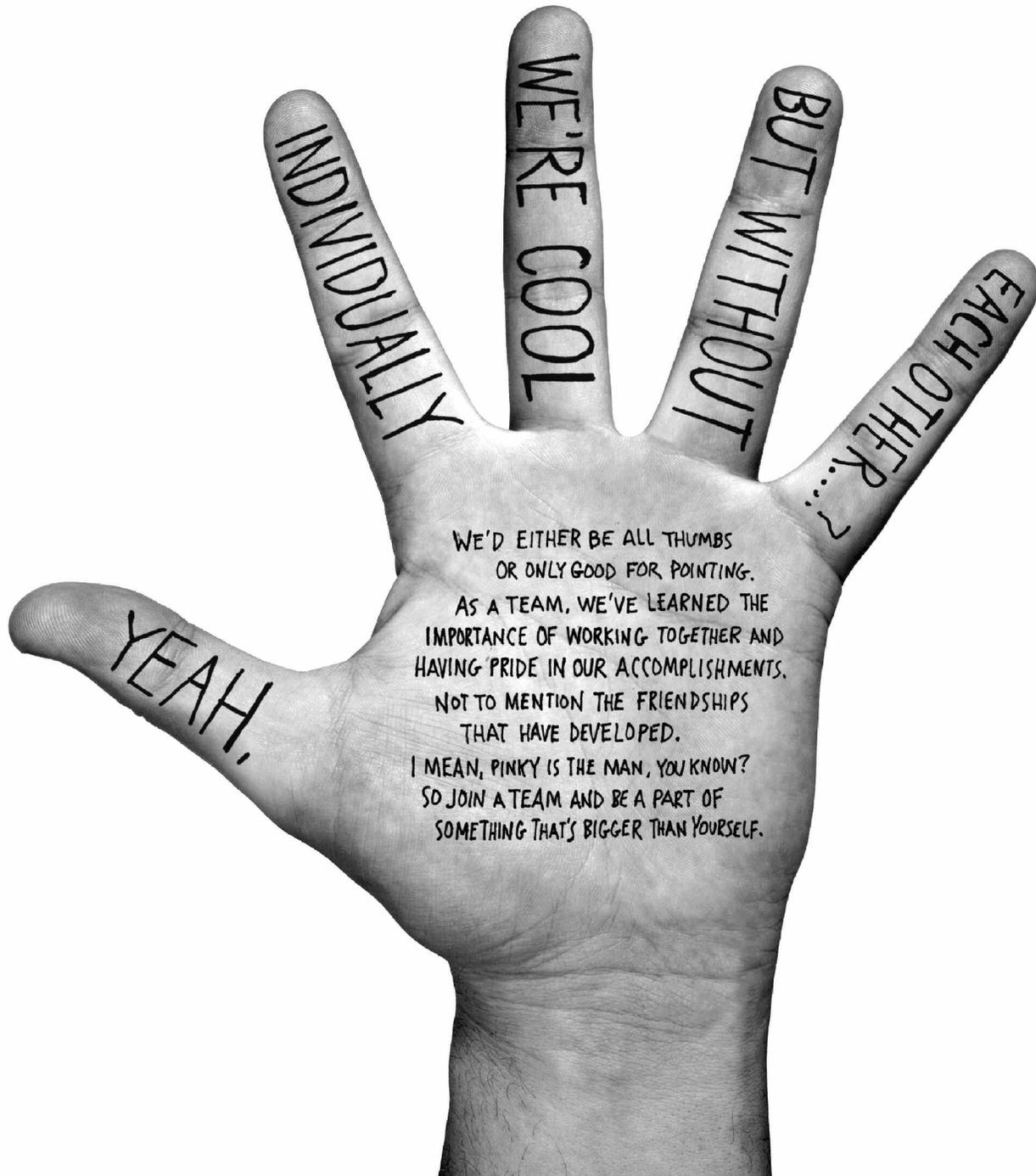


VOL. 60, NO. 3

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

SPRING 2008



BOLD MOVES
Carolina Ford Dealers

RECORD BREAKERS? Don't forget, if you have any potential state or national listings for the record book, there is a form on line to send that information for consideration. Help us to make our state and national books as inclusive and complete as possible. Any questions call Rick Strunk at (919) 962-7786. And don't forget to check the latest version of the state record book on line!

North Carolina Athletic Directors Association Names Fourteenth Hall Of Fame Class Induction at Annual State Conference in March in Asheville

Three members have been named by the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association as the 14th class for induction in its own Hall of Fame.

Tom Brown of Maiden, Vicki Hamilton of Charlotte, and Joe White of Charlotte will become the newest members of the NCADA Hall of Fame. The three will be recognized at the annual North Carolina Athletic Directors Association state conference at the Grove Park Inn with the Hall of Fame banquet scheduled for March.

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 58 the number in the Hall.

This year's inductees include:

TOM BROWN

Tom Brown is one of the state's most successful high school football coaches, with a career record of 352-117-7, primarily at Maiden High School in Catawba County. In addition to coaching, he has served as an athletic director for 40 years.

Born in Lewistown, PA., Tom came to Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory in 1961, where he played for Clarence Stasavich and Hanley Painter on some outstanding football teams, and then after graduating from L-R went into coaching and athletic administration.

Brown was an assistant coach at Lenoir under former Lenoir-Rhyne standout and current New York Giant assistant Mike Pope before moving to Maiden as head coach and athletic director in 1966. He also had a brief coaching stint at Bunker Hill. His Maiden teams have won 21 conference championships and a pair of state titles.

He also spent two years working for Servomation Corporation in Hickory, where he worked closely with former Wake Forest basketball coach Horace "Bones" McKinney.

VICKI HAMILTON

Vicki Hamilton has been the athletic director for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system for 15 years, and she was North Carolina's first female athletic director for a school system.

A graduate of Virginia Intermont College, Vicki received her master's degree in health and physical education from Appalachian State University. She began her career as a teacher and coach at Erwin Junior High in Salisbury and also taught and coached at Appalachian State and the University of South Carolina. She joined CMS as a secondary curriculum coordinator and then served as a principal at four different schools before becoming the system athletic director.

A former member of the NCHSAA Board of Directors, she has been involved with many innovations in athletics in Charlotte, including an Emmy-nominated monthly public television show, a high school football internship program with the National Football League and the Carolina Panthers, and a seminar for the mothers of high school football players.

JOE WHITE

A 37-year career in coaching and education for Joe White began at Wilson Fike before he moved to Charlotte, where he spent the bulk of his time. He first coached at North Mecklenburg and then in 1966 became the inaugural head football coach and athletic director at Olympic.

A high school standout in LaGrange, Ga., White attended Wake Forest on a football scholarship and later earned his master's at East Carolina. After his retirement from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system, he was elected to two terms on the Charlotte City Council and is currently in his fifth year as chairperson of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education.

White has received numerous awards for his service and is the current treasurer of the North Carolina School Boards Association, from whom he has received a Lifetime Achievement Award. He is currently a member of the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

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, while in 2000 Don Patrick of Newton-Conover, Bill Carver of Fayetteville and Simon Terrell of Chapel Hill joined the Hall.

The 2001 inductees included Carl Bolick of Charlotte, Herman Bryson of Winston-Salem, Ed Peeler of Shelby and Chip Gill of Durham. The 2002 honorees were Dick Knox of Chapel Hill, Jack Musten of Winston-Salem, Don Saine of Gastonia and Sue Shinn of High Point.

In 2002 Tim Brayboy of Cary, Hilda Worthington of Farmville, Roger Thrift of New Bern, Spike Corbin of Wilmington and Richard Murray of Ahoskie were inducted. The 2003 honorees included Mac Cumbo of East Flat Rock, Boyce Dietz of Bryson City, Roger Dixon currently of Myrtle Beach, SC., Debbie Jones of Charlotte and Jim Hayes of Charlotte. The 2004 induction class included Alton "Tunney" Brooks of Lumberton, Paul Gay of Sanford, Joel Long of Raleigh and Dave Thomas of Goldsboro.

The 2005 honorees were Cheryl Brewer of North Moore and Mac Morris and Phil Weaver of the North Carolina Coaches' Association in Greensboro, and last year the inductees were Ralph Holloway of Morehead City, Harold Robinson of Williamston and Doyle Whitfield of Dudley.

NCHSAA Board Of Directors Lists Highlights Of Activities At December Meeting

CHAPEL HILL—The Board of Directors of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association completed its two-day winter board meeting with a number of action items.

The Board, consisting of superintendents, principals, athletic directors and coaches from across the state, representing the eight different NCHSAA regions and all four classifications of schools, did committee work all day on the first day and then voted on items on the second day at the Simon F. Terrell Building, the home offices of the NCHSAA.

One major emphasis of the meeting related to the release of the ejection report from fall sports. There has been a marked increase in ejections from games during the fall seasons as compared to a year ago. From the start of the fall seasons through November 19 of last year, there were 138 total ejections, including 69 for football and a total of 98 for fighting among all fall sports. The numbers for this year include 337 total ejections, including 208 in football and 178 for fighting among all fall sports.

Concerned about the upward trend, the Board of Directors had lengthy discussion that resulted in an increase in the suspension time due to fighting. Currently the ejection policy calls for an ejection to result in a one-game suspension in football and two games in other sports, but on Wednesday the Board voted to increase the suspension time for fighting to two games in football and four games in other sports, effective with the 2008-09 academic year.

Among other highlights of the Board meeting:

—approved the 2008-09 playoff calendar as presented for fall, winter and spring; the starting date for football practice in 2008 will be August 1, with the first scrimmages allowed August 12 and the first playing date August 22; the state championships will be December 13. On a one time basis, the NCHSAA will work specifically with schools which have contractual obligations already in place with schools in bordering states if the change in calendar creates scheduling problems.

—approved an AED placement project, with a grant from endowment money to help place the defibrillators at 128 NCHSAA member schools in four phases, a move which would enhance safety

—schools will be surveyed about the start dates of winter and spring sports for the future and the plan is for two-year calendars to be developed

—approved an increase in admission prices for the NCHSAA invitational cheerleading championship from eight dollars to ten, more in line with similar competitions

—endorsed the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) lightning policy relative to safety at athletic events

—approved a specific grievance process for officials to follow in terms of working with the booking agents who assign them to games

—approved the audit report

Special Committee Meets, Makes Recommendations To NCHSAA Board

CHAPEL HILL—A special ad hoc committee to discuss eligibility issues convened on Wednesday at the offices of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Superintendents from across the state met to discuss a variety of issues related to high school athletic eligibility. Dr. Bill Harrison of the Cumberland County Schools chaired the meeting and the group also heard a perspective by Dr. Diane Frost, superintendent of the Asheboro city schools and president of the NCHSAA.

After extensive discussion, the committee agreed on the following recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board then could accept any or all of the following recommendations at its spring Board meeting in April.

- Recommend no change to the Board of Directors in policy of forfeiting games for ineligible athletes, but also recommend no change in policy that does not require forfeits if a student-athlete or his parents have falsified information and that could not be determined by reasonable scrutiny by the school; the penalty would fall upon the individual student-athlete (game for game)

- Recommend that a special ad hoc committee drawn from athletic directors and coaches develop a checklist of "best practices" in terms of determining eligibility; this committee would include representatives from N.C. Coaches Association and N.C. Athletic Directors Association as well as superintendents and principals

- Determine protocols in terms of what process is followed when a formal complaint is filed; the first step would be to check to see if that checklist of best practices was adhered to

- Mandating as a condition of coaching at a NCHSAA member school local sessions for all coaches, both non-faculty and faculty, about NCHSAA rules and regulations, including eligibility and recruiting; program to be developed by NCHSAA and delivered locally (city county AD, etc.). This training would be completed before practice begins in a sport season and would be an annual event. Superintendents on the committee endorsed this and it will be shared at an upcoming superintendents meeting

- Review the penalty code to determine whether or not fines, etc., are appropriate at this time

"We really appreciate the great input that these superintendents provided," said Charlie Adams, executive director of the NCHSAA. "The Board has a lot of good suggestions to consider for implementation."

Among the superintendents in attendance at the meeting were Ed Davis (Union), Terry Holliday (Iredell-Statesville), Cliff Dodson (Buncombe), Tony Parker (Johnston), Peter Gorman (Charlotte-Mecklenburg), Steve Page (Henderson), Steve Taylor (Wayne), Jeannette Hedrick (Cherokee), Dan Honeycutt (Harnett), Tim Markley (Catawba), Rick McMahan (Nash-Rocky Mount), Don Martin (Winston-Salem/Forsyth), and Jeff Moss (Beaufort).

Special Recognition Available For Your Individual "Hero"

Each of us has special people and loved ones that play important roles in our lives—a parent, sibling, spouse, grandparent, beloved pet; or perhaps there is a significant person outside your immediate family, a special 'Hero', who helped shape your life into what it is today and had a significant and positive influence upon your life - a teacher, coach, mentor.

As we head into the 2008 calendar year, please remember that the North Carolina High School Athletic Association has a wonderful vehicle through which individuals can make tax-deductible donations to the NCHSAA Endowment Fund 'In Honor' or 'In Memory' of a special 'Hero'.

Since the inception of the Fund in 1991, donors have taken advantage of this special way to recognize people who make a difference or have made a difference in their respective lives. Hundreds of honorariums and memorials have been made in the past sixteen years.

How can you make a tax-deductible donation to honor or memorialize a special 'Hero' in your life? Complete an NCHSAA Donor Card (you can find this form on-line at <http://www.nchsaa.org/genPage/index.pl?pgid=52>) or simply attach a note to your donation stating your wishes and mail to NCHSAA Endowment Fund, PO Box 3216, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216. In addition, the staff will also notify next of kin when donations are made 'In Memory' of a loved one and will notify the honoree when an 'In Honor' donation is made.

The next time you wonder how to honor or memorialize a significant and special individual in your life, please consider making

a tax-deductible donation to the NCHSAA Endowment Fund in the person's honor or memory. Questions? Please contact Karen DeHart, development director (919-962-0293 or kmdehart@email.unc.edu) or Mary Vrnak, assistant (919-962-7816; mvrnak@email.unc.edu). Thank you for your consideration and best wishes for a fabulous year!

NCHSAA Lists New Corporate Sponsor

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association is pleased to announce a new partnership with Spectrum Electronics to promote the ThunderBolt® Storm Detector to NCHSAA member schools.

"We are excited to be entering into this partnership with Spectrum Electronics," says NCHSAA executive director Charlie Adams. "The state-of-the-art technology provided by ThunderBolt® will be extremely valuable to our member schools conducting various sporting events or other outdoor activities with REAL TIME ALERT. ThunderBolt® will enhance and further support our efforts to provide safety and protection for our students, student athletes, coaches, and spectators. We encourage our member schools to take advantage of the great ThunderBolt® technology and special pricing offered to the NCHSAA membership."

The ThunderBolt® detects and tracks storms from 75 miles, providing the user with the Estimated Time of Arrival for approaching storms. Once the storm becomes local (within eight miles), the ThunderBolt® provides the user with the Time to Clear (time necessary for the storm to clear the area in order to resume outdoor activities). The ThunderBolt® has been used by all branches of the armed forces, national laboratories, oil refineries and rigs, mining operations, construction companies, schools and universities, youth sports, boaters, campers, and many more.

For more information regarding the ThunderBolt® Storm Detector, please go to www.spectrumthunderbolt.com/nchsaa/store.htm. In order to take advantage of special pricing for NCHSAA member schools only, please contact the NCHSAA office directly at 919-962-0293. School representatives can also contact the North Carolina School Representative, Steve Vasquez, at 815/385-3609 or via email at svasquez@spectrum-electronics.com.

South Carolina Wins Shrine Bowl Game 31-24

ROCK HILL—South Carolina broke a two-year North Carolina victory streak as the Sandlappers defeated their counterparts from the Tar Heel state 31-24 in the 71st annual Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas.

North Carolina had won four of the last five games, but South Carolina still leads the series 39-28-8.

South Carolina broke to a 10-0 first quarter lead, but the Tar Heels cut it to 10-7 before halftime on a 47-yard scoring strike from Thomas Wilson of Leesville Road to his high school teammate, Taylor Gentry.

North Carolina took a 14-10 lead in the third quarter by driving 38 yards in seven plays after a South Carolina fumble was recovered by Thomasville's E.J. Abrams-Ward, who also had a pass interception.

Bobby Morrison of West Iredell capped the drive with a five-yard touchdown run which put his team ahead 14-10 after Casey Barth of Wilmington Hoggard booted PAT. He later kicked a 34-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

But South Carolina got a pair of scoring passes with a span of 1:32 in the period to take the lead for good.

Morrison, who was selected as his team's offensive MVP, led the North Carolina team in rushing with 51 yards in eight carries. Tobias Palmer of Pittsboro Northwood ran three yards for a touchdown with 2:26 to play that sliced the lead to 31-24.

Jacob Cherest of Matthews David Butler completed nine of 17 passes for 102 yards for North Carolina, with Derrick Overholt of Polk County and Levon Curtis of Western Alamance each catching three.



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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

14 Lighting Upgrades Brighten Robeson County's Future

Special To The NCHSAA Bulletin

The consequences of poor sports lighting can wear on school officials.

Robeson County Athletic Director Ronnie Chavis, knew several ball fields in his six-school district were below current NCHSAA lighting standards requiring 50 footcandles for football and 50 footcandles infield/30 footcandles outfield for baseball and softball.

In 2007, with a Title IX softball lighting upgrade pending, Chavis asked Musco Sports Lighting to perform a lighting survey for the county's 18 baseball, softball, and football fields. The report that was worse than he anticipated. Only four lighting systems were compliant with current NCHSAA standards—prompting concern for the safety of Robeson's high school athletes.

"I was always worried about liability, but it really struck home with me when a line drive was hit right by our third basemen's head in Red Springs and he didn't even see it coming. As a baseball coach, I knew the lights weren't meeting standards, but Musco gave me the ammunition," Chavis said.

Proof of Performance

Chavis took the lighting report and his eyewitness account to the Board of Education. He challenged leaders that the liability resulting from documented light levels below NCHSAA specifications could lead to lawsuits more costly than upgrades.

Chavis supported his case with a life-cycle cost analysis for the 14 underperforming fields, comparing the county's previous lighting technology with Musco's Light-Structure Green™ and SportsCluster Green™ systems. According to Musco Representative Stacy Wells, in order to meet NCHSAA standards, Robeson County would need 753 fixtures of the outdated technology to perform the job of 454 Green Generation Lighting® fixtures.

Additionally, the installation of Musco's high-efficiency lighting would also have an immediate and measurable impact on the district's energy consumption and long-term maintenance costs.

"The new technology with the Musco Constant 25™ product assurance and warranty program will significantly reduce operating costs," Wells said. "With energy alone, they will save almost \$204,000 over the next 25 years. Adding in relamping savings, spot maintenance savings, and controls, the district will save a total of \$405,000."

Leveling the Playing Field

The Board ruled that new Musco lighting systems could be purchased and installed as athletic budgets allowed for football, softball, and baseball fields at Lumberton and South Robeson High Schools; and the high school softball and baseball fields in Fairmont, Purnell Swett, Red Springs, and St. Paul's. Only one big hurdle remained: which schools would get lights first?

Chavis knew the budget process would push completion out nearly a decade. Wells and the Musco Finance team went to work to develop a payment program that solved the dilemma. "Musco gave us the ability to pay over 10 years. It eliminated the politics of prioritizing the fields. Musco's program got them all done at the same time," said Chavis.

Along with satisfied athletic directors, players, and fans, Chavis' maintenance staff is equally pleased with the new systems and the warranty program that covers 25 years of carefree lighting equipment operation including guaranteed light levels, routine maintenance, group lamp replacements, monitoring, and remote on/off control services.

"Our maintenance staff is overtaxed as it is, so they're happy to no longer climb poles. I don't know when I'll retire, but for the next 25 years I'll never have to worry again about problems with lights," Chavis said.

Great Professional Development Opportunity Available At ECU

GREENVILLE—A special professional development opportunity will be presented for coaches, and athletic directors in May at East Carolina University.

The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 3, at the Belk Building on the campus of East Carolina and is sponsored by the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association and the East Carolina University Department of Health Education and Promotion.

The sessions will involve both the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Education Course as well as the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

The NFHS coaches education course is a blended course, with the first two hours of instruction offered face-to-face on the ECU campus and the additional two hours will be provided on line. Bobby Guthrie of the Wake County school system and Roy Turner, athletic director at Ashley High in Wilmington, will be leading the course, a fundamentals of coaching course providing a unique student-centered curriculum designed for interscholastic teacher-coaches.

The two NIAAA Leadership Courses are athletic administration courses. The 501 course is "Philosophy, Leadership, Organization and Professional Programs" while 502 is "Principles,

Strategies and Methods"

In addition to Guthrie and Turner, presenters will include Rusty Lee of Greensboro Page, Fred McDaniel of the Cumberland County Schools and Marc Payne of Ashe County.

There is also a course being offered on sports medicine for school personnel, which will provide basic information on making informed decisions, including emergency preparedness and principles of basic injury prevention and management. Dr. Sharon Rogers will lead this course.

The courses will be offered from 10 am to 2 pm. A tailgate lunch will be provided from 2 to 3 pm at the Clark-LeClair Baseball Stadium. The participants in the courses will be able to attend the baseball game between East Carolina and Alabama-Birmingham, which starts at four o'clock Saturday afternoon.

The cost of taking the NFHS Coaching Education course is \$70 while the two NIAAA Leadership Training courses are each \$100 and the sports medicine course is \$50.

Among the ways to register are by calling 1-800-767-9111 or electronic enrollment is available at www.cpe.ecu.edu.

If you have specific questions, you can call Jerry McGee of the NCADA at 252-335-7396 or Dr. David White of the East Carolina Department of Health Education and Promotion at 252-328-6000.

How Would You Answer This Question Related To Integrity?

In the climactic scene of the movie *Jerry McGuire*, the sports agent for whom the movie is titled (played by Tom Cruise) says to his wife, the character portrayed by Renee Zellweger, "We live in a cynical, cynical world, and we work in a business of tough competitors."

Now Jerry McGuire was talking about the cutthroat world of sports agents and big salaries and professional football (remember his client was an Arizona Cardinal football player played by Cuba Gooding Jr, who often said "Show me the money!"), but in some ways he could have been talking about high school athletics, too.

High school sports are filled with tough competitors, even though they may not always have as familiar names of some of those at the collegiate or pro level, but they certainly want to win just as much. And there is no doubt that we live in a cynical, cynical world.

But I have always maintained—before I came to work at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and even more so after my 20-plus years here—that there is something different about our games, something pristine and refreshing.

Our teams represent communities in our state, often small towns, and few of their athletes will go on to play at the college level. Many are just playing for the sheer love of the game and I know the coaches are not in it for the bountiful salaries they get for high school coaching.

But recent developments have given me pause and caused me to reconsider the notion that our competitions are inherently different. For one, the NCHSAA Board of Directors heard an alarming report at its December meeting that ejections from contests were markedly up. That includes ejections for any reason and specifically a large increase in ejections for fighting.

And then there have been several fairly high profile situations involving ineligible players recently, including a number of teams which had qualified for the football or basketball playoffs but then had to forfeit games. In some cases these were truly honest mistakes that just hadn't been caught, and those can happen to anybody despite a school's best practices to the contrary.

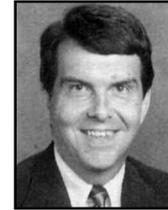
But some represent what I would consider a disturbing trend—a trend that includes parents and/or athletes falsifying documents and declaring bogus addresses for the primary reason of playing athletics.

Perhaps most disturbing was the revelation that at one school two assistant football coaches had helped arrange a bogus address for an excellent athlete, who then played an entire season for the team before it was caught.

And even though it was eventually uncovered (and often it is) and even though the school forfeited the games, it shakes me to the core that a coach—a person who is supposed to instill integrity and honesty and all those other lifelong values in our young athletes—would be guilty of this kind of subterfuge for the sake of winning.

Certainly high school sports aren't completely immune to

The Extra Point



Rick Strunk
NCHSAA Associate
Executive Director

these sorts of things, although I would like to think that they are a more rare occurrence in our arena than in other walks of life. On the day I write this, for instance, the local newspaper reports that a prominent author who had written a book about her experiences in the Holocaust during World War II had, simply, made it all up. "It was real in my mind," she said, "my fantasy of what might have happened." But it wasn't billed as a fantasy; it was supposed to be a memoir.

In that same edition of the paper is a note that an aide to the President resigned because he admitting lifting material written by other people and using it in his own newspaper columns without attribution, as though it were his own. And then you've got the whole Roger Clemens-Brian McNamee controversy about who did what and when with steroids.

So I know it happens and I know it's prevalent and I know it can be found even in high school athletics. But we need to be—no, we have **got** to be—better than that. We have got to demonstrate that the "last pure form of amateur athletics left in society" is still that—pure. And so many of you at so many schools at so many places in our state do just that. You do things right and you teach the right lessons and you maintain your integrity.

But not everybody does, and it can stain all of our efforts. And I do not subscribe to a popular saying that began with NASCAR (believe it or not) and now has been used in a number of settings, including justifying illegal taping of coaches' signals in the National Football League: "If you ain't cheatin', you ain't tryin'." That kind of mentality misses the whole purpose of high school athletics.

Noted author and pastor John Ortberg has said, "It is better to be good than to do well." He is explaining, when boiled down to its essence, just what the dilemma is when it comes to integrity. That is the question, whether it relates to integrity in business, in the classroom, in the athletic arena. Do we want to "be good", do what is right, follow the rules? Or do we want to "do well," win at all costs regardless of how we reach that bottom line?

Day after day we talk with those who understand that statement by Ortberg; they will avoid shortcuts or bending rules or, heaven forbid, blatantly cheating, because it is better to be good than to do well.

But the cynical, cynical world we live in attempts to teach a different lesson. Jerry McGuire had to deal with it.

Now we do, too.

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

Nathan Gay

CLINTON—Nathan Gay, age 68, died at the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in November.

A graduate of Chowan College and East Carolina University, Nathan enjoyed an outstanding teaching and coaching career. After a year at Aurelian Springs High School in Littleton, he came to Sampson County in 1963 and coached for 22 years at Union. He later served as the Sampson County director of athletics.

The Union High gymnasium was named in his honor and he was a charter member of the Sampson County Sports Hall of Fame. He was also active in civic activities and at Mount Gilead Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Nathan Gay Scholarship Fund, care of Sampson County Schools, Box 439, Clinton, NC 28328.

Jack Gaster, Jr.

ROCKWELL—Veteran football coach Jack Gaster Jr. died in mid-January from complications from a stroke at the age of 59.

Gaster, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, was a high school teacher and football coach for 31 years and coached at West Columbus, Smithfield-Selma, Lexington and Albemarle during his career. His overall record as a head coach was 230-72-3, and he guided teams to three state championships.

Memorials may be made to a high school athletic department of the donor's choice or to Cerro Gordo United Methodist Church, c/o Vivian Williamson, 5582 Braswell Road, Cerro Gordo, NC 28430.

Donald Palmer

LEXINGTON—Don Palmer, long-time coach and educator, died of complications from pancreatic cancer in late December at the age of 75.

He was retired from the Davidson County school system after serving as a teacher and coach, assistant principal, principal and central office staff member.

In addition, Don had served as executive secretary of the Central Piedmont Conference for over 20 years and had been a member of the Davidson County Board of Education for 16 years, including eight as chairman.

A 1958 graduate of Appalachian, he coached football and North Davidson from '58 through 1976 and compiled a 119-54-12 mark, including a Western North Carolina High School Activities Association title in '66 and co-championship in '75.

The North Davidson High School football field was named Palmer Field in his honor in August of 2007 and he was a charter member of the Davidson County Sports Hall of Fame.

One son, Don Palmer Jr., is a teacher and athletic director at Ledford, while son Danny Palmer is athletic director at East Davidson.

The family has asked for memorials to be made to the Don Palmer Scholarship Fund, and checks may be made to the Davidson County Educational Foundation, Box 444, Lexington, NC 29292.

Marshall Hamilton

RALEIGH—Long-time basketball coach and athletic director Marshall Hamilton died in early December after a battle with cancer. He was 64.

Hamilton had an outstanding career in athletics. A graduate of UNC-Wilmington, he coached at Southern Wayne and then served as men's basketball coach and athletic director at Raleigh Broughton. He went to Leesville Road in Raleigh when it opened in 1993 as its first athletic director.

While at Southern Wayne, Hamilton's 1980 basketball team won the state 4-A championship. He also served a stint on the National Federation basketball rules committee. In 2001, he earned the Dave Harris Athletic Director of the Year Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Marshall Hamilton Scholarship Fund, c/o Mary Ellen Koch, 6417 Cape Charles Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.

Dwight Miller, Jr.

FAYETTEVILLE—Dwight Miller Jr., a long-time teacher and coach in Fayetteville, died in mid-January at the age of 83.

He spent 36 years at Seventy-First High School and was to be a 2008 inductee into the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame.

A 1951 graduate of Western Carolina, Miller was at Seventy-First from 1951 through '876 and coached a variety of sports, but he coached tennis for nearly all his career in coaching.

Kelly Minyard

REIDSVILLE—Long-time coach and athletic director Kelly Minyard died in late January at Penn Nursing Center at the age of 73.

A native of Kentucky, Minyard was co-captain of the football team during his time at North Carolina State University and went on to an excellent career as a teacher and coach.

A standout lineman at Reidsville who played on the 1954 state championship team, he later wound up coaching at his high school alma mater. His career included stints at Durham, Henderson Vance and then a tenure as athletic director and head football coach at Reidsville.

He coached at Reidsville from 1983 to '88 and his teams compiled a record of 34-27 during that time.

Jeff Carlton

GREENSBORO—Jeff Carlton, sports writer for the Greensboro News and Record, died at the age of 36 in February.

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, Jeff graduated from T.C. Williams High in Alexandria, Va., and then from the University of Virginia in 1993. He had been a sports reporter for newspapers in Virginia, including Danville and Charlottesville, before going to work for the Greensboro paper.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the American Cancer Society, 4-A Oak Branch Drive, Greensboro, NC 27407.

REALIGNMENT ON THE WEB SITE—information about realignment will be posted throughout the process on the NCHSAA web site at www.nchsaa.org. If you go to the front page and click on Select A Topic, you will find Realignment 2009-13 as one of the topics. General information, realignment numbers, and the actual grouping into conferences will find their way to that location throughout the realignment process.

FOOTBALL



CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW

Plymouth Holds On To Beat North Duplin 20-13 In 1-A Battle

RALEIGH—Plymouth raced to a 20-0 halftime lead and held on to down North Duplin 20-13 in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A football championship at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Plymouth completed a perfect 16-0 season and won its first NCHSAA team championship in any sport.

The Vikings ran 56 plays from scrimmage to 35 for North and had an overwhelming time of possession edge, 31:49 to just 16:11. Plymouth limited North to 167 yards in total offense and eight first downs.

Angelo Sharpless of Plymouth was the Wendy's Most Valuable Player, as he caught a pair of touchdowns passes from Dasheen Perry, had three punt returns for 120 yards and also had a 49-yard punt which pinned the Rebels at their own one-yard line in the final minutes. In addition, he made a couple of tackles on defense.

Akeem Cox paced the North Duplin attack with 102 yards rushing in 16 tries, which suffered its first loss after 14 consecutive victories. The Rebels' scores came on a blocked punt recovered by Alan Schilling in the end zone and a two-yard scoring run by Billy Mello.

BB&T is the title sponsor of the NCHSAA football championships.

James Kenan Edges West Montgomery In 1-AA Title Game

CHAPEL HILL—Although it trailed for the first time all season, James Kenan battled back and completed a perfect 16-0 year as the Tigers defeated West Montgomery 13-6 in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-AA football championship game at Kenan Stadium.

The Tigers, not primarily a passing team, got a Wendy's Most Valuable Player performance from quarterback Shawn Jones, who completed 11 of 19 for 202 yards.

James Kenan trailed 6-5 after West Montgomery's Josh Hurley hit Dominique Drake with a 25-yard scoring toss with 3:24 to go in the third quarter, following a Kenan fumble.

But the Tigers responded with a key fourth-quarter drive, marching 89 yards in six plays, capped by Brandon Satchell's three-yard TD run with 7:36 to go in the game. A 46-yard run by Satchell earlier in the drive was the big play, and he wound up the day with 111 yards in 20 carries.

West Montgomery was limited to 111 yards in total offense, with Vince Jordan's 52 yards in 16 carries leading the Warriors.

West, in its first trip to the NCHSAA finals since 1975, finished the season 13-3.

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Lincolnton Quick Start Keys Victory Over South Columbus

RALEIGH—Lincolnton jumped out to a 21-0 first-half lead and held on to down previously unbeaten South Columbus 28-14 in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state

2-A football championship game at Carter-Finley Stadium.

South Columbus had not allowed a point in the first quarter in its previous 15 games, but Lincolnton grabbed a 7-0 lead on the first of two short C.J. Wilson scoring bursts.

Wilson was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player in the game with 67 yards rushing in 17 attempts to go with his two touchdowns.

South Columbus cut it to 21-14 late in the third quarter on the second short TD run of the game by Andrae Jacobs, set up when the Stallions recovered a Lincolnton fumble at the Wolves 22.

But the Wolves put the game away when Jimmy Angle, who also led his team with nine total tackles, picked off a South pass and returned it 45 yards for a score with 3:20 left to play.

Justin Smith led South Columbus in rushing with 67 yards in 15 carries. Lincolnton quarterback Adam Thompson was nine of 17 through the air for 128 yards and a score. South Columbus wound up with a final record of 15-1 while Lincolnton, winning its first NCHSAA football title since 1993, was 12-4.

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Reidsville Upends Two-Time Defending Champ Shelby

RALEIGH—Reidsville built a 21-7 halftime lead and then the Rams held off Shelby to score a 28-20 triumph in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-AA football championship game at Carter-Finley Stadium.

The Rams, which finished a perfect 16-0, kept Shelby from winning its third consecutive state crown and avenged a loss in the 2005 title game to the Golden Lions.

Reidsville quarterback Ray Butchee, who completed 10 of 17 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns, was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player in the game. Tayon Graves contributed 94 rushing yards and two more TD's for the winners.

Shelby bolted to a 7-0 lead on a 68-yard scoring run by Howard Thompson, who wound up with 91 yards in 10 carries, but Butchee's two TD passes and the first of the touchdown runs by Graves gave Reidsville the 21-7 advantage at intermission.

The Golden Lions closed to within 28-20 with 7:50 left to play when Tim Gullate hauled in a 14-yard TD pass from Thompson to cap an eight-play, 67-yard drive. But the next time Shelby got the football came after a Reidsville punt was downed at the Lion one with 2:30 remaining and Shelby could not move it the length of the field.

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Western Alamance Downs North Gaston In Wild 3-A Final

CHAPEL HILL—Western Alamance and North Gaston combined for one of the highest scoring North Carolina High School Athletic Association football state championship games ever, as Western outscored North Gaston 62-36 in the 3-A final at Kenan Stadium.

The two teams combined for a record 1,130 combined yards in total offense.

Wendy's Most Valuable Player Levon Curtis of Western accounted for five touchdowns, including running for two, catching two TD tosses from quarterback Donald Britt and also throwing a scoring pass. Curtis ran for 96 yards and had seven receptions for 153, including a spectacular 71-yard TD, while Britt ran for 138 yards in 19 carries and also completed 12 of 17 passes for 226 yards.

Western scored touchdowns on nine of its 13 possessions in the game and punted only twice, while North Gaston punted just once.

North Gaston closed to within 27-24 with 5:55 left in the first half, but the Warriors scored 21 unanswered points to take command, including a tally in the first 54 seconds of the third quarter.

North had a tremendous offensive day as well, rushing for a whopping 496 yards, including 269 yards in 17 carries by Princeton Brooks and 192 yards in 19 tries by quarterback A.J. Blue.

Western Alamance completed a perfect 16-0 season and won its first state title after finishing second in each of the previous three seasons. North Gaston finished 12-3.

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Dudley Downs Charlotte Catholic 28-20 For 3-AA Championship

CHAPEL HILL—Ricky Lewis, Jr., used his arm and his legs to propel Greensboro Dudley to a 28-20 victory over Charlotte Catholic in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-AA football championship at Kenan Stadium.

Lewis was named the Wendy's MVP of the final as he threw for three touchdowns and ran for another, finishing the contest with 150 yards rushing in 24 carries and completing seven of 10 passes for 196 yards and three scores. All of the scoring plays came on third or fourth down.

A 29-yard TD pass by Lewis to Douglas Sigmon with 2:29 to go in the first half broke a 14-14 tie and gave the Panthers the lead for good. Lewis also kicked four extra points.

Catholic cut it to 28-20 late in the third quarter on the second score of the day by R.J. Sweeney, who ran for 68 yards in 16 tries. The Cougars advanced to midfield twice in the final period but Dudley held each time.

Charlotte Catholic finished 13-3 on the year and was the state runner-up for the second straight year. Dudley also ended 13-3 overall.

The Dudley 3-AA victory gave the Triad Conference a pair of state championships since Western Alamance won the 3-A title.

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Hoggard Shuts Out Mount Tabor 28-0 To Earn 4-A Championship

WINSTON-SALEM—Shawn Sidbury turned in a sterling performance on both sides of the ball to lead Wilmington Hoggard to a 28-0 shutout of Winston-Salem Mount Tabor in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A football championship at BB&T Field.

Sidbury was named the Wendy's Most Valuable Player as he ran for two touchdowns and 73 yards in 21 carries, recovered a fumble, picked off a pass and returned it 71 yards to set up a TD and added eight tackles.

Hoggard held Mount Tabor to 58 yards net rushing in posting its 15th win of the year against no losses. Mount Tabor finished 12-4.

The Vikings led 7-0 late in the third quarter and then erupted for three touchdowns within a span of eight minutes late in the game to blow it open.

Hoggard was led in rushing by Saquan Coggins with 90 yards in 14 tries and Luke Caldwell caught four passes for 104 yards for the winners. Hunter Furr picked up 67 yards in 15 rushing attempts for Mount Tabor.

New Bern Halts Independence Streak Of State Titles By 28-17

WINSTON-SALEM—The fourth time proved to be the charm for New Bern.

The Bears had lost to Independence in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-AA championship game three times in the past five years, but this time the Bears overcame the Patriots 28-17 in action at BB&T field.

New Bern halted the Independence streak of consecutive state titles at seven as Brett Williams threw a pair of touchdown passes and accounted for 298 yards in total offense.

Williams, the Wendy's Most Valuable Player, ran for 109 yards in 19 carries and completed nine of 14 passes for an additional 189 yards.

Independence grabbed a quick 14-0 lead in the opening quarter, aided by a couple of big kick returns. The Pats led 14-13 at halftime but Williams connected with Mike Price for a 37-yard scoring strike with 6:32 to go in the third quarter and Vince McDuffie's two-point conversion run put New Bern ahead 21-14.

A 31-yard field goal by Robbie Ward of the Patriots narrowed the lead to 21-17, but the Bears' Danzel Boomer picked off a tipped pass and ran it in from 24 yards out with 10:10 remaining to push the New Bern advantage to 28-17.

Anthony Carrothers of Independence was 16 for 38 through the air for 181 yards and a pair of touchdowns and also rushed for 71 yards.

New Bern ended the year with a 14-2 mark while Independence was 13-3.

SWIMMING AND DIVING



Cardinal Gibbons Sweeps Titles In 1-A/2-A Swimming

RALEIGH—Despite a tremendous performance by Kyle Hites of Lenoir Hibernites, Raleigh Cardinal Gibbons held off Hibernites to win the men's team championship in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A/2-A swimming and diving championships at the Willis Casey Aquatic Center on the N.C. State University campus.

The Gibbons women also rolled to their third consecutive state title.

Hites was entered in the maximum four events, including the 200 medley relay and the 200 freestyle relay in which his teams set new state records. He also won the 200 individual medley and set a new state 1-A/2-A standard with a time of 1:01.69 in winning the 100 breaststroke.

Hites shared meet Most Valuable Performer honors with Carrboro's Kenneth Ryan, who won the 100 backstroke and set

a new classification record in the 50 free.

Gibbons tallied 313 points to 263 for runner-up Hibriten in the men's team standings, with first-year high school Carrboro in third with 169. Durham School of the Arts was fourth with 146 and defending men's champ East Lincoln fifth at 139.

In the women's competition, Cardinal Gibbons had little trouble en route to the title, scoring 416 to 163 for Elkin, followed by Carrboro at 151, West Davidson at 149 and Durham School of the Arts with 124.

West Davidson's Kelly Ann Baird was the MVP of the women's meet, winning both the 200 free and 500 free. She set a new 1-A/2-A mark in the 500 free with a time that earned automatic All-American honors.

Wendy's and the Carolinas Ford Dealers are the presenting sponsors of the NCHSAA sports programs.

Charlotte Catholic Wins Both Crowns In 3-A Swimming

RALEIGH—Charlotte Catholic swim teams each took their third consecutive North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A swimming and diving championships at the Willis Casey Aquatic Center on the North Carolina State University campus.

Led by Most Valuable Performer Charlie Hetzel, Catholic tallied 305.5 points in the men's competition over second place Lake Norman with 172. Hetzel won both the 100 butterfly and the 200 individual medley, recording an automatic all-American time in the 200 IM.

Waynesville Tuscola was third with 145, followed by Concord (139.5) and Asheville T.C. Roberson (139).

Keri McAfee of Charlotte Catholic was the women's MVP, with a pair of new state 3-A records en route to winning the 100 butterfly and the 200 individual medley. Her time in the 200 IM was good for automatic all-American.

Catholic recorded 358.8 points in the women's competition to 256 for runner-up Pfafftown Ronald Reagan. Marvin Ridge was third at 209, with Tuscola fourth with 166 and T.C. Roberson in fifth at 161.

The 3-A swimming championships were sponsored by the Raleigh Sports Consortium and the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Chapel Hill Captures Titles In 4-A Swimming And Diving

CHAPEL HILL—It was a great night for Chapel Hill High School, swimming in its hometown at the Koury Natatorium on the campus of the University of North Carolina.

Twice it went down the final event of the night, but Chapel Hill swept both the men's and the women's championships in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A swimming and diving championships and broke some long streaks in the process.

The Tigers' victory in the men's competition snapped Raleigh Enloe's string of consecutive state titles at nine. Chapel Hill, led by Most Valuable Performer Chris Gunnels, scored 211 points to 203.5 for runner-up North Mecklenburg. The senior swimmer won both the 100 free and 100 backstroke and swam a leg on a pair of relay teams that placed third.

Defending champ Enloe followed in third with 193.5, with East Chapel Hill (164) in fourth and Charlotte Providence (151)

in fifth. There were 35 men's teams which scored in the meet.

In the women's meet, Chapel Hill stopped defending champion Providence, who had won the last four titles in succession and nine of the past 10 crowns. Chapel Hill tallied 240 points to 234 for Providence, followed by East Chapel Hill (206), Enloe (200) and Charlotte Myers Park (162). A total of 38 women's teams scored in the meet.

Kirsten Smith of Raleigh Athens Drive became the first 4-A swimmer in the classified championships era to win two different events four years in a row. Smith captured both the 200 individual medley and the 500 free styles for the fourth straight time and was named the women's meet MVP.

The 4-A swimming championships were sponsored by host city sponsors Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visitors Bureau, UNC Healthcare, BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina, and BB&T.

INDOOR TRACK



Cummings Wins Women's Crown, Mooresville Takes Men's Title In 1-A/2-A/3-A Indoor Track

CHAPEL HILL—Sherice Walker of Burlington Cummings captured first place in three events to lead her Cavaliers to its second straight team title in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A/2-A/3-A indoor track and field championships at the Eddie Smith Field House on the University of North Carolina campus.

Walker was named the Most Valuable Performer in the women's meet as she grabbed top honors in the 55 hurdles, long jump and triple jump.

Cummings tallied 59 points in the women's competition to 50 for Western Guilford, with Jacksonville third at 48. Winston-Salem Parkland was fourth with 46 and Asheville T.C. Roberson fifth with 38. A total of 44 schools scored in the meet.

Jordan Lee of Hillsborough Cedar Ridge took first in both the women's high jump and pole vault.

Mooresville earned the men's team title, tallying 68 points to 46 for second place Asheville. Defending champion Parkland followed in third with 35.5 points, followed by Winston-Salem Carver (34) and Southern Guilford (29). There were 49 men's teams which scored points in the meet.

Southern Guilford's William Graves was the Most Valuable Performer in the men's meet, winning both the 300 and 500. Mooresville's Patrick Campbell was also a double individual winner in the 1600 and 3200.

This is the 22nd annual competition in indoor track held by the NCHSAA, but just the second year that the 1-A, 2-A and 3-A classes have competed together and the 4-A school have their own separate championship.

The championships were sponsored by host city sponsors Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Chapel Hill, the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visitors Bureau, UNC Healthcare, BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina, and BB&T.

New Bern, East Forsyth Deadlock For Men's Title In 4-A Indoor Track

CHAPEL HILL—New Bern and East Forsyth finished in a dead heat to share the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 4-A men's indoor track and field championship at the Eddie Smith Field House on the University of North Carolina campus.

East Forsyth and New Bern each tallied 43 points to tie for the crown, while Morrisville Green Hope and defending champion Southeast Raleigh were knotted at third with 35 points apiece.

East Forsyth's Dylan Ferris was the Most Valuable Performer in the men's championship, winning both the 1000 and 1600 and participating on a relay team that finished second. Wakefield's T.J. Graham was also a double individual winner, taking top honors in both the 55 meter and the 300.

Southeast Raleigh won its third straight women's title, slipping past West Charlotte by a three-point margin. Southeast scored 47 points, West Charlotte 44, and Charlotte Myers Park was third with 41.

West Charlotte's Nyosha Bryant was the MVP on the women's side, with state championship performances in the 55 and 300 and a second-place finish in the long jump along with finishing sixth in the 500.

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DUAL TEAM WRESTLING



Cary Beats Davie 40-27 For 4-A Dual Team Crown

MOCKSVILLE—Cary completed a perfect 30-0 dual meet season as the Imps downed host Davie 40-27 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A dual team wrestling championship.

The Imps won their seventh NCHSAA dual team title in 13 appearances in the 19-year history of these championships. It was the eighth consecutive appearance for Cary in the championships.

It was the third time in the last four years that Cary and Davie had battled for the title. Cary beat Davie for the 2005 crown and Davie downed the Imps in the '06 final. The War Eagles made their eighth visit to the finals and were seeking their third title as they fell to 28-3 overall.

Parkland Rolls Past Morehead For 3-A Dual Team Title

WINSTON-SALEM—Winston-Salem Parkland successfully defended its North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A dual team wrestling championship, rolling over Eden Morehead 59-6 at Parkland.

Parkland ran its dual meet record to a perfect 39-0 in winning its fourth NCHSAA dual team title. Juan Stimpson of the state champions was selected the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the championship.

Parkland beat Morehead in the finals for the second straight year, having won 34-24 at Morehead for the 2007 title. Morehead was making its eight finals appearance in the last 11 years and had won three of the previous six crowns.

Morehead's dual team mark was 25-3.

Orange Downs Newton-Conover For 2-A Dual Team Championship

NEWTON—Orange slipped past host Newton-Conover 29-25 to capture the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A dual team wrestling championship.

Perennial power Orange won its second dual team title in four years, with a 3-A crown in 2005, and won its 30th dual match against just one loss.

Newton-Conover finished as the runner-up in the dual team tournament for the second consecutive year, losing to Mayodan Dalton McMichael in last year's final, and the Red Devils ended the dual meet portion of the season with a 41-4 record.

Alleghany Makes It Three Consecutive 1-A Dual Team Titles

ROBBINSVILLE—Alleghany made it three consecutive dual team wrestling state championships, downing Hampstead Topsail 37-28 for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A dual team wrestling championship at Robbinstonville High School.

It was the third consecutive year these two battled for the 1-A championship. Alleghany had won both previous matchups, taking the 2006 title 42-27 and then beating Topsail last year 43-22. Alleghany has now won five NCHSAA dual team wrestling titles.

Alleghany won its 22nd dual match of the year against three losses, while Topsail dropped to 38-6. Matthew Combs of Alleghany was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler of the final.

Earlier in the day, both Alleghany and Topsail had won regional final matches to advance to the championship. Alleghany had beaten host Robbinstonville 40-22 while Topsail got past South Davidson 37-29.



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