



NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Students Receive Lowe's Hometown Hero Awards For Service

MOORESVILLE—Lowe's, in conjunction with the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), has selected two more winners in the Lowe's Hometown Hero program.

Angela Bingham, from Chase High School in Forest City, earned the award for March. Brooke Ashley Fisher, from A.C. Reynolds High School in Asheville was the recipient of the February Lowe's Hometown Hero award.

The Lowe's Hometown Heroes program acknowledges the accomplishments of North Carolina high school students who excel in the combined areas of academics, community service and athletics. Both Angela and Brooke will receive an awards package including a plaque.

On Angela's behalf, Chase High School will receive a \$1,000 Lowe's gift card and a \$500 donation will be made to the Rutherford County chapter of the American Red Cross, a charity chosen by Angela. On Brooke's behalf, A.C. Reynolds will receive a \$1,000 Lowe's gift card and a \$500 donation will be made to the Autism Society of N.C. Asheville-Buncombe County Chapter, a charity chosen by Brooke.

"Angela has been the type of student and player that exemplifies student-athlete at Chase High School," said Bud Grissom, Chase's assistant principal and athletic director. "In the classroom and in sports, Angela strives for perfection, giving 110 percent effort at all times."

A two-sport athlete, Angela has lettered four years in volleyball and three years in softball. In softball, she has been an all-conference selection for three years and MVP for two years. After the school day ends, Angela is involved in many clubs, including Student Council, Speech and Debate, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Monogram, Beta and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She currently serves as student body president and Speech and Debate Club president.

Despite the efforts spent in sports, club activities and maintaining her ranking as first in her senior class, Angela routinely carves out time to volunteer in her community. She has accumulated more than 325 hours volunteering with such organizations as the American Red Cross, Camp Harmony (a camp for handicapped children), Christmas Cheer and at her church. She also has been a peer helper and Spanish translator and served as a D.A.R.E. role model and motivational speaker.

Other awards Angela has received include the President's Service Award, and she has been nominated for the Morehead Scholarship, Park Scholarship and Wendy's High School Heisman Award, an honor given to senior female and male students who excel in academics, athletics and community service. Angela has been awarded the national McNair Scholarship and will attend the University of South Carolina in Columbia this fall.

"Angela Bingham is a leader on the volleyball court and softball field, in the classroom and in the numerous community activities she finds

time to support," said Gray Abercrombie, Lowe's sports marketing manager. "She is very deserving of the Lowe's Hometown Hero award."

"Brooke has earned the respect and admiration of her coaches and teammates through her daily example of hard work, encouragement and selflessness," said Arthur Snead, Brooke's basketball coach. "Whether in the weight room, on the basketball court or in the locker room, Brooke has established herself as a positive force. She embodies the ideal characteristics of competition: pursuit of excellence, intensity, desire, sacrifice, integrity and class."

A senior taking three advanced placement classes and one honors class, Brooke ranks near the top of her class with a GPA of 4.923. She recently was named a semifinalist for the prestigious Morehead Scholarship at the University of North Carolina. And her positive attitude and encouragement of other players earned Brooke A.C. Reynolds' women's basketball coaches' award at the end of the 2002-2003 season.

"Brooke's character and integrity are beyond reproach and she possesses a level of maturity quite rare for a person her age," said Tony Baldwin, A.C. Reynolds' principal. "She completely fulfills her commitments to academics and our basketball program, while at the same time her parents rely heavily upon her to help raise her two younger siblings, including a brother who is autistic."

To help autistic youth in her community, Brooke started an autism social group for teenagers in the Asheville area. Gathering together five autistic teenagers and several non-autistic teens, including many basketball teammates, Brooke created an outlet that gives the teens opportunities to try new experiences and build friendships. Not only is she the group's creator and a participant, Brooke has used her positive influence to encourage other youths to volunteer as well. In another community service project, Brooke organized a fundraiser that brought in more than \$2,300 to help improve living conditions in Mauritania. She learned of the need from a Peace Corps volunteer.

"Brooke Fisher saw a need and she embraced it and created a program that benefits both autistic and non-autistic teenagers," said Gray Abercrombie, Lowe's divisional marketing manager. "She did this while maintaining her grades, competing on the basketball court and helping her parents at home. Brooke is very deserving of Lowe's Hometown Hero award."

Lowe's, in conjunction with the Carolina Panthers, has joined together with the NCHSAA to offer the Lowe's Hometown Heroes recognition program. This program seeks to acknowledge high school students in North Carolina who have begun building their own strong foundations through personal commitment to their local community, academics and athletics.



Improving Home Improvement

Continued on page 2

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.

North Carolina Athletic Directors Association Names 10th Hall Of Fame Class

Five members have been named by the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association as the 10th class for induction in its own Hall of Fame.

The new NCADA Hall of Famers include Mac Cumbo of East Flat Rock, Boyce Deitz of Swain County, Roger Dixon of Gastonia, Jim Hayes of Charlotte, and Deborah Jones of Charlotte.

The five were recognized at the annual North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association state conference at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville.

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 48 the number in the Hall.

This year's inductees include:

Mac Cumbo

Born in Danville, Virginia, and a graduate of Thomasville High, Mac Cumbo has had an outstanding career in athletics and administration.

For 18 years he was athletic director and head football and track coach at Flat Rock Junior High, and then enjoyed stints at Edneyville and North Henderson from 1990 to 2001.

Cumbo served as president of the North Carolina Coaches Association in 1999, just two years after he had been president of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. He also served on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Board of Directors.

A certified athletic administrator, Mac serves as the director of web site and technology for the NCADA. He is also very active at his church, Mud Creek Baptist, and is currently serving as church administrator since his retirement from the Henderson County schools.

Hometown Hero Awards—Continued from previous page

For more information about the program visit <http://www.nchsaa.unc.edu/loweshometownhero.html>.

With fiscal year 2002 sales of \$26.5 billion, Lowe's Companies, Inc. is a FORTUNE 100 company that serves approximately nine million customers a week at more than 954 home improvement stores in 45 states. In 2003, FORTUNE named Lowe's America's Most Admired Specialty Retailer. Based in Mooresville, N.C., the 58-year old company is the second-largest home improvement retailer in the world. For more information, visit Lowe.com.



Angela Bingham



Brooke Ashley Fisher

Boyce Deitz

Boyce Deitz enjoyed a 31-year career in coaching but also made a great mark in athletic administration.

A graduate of Sylva-Webster High and Western Carolina University, Deitz was the athletic director and head football coach at Swain County from 1977-97, where he won five state crowns, and then at Smoky Mountain from 1997 to 2000. A member of the Jackson County and Swain County Athletic Halls of Fame, Deitz served on the boards of the N.C. Coaches' Association, the N.C. Athletic Directors' Association and the NCHSAA.

He is a past president of the NCADA and helped spearhead moving of the annual conference into the western part of the state for the first time. Deitz currently works as regional outreach coordinator for athletics at Western Carolina University.

Roger Dixon

Roger Dixon has been involved in teaching and coaching for over 35 years, including over 20 as an athletic director.

A graduate of St. Andrews Presbyterian College, he enjoyed stints as athletic director at North Gaston (1978-85), Gastonia Ashbrook (1985-97), Charlotte Christian (1997-2002) and Charlotte Vance (2002-2003). He also coached football, track and basketball during his career.

He earned the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association Award of Merit in 2003 and was the president of the NCADA in 1995-96. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the N.C. Coaches' Association and was a meet official for a number of NCHSAA track championships.

He currently is the athletic director at Socastee High School in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Jim Hayes

A graduate of Appalachian State, Jim Hayes enjoyed over 30 years in athletics almost exclusively at one school.

He grew up in Boone and was a three-sport athlete at Appalachian High before his college days. Hayes went on to become a teacher, coach and athletic director at East Mecklenburg from 1964 to 1998, with the exception of one year as a head football coach at North Moore.

While at East, he served as head football and wrestling coach and was athletic director from 1983 to '96. He served on the Board of Directors of the NCHSAA and is formerly a regional Athletic Director of the Year by the NCADA.

Deborah Jones

Debby Jones has had a distinguished career in athletics in a variety of capacities.

A native of Dubuque, Iowa, she moved to Charlotte in 1962 and graduated from Garinger High and then from Appalachian State in 1972.

She coached several different sports at West Charlotte from 1972 to '97, coaching tennis exclusively for her last 17 years there and winning 12 conference titles. She served as athletic director at West Charlotte for four years and then was the first AD at the new Vance High in Charlotte, serving from 1997 to 2002.

A certified athletic administrator, Debby served on the Board of Directors for the NCADA and was the Region 6 Athletic Director of the Year in 1999.

She has served on various NCHSAA committees and also directed numerous conference and sectional tournaments. She is a member of the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

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.

NCAA Statistics Highlight High School, Collegiate Players, Pro Chances

The National Collegiate Athletic Association recently issued some statistics that might be of great interest to North Carolina High School Athletic Association member schools, coaches and athletes.

The stats were published in the NCAA First Team newsletter. First team is a year-round NCAA mentoring program for male basketball student-athletes entering the ninth grade who have shown the potential to play collegiate basketball. Out of a growing concern to combat the many negative influences that a potential highly recruited prospective student-athlete may encounter, the NCAA started a program to promote the value of education and the role athletics should play in the educational process.

Obviously not every deserving student-athlete can be admitted to the program, but First Team wants to share information that can be useful to lots of student-athletes, whether or not they are actually enrolled.

For years many people have talked about the chances for a high school athlete to go on to play in college, and then for a college athlete to play professionally. The NCAA has compiled some amazing statistics, by sport, that indicate just how difficult it is to anticipate "playing at the next level."

The NCAA says that there are 983,600 high school student-athletes in football across the country, of which 281,000 are seniors. There are just 56,500 NCAA football players, and only 250 of those are drafted by the National Football League.

In football, that translates to about 5.8 percent of high school players playing in college, and just two percent of NCAA players to professional (or a mere 0.09 percent of high school football players to the pros).

In men's basketball, there are 549,500 high school players (157,000 seniors), but just 15,700 NCAA players (with 4,500 freshman roster spots). Only 44 NCAA players are drafted for professional basketball.

That makes the percentages just 2.9 percent of high school players to the NCAA and just 1.3 percent of NCAA players to the pros. The percentage of high school players to the pros? Just 0.03 percent!

Women's basketball is similar, with 456,900 high school players and 14,400 NCAA players. Just 32 of the 3,200 senior athletes in college are drafted. So that calculates to 3.1 percent of high school players to the NCAA, just 1.0 percent of the NCAA athletes to the pros. That makes the high school percentage to the pros just 0.02 percent.

Men's soccer has enjoyed a lot of growth at the high school level recently, so there are approximately 321,400 high school players and 18,200 NCAA student-athletes in that sport. With professional soccer now available in the United States, 76 NCAA student-athletes are drafted. But the percentages are still very low; 5.7 percent from high school to NCAA schools, 1.9 percent from NCAA schools to the pros, or 0.08 percent from high school to the pros.

Baseball operates slightly differently, but the percentages are still challenging. There are 455,300 high school baseball players and 25,700 at NCAA schools. A lot more athletes are selected in the baseball draft (600), but still only 5.6 percent of high school players go on to play at an NCAA school.

With college baseball sometimes a proving ground rather than the minor leagues, a total of 10.5 percent of NCAA players

go on to the pro ranks. But the percentage from the high schools to professional baseball still calculates at 0.5 percent.

Even though these are only estimated probabilities of competing in athletics after high school, the numbers are pretty accurate. Perhaps this will be useful the next time somebody is discussing the likelihood of a high school athlete some day earning a living by playing their sport—possible, certainly, but very, very unlikely.

North Carolina Sweeps South Carolinians In All-Star Basketball Tilts

ROCK HILL, SC—North Carolina swept a pair of basketball all-star games from their South Carolina counterparts at the Winthrop Coliseum.

The doubleheader was part of the annual games sponsored by the North Carolina Coaches Association and the South Carolina Coaches Association.

In the women's contest, LaToya Pringle of Fayetteville Seventy-First scored 18 points to lead North Carolina to a 72-66 victory over South Carolina. Pringle, who was the MVP of the NCHSAA state 4-A women's championship as Seventy-First won for the second consecutive year, was the Most Valuable Player of the all-star game.

In men's play, Adrian Woodard of Lee scored 15 points and Garner's James May had 14 to lead North Carolina past the South Carolinians by an 81-78 count.

May was selected as the game's MVP as the North Carolina team won its third consecutive men's all-star game.

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

THIS YEAR'S NCHSAA ANNUAL MEETING will be at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem, and will include some special NCHSAA 90th anniversary recognition as well as the latest information from your NCHSAA Board of Directors. Look for more information in the mail and on the web site, but mark your calendars for Winston-Salem on Thursday, May 6.

Mr. NCHSAA Football Winners Announced By northcarolina.ihigh.com

Four outstanding athletes, including two juniors, have been selected Mr. NCHSAA Football in their respective classes.

The winners include Andre Brown of Greenville Rose in 4-A, Toney Baker of Jamestown Ragsdale in 3-A, Reidsville's Kendon Doe in 2-A and Trimaine Goddard of Robersonville Roanoke among 1-A athletes.

The 2003 season marks the third year iHigh has directed the Mr./Ms NCHSAA sports awards program that includes Mr. NCHSAA Football, Mr. and Miss NCHSAA Basketball and Miss NCHSAA Softball.

Here is a look at each winner:

—4-A: Rose senior running back Andre Brown has been selected the 4-A Mr. NCHSAA Football. Brown garnered 74 points and was named as the first, second or third selection on every one of the 27 ballots cast.

Brown broke the single season rushing state record during the 4-A state championship game. His 270 yards brought his 2003 total to 3,479 yards and 46 touchdowns.

He rushed for over 100 yards in every game, leading Rose to their first state championship since 1975 where he was selected Most Valuable Player.

Runner-ups include Joe Cox (Independence), Daniel Evans (Broughton) and Mohammed Massaquoi (Independence).

—3-A: Junior running back Toney Baker of Ragsdale is the 3-A Mr. NCHSAA Football. Baker was selected first on 24 of the 26 3-A ballots cast.

Baker rushed for 3,404 yards and 27 touchdowns on 340 carries this season in 13 games. He also had 300 yards receiving and another three touchdowns.

Coupled with the over 2,000 yards he gained as a sophomore and 1,800 as a freshman, Baker has over 7,200 career yards and if he stays healthy, will be within striking distance of former Mr. 1-A NCHSAA Football T.A. McLendon's career mark of 9,004 yards.

Runner-ups include Javar Williams (South Point), Jamaal Edwards (Dudley) and Demario Pressley (Dudley).

—2-A: Last season the 2-A honors went to Reidsville quarterback Anthony Crews and this year junior quarterback Kendon Doe makes it two in a row for Reidsville in the 2-A Mr. NCHSAA Football. Doe received 67 points from the 26 ballots cast.

Doe completed 216 of 369 attempted passes (58%) for 3,960 yards and 45 touchdowns with only 10 interceptions. He also rushed for 485 yards and scored 17 more touchdowns.

Runners-up include Zach Elliott (Bandys), Bo Williamson (Cummings) and Jerome Simpson (Reidsville).

—1-A: this class featured the closest competition of the awards, as Trimaine Goddard from Roanoke just edged Elkin's Justin Billips by one point for the 1-A Mr. NCHSAA Football. Goddard totaled 57 points to Billips' 56.

Goddard rarely left the field playing on offense, defense and special teams.

Weather shortened Roanoke's season, so in only nine games this season Goddard rushed for 1,691 yards with 24 touchdowns while throwing for 898 yards and 11 more touchdowns. He also ran for eight 2-point conversions and passed for seven more.

On defense, he has 91 tackles, 17 pass break-ups and three interceptions. On special teams, he returned four punts for touchdowns and as a punter averaged over 35.0 yards per punt.

As a junior, Goddard rushed for 1,857 yards and threw for

800, finishing with 39 touchdowns. On defense, he had 124 tackles and six interceptions.

Runner-ups include Billips, Dusty Anderson (Robbinsville) and Tyler Lewis (Albemarle).

Players were nominated by statewide prep media representatives and coaches, then winners were selected following a final round of balloting by media this week where media selected a first, second and third per class. Winners will also receive a trophy from the Mr./Ms NCHSAA Sports Awards trophy sponsor, Trophy Toolbox.

"We are certainly pleased to partner with iHigh to recognize outstanding performances on the football field among our NCHSAA member schools," said Rick Strunk, NCHSAA associate executive director. "We believe that this is an area that can continue to grow, as we honor athletes in all of our classifications and even look to other sports. But we are really excited at the response to and interest in this award and there are some truly great athletes being honored in this significant way."

"iHigh is certainly excited to be able to recognize outstanding talent on the gridiron through our partnership with the NCHSAA and support from media statewide," Michelle Hillison, North Carolina State Director said.

iHigh, the high school marketing network is the official internet partner of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and 38 other state high school sports governing bodies, as well as the National Federation of High Schools. With over 6,000 schools nationally, iHigh is the leader in national high school sports coverage.

North Carolinians Have Big Impact On National All-Star Football Game

SAN ANTONIO—North Carolinians played a major role in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl national high school football all-star game in January.

Perhaps the most interesting role was played by Willie Bradshaw of Durham, a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Bradshaw served as an "honorary coach" for the East team in the all-star classic that assembled 78 of the best high school football players in America.

Bradshaw's duties were much more than just honorary, however. "Actually, there was a whole lot of work involved," said the former Durham Public Schools athletic director. "It was a great experience, a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I really enjoyed it. The kids were bigger, stronger and faster than when I was coaching, though."

Bradshaw worked with special teams and with the East offensive backfield. The East rolled past the West 45-28 in the fourth annual game, which was played at the AlamoDome.

Four North Carolinians were members of the East squad, including Tyler Lewis of Albemarle, Connor Barth of Wilmington Hoggard, Demario Pressley of Greensboro Dudley and George Bell of Fayetteville Jack Britt.

Bell rushed eight times for 48 yards for the West squad. Lewis did the punting but the East only had to punt once in the contest.

Former Carolina Wrestling Coach To Start Motivational Program

CHAPEL HILL—Bill Lam, who coached the University of North Carolina to 15 Atlantic Coast Conference wrestling championships, has developed a program to help young student-athletes make important decisions such as choosing a school and career path.

Lam, who coached the Tar Heels for 30 years before retiring after the 2002-03 season, has begun "Wrestling With Life," a program that includes leadership workshops, keynote addresses and recruiting seminars that will teach high school aged students the keys to making important choices. Lam, who will begin work on the program when his tenure with the university ends in June, has a master's degree in counseling and guidance.

"It is so important that young people have the proper guidance and know the right questions to ask in making so many life decisions," says Lam. "I have been working and competing in college and high school athletics for more than 40 years and I want to offer my experiences to help student-athletes make better decisions."

"Wrestling With Life" introduces student-athletes to college selection. One component guides students through the college selection process and allows them to work in coordination with the web site TheSportsSource.com to download a database of 30 college or university programs that fits the criteria they have selected.

Lam led Carolina to ACC championships in 1979, 1980, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2003. He was named ACC Coach of the Year 10 times

and National Coach of the Year in 1982. Lam's teams went 378-131-4 in dual meets. He won more dual meets and more ACC dual meets than any other coach in league history and has the second-highest win percentage and second-most number of conference titles in ACC history.

"Bill is a good friend and a tremendous speaker," says former Tar Heel basketball coach Dean Smith. "He stands for important values and teaches principals that help people perform at a higher level than they thought possible."

He coached 37 All-Americans, 93 ACC champions and five NCAA champions. First-year UNC head coach C.D. Mock won Carolina's first individual championship in 1982; Rob Koll won in 1988, and T.J. Jaworsky was a three-time champion in 1993-94-95. Jaworsky was named National Wrestler of the Year and Most Outstanding Wrestler at the NCAA Championships in 1995.

"Bill's passion for his program, the entire athletic department and the University was evident," says ACC Commissioner and former UNC athletic director John Swofford. "His enthusiasm, energy and commitment were contagious and his impact on his wrestlers was obvious. I am thrilled Bill is taking his positive attitude, commitment to appropriate values and superb speaking abilities to 'Wrestling With Life'."

Information on Wrestling With Life is available at www.BillLam.com.

Interns Enjoying Spring Semester In NCHSAA Offices

CHAPEL HILL—Another excellent group of students worked during the spring semester in the intern program sponsored by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Interns customarily work six to eight hours a week as volunteers in the NCHSAA offices in addition to their regular academic load. They assist in everything from clerical duties to research on NCHSAA records to helping with Association publications and working at selected state championships.

Several new interns from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have been working at the NCHSAA during the spring semester. The new interns include:

—Rebecca Jones of Reidsville is a student at UNC who is no stranger to high school athletics; her father Ted Jones is the

athletic director at Reidsville

—Mary Simmons is a senior at Carolina with a double major in exercise and sports science and psychology. A native of Kingston, Tennessee, she attended the Webb School of Knoxville where she participated in three sports

—Michael Forszen is a senior at UNC majoring in political science. He attended Charlotte Catholic High School, where he played lacrosse

The NCHSAA began its intern program back in 1988. Since then almost 150 students, both undergraduate and graduate, from several different colleges and universities have worked at the Association. About two-thirds have come from Association member schools.

NCHSAA interns have gone on to a variety of graduate schools or occupations, including coaching and teaching, sports information, collegiate athletic administration, professional baseball umpiring and business, to name a few. Rick Strunk coordinates the intern program.

Perquimans Athletes Help Endowment For NCHSAA 90th Year

HERTFORD—Perquimans County High School is doing some great work to help the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Endowment in honor of the NCHSAA's 90th anniversary.

The Perquimans S.U.R.G.E. team is trying to raise 90 cents for each student which attends the high school to reflect the fact that the Association is celebrating its 90th year. Donations were being received at a number of Perquimans County home athletic events.

The goal of the Endowment is to preserve and create opportunities for the student-athletes in the state and to enable the NCHSAA to continue to provide quality programs and services. The majority of states in the country have had to go to a "pay-for-play" in some form or fashion and the Endowment is designed to try to keep that from happening in North Carolina.

The NCHSAA Endowment is currently close to five million dollars and money has been returned to the member schools on a regular basis since its inception.

New Members Join NCHSAA Staff

CHAPEL HILL—Two new members have joined the North Carolina High School Association staff since Christmas.

Gary Harrison is the NCHSAA's new accountant and is filling that critical role in the Association offices. He is responsible for working with the schools in all those important areas including catastrophic insurance, playoff money and reimbursements and other financial matters.

Jeff Blythe has joined the staff as an assistant in the women's and combination sport area. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, he earned his master's at Appalachian State University.

A graduate of East Henderson High School, where he played tennis, Jeff was an intern in the NCHSAA offices during his undergrad days.

DON'T FORGET THE WEB SITE! Check out the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's site at www.nchsaa.unc.edu for all sorts of important information, including updated regional assignments and locations in several sports.

The Spirit of High School Athletics—A Good Example

How would you identify the spirit of high school athletics?

I think that's a tough thing to define—we know that it's something special, something different, unique in the world of sports. It's that uniqueness that causes many of us to work in this arena.

But what exemplifies the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the spirit of high school sports? There are lots of examples, but one I've thought about a lot recently is the NCHSAA state wrestling championships, held once again this year at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem.

Why are the wrestling championships a good example of the spirit of high school sports? Here are just a few reasons...

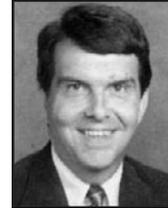
—the event is held in a first-class venue, and the staff at the Joel has been terrific to work with as they try to make sure that everybody in attendance, including competitors and fans, has a great championship experience

—so many school people, including tournament director Leigh Hebbard of Eastern Guilford and former director Jim King of Orange before him, spend huge amounts of time and energy to make sure the event runs as smoothly as possible. And there's literally a cast of thousands (okay, maybe it's hundreds, but it's still a lot) of volunteers who love high school sports doing a myriad of duties involved with the tournament.

—it's a festival atmosphere, with over 1,100 individual matches involving well over 600 wrestlers over the two days. Literally it's a nine-ring circus, with nine mats operating simultaneously for much of the time. In essence, there are 42 different tournaments being contested, 14 weight divisions in each of the three classifications being contested.

—it's also such a colorful spectacle, with over 250 schools represented. So you've got an array of colors—red, black, blue, green, silver, whatever—being worn by the athletes and showing up all over the arena.

The Extra Point



Rick Strunk
NCHSAA Associate
Executive Director

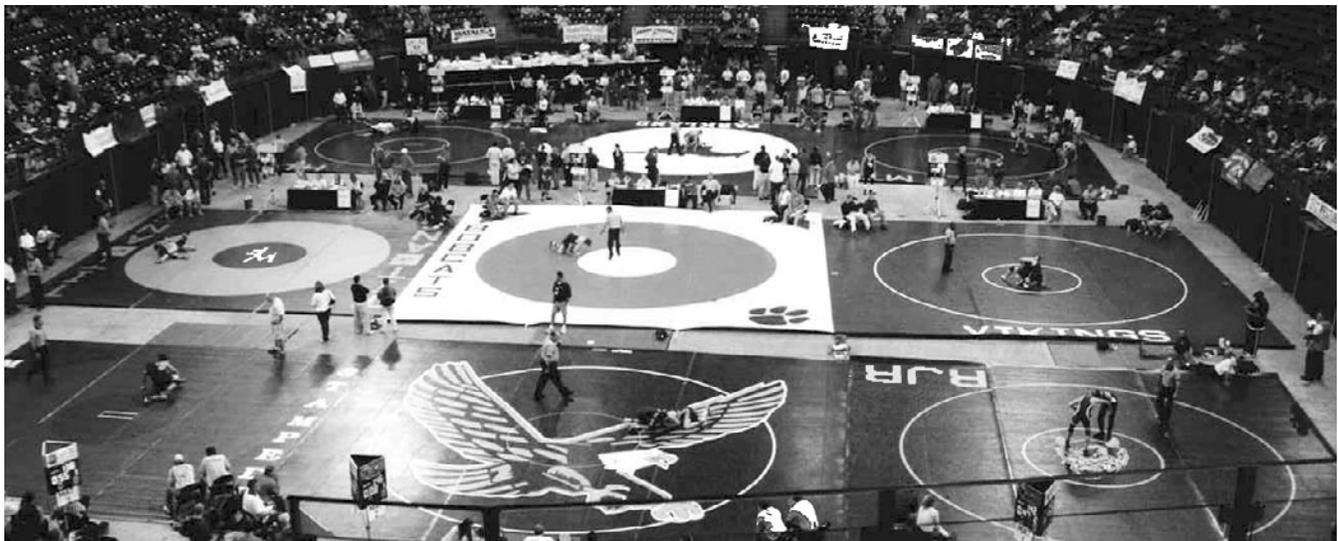
—corporate support helps to make the event a reality, with great boosts from the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Greater Winston-Salem Sports Commission. This kind of corporate support is vital to making an event of this magnitude a success.

—a huge array of student workers, unlike any other championship, is needed to make this event happen. So this year's championships included student workers from Carver, East Mecklenburg, Eastern Guilford, Glenn, McMichael, Morehead, North Forsyth, Northwest Guilford, Polk, Rockingham Senior, Rosewood, Southwest Guilford and Trinity. And these kids do a great job scoring and timing at each of the mats; they are truly indispensable to the success of an event of this magnitude.

—the Parade of Champions, which is done prior to the final rounds on the last night of competition, is one of the great spectacles in high school athletics. All of the wrestlers marching in wearing their respective colors, waving to the crowd while the music "We Are The Champions" blares through the loudspeakers—even if you don't have a specific wrestler or school you're rooting for, it's a great moment.

So there are lots of examples of the spirit of high schools sports and you can sense it at many of the NCHSAA championships. But we salute all those involved with our wrestling championships, where that spirit is truly embodied.

Venue for 2004 NCHSAA Wrestling



NCHSAA photo by James "Andy" Anderson

Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Winston-Salem

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 17, with a reception at six o'clock and dinner starting at seven. GlaxoSmithKline has provided a gift to help underwrite the NCHSAA Hall of Fame, enabling it to honor individuals who have spent a lifetime in education. It is 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 17th induction class for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame, which now numbers 84. Each new inductee will be introduced by a special video presentation and will receive a commemorative NCHSAA Hall of Fame ring in honor of the induction.

Honorees at this year's event will include:

- Gerald Austin of Greensboro, a retired public school administrator who officiated at the high school level and now is an NFL veteran for over 20 years
- Pat Harrell of Hertford, a long-time school superintendent in several different school systems and former president of the NCHSAA
- the late Hoy Isaacs of Reidsville, who enjoyed a great 37-year coaching career at Reidsville and won state championships in three different sports
- the late Raymond "Buddy" Luper of Fayetteville, a suc-

cessful head football coach and administrator who served 33 years in the Fayetteville city school system

- David M. Maynard of Burlington, who enjoyed a great coaching career at Jordan Sellars Senior High in Burlington and won four basketball state crowns in the old North Carolina High School Athletic Conference (NCHSAC)
- the late Clarence Moore of Asheville, who enjoyed a 40-year coaching career at Highland in Gastonia and then Stephens-Lee in Asheville and won NCHSAC titles in three sports
- Pres Mull of Lexington, who built a football powerhouse during two stints at Lexington Senior High, winning over 120 games there
- Tom Pryor of Edneyville, who compiled an unbelievable 702-244 as a women's basketball coach, including 594 wins at Edneyville
- Stuart Tripp of Ayden, who coached three sports at Ayden High from 1946-62, including a couple of basketball state crowns, and was on the coaching staff of the Ayden teams that amassed a 45-game winning streak in football

"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 evolved into a special event and it is a great opportunity for former players and other supporters of these honorees to get together."

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

In Memoriam

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

Russell Blunt

DURHAM—Legendary coach Russell Blunt died in early January at the age of 95.

Blunt's coaching career included four sports and an amazing six decades. A 1936 graduate of St. Augustine's College, Blunt built a track dynasty at Hillside in Durham, first in the old North Carolina High School Athletic Conference and then in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. His teams won 10 state track crowns in the NCHSAC and then won or shared five NCHSAA indoor and outdoor state titles. During one 12-year period his high school track teams lost only two dual meets.

At one point Russell was the oldest active coach in America, not retiring from coaching until the age of 89.

He was inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame in 1989 and is one of three North Carolinians in the National High School Sports Hall of Fame, joining in 1995 in ceremonies in Portland, Oregon.

He has also received numerous other honors from the NCHSAA, including its prestigious Legends Award.

Blunt's high school coaching stops included both Hillside and Southern Durham, while he coached collegiately at St. Augustine's, St. Paul's, North Carolina College (now North Carolina Central) and Southern University.

He was also instrumental in terms of organization and coaching with the Durham Striders Track Club.

Neal Morris

DENTON—Neal Morris, who had been a teacher and coach at several schools, died of cancer in December on his 39th birthday.

A graduate of Elon, where he played football, he had taught and coached at Northwest Guilford and High Point Andrews. He was the director of the alternative school at R.J. Reynolds in Winston-Salem at the time of his death.

While track coach at High Point Andrews, his teams won several state championships. He had also been head indoor track coach and served as an assistant football coach during his career.

Memorials may be directed to the Hayden Morris Education Fund, c/o First Bank, Box 248, Denton, NC 27239.

Charles "Boo-Boo" Butler

ROANOKE RAPIDS—Long-time official Charles "Boo-Boo" Butler died in December at the age of 76.

A retired salesman from Suburban Propane and a U.S. Air Force veteran, Butler actually officiated for some 60 years in one capacity or another.

Butler officiated a number of different sports and for more than four decades helped the Roanoke Rapids city recreation department. He booked area middle school and junior varsity games for some 30 years and at one point had been a minor league baseball umpire.

Funeral services were held at the First Christian Church in Roanoke Rapids with burial in Cedarwood Cemetery.

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.

MEN'S SOCCER



Athens Drive Captures 4-A Soccer Championship

RALEIGH—Senior Jonathan Bui scored both of his team's goals to lead Raleigh Athens Drive to a 2-1 victory in overtime over Charlotte Myers Park in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 4-A men's soccer championship at SAS Stadium.

Myers Park grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first half on a goal by Chris Snyder before Bui scored his goals in the second half, both on penalty kicks.

Athens Drive won its 16th straight match and first NCHSAA soccer crown since 1993.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium is a major sponsor for events held in Raleigh.

T.C. Roberson Blitzes White Oak By 4-0 In 3-A

RALEIGH—Caleb Alexander scored two goals to lead Asheville T.C. Roberson to a convincing 4-0 triumph over Jacksonville White Oak in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 3-A men's soccer championship at SAS Stadium.

J.T. LaBruyere tallied for Roberson with just under 10 minutes to go before the half to stake the Rams to a 1-0 lead. Alexander scored on a rebound to give the Rams a 2-0 advantage with 34:17 remaining to play.

T.C. Roberson found the back of the net twice in a span of 1:46 late in the contest for its eventual 4-0 margin.

Alexander, a junior forward, was named the Most Valuable Player in the championship. The Raleigh Sports Consortium is a major sponsor for events held in Raleigh.

Catholic Blanks Swansboro To Earn 2-A Soccer Title

RALEIGH—Junior goalkeeper Kevin Penrose recorded his 20th shutout of the season to help Charlotte Catholic to a 3-0 victory over Swansboro in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 2-A men's soccer championship at SAS Stadium.

Penrose was named the game's Most Valuable Player as he kept the Swansboro team at bay throughout the contest.

Eric Kuyryluik, Matt Gipe and Scott Benfield scored the goals for Catholic.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium is a major sponsor for events held in Raleigh.

Polk Slips Past Dixon In 1-A Soccer Championship

RALEIGH—Trabert Allen's goal in the 69th minute lifted Polk County to a 2-1 decision over Dixon in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 1-A men's soccer championship at SAS Stadium.

Allen, a senior midfielder, was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship match.

The game was tied 1-1 at the half, with Jacob Prescott giving Dixon the early 1-0 lead and then Jimmy Lynch answering for Polk with less than five minutes to go before intermission.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium is a major sponsor for events held in Raleigh.

FOOTBALL



Elkin Rolls Past North Edgecombe To Win 1-A Football Championship

DURHAM—Elkin's Mitch Allen returned the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown and Elkin never looked back as the Buckin' Elks defeated North Edgecombe 35-6 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A football championship at Wallace Wade Stadium.

Allen, who was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player, also had a total of eight tackles and intercepted a pass in addition to one reception for 15 yards offensively.

Andrew Holbrook scored two touchdowns on short runs for Elkin as the Elks spurred to a 28-0 first half lead. Elkin finished with a perfect 16-0 record while North Edgecombe dropped its first decision in 16 starts.

Justin Billups led Elkin with 88 yards in 14 carries while Brandon Johnson of North Edgecombe paced all rushers with 160 yards in 28 carries.

Elkin led 28-6 at the half and then the Elks' Chaise Swisher picked off a pass in the third quarter and rambled 67 yards for a touchdown to close out the scoring.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: North Edgecombe—Outstanding Offensive Player, halfback Brandon Johnson; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive end Shawn McDowell; Elkin—Outstanding Offensive Player, halfback Andrew Holbrook; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive lineman Chaise Swisher; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Elkin defensive back/wide receiver Mitch Allen.

Albemarle Pulls Away To Down Farmville Central For 1-AA Title

DURHAM—Marcus Davis rambled for 201 yards in 21 carries and scored a pair of touchdowns to lead Albemarle to a 41-7 victory over Farmville Central for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-AA football championship at Wallace Wade Stadium.

Davis scored on runs of three and 83 yards and was selected as the Wendy's Most Valuable Player.

Farmville jumped on top 7-0 on its initial possession, going 59 yards in 12 plays, capped by a one-yard scoring run by Robeka Turnage and the PAT by Mark Ross.

Turnage led North Edgecombe's rushers with 94 yards in 15 carries.

Albemarle tied it on the next play from scrimmage when Jordan Morgan hit Keith Huntley for a 63-yard touchdown and Tyler Lewis kicked the point after to make it 7-7. Then a fumble by the Jaguars deep in their own territory set up the short scoring burst by Davis with 1:17 to go in the first quarter to put Albemarle ahead 14-7, which was the halftime score.

But the Bulldogs exploded for 27 second-half points, including another touchdown pass by Morgan, to take command.

Albemarle finished the season 16-0 while Farmville wound up 15-1.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Farmville Central—Outstanding Offensive Player,

running back Robeka Turnage; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive back Jacoby Taylor; Albemarle-Outstanding Offensive Player, quarterback Jordan Morgan; Outstanding Defensive Player, linebacker Matt Carter; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Albemarle running back Marcus Davis.

Southwest Onslow Slips Past Burlington Cummings 20-14 In 2-A

RALEIGH—Quarterback T.G. Hardison rushed for 155 yards and two touchdowns to lift the Stallions of Southwest Onslow to a hard-earned 20-14 victory over Burlington Cummings for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A football championship at Carter-Finley Stadium.

The game was a battle of unbeaten, with both teams entering the championship with 15-0 marks.

Hardison was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player for his efforts. With Southwest trailing 7-6 in the third quarter, he broke away on scoring runs of 31 and 56 yards to put the Stallions on top.

Cummings quarterback Bo Williamson ran for one touchdown and threw for another, competing 13 of 23 for 144 yards, but he was sacked by the strong Southwest defense six times. His touchdown run with 8:02 left to play cut it to 20-14, but the Stallions came up with some big stops on the final Cavalier drive of the day to preserve the win.

The Stallions rushed for 351 yards as a team but did not complete a pass in the game.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Cummings-Outstanding Offensive Player, quarterback Bo Williamson; Outstanding Defensive Player, linebacker Demane Watkins; Southwest Onslow-Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Karshawn Brooks; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive end Gary Middlebrooks; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Southwest Onslow quarterback T.G. Hardison.

Reidsville Explodes For 68 Points In 2-AA Championship Contest

RALEIGH—Reidsville exploded for 42 points in the second half en route to a 68-12 triumph over Bandys in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-AA football championship game at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Quarterback Kendon Doe of Reidsville completed 22 of 35 passes for 336 and a pair of scores and ran for three touchdowns to earn the Wendy's Most Valuable Player award. His three scoring runs all came in the first half as the Rams staked themselves to a 26-6 halftime lead.

Then the Reidsville quick-strike capability really came into play, as the Rams scored five of their six second-half touchdowns on drives of four or fewer plays. Antoine Terry had touchdown runs of 29 and 61 yards and Wayne Blackwell caught a pair of scoring strikes which covered 62 and 42 yards.

Chris Spade led the Bandys rushing attack with 79 yards in 21 carries and quarterback Zach Elliott threw for 111 yards and both Trojan touchdowns.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Bandys-Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Chris Spade; Outstanding Defensive Player, linebacker Matt Woodlief; Reidsville-Outstanding Offensive Player, receiver Jerome Simpson; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive back Adrian Adams; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Reidsville quarterback Kendon Doe.

South Point Holds Off Northeast Guilford 27-10 In 3-A

CHAPEL HILL—Quarterback Javar Williams ran for a pair of touchdowns and threw for another to lead South Point's Red Raiders to a 27-10 victory over Northeast Guilford in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A football championship game at Kenan Stadium.

Williams was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player in the championship game as South Point won for the 15th time in 16 games while Northeast Guilford finished 12-4.

South Point jumped to a 14-0 lead in the first half on a 40-yard run by Jamari Crawford and then a 74-yard pass play from Williams to Crawford.

The Red Raiders went up 21-0 in the third quarter on a six-yard run by Williams and then Northeast got on the board on a 42-yard field goal by Ryne Powell.

Williams hit on five of six passes for 155 yards and also ran for 36 yards while Joe Brown led the Raiders with 102 yards in 15 attempts. Nathan Cockman of Northeast Guilford was the Rams' leading rusher with 41 yards in 15 attempts and also caught six passes for 109 yards and threw a touchdown pass in the final minute for the lone Northeast touchdown of the day.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Northeast Guilford -Outstanding Offensive Player, wide receiver Nathan Cockman; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive tackle Dennis Marsh; South Point-Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Jamari Crawford; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive back Brandon Reid; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: South Point quarterback Brandon Reid.

Crest Dominates, Shuts Out Eastern Randolph In 3-AA

CHAPEL HILL—Quarterback Maurice Gullatte threw three touchdown passes and the Crest defense held Eastern Randolph to 100 total yards for the game as Crest rolled to a 40-0 victory over the Wildcats for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-AA football championship at Kenan Stadium.

Gullatte, the championship Most Valuable Player, completed eight of 12 passes for 190 yards and also ran five times for 19 yards. The Chargers finished at 12-3 on the season while the Wildcats suffered their first loss after 15 consecutive victories.

Crest wasted no time in getting started, leading 14-0 after one quarter and 34-0 at halftime. The Chargers put together an eight-play, 43-yard drive for their initial score, a two-yard burst by Brandon Spikes, and then Martray Littlejohn capped a nine-play, 63-yard march with a five-yard run.

Littlejohn led all rushers with 114 yards in 37 carries.

Then Gullatte went to work, with his three scoring passes to three different receivers in the space of less than six minutes. The big strike was a 67-yarder from Gullatte to Jermaine Strong to put Crest up 21-0.

Erik Lemmon booted a pair of field goals in the second half. Crest wound up with a whopping time of possession advantage, 32:02 to 15:58.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Eastern Randolph -Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Chris Headen; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive back John Simmons; South Point-Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Martray Littlejohn; Outstanding Defensive Player, linebacker Chris Williamson; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Crest quarterback Maurice Gullatte.

Brown Runs Wild, Leads Rose To Big Victory Over Mount Tabor

WINSTON-SALEM—Andre Brown rushed for three touchdowns and a whopping 270 yards in 27 carries to power Greenville Rose to a big 51-7 triumph over Winston-Salem Mount Tabor in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A football championship at Groves Stadium.

Brown was the Wendy's Most Valuable Player as the Rampants rolled up 374 yards rushing on the day.

Rose limited Mount Tabor to minus-five yards rushing for the game, the lowest total since the games have been played at neutral sites since 1989, and 146 total yards. The Rampants sputtered to a 31-0 halftime lead and also took advantage of five Mount Tabor turnovers.

Mount Tabor quarterback O.C. Wardlow completed nine of 22 passes for 151 yards to provide the bulk of the Spartan offense. Derek Nicholson led the Tabor defense with 14 tackles.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: Mount Tabor -Outstanding Offensive Player, wide receiver Marcus Vereen; Outstanding Defensive Player, linebacker Derek Nicholson; South Point-Outstanding Offensive Player, running back Andre Brown; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive lineman Nick Grimes; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Rose running back Andre Brown.

Independence Blasts New Bern 54-7 To Win Fourth Straight Title

WINSTON-SALEM—Quarterback Joe Cox of Charlotte Independence threw for 286 yards and five touchdowns to lead the Patriots to their fourth consecutive state championship and 62nd straight win with a big 54-7 over New Bern for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-AA football championship.

Cox earned the Wendy's Most Valuable Player as the Patriots rolled up 575 yards in total offense and averaged a whopping 9.7 yards per play. Cox's TD aeriels covered 5, 18, 63, 15, and 14 yards.

The game was tied at 7-7 in the first quarter before Independence struck for three more scores in the opening quarter and led 40-7 at the half.

Mohamed Massaquoi caught three touchdown passes for Independence and Dominique Lindsay rushed for 164 yards in 24 attempts for the winners. The Patriots also limited New Bern to just four first downs.

Independence finished another 16-0 season while the Bears posted 14 victories in 16 starts.

Wendy's and the Carolina Ford Dealers were the presenting sponsors of the championship.

Post Game Awards: New Bern -Outstanding Offensive Player, quarterback Davon Drew; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive end Deonte Brothers; Independence-Outstanding Offensive Player, wide receiver Mohamed Massaquoi; Outstanding Defensive Player, defensive back Tobin Lyon; Wendy's Most Valuable Player: Independence quarterback Joe Cox.

SWIMMING AND DIVING



Charlotte Catholic, West Henderson Continue Winning Ways In State 1-A/2-A Swimming

RALEIGH—Charlotte Catholic and West Henderson continued their strings of state championships in the North Carolina High School

Athletic Association state 1-A/2-A swimming and diving championships at the Willis Casey Natatorium on the North Carolina State campus.

The Catholic team won the women's championship for the third consecutive year, with East Surry the runner-up. In the men's competition, West Henderson captured its second straight state crown, ahead of Charlotte Catholic and Brevard.

Michelle Baric of Eastern Alamance was the Most Valuable Performer of the women's meet, winning both the 200 free and the 200 intermediate medley.

Brandon Suddreth of South Iredell was the MVP in the men's championships, taking first place in the 200 and 500 free events.

East Chapel Hill Dominates, Keeps Streaks Alive In 3-A Swimming As Wildcats Win Both Titles

RALEIGH—East Chapel Hill dominated the fields in both men's and women's swimming to keep their streaks alive in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's state 3-A swimming and diving championships at the Willis Casey Aquatic Center.

The East Chapel Hill men earned their seventh consecutive state title while the women rolled to their sixth straight state crown, more than doubling the score of their nearest competitors.

The East men scored 257 points to 184.5 for runner-up Kings Mountain. Matthews Weddington was third with 180.5, followed by West Rowan at 128 and Gastonia Ashbrook at 119.

Sophomore Robert Padgett of Jamestown Ragsdale was the Most Valuable Performer for the second year in a row, winning the 200 individual medley in a new state 3-A record time of 1:53.99 and also captured the 100 free.

East Chapel Hill's depth overwhelmed the women's field, with the Lady Wildcats rolling up 400 points to 184 for Burlington Williams in second place. Mooresville was third with 139 while Hickory placed fourth with 137.50 and Belmont South Point was fifth at 133.

Gastonia Forestview's Lauren Fayssoux also earned Most Valuable Performer honors for a second consecutive year. She set a new state 3-A mark in the 200 individual medley at 2:07.80 and also won the 500 free.

Enloe Men, Providence Women Capture Crowns In State 4-A Swimming And Diving

CHAPEL HILL—Raleigh Enloe continued its dominance in men's high school swimming as the Eagles won their sixth consecutive North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A team title in action at Koury Natatorium on the University of North Carolina campus.

The Eagles tallied 328 points to 210 for runner-up East Mecklenburg. Charlotte Myers Park was third with 196, followed by Charlotte Providence at 188 and Raleigh Leesville Road with 184.

Campbell Davis of East Mecklenburg was the Most Valuable Performer in the men's competition with victories in both the 100 butterfly and the 100 breaststroke.

Charlotte teams swept the first three spots in the women's field as Providence earned its sixth team championship in the last seven years.

Providence easily outdistanced the field with 386.5 points to 206.5 for second-place South Mecklenburg, which was the defending team champion. North Mecklenburg was third with 191.5, while fourth place went to Raleigh Athens Drive with 138 points and Greensboro Grimsley was just one point back in fifth.

Kristin Oxford of Providence helped lead her team to the title and was the meet MVP, taking top honors in both the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

INDOOR TRACK



North Rowan Men, Mount Tabor Women Capture NCHSAA Indoor Track Championships

CHAPEL HILL—Andre Tillman of North Rowan earned Most Valuable Performer honors as he led his team to its second consecutive North Carolina High School Athletic Association state indoor track and field team championship at the Eddie Smith Field House on the UNC campus.

Tillman was second in the long jump and won the triple jump as North recorded 52 points, 10 points ahead of runner-up West Charlotte. Greensboro Smith was third with 32 points, followed by Southeast Raleigh (27) and a pair of Winston-Salem schools, R.J. Reynolds and Mount Tabor, with 26 each.

Mount Tabor captured its fourth straight women's team title, slipping past runner-up Charlotte Harding by six points, 54-48. Southwest Guilford was third with 37, with Charlotte Providence in fourth at 36 and Southeast Raleigh fifth with 33.

Portia Baker of Southwest Guilford earned the women's MVP by winning both the 55 and the 300.

A total of 56 different schools scored points in the men's competition while 44 teams tallied in the women's field. The NCHSAA indoor track championships are open competitions, with all classifications competing for a single title.

DUAL TEAM WRESTLING



Western Teams Perform Well In 15th Dual Team Wrestling Finals

Western representatives won three of the four North Carolina High School Athletic Association state dual team wrestling championships in the 15th annual finals held at four sites across the state.

In the 4-A championship at Durham Riverside, Riverside clinched its third consecutive NCHSAA 4-A wrestling crown, downing previously undefeated Cary 35-28.

Cary was making its ninth appearance in the dual team finals but veteran coach Jerry Winterton's Imps have been the state runner-up for the last four years, including three straight battles with Riverside.

In the 3-A classification, Jamestown Ragsdale earned the state title on its home mat, defeating perennial power Eden Morehead 40-25. Morehead had won four of the last six state 3-A championships.

John Polchinski of Ragsdale was voted the Most Valuable Wrestler in the 3-A final.

Morehead surged ahead 25-16 but Ragsdale came roaring back with four consecutive pins to win the title.

Madison Dalton McMichael won the 2-A championship, traveling to West Stokes to win that title by 45-16. McMichael finished with a 29-3 dual team mark and denied West Stokes its first-ever NCHSAA title in any sport.

Elkin slipped past West Davidson 34-32 to clinch the 1-A championship in action in Elkin. Coad Westra of Elkin was the Most Valuable Wrestler in the 1-A final. West Davidson had built an early 23-3 lead before the Buckin' Elks came back.

TOURNAMENT WRESTLING



McKinney Wins Fourth Title; Riverside, East Gaston Earn Crowns, With Tie In 1A/2A

WINSTON-SALEM—East Gaston's Dusty McKinney became only the fourth four-time state champion in history in the 2004 North Carolina High School Athletic Association state wrestling tournament championships at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

McKinney won the 125-pound championship in the 3-A classification with a 24-8 victory in the finals over Enka's Andrew Roberts. McKinney joins the elite group of Mike Kendall of Albemarle (1988-91), JohnMark Bentley of Avery County (1993-97) and Drew Forshey of Hickory St. Stephens (2000-03) as the only four-time NCHSAA wrestling champions. McKinney was selected as the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the 3-A tournament.

East Gaston hung on to take the team championship in 3-A, pulling away in Saturday's action to win by 24 points after the day began with four teams within four points of the lead. East had 118.5 points to 94.5 for runner-up Eastern Randolph. Jamestown Ragsdale, the 2004 dual team champ, was third with 94 points followed by West Carteret with 90 and North Iredell with 82.

In 4-A action, senior Vincent Ramirez of Durham Riverside capped an unbelievable season with a state title at 160 pounds, his third consecutive state championship. He finished the season with a perfect 74-0 mark and a winning streak of an incredible 156 in a row and led Riverside to the team championship over defending tournament champ Cary, 159.5 to 111.5. Riverside had beaten Cary in the finals of the dual team championships earlier this month.

Fayetteville Jack Britt was third in the 4-A standings with 105.5 points, with Charlotte Independence (84.5) in fourth and Durham Jordan (80) in fifth.

New Bern's Raymond Jordan, the champ at 171 pounds in 4-A, earned the Most Outstanding Wrestler award for the second consecutive year. He was the 160 champion in 2003.

The tight 1-A/2-A team raced ended in a dead heat, with Brevard and Catawba Bandy's deadlocked for the top honors with 108 points apiece. West Stokes, the dual team runner-up in 2-A, placed third with 84 points and dual team champ Madison Dalton McMichael was fourth at 81.5. Currituck finished fifth with 76.5 points.

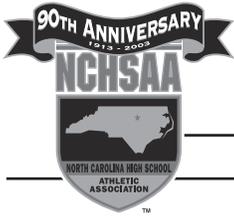
McMichael's Chris Bullins at 160 was selected for the top individual award among 1-A/2-A wrestlers.

A total of 672 wrestlers qualified for the two-day event, during which over 1,100 individual matches were contested.

The NCHSAA has been offering a championship in wrestling since the 1930's.

The Greater Winston-Salem Sports Commission and the Winston-Salem Convention and Visitors Bureau were among the major sponsors for the event.





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