



NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

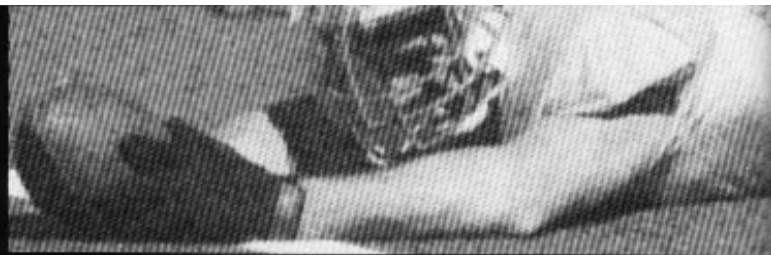
BULLETIN

VOL. 53, NO. 3

SPRING 2001

IT'S NOT THE
 SIZE OF THE
 DOG IN THE
 FIGHT BUT
 THE SIZE
 OF THE FIGHT
 IN THE DOG.

ARCHIE GRIFFIN (59)
 TWO-TIME HEISMAN WINNER



SPORTS DO NOT

BUILD

CHARACTER. THEY REVEAL IT. HEYWOOD HALE BROWN
 TV SPORTS COMMENTATOR



WINNING ISN'T EVERYTHING,
 WANTING TO IS. ANONYMOUS.



DUNLAP INDUSTRIES has free protective covers for gym floors and baseball infields. The only fee is the cost of rope hemming and stitching the covers' outer edge. All shipping costs are free and schools may defer payment for up to a year to raise funds. Several sizes are available. For more information or to order, contact Gene Stephan of Dunlap at (530) 274-0685.

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.



Rick Strunk Accepts Distinguished Service Award From NIAAA President Sheri Ross Of California

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 Wendys' 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.

National Coach of the Year in men's golf in addition to earning the sectional honor. North Carolina is in Section 3 of the National Federation, which includes the two Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee.

Woody Huneycutt, the head men's basketball coach at Thomasville, earned the Section 3 honor in that sport, while in football in the Section 3 Coach of the Year was Bobby Poss of A.C. Reynolds in Asheville.

Vickie Peoples of Enloe High in Raleigh earned the sectional coaching award in men's swimming and diving, while John Ralls of Ledford was selected as the Section 3 Coach of the Year in women's basketball.

Richard Miller of Chapel Hill was selected as the Section 3 winner in women's swimming and diving and Kenny Cook of Mitchell was tapped as the winning assistant coach in Section 3.

The NCHSAA salutes all of these outstanding award winners.

Group Can Provide Helpful Information To Schools About Athletic Field Maintenance

The Eastern North Carolina Sports Turf Association is a group founded by professionals and educators in the sports turf industry to provide information on correct procedures for maintaining athletic fields.

The organization plans to offer seminars in the future on the subject, which should be of great benefit to NCHSAA member schools.

More information is available at their web site at www.easternncsportsturf.org. Dates and locations of seminars along with other information will be available in future editions of the *Bulletin*.

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 as a head baseball coach 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 II, 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 Cleveland 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.

Willie Bradshaw of Durham, Mike Brown of Wilmington, Jack Groce of Boone, Red Hoffman of Wilkesboro, Leon Brogden of Wilmington and Homer Thompson of Winston-Salem joined the Hall in 1996. The 1997 inductees included Ruth Pool of Durham, Bill Eutsler of Rockingham, Shu Carlton of Gastonia, Gilbert Ferrell of Wilson and Thell Overman of Wallace, while in '98 the Hall welcomed Jim Blake of Durham, Wat Holyfield of Raleigh, Carroll King of Raleigh, Benny Pearce of Fayetteville, Jerry McGee of Elizabeth City and Dudley Whitley of Rocky Mount. The 1999 inductees were Dave Johnson of Charlotte, Glenn Nixon of Clayton, Bob Sawyer of Greensboro and George Whitfield of Greenville. Last year's inductees included Don Patrick of Newton-Conover, Bill Carver of Fayetteville and Simon Terrell of Chapel Hill.

RECORD BREAKERS? Don't forget, if you have any potential state or national listings for the record book, there is a form in the current edition of the FormsBook 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) 962-7786. And don't forget to check the latest version of the state record book on line.

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 '60's 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 be ordered by sending a check for \$31.75 to Cyclone Country, The Wilson Daily Times, Box 2447, Wilson, NC 27894-2774.

Shrine Bowl Names Coaches For 2001 Game

CHARLOTTE—Harold Robinson of Williamston has been named as the head coach of the North Carolina team in the 2001 edition of the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

North Carolina's top seniors face their counterparts from South Carolina at Memorial Stadium in Charlotte in the 65th renewal of the game, which raises money for burned and crippled children.

Robinson guided Williamston to a North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A football championship in 1999.

Assistant coaches for North Carolina will include Mark Heil of Fayetteville Cape Fear, Mark Barnes of Scotland, Raymond Cobb of North Edgecombe, Hal Capps of Western Alamance, Bobby Cloninger of Monroe and Jeff Conner of Enka.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding coaches who have been chosen to work in this prestigious game!

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 Dovonte Edwards of Chapel Hill scored the touchdowns for the North Carolina team. Maiden's Tom Brown served as the Tar Heel head coach.

64th ANNUAL SHRINE BOWL—CHARLOTTE, NC

	NC	SC
First downs	18	20
Rushes-yards	58-133	23-92
Passing	150	466
Comp-Att-I	12-28-1	25-41-1
Fumbles-Lost	8-3	7-2
Penalties-Yards	8-54	5-60

South Carolina	0	19	14	33	—	66
North Carolina	0	0	7	7	—	14

North Carolina High School Athletic Association, Inc.

BULLETIN

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Editor: Rick Strunk



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

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 278-65-8 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.

Trip To Chapel Hill Can Now Include New Basketball Museum

CHAPEL HILL—A new destination for visitors to Chapel Hill has been created, and it should be of particular interest to sports fans coming to town for North Carolina High School Athletic Association state championships.

The Blue Heaven Basketball Museum has opened at 1840 Airport Road, not far from Interstate 40, in the Chapel Hill North shopping area.

The museum is an international shrine that attempts to preserve the legend of the University of North Carolina Tar Heel basketball program and showcases the rich history and great tradition.

The history of Carolina basketball is chronicled by memorabilia from UNC's great teams, players and coaches. Historic photographs, one-of-a-kind collector items, jerseys, shoes, rings and other items are displayed throughout the museum. Many of the items are available for an upclose look rather than being placed behind glass.

Highlight videos can also be viewed on screens throughout the museum.

From a copy of the first page of the original typewritten rules for basketball by Dr. James Naismith to the original Alexander Julian-designed warm-up jacket for the Heels, there is a lot to see. You can even test your own shooting skills on a Pop-A-Shot.

There is an admission charge, but museum director David Daly will be glad to work out a special rate for school groups. The museum is open Tuesdays through Sundays.

The museum may be contacted at (919) 929-5877 and a website is being developed at www.blueheavenmuseum.com.

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 Columbarium Fund, 1401 Hoffman Road, Gastonia, NC 28054.

Rock Harrison

WAKE FOREST—Long-time Wake Forest-Rolesville coach Rock Harrison passed away in 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 this 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.

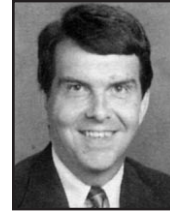
The parking lot was not well lighted where we were, but there was a car to our right and a lady was unloading her gear, too. Out of the darkness I heard her gently ask my son a question, something like "so you left your coat at home, did you?"

"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.

The Extra Point



Rick Strunk
NCHSAA Associate
Executive Director

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.



CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

CROSS COUNTRY



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 Durant of North Henderson in the 2-A women's race. However, Durant led the assault by North to the team crown, placing three runners among the top nine to score 62 points to 72 for runner-up Brevard.

Murphy's women took the 1-A crown by three points over South Davidson, 72-75, with Hendersonville in third at 93. Junior Erika Schneble of Hendersonville was the individual winner in a time of 19:45, 37 seconds ahead of second-place Jessie 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 Clemons Timm 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) Lincolnton	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 (Lincolnton)	16:25
3) Elliott McKenzie (Union Pines)	16:25
4) Joe Lindsay (Charlotte Catholic)	16:35
5) Daniel Trantham (Pisgah)	16:42
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) Clemons Timm (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 Lehnig (South Davidson)	17:17
8) Jamie Perkins (South Davidson)	17:18
9) Evan Penland (Hayesville)	17:22
10) Bradley Newcomb (Graham)	17:33

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 Outzis (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) Erika 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 (Hiwassee Dam)	21:23
7) Melissa Harrison (South Davidson)	21:26
8) Brittany Chovan (Hendersonville)	21:34
9) Lacey Strawn (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 52 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 Valtin 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 championship. Hall finished just 5.7 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Creighton Irons of East Chapel Hill.

NCHSAA STATE 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

6. Kevin Timp, Chapel Hill	15:52
7. Rob Dock, Providence	15:53
8. Kalib Wilkinson, North Mecklenburg	15:54
9. West Barnes, Cary	16:14
10. Law Weaver, Raleigh Broughton	16:16

WOMEN'S 4-A

TEAM STANDINGS (Top 5 of 16)

1. Eastern Wayne	122
2. Winston-Salem Mount Tabor	129
3. Raleigh Leesville Road	138
4. Greensboro Page	167
5. Chapel Hill	168

TOP TEN (out of 129 runners)

1. Ginger Wheeler, Mount Tabor	18:28
2. Amelia Slagle, North Mecklenburg	18:31
3. Katherine Merrill, Durham Jordan	18:34
4. Jessica Collins, Eastern Wayne	18:35
5. Tsehaye Dagachew, Jacksonville	18:36
6. Rachel Kitson, Chapel Hill	18:41
7. Lia Andrews, Pinecrest	18:47
8. Elspeth Hamilton, A.C. Reynolds	18:57
9. Jenna Giroux, Southeast Raleigh	18:58
10. Caitlin Littlefield, Leesville Road	19:03

MEN'S 3-A

TEAM STANDINGS (Top 5 of 17)

1. Jamestown Ragsdale	68
2. Asheville	91
3. Asheville T.C. Roberson	147
4. Hickory	158
5. East Chapel Hill	165

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (Top 10 of 137 runners)

1. Lance Hall, Ragsdale	16:04.0
2. Creighton Irons, E. Chapel Hill	16:09.7
3. Phillip Stafford, Northwest Cabarrus	16:17.3
4. Israel Jaimes, Wilson Beddingfield	16:25.4
5. Rocky Bilotta, R-S Central	16:29.9
6. Jose Zavala, Hickory	16:30.6
7. Brooks Stone, Sun Valley	16:31.1
8. Ryan Crise, Ragsdale	16:35.7
9. Matt Gorman, Clayton	16:39.0
10. Marcus Littlejohn, Asheville	16:41.7

WOMEN'S 3-A RESULTS

TEAM STANDINGS (Top 5 of 16)

1. Asheville T.C. Roberson	52
2. North Buncombe	69
3. East Chapel Hill	106
4. Franklin	135
5. Northwest Cabarrus	158

INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS (Top 10 of 130 runners)

1. Alicia Valtin, Western Harnett	18:39
2. Jennifer Kelley, T.C. Roberson	19:20
3. Eleanor Wilson, Hickory	19:26
4. Brittany Cole, North Buncombe	19:27
5. Hadley Thom, East Chapel Hill	19:30
6. Carla Bowlin, North Buncombe	19:32
7. Michelle Duffey, Durham Hillside	19:36
8. Kristen Trexler, T.C. Roberson	19:38
9. Kristina Bachelor, White Oak	19:39
10. Tonya Edmonds, North Buncombe	19:45

DUAL TEAM TENNIS



Broughton, East Chapel Hill Keep Championship Streaks

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 Linker, 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.

Statesville swept the singles to finish an unblemished 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: Siler City Jordan-Matthews 5, Hendersonville 4 Singles

Jennifer Pharr (H) def. Laura Edwards 6-0, 6-1; Mary-Elizabeth Rouse (H) def. Charity Phillips 7-6(10-8), 6-3; Helen Mathias (JM) def. Jennifer

Reynolds 6-4, 6-4; Jill Parsons (H) def. Rynn Deaton 6-1, 6-3; Emily Tanner (JM) def. Jennie See 6-2, 6-4; Christie Tuite (JM) def. Allison Hastings 7-5, 2-6, 7-4

Doubles

Pharr/Rouse (H) def. Edwards/Phillips 10-6; Mathias/Tanner (JM) def. Reynolds/Jennie See 10-7; Deaton/Tuite (JM) def. Parsons/Christie Sheiry 11-9.

2A Championship: Statesville 6, Greene Central 0 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: East Chapel Hill 5, 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; Alison 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 10-1; 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 Fleggani 6-0, 6-0; Christine Simpson (B) def. Kara Worseley 6-1, 6-1; Bonnie Baird (B) def. Morgan Fleggani 6-1, 6-0; Julia Roach (B) def. Margarey 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 Asheville A.C. Reynolds, Ashley and Lindsay Dack, went back-to-back, taking their second consecutive state championship. The Dacks defeated Christina Simpson and Julia Roach of Raleigh Broughton 7-6 (7-2), 6-3, in the finals.

NCHSAA WOMEN'S STATE 4-ATENNIS 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

A.Dack-L.Dack (A.C.Reynolds) def. Simpson-Roach (Broughton) 7-6(7-2), 6-3.

**Kernodle Upends Defending Champ In Marathon;
 East Chapel Hill Wins Doubles**

BURLINGTON—Third-seeded Elizabeth Kernodle of Burlington Williams and defending champion Sallie Kiser of Eden Morehead struggled 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 Point.

Kernodle also overcame playing with painful blisters on her feet. The Williams standout 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 Harris (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 Vestal-Kristi Vestal (Burlington Williams) def. Alli Benton-K.K.Walston (Wilson Fike) 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles-Championship

Clark-Williams (East Chapel Hill) def. L. Vestal-K. Vestal (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 Cartner 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 Cartner (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 Elkin 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 (Elkin) 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 Tuite (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

Watts-Tucker (North Stokes) def. Phillips-Edwards (Jordan-Matthews) 6-3, 6-4.

VOLLEYBALL



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.

The 3-A championship saw East Henderson successfully defend its title, getting past East Chapel Hill in four games in a rematch of the '99 final. East Henderson won it by 15-10, 15-11, 14-16, 15-4.

Senior setter Juliet 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 past Chapel Hill 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 staved off game points before Chapel Hill evened the match with a victory.

OUR NATIONAL INTERNET PARTNER, ihigh.com, has some great information about high school athletics in our state. Don't forget to visit northcarolinaihigh.com for championship results, feature stories and lots of interesting updates on what's happening in our state. There is also a link directly off the NCHSAA site.

Behind the effective play of Seini 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.

MEN'S SOCCER



Providence Rolls Past Apex 6-0 To Capture 4-A Soccer Title

RALEIGH—Senior Matt Simcox scored a hat trick to power the Panthers of Charlotte's Providence High School to an overwhelming 6-0 victory over Apex in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's men's state 4-A soccer championship at Paul Derr Track at N.C. State University.

The Providence midfielder, who had scored seven goals in the previous four playoff games, was named the game's Most Valuable Player as the Panthers won their third NCHSAA crown.

Providence led 2-0 at halftime on Simcox's first goal and a penalty kick by Jonathan Self and then exploded for four second half goals, two by Simcox and single tallies by Charlie Miller and Bryce Rech. The Panthers finished the season unbeaten in their last 25 matches and wound up with a 22-1-3 record.

Apex, which had stunned nationally ranked Raleigh Leesville Road 1-0 in the Eastern finals to get to the championship match, closed the year at 23-4-1.

NCHSAA MEN'S STATE 4-A SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Paul Derr Track, N.C. State University

Apex	0	0	—	0
Charlotte Providence	2	4	—	6

Goals: Providence—Matt Simcox 3, Jonathan Self, Charlie Miller, Bryce Rech. Shots on goal: Providence 17, Apex 9. Saves: Providence 4, Apex 8. Corner kicks: Providence 4, Apex 3.

Asheville Edges East Chapel Hill 1-0 In 3-A

RALEIGH—Coleman Hall scored the only goal of the game late in the first half as Asheville nipped East Chapel Hill 1-0 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A men's soccer championship at Paul Derr Track at North Carolina State University.

Hall, an all-state junior midfielder who was selected as the MVP of the championship, found the net from about 10 yards out at the 35:06 mark for his 19th goal of the season. The Cougars made it stand up in the defensive battle, although East Chapel Hill had three or four good opportunities to score in the second half but the Wildcats just couldn't finish.

Asheville captured its first NCHSAA men's soccer championship and finished undefeated with a 26-0-1 mark.

East Chapel Hill (18-4) played in its first NCHSAA men's soccer final and has made the state playoffs in four of the school's five years of existence.

NCHSAA MEN'S STATE 3-A SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP Paul Derr Track, North Carolina State University

East Chapel Hill	0	0	—	0
Asheville	1	0	—	1

Goals: Asheville—Coleman Hall (35:06). Shots on goal: Asheville 7, East Chapel Hill 6. Saves: Asheville 2, East Chapel Hill 3. Corner kicks: Asheville 3, East Chapel Hill 6.

Swansboro Blanks Catholic In NCHSAA 1-A/2-A Soccer

RALEIGH—For five of the last six years, Swansboro and Charlotte Catholic have battled in the championship match of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 1-A/2-A men's soccer playoffs.

And on a chilly day at Paul Derr Track on the campus of North Carolina State, for the fifth time in the last six years, Swansboro came away with the state championship as the Pirates blanked Catholic 2-0.

The NCHSAA title for coach Bob Vroom's team was its third straight and sixth overall, and it was the eighth time these two rivals have met in the championship. Swansboro now holds a 6-2 edge in that series.

After a scoreless first half, championship Most Valuable Player Ben Lucus knocked in a loose ball after a corner kick for the senior forward's 23rd goal of the season, putting the Pirates up 1-0. Then with 18:30 to play Mark Ellington found the back of the net for his 29th goal of the season, tallying after a long pass from Adam Thompson.

Swansboro recorded its 17th shutout of the year and wound up outscoring the opposition a whopping 28-2 in five NCHSAA playoff games. The Pirates finished the year at 23-1-3. Swansboro has lost only one match in the last two seasons.

Catholic, which was making its sixth appearance in the championship in the last seven years, closed the year at 20-5-2.

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

Goals: Swansboro—Ben Lucus 44:26, Mark Ellington (Adam Thompson) 61:30. Shots on goal: Swansboro 10, Charlotte Catholic 9. Saves: Swansboro 6, Charlotte Catholic 7. Corner kicks: Swansboro 5, Charlotte Catholic 4.

FOOTBALL



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 at the half.

Clarence Wilson had two interceptions for Bertie and deflected six other passes to go with five tackles.

Bertie finished at 15-1 on a 14-game winning streak while the Tigers wound up 13-2. 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

	Bertie	Ragsdale
First Downs	23	15
Rushes-Yards	45-121	24-60
Passing Yards	322	249
Return Yards	192	173
Passes Com-Att-Int	15-22-1	19-36-2
Punts-Avg	2-36.5	3-41.0
Fumbles-Fumbles Lost	1-1	3-3
Penalties-Yards	4-20	7-46
Time of Possession	27:41	20:19
Third Down Conversions	4 of 11	5 of 13

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 (Brennan 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-Goode 16-49, Smith 2-11, Ingram, Pope 5-1.

PASSING-Bertie: Rankins 22-15-1-322-3TD; Ragsdale: 22-15-1-322-3TD.

RECEIVING-Bertie: Williams 6-139, J. Rankins 3-74, Veale 3-50, Mebane 2-57, Ruffin 1-2; Ragsdale: Brown 9-137, Byers 5-64, Smith 3-23, Boone 1-20, Ingram 1-5.

SW Onslow Slips Past Newton-Conover 14-13

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 snapped.

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/DB 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 E Richard Koonce.

STATISTICS

	N-C	SWO
First Downs	11	14
Rushes-Yards	39-206	49-179
Passing Yards	64	81
Return Yards	49	36
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	26:17
Third Down Conversions	5 of 11	4 of 13

NEWTON-CONOVER	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. SW Onslow: Koonce 9-66, Brooks 10-47, Pollock 19-45, F. Seiuli 8-23.

PASSING-N-C: Dukes 10-5-1-64-0TD; SW Onslow: Brooks 10-3-0-72-0TD.

RECEIVING-N-C: Wilson 2-21, Gore 1-17, Connor 1-16, Lineberger 1-10; SW Onslow: Ingle 1-41, McCullough 1-19, Nichols 1-12.

Graham Defense Tough, Red Devils Down Northside

CHAPEL HILL—Jonta Breeze had an outstanding individual game and the Graham defense was too tough as the Red Devils rolled past Northside 31-6 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A state football championship.

Breeze received both the Wendy's MVP and the Outstanding Offensive Player award for Graham, rushing for 128 yards and a touchdown.

A total of nine turnovers occurred in the game, but the big story was Graham's holding the highly vaunted Northside rushing attack, the second most prolific in state history, to a mere 106 yards and four first downs.

Post Game Awards: Wendy's Most Valuable Player: RB Jonta Breeze, Graham; Northside-Outstanding Defensive Player CB Marquis Parker; Outstanding Offensive Player QB Derrick Leathers; Graham-Outstanding Defensive Player DL Travis Wells; Outstanding Offensive Player RB Jonta Breeze.

STATISTICS

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

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

RUSHING-Graham: Breeze 13-128, Leath 5-33, Marsh 10-32, Warren 11-30; Northside: Corprew 20-57, Leathers 11-49, Nixon 4-10.

PASSING-Graham: Gammon 9-3-0-82-0TD; Northside: Leathers 5-0-1-0-0TD.

RECEIVING-Graham: Martin 1-51, Pearson 1-31, Breeze 1-0; Northside: none.

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; Independence-Outstanding Defensive Player DB Josh Taylor; Outstanding Offensive Player WR Brad Hinton; South View-Outstanding Defensive Player DB L.J. Hill; Outstanding Offensive Player FB Wesley Fulmore.

STATISTICS

	Ind	S View
First Downs	22	17
Rushes-Yards	11-39	49-289
Passing Yards	359	87
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	29:54
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	SV-Goldbach 13 pass from Ronchetti (Whitfield kick)
1st	1:01	I-FG Fields 28
2nd	7:36	I-Hinton 21 pass from Leak (Fields kick)
2nd	1:21	SV-Johnson 2 run (kick failed)
2nd	0:21	I-Crowe 12 pass from Leak (Fields kick)
2nd	0:08	SV-Bright 67 pa ss from Ronchetti (pass failed)

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING—Independence: Crowe 10-40; South View: Fumore 21-129, Johnson 20-125, Ronchetti 8-35.

PASSING: Independence: Leak 44-25-1-359-3TD; South View: Ronchetti 9-3-0-87-2TD.

RECEIVING: Independence: Hinton 11-225, Lyon 5-77, Crowe 5-28, Raley 4-29; South View: Goldbach 2-20, Bright 1-67.



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