both sides missed a penalty kick.

The West still leads the all-time all-star women’s soccer series 9-6 and there have now been six ties. ★

West Sweeps NCCA Basketball All-Star Games

GREENSBORO—The West swept its counterparts from the East in the North Carolina Coaches’ Association East-West all-star basketball games at the Greensboro Coliseum.

In the fast-paced men’s game, the West used some big runs to post a 107-97 victory. The East jumped out to a 71- lead but a 21-6 run by the West enabled the winners to post a 54-38 halftime advantage. The West moved the lead out to 65-43 before the East had a run of its own, outscoring the West 23-3 to pull to within two, but the West held on to win.

Shawn Lester of Mooresville, who will further his career at Charlotte, was the Most Valuable Player, as he scored 20 points, grabbed eight rebounds and dished out eight assists for the West. Freedom’s Rob Noyes scored 15 points while Tracy Gathings of Greensboro Smith contributed 12 points and a team-high 11 rebounds for the West.

Denzel Ingram of Chapel Hill, who will also play at Charlotte, led the East with 23 points and Terrill Hilliard of Rocky Mount added 16.

In the men’s series, the West has now won six of the last eight encounters.

The West had a little easier time in the women’s game, scoring 25 points in the final quarter en route to an 82-65 triumph. The East pulled to within 51-48 with three minutes to go in the third quarter before the West pulled away.

Paige Love of Wilkes Central led the winners with 15 points, hitting five of seven shots from the floor, and was named the MVP of the game. West Forsyth’s Tori Cook scored 11 points while Ashton Fleming of Winston-Salem Reynolds and Jordan Hiatt of Mount Airy had 10 apiece for the winners.

Rocky Mount’s Alexis Cooper led the way for the East with 16 points, with Ciara Morris of South View tallying 14 points.

The East shot just 24 percent from the floor for the game and lost the battle of the boards by 63-50.

The West has now won four of the last five in the series. ★

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR NCHSAA HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTORIES for the 2012-13 academic year?

Order forms are located on the NCHSAA web site.

www.nchsaa.org.

NFHS Offers On-Line Course To Minimize Risk Of Heat-Stroke Deaths In High School Sports

From The National Federation

INDIANAPOLIS— In its ongoing effort to minimize the risk of participating in high school athletics, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has produced a free online course entitled “A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention.”

The course, which provides critical information designed to minimize the risk of activity-related heat stroke among high school athletes, is the fourth and latest free course in the NFHS Coach Education Program available online at www.nfhslearn.com.

With record heat in many locations this year, the information contained in this course could help save lives, especially during fall practices, according to Tim Flannery, NFHS director of coach education.

“Heat stroke is the leading cause of preventable death in high school athletics,” Flannery said, “and results in thousands of emergency room visits and hospitalizations throughout the nation each year. Many times, deaths from heat strokes are preventable, and we believe this course can be just the tool that players, coaches and parents need to guard against serious illness or death.”

To provide more options for individuals to access the course, “A Guide to Heat Acclimatization and Heat Illness Prevention” can be taken on mobile devices, including iPads and tablets.

The heat illness course will serve as a great companion to the free “Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know” course, which has been taken by more than 430,000 individuals since its debut in May 2010. The other free courses offered through the NFHS Coach

Education Program are “Sportsmanship” and “The Role of the Parent in Sports.”

“We are very pleased to be able to offer this important course on heat illness free of charge,” Flannery said. “With more than 7.6 million participants in high school sports, minimizing the risk of serious illness and injury is a top priority, and we believe this course will help prevent unnecessary deaths from heat illness and heat stroke.”

The NFHS Coach Education Program offers 29 online courses, including the two core courses—Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid Health and Safety for Coaches. The NFHS also offers 13 sport-specific courses and seven elective courses.

All NFHS Coach Education Program courses are available at www.nfhslearn.com. ★

North Carolina Shrine Bowl Coaches Named For 2012 Game

ROCK HILL, SC—The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas has announced the coaching staff that will be guiding the North Carolina all-stars against their counterparts from South Carolina in the annual Shrine Bowl football game.

Nelson Smith of Garner, who plans to retire at the end of the 2012 season, will be the North Carolina head coach. His team was the NCHSAA state 4-AA runner-up last year, losing to Greensboro Page in the championship.

Mike Byus of East Lincoln will serve as the quarterbacks and receivers coach, while Dave Grant of Burlington’s Walter Williams will coach the defensive backs. Davie’s Doug Illing is the linebackers coach while B.J. Laughter of Hendersonville will work with defensive lineman.

Adrian Snow of West Forsyth will coach the offensive line while Russell Stone of Douglas Byrd in Fayetteville will lead the running backs.

The 76th annual game will be played on December 15, 2012, in Gibbs Stadium at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC., with the teams to be announced in mid-October. ★

New Board Members



Two new members have been appointed to fill unexpired terms on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors, openings that occurred during the summer. Teresa Evans, principal at North Iredell High School, and Ron Butler, director of athletics for the Pitt County school system, will be serving on the NCHSAA Board.

UPDATING SCHOOL INFORMATION

Make sure you have updated your school information for the 2012-13 academic year, with names of head coaches, administrators and other information. This is the information that will be used in the 2012-13 NCHSAA Directory.

Schools are urged to keep this information current throughout the year to make sure email notices go to the appropriate personnel.

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



Heart Of A Champion Award Winners At Luncheon

CHAPEL HILL—A total of 20 student-athletes from North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools were honored 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 the North Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company. Mark Dreibelbis, NCHSAA assistant commissioner, and assistant director for student services Chiquana Dancy administer the program.

Each of the NCHSAA member schools had the opportunity to nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the recognition. The students must have participated in at least one varsity sport or activity, including cheerleading, during the 2011-12 school year, have not been ejected from any contest, and must have demonstrated outstanding citizenship and sportsmanship during their high school careers. The students filled out an application questionnaire and then a school official, such as the principal or athletic director, also provided an evaluation.

The students were recognized at a luncheon in June at the Radisson Governors’ Inn in the Research Triangle Park.

“We are proud of the achievements of this select group of student-athletes,” said NCHSAA commissioner Davis Whitfield. “With recognitions such as these, we are continuing our emphasis on sportsmanship and the important lessons high school athletics teach.”

North Carolina Farm Bureau Heart of a Champion 2011-12 Honorees:

Student Athlete	School	Nominator
Lance Byrd	North Wilkes	Dave Haynie
Jeremy Clark	West Stanly	Wendy Tucker
Jamarcus Clyburn	Forest Hills	Warren Taylor
Mikheyala Dunn	Person	Lynn Ward
Logan Garman	Butler	Janet Prevatt
Sean Grant	West Iredell	Mark Weycker
Ryan Johnson	Clyde Erwin	David Ball
Austin Macemore	Starmount	Scott Carter
Victoria McGee	NW Guilford	Darlene Joyner
Kadie Morgan	North Stanly	Tommy Harkey
Kaley Moser	Williams	Kyle Hayes
Savannah Nesbitt	Clyde Erwin	David Ball
Patricia Renfrow	North Johnston	Nicole Davis
Taylor Rhodes	NW Guilford	Charlie Rhodes
Sydney Richardson	West Stanly	Wendy Tucker
Kimberly Rivers	Forest Hills	Eddie Rivers
Brenna Roberson	North Wilkes	Michael Greene
Matthew Rumble	Butler	Janet Prevatt
Elizabeth Scott	West Iredell	Mark Weycker
Meng Xiong	Albemarle	Joanne Hesley,
		Gary Moran

RECORD BREAKERS?

Don’t forget, if you have any potential state or national listings for the record book, there is a form on line to send that information for consideration. Help us to make our state and national books as inclusive and complete as possible. Any questions call Rick Strunk at (919) 240-7367. And don’t forget to check the latest version of the state record book on line!

NCHSAA Booking Agents At Rose Bowl

Two North Carolina High School Athletic Association booking agents are outstanding football officials in their own right and worked in the Rose Bowl, the “granddaddy of them all,” in Pasadena, California earlier this year.

Mike Webster (left) of Wilson, who heads the Coastal Plains association in football, and Brad Allen of Lumberton, head of the Southeastern Officials Association in basketball, are shown prior to the kickoff of the contest between Oregon and Wisconsin, a game won by Oregon 45-38.



NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONS

2011-12 ACADEMIC YEAR

(Head Coach in Parentheses)

FALL SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

- 1A—NORTH STOKES (Christy Menear)
- 2A—NEWTON-CONOVER (Linda Richards)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Logan Barber)
- 4A—PROVIDENCE (Karen Bradbury)

WOMEN'S GOLF

- 1A/2A—SALISBURY (Dale Snyder)
- 3A—LEDFOORD (John Ralls)
- 4A—ATHENS DRIVE (Tony Alcon)

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- 1A—LAKE NORMAN CHARTER (Craig Zamara)
- 2A—CARRBORO (Jay Crooker)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Nick Mangum)
- 4A—GREEN HOPE (Mike Miragliuolo)

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- 1A—N.C.SCHOOL SCIENCE & MATH (Nick Lehman)
- 2A—NORTH LINCOLN (Matt Reep)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Nick Mangum)
- 4A—BROUGHTON (Dave Christian)

WOMEN'S TENNIS (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A—MOUNT AIRY (Scott Kniskern)
- 2A—SALISBURY (Chris Myers)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Andrew Tuttle)
- 4A—GRIMSLEY (Karyn Collie)

MEN'S SOCCER

- 1A—N.C. SCIENCE AND MATH (Henry Gallagher)
- 2A—SALISBURY (Matthew Parrish)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Tim Healy)
- 4A—GREEN HOPE (Andrew Chadwick)

FOOTBALL

- 1A—MURPHY (David Gentry)
- 1AA—SWAIN COUNTY (Sam Patillo)
- 2A—TARBORO (Jeff Craddock)
- 2AA—WEST STOKES (Jimmy Upchurch)
- 3A—HAVELOCK (Jim Bob Bryant)
- 3AA—NORTHERN GUILFORD (Johnny Roscoe)
- 4A—SCOTLAND (Chip Williams)
- 4AA—PAGE (Kevin Gillespie)

WINTER SPORTS

WRESTLING (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A—WEST WILKES (Brian Brown)
- 2A—PIEDMONT (Todd Stokes)
- 3A—ORANGE (Bobby Shriner)
- 4A—PARKLAND (Maurice Atwood)

WRESTLING (TOURNAMENT)

- 1A—WEST WILKES (Brian Brown)
- 2A—TRINITY (Kyle Spencer)
- 3A—ORANGE (Bob Shriner)
- 4A—PINECREST (Travis Flinchum)

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK

- 1A/2A/3A—CUMMINGS (Donald Davis)
- 4A—WAKEFIELD (Wayne Dubnansky)

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

- 1A/2A/3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Nick Mangum)
- 4A—(tie) SOUTHEAST GUILFORD (Alton Tyre)
- KNIGHTDALE (David Castell)

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

- 1A/2A—RALEIGH CHARTER (Matthew Mosher)
- 3A—CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC (Brian Gross)
- 4A—W.A. HOUGH (Timothy Queen)

MEN'S SWIMMING

- 1A/2A—CARRBORO (Britton Banning-Arndt)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Jonah Turner)
- 4A—PROVIDENCE (Sandy Martin)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- 1A—BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Brian Robinson)
- 2A—JORDAN-MATTHEWS (Jeff Stutts)
- 3A—HARDING UNIVERSITY (Anthony Jones)
- 4A—MILLBROOK (Chris East)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- 1A—WINSTON-SALEM PREP (Andre Gould)
- 2A—KINSTON (Wells Gullede)
- 3A—ROCKY MOUNT (Michael Gainey)
- 4A—NEW HANOVER (Kirk Angel)

SPRING SPORTS

MEN'S GOLF

- 1A—BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Pearse Mahon)
- 2A—SALISBURY (Dale Snyder)
- 3A—FORESTVIEW (Ken Beaty)
- 4A—BROUGHTON (Andrew Marlowe)

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- 1A—NORTH ROWAN (Robert Steele)
- 2A—CEDAR RIDGE (Larry Faucette)
- 3A—BERRY ACADEMY (Rudolph Brown)
- 4A—KNIGHTDALE (David Castell)

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- 1A—MONROE (Johnny Sowell)
- 2A—CARRBORO (Melvin Griffin)
- 3A—NORTH BUNCOMBE (Kevin Yontz)
- 4A—WAKEFIELD (Ann Graham)

MEN'S TENNIS (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A—HENDERSONVILLE (Jon Sherrill)
- 2A—SHELBY (Jackson Martin)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Andrew Tuttle)
- 4A—R.J. REYNOLDS (Brad Fisher)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

- 1A—SOUTHWEST ONSLOW (John Sweeney)
- 2A—CARRBORO (Robin Bulleri)
- 3A—WHITE OAK (Buddy Carroll)
- 4A—W.A. HOUGH (David Smith)

LACROSSE

- Women—GREEN HOPE (Abigail Mead)
- Men—LAKE NORMAN (Kevin Gowin)

BASEBALL

- 1A—SOUTH STANLY (Terry Tucker)
- 2A—WHITEVILLE (Brett Harwood)
- 3A—WEDDINGTON (Travis Poole)
- 4A—MIDDLE CREEK (Jeremy Thompson)

SOFTBALL

- 1A—SOUTH STANLY (David Poplin)
- 2A—BEDDINGFIELD (Jeremy Howard)
- 3A—CHARLES B. AYCOCK (Brad Matthews)
- 4A—PORTER RIDGE (Lael Rorie)



WOMEN'S SOCCER

Southwest Onslow Downs Thomas Jefferson In NCHSAA State 1-A Women's Soccer Final

RALEIGH—Experience may make a difference in state playoffs, but for Southwest Onslow High School, the formula was a little different.

A couple of freshmen came through to score as the Stallions beat Mooresboro Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy 2-0 in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A women's soccer championship game at Dail Soccer Field at North Carolina State University.

Freshmen Taylor Marley and Amanda McCurry each tallied first-half goals for the Stallions, and then the Southwest defense made it hold up. Marley was named the championship's Most Valuable Player.

The Stallions broke on top 1-0 in the game's eighth minute on Marley's goal, assisted by Jamie Berti. Then less than six minutes before intermission, McCurry found the back of the net to put Southwest ahead 2-0.

Keeper Erika Ware recorded the shutout in goal, the 10th of the year for Southwest, and she had seven saves on the night. The Gryphons actually seven shots on goal to four for the Stallions and had four corner kicks to one for Southwest.

Southwest Onslow made its third consecutive trip to the NCHSAA women's soccer championship, winning a state title in 2010 and finishing as runner-up last year, while Thomas Jefferson was playing in its first NCHSAA team championship in any sport. The Stallions completed a 15-5-2 campaign, which included two playoff victories in overtime, while Thomas Jefferson ended the year 18-5.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium serves as the primary host city partner for the women's soccer championship, along with the Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

NCHSAA STATE 1-A WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Dail Soccer Field, Cary

Thomas Jefferson	0	0	—	0
Southwest Onslow	2	0	—	2

SCORING

8th minute	SWO—Taylor Marley (Jamie Berti)
35th minute	SWO—Amanda McCurry

KEEP CHECKING THE WEB SITE!

Check the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's site daily at

www.nchsaa.org

for all sorts of important information, including updated regional assignments and locations in several sports, the latest brackets and up-to-the minute sports news.

Moon Scores Twice To Lift Hough Past Green Hope For 4-A Women's Soccer Title

RALEIGH—Sophomore forward Sarah Moon scored two goals in the final 11 minutes of the game to lift Cornelius W.A Hough to a dramatic 2-1 victory over Cary Green Hope on Saturday in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A women's soccer championship game at Dail Soccer Field.

The Huskies' game winner came from Moon in the 76th minute and gave Hough its first NCHSAA women's soccer title. She was selected as the championship match Most Valuable Player.

Moon outraced her defenders on a service from the right flank and tucked the ball away for the decisive goal.

It was an evenly matched game between two outstanding teams, both of whom are nationally ranked according to one ESPN poll, with both teams recording six shots on goal. Green Hope did have an 8-1 edge in corner kicks, however.

A tight first half ended scoreless, although Green Hope had four corner kicks in the first half but could not capitalize on the set pieces.

Green Hope broke the ice in the 58th minute when Alexis Shaffer, the Tri-Nine Conference Player of the Year, converted on a penalty kick for a 1-0 lead, her 30th goal of the season.

Then 11 minutes later Hough got the equalizer when Moon scored on an assist from Allison Stearns, the I-Meck Conference Player of the Year, to make it 1-1 and set the stage for the exciting finish.

Huskies goalkeeper Marnie Merritt was credited with five saves.

Hough, in just its second year of operation and with its first senior class, ended the season with a 25-match winning streak since a tie with Charlotte Myers Park in the second match of the season. The Huskies finished 26-0-1.

Five of the key Hough players were sophomore members of the North Mecklenburg state championship team from 2010, but were reassigned to Hough when it opened.

Green Hope, which had outscored its opposition 27-1 in five previous state playoff contests on its run to the finals, lost for the first time after 25 consecutive wins.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium serves as the primary host city partner for the women's soccer championship, along with the Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

NCHSAA STATE 4-A WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Dail Soccer Field, N.C. State University

Cary Green Hope	0	1	—	1
Cornelius W.A. Hough	0	2	—	2

SCORING

58th minute	GH—Alexis Shaffer (penalty kick)
69th minute	Hough—Sarah Moon (Allison Stearns)
76th minute	Hough—Sarah Moon

Barber Leads White Oak Past Charlotte Catholic In 3-A Women's Soccer Final

RALEIGH—Senior forward Jodi Barber had two unassisted goals to cap a spectacular season and lift Jacksonville White Oak to a 2-1 victory over defending champion Charlotte Catholic for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A women's soccer championship at Dail Soccer Field.

Barber was named the championship Most Valuable Player and finished the season with 59 goals. Her 59 goals in a season puts Barber 12th

on the NCHSAA all-time scoring list.

White Oak got off to a very quick start and Barber put the Lady Vikings on the board in the seventh minute with an unassisted goal for a 1-0 lead, which was the halftime score. Catholic managed only one shot on goal in the first 40 minutes as White Oak had the better of play.

Then Barber found the back of the net again in the 70th minute to put White Oak in front 2-0.

But Catholic came storming back just a minute later when junior forward Jane Cline tallied to make it 2-1, scoring her 41st goal of the season. But White Oak kept the Cougars at bay.

White Oak had six shots on goal to four for Catholic, and both teams had just a single corner kick. White Oak sophomore goalie Alexis Jones was credited with four saves.

Charlotte Catholic was in the finals for the seventh time, and the Cougars had previously earned NCHSAA state titles in 2002, '03 and last year. Catholic has been to the state playoffs 21 straight years and ended the season 25-2-1, with its only other loss to Cardinal Gibbons.

White Oak was also making its seventh championship appearance and is now 6-1 in finals. The Lady Vikings' other NCHSAA crowns came in 2003 and four straight from 2006 through '09. White Oak finished the year 23-2-2.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium serves as the primary host city partner for the women's soccer championship, along with the Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

NCHSAA STATE 3-A WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Dail Soccer Field, N.C. State University

Jacksonville White Oak	1	1	—	2
Charlotte Catholic	0	1	—	1

SCORING

7th minute	WO—Jodi Barber
70th minute	WO—Jodi Barber
71st minute	CC—Jane Cline

Tawney's Goal Is Difference For Carrboro In NCHSAA State 2-A Women's Soccer Final

CARY—Senior midfielder Kyle Tawney scored in the 77th minute to lift Carrboro to a 2-1 triumph over Cuthbertson in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A women's soccer championship game at Dail Soccer Field.

The championship was a rematch of last year's final in which Cuthbertson prevailed on penalty kicks, but Tawney's goal proved to be the difference this time.

The Jaguars' game-winner came off a corner kick as Anna Gachechiladze served it from the corner and Tawney, the Carolina 12 Conference Player of the Year, headed it in beautifully.

Tawney was the championship Most Valuable Player.

Carrboro got off to a blistering start, jumping to a 1-0 advantage in the game's first three minutes when sophomore forward Caroline Houser found the back of the net with Kenza Araba getting the assist.

Six minutes before halftime, Cuthbertson came back to knot the contest at 1-1 on a goal by senior captain Alex Duty.

Both Carrboro and Cuthbertson, relatively new schools, have established strong soccer traditions quickly, playing in the state final for the second straight year. Cuthbertson is a school in only its third year of operation, while Carrboro opened in 2007.

Carrboro, in winning its first NCHSAA women's soccer title, closed

the season with a 20-1-1 mark with its only defeat a regular-season loss to rival Chapel Hill. The Jaguars outscored their opponents 28-4 in their six-game playoff march to the title. Cuthbertson finished at 20-5-1 overall.

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NCHSAA STATE 2-A WOMEN'S SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Dail Soccer Field, N.C. State University

Carrboro	1	1	—	2
Waxhaw Cuthbertson	1	0	—	1

SCORING

3rd minute	Carr—Caroline Houser (Kenza Aruba)
34th minute	Cuth—Alex Duty
77th minute	Carr—Kylie Tawney (Anna Gachechiladze)



SOFTBALL

South Stanly Pulls Away To Beat Camden For 1-A Softball Crown

RALEIGH—South Stanly scored in all but one inning as the Rowdy Rebel Bulls beat Camden 9-2 in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A softball championship series.

Steely Russell, who went the distance on the mound for the Bulls in the final game and fanned 10 while limiting Camden to four hits, was named the championship Most Valuable Player.

South Stanly broke on top 2-0 in the bottom of the first, scoring twice with Allison Smith driving home a run with a single and Lacey Leary getting an RBI on a sacrifice fly.

A pair of Rowdy Rebel Bull singles and an error made it 3-0 South Stanly in the third, but the Bruins sliced it to 3-1 in the fourth. Kara Pipkin's single scored Jordan Cutrell, who had walked and reached third on an error.

Then South Stanly began to pull away, as Ali Gallagher and Erin Thompson had RBI singles in the fourth and then the Bulls added a run in the fifth and three more in the sixth. Leary's two-run double was the key hit for South in the sixth.

Thompson had three hits for the winners while Leary, Gallagher and Emily Poplin had two hits apiece in the 14-hit South Stanly attack. Rachel Gilliken was the losing pitcher.

On the first day of play, Meredith Martin's single in the seventh inning drove in the only runs of the game as South Stanly nipped Camden 2-0 in the second game, evening the series and forcing the decisive contest.

In the opener, Gilliken got the win and also drove in three runs to lead Camden to an 11-4 victory. Gilliken went the distance on the mound, scattering eight hits and striking out four.

South Stanly, which last won an NCHSAA softball title in 1998, ended the season 27-7 overall while Camden finished 17-13 after a 1-5 start.

Beddingfield Takes 2-A Softball Title With 3-2 Victory

RALEIGH—Wilson Beddingfield held on to post a 3-2 victory over Madison in the second and final game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A softball championship series.

The win gave Beddingfield its first NCHSAA state softball title in a sweep of the series in two straight tight games, finishing a 28-4 season.

The Bruins took a 1-0 lead in the first on a run-scoring double by Jenna Pate, and then made it 2-0 in the fourth.

Madison cut it to 2-1 in the fifth on a single by Hannah Anders that drove in a run, but Beddingfield answered in the home half of the frame on an RBI single by Candace Wilkins. Wilkins also had a great diving catch in the outfield that saved a run.

Jessica Roberts of Madison knocked in a run to make it 3-2 in the seventh, but that was as close as the Lady Patriots could get. Jenna Pate was the winning pitcher, giving up just three hits while striking out two and walking one, while Allie Leake was charged with the loss.

In the opening game, freshman Caroline Smith drove home Nickie Womble with the winning run to lift Beddingfield to a 1-0, 10-inning triumph.

Burroughs Leads Aycock To State 3-A Softball Championship

RALEIGH—The big bat of Meredith Burroughs was the difference for Pikeville Charles B. Aycock.

Burroughs hit two home runs in her first two trips to the plate and drove in five to lead the Golden Falcons to a convincing 7-2 decision over Newton Fred T. Foard in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A softball championship series.

Burroughs hit her 18th and 19th homers of the season in the decisive game to tie the state record for home runs in a single season. She was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship series.

A two-run shot by the left-handed hitting sophomore made it 2-0 Aycock in the first, and then a three-run blast in the third moved the score to 5-0. Aycock added a pair of runs in the fourth for a 7-0 advantage.

Foard answered with two runs in the top of the fifth on RBI singles by Abby Bolick and Mackenzie Dziendziel, but could get no closer.

Brooke Bell was the winning pitcher for Aycock, although the Tigers outthit the winners 6-4. She struck out five and didn't walk a batter. Lexi Shubert was the loser, with 11 strikeouts and three walks.

Cierra Shull and Dziendziel each had two hits for Foard, which finished 26-6 overall.

The Golden Falcons had rallied from a game down in the series, as Ivy Hartzell had a pair of hits and drove in two runs to help lift Aycock to a 4-3 decision over in the second game on Saturday afternoon, earning a split.

Foard had won the opening game of the series earlier by 1-0 in nine innings, snapping a 26-game Aycock winning streak. Senior first baseman Rebecca Rowe drove home the only run of the game and Shubert was the winning pitcher, striking out 11 and walking only one, and also had two hits.

Aycock finished the season with a 31-3 record. It was the eighth trip to Walnut Creek for the softball finals in the last 13 years for Aycock but its first fast-pitch state title.

Porter Ridge Takes Crown With 2-0 Victory Over Holly Springs

RALEIGH—Lexi Davis of Porter Ridge was the Most Valuable Player of the championship series as Indian Trail Porter Ridge blanked Holly Springs 2-0 for the second straight time in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A softball championship series.

Davis, who was named the Southern Carolina Conference Player of the Year four consecutive years, pitched both of the 2-0 shutouts, giving up only four hits in the two games. She fanned eight in the decisive game while outdueling Erica Nunn, who struck out nine and gave up just four hits. Nunn was the only Golden Hawk to hit safely, getting both Holly Springs hits.

Porter Ridge made it 1-0 in the top of the first on a double by Courtney Price, who moved to third and then scored on passed balls. The Pirates' other run came in the fourth when Tara Loken singled and later scored on a bunt single by Bobbi Jones.

Porter Ridge finished the year at 33-1, with all the pitching victories by Davis, in winning its first NCHSAA state softball title while Holly Springs wound up 24-5.

In the opener, Porter Ridge failed to get a hit, but put together a couple of runs in the first inning and made them stand up for a 2-0 victory. Nunn of Holly Springs was masterful in the circle, striking out 10 and walking only two, but Porter Ridge used an error and a sacrifice fly, among other things, to score its runs.

Jenna Firestein and Kayla Minyard were the Golden Hawks to hit safely in the game.



BASEBALL

Weiker Leads South Stanly To 1-A Baseball Title Over Voyager

DURHAM—Earlier in the day, it was Russ Weiker's arm.

Later it was his bat that helped South Stanly to a 6-1 victory over Voyager Academy to win the state championship in the second game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A baseball championship series at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

Weiker, who played left field in game two, had four hits, including a triple, and four runs batted in to earn championship Most Valuable Player honors. Earlier in the day, he pitched a no-hitter and the Rowdy Rebel Bulls gave him plenty of support in a 13-0 victory over Voyager in the opening game of the series. He fanned eight and walked three in getting his 14th win.

In game two, Voyager grabbed a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the third when Hunter Coates doubled to right center to score Chad Sykes, who had walked and moved up on an error.

South Stanly then grabbed the lead in the fourth as Jordan Starnes drew a base on balls and scored when Weiker ripped a long triple to deep center field. Weiker then crossed the plate when Connor Ford reached on an infield hit to make it 2-1.

In the fifth, it was Weiker again, delivering a two-run single through a drawn-in infield after the Rowdy Rebel Bulls loaded the bases on a walk, error and base hit, to make it 4-1.

And Weiker delivered another hit through a drawn-in infield in the seventh when the Bulls added a pair of insurance runs.

Heath Blackmon (8-1) was the winning pitcher for South, striking out

10 and walking three, while Loy Stone (9-2) was charged with the defeat for the Vikings.

Grayson Short, Ford and Starnes each had two hits in the Bulls' 11-hit attack. Coates and Sykes each had doubles for Voyager.

South Stanly finished 30-4, winning its 14th straight game, and was in the state finals for the third time in the last four years. The Bulls won it in 2009 and were second last year. Voyager has only freshmen and sophomores on its roster at the relatively new school and wound up 20-8.

Whiteville Beats Randleman To Sweep 2-A Baseball Series

ZEBULON—Nathan Hood's run-scoring double broke a 1-1 tie in the fifth inning and helped propel Whiteville to a 3-1 victory over Randleman for a sweep of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A baseball championship series at Five County Stadium.

The Wolfpack won a pair of close games in the best of three series. In the opening game, Hyland Tyler went four for four and Jacob Long drove in all three runs for Whiteville as the Wolfpack edged Randleman 3-2.

Hood, who was named the Most Valuable Player in the series, gave the Wolfpack a 2-1 lead with his key hit, and the Pack added an insurance run in the seventh on a hit batsman, fielder's choice, stolen base and sacrifice fly. He also went the distance on the mound, striking out 12 and walking three while scattering six hits.

Hunter Smith, who had two hits and a pair of walks for Whiteville, drove home the game's first run with a single in the fourth, but Randleman tied it when Zach Bach drew a bases loaded walk in the following inning.

Will Albertson led Randleman with three hits, with a single in the third, double in the fifth and triple in the seventh, but the Tigers were unable to drive him home in the final frame.

Cody Trogon was the losing pitcher.

Randleman, the defending state 2-A champions, finished 29-6 overall while Whiteville improved to 26-5 and ended the season with a 16-game winning streak. Whiteville was making its first appearance in the NCHSAA baseball finals since 1998 but has played for the title seven times previously, including in 1985 when these same two teams squared off for the title that was won by the Wolfpack in two straight.

Weddington Takes NCHSAA State 3-A Baseball Championship

ZEBULON—Jeremy Schellhorn drove in three runs and Alex Bostic hit a monster home run to lead Weddington to a 4-2 victory over Pikeville Charles B. Aycock and the state championship in the second game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A baseball championship series at Five County Stadium.

The Warriors, in their first NCHSAA baseball championship series, swept the series in two close games. Bostic got the pitching victory in game one as Weddington built up a 5-0 lead and then held off a rally by the Golden Falcons to win the opener 5-3.

Bostic was named the Most Valuable Player of the series.

In the decisive game, Aycock took a 2-0 lead in the second, parlaying a single, a walk, a fielder's choice, an error, a sacrifice fly and a wild pitch into a pair of runs. But Weddington came back in the top of the third to knot it at 2-2 on a two-run single by Schellhorn.

Bostic blasted a home run off the scoreboard to give his team a 3-2

lead in the fifth, and then the Warriors added an insurance run with a two-out RBI-single by Schellhorn in the seventh.

Aycock, just as it had in the Friday game, had lots of scoring opportunities but stranded a whopping 15 runners in the game.

Adam Pate and Cameron Taylor each had two hits for the Golden Falcons. Sean Collins was the winning pitcher, striking out three and walking five, while Bryant Stafford got the loss for the Golden Falcons.

Weddington finished 28-6 overall while Aycock fell to 21-11.

Middle Creek Clinches State 4-A Baseball Title Over W.A. Hough

DURHAM—Middle Creek jumped out to an early 5-0 lead and made it stand up as the Mustangs rolled past Cornelius W.A. Hough 10-4 to clinch the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A baseball championship series at the Durham Bulls Athletic Park.

Middle Creek took the best of three series in two straight. Jimmy Boyd pitched a one-hit shutout in the first game as Middle Creek won the opening game 2-0 in just 91 minutes. Boyd, who was the designated hitter in game two, had one hit in two official trips, walked twice, stole a base and scored two runs in the second game, earning the championship Most Valuable Player honor.

Graham Edwards earned his ninth pitching victory of the year, fanning five and walking four. Spencer Venator, who was knocked out of the game in the second, was the loser.

Hough had cut it to 5-3 in the top of the third but Middle Creek added a pair of runs in the bottom of the third and then scored three in the fifth.

The Mustangs unleashed a nine-hit attack, led by Tyler Shorter's three hits, but also took advantage of five walks issued by Hough pitching, two hit batters and six Husky errors. David Salmon had a single and a double and drove in two for Middle Creek.

Will Champion, A.J. Girting and Jared Sobo each had two hits for Hough. Girting drove in two runs.

Middle Creek improved its overall record to 26-7. Hough, in only its second year of operation, finished 23-12. Both teams were in the NCHSAA baseball finals for the first time.



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