



NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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Bill Miller To Serve As NCHSAA President For 2014-15 Academic Year



**NCHSAA President Dr. Bill Miller,
superintendent of Polk County schools**

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And much, much more!

CHAPEL HILL—Dr. Bill Miller, superintendent of the Polk County schools, will once again serve as president of the North Carolina High School Board of Directors, this time for the 2014-15 academic year.

Miller was elevated to president a year ago when Kathy Spencer, the superintendent of Onslow County, retired. Spencer was the vice-president in 2012-13 who had been approved by the Executive Committee and then by the membership for president for the coming year.

Maurice Green, superintendent of the Guilford County schools, will again serve as vice-president. Former president Allison Sholar Osmon, superintendent of the Currituck County schools, will return to be the past president.

The Board president is a 1980 graduate of Wingate University and did graduate work at both UNC Charlotte and the University of South Carolina.

After serving on the men's basketball staff at Wingate, Miller was a teacher and coach at the high school level for five years, serving as head men's basketball coach at the old Tryon High School as well as coaching tennis and golf at various times.

He went on to serve as principal at Polk County High School before moving into the Polk central office, where he was personnel director and assistant superintendent before assuming the superintendent's role.

Miller has previously served on the NCHSAA Realignment Committee, has been president of the WRESA Superintendents' Council and is currently chairman of the North Carolina Small Rural Schools Consortium.

New Board members were recommended by the NCHSAA's Nominating Committee, based on the requirements of the Association's constitution and by-laws. The member schools at eight regional meetings select nominees for consideration across the state, then from among those nominees individuals are selected by the Nominating Committee to fill the available slots. They are approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

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

Reggie Peace, athletic director at Lee Senior, will join the Board to replace Leon Mack, who rotated off after completing his term.

Three vacancies that occurred on the Board last year and were filled were reaffirmed. Brad Craddock, principal of Glenn High School, and Dennis Sawyer, superintendent of the Roanoke Rapids City School system, were reelected for full four-year terms. Rodney Shotwell, superintendent of the Rockingham County schools, is fulfilling a term that expires in 2015.

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

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

Cherryville Runner Named Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete For 2014 Season

CHICAGO—In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Trentavis Friday of Cherryville High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Friday is the first Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Cherryville High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Friday as North Carolina's best high school boys track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Boys Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Friday joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Ryan Hall (1999-01, Big Bear HS, Calif.), Meb Keflezighi (1993-94, San Diego HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.) and Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.).

The 6-foot-2, 165-pound senior won three individual state championships and anchored the winning 4x400-meter relay quartet at the Class 1A state meet this spring, leading the Ironmen to a second-place finish as a team. Friday took gold in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.59 seconds, the 200-meter dash in 20.95 and the 400-meter run in 47.87. The New Balance Nationals Indoor champion and the NBN meet indoor record-holder in both the 60 and 200, he also captured the 200-meter crown at this month's New Balance Nationals Outdoor championships. Friday's season-bests of 10.17 in the 100 and 20.33 in the 200 both rank as the nation's No. 1 performances among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of his selection.

Friday has maintained a B average in the classroom. In addition to serving on the Cherryville High school yearbook and school newspaper staffs, he has volunteered locally for two years on behalf of the First Wesleyan Church's feed-the-homeless initiative. He has also donated his time as part of his school's morning-announcements team and has worked with special needs students at the Webb Street School.

"He's worked hard and stayed healthy, and he's just a special runner," said Cherryville head coach Keith Fox. "He can do anything. He could go out and run a 1:54 in the 800 if we wanted him to. He put in a lot of time in the offseason, worked in the weight room. We knew he was capable of a season like this."

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

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

Friday joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Boys Track & Field Athletes of the Year John Crossley (2012-13, West Carteret), Craig Engels (2011-12, Ronald Reagan), Eric Winfrey (2010-11, Douglas Byrd Isaac Presson (2009-10, Asheville), Wayne Davis (2008-09, Southeast Raleigh), Dylan Ferris (2007-08, East Forsyth), and Johnny Dutch (2006-2007, Clayton) among the state's list of former award winners. ★

Coach-Mentor Program Established by NCHSAA

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association is initiating a new program that it hopes will be of great service to its member schools, especially to younger or new coaches.

North Carolina has a wealth of talented, experienced coaches in a variety of sports, and there has been discussion for some time on how those coaches, with their expertise and experience, could benefit their less experienced counterparts across the state.

So the NCHSAA has established a coach-mentor program. Numerous coaches and administrators across the state were contacted to get suggestions of coaches who might be good to serve in this capacity. Then many of those were contacted to see if they would be willing to participate in the program and would be available to answer questions or provide assistance.

The mentor list includes coaches in a variety of sports, in each of the eight regions of the NCHSAA, and all four classifications. The list is available to coaches on the NCHSAA web site.

So if a coach has a question about how to handle a situation or other suggestions, he or she can look at the mentor list and contact a coach to get some guidance or insight that could be tremendously beneficial.

"When I began my career in athletic administration, I had the fortune of learning from some icons who were willing to invest time and effort in my growth process," said NCHSAA commissioner Davis Whitfield. "We have many coaches in our programs throughout the state with a wealth of valuable knowledge who are willing to share that with others."

About 160 coaches across North Carolina have agreed to serve in the mentor capacity thus far.

The coach-mentor program was one of the goals established in the NCHSAA's Strategic Plan, approved by the committee that formulated the strategic plan and then by the NCHSAA Board of Directors. It is hoped that this program will be utilized by coaches at many NCHSAA member schools. ★

THE VISION for the NCHSAA is that it will be the national model for developing and inspiring greatness through interscholastic athletic experiences.

Jerry McGee Scholarship Winners Named By NCHSAA

CHAPEL HILL—Kayla Rae Montgomery of Mount Tabor High School in Winston-Salem and Christian Sidney Miles of Walter Williams High in Burlington have been named winners of the annual Jerry McGee Endowed Scholarships awarded by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

The two outstanding student-athletes were recognized during the North Carolina Coaches Association clinic in Greensboro, at the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association (NCADA) Leadership Academy held as part of the clinic week.

The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of donors to the fund in honor of the long-time NCADA executive director Jerry McGee. McGee is a member of both the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the National High School Sports Hall of Fame. Awarded to two senior year high school student-athletes from NCHSAA member schools each year,

this award is unique because it honors both male and female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves by overcoming adversity and returned to excel beyond expectations in their scholastic sport. The NCADA Awards Committee selects recipients with approval by the NCADA Executive Board.

Montgomery was earlier named the Gatorade North Carolina Girls' Cross Country Runner of the Year in North Carolina and has excelled in cross country, indoor and outdoor track, earning 12 varsity letters. She won the NCHSAA state 4-A cross country championship in 2013, earned a state crown in indoor track and then won the 3200 state title in the 4-A outdoor meet. Amazingly, she achieved all these athletic accomplishments despite dealing with multiple sclerosis.

She has been very active with her church, going abroad on several mission trips, and will continue her career at Lipscomb University in Tennessee.

Miles was a football quarterback and baseball outfielder during his first three years at Williams and then played football and ran track as a senior. An A-B Honor Roll student at Williams, he was also involved with the Williams DREAM team and was a campaign leader for Toys For Tots. He will be attending Guilford College and playing football there this fall.

Miles and his teammates had to endure the sudden death of fellow Bulldog Harry Cohen, who had played quarterback and Miles had been the backup. Miles had to step into that role and then was diagnosed himself with a congenital heart defect that sidelined him, requiring surgery during the Christmas holidays in 2011. But he battled back and was eventually able to play baseball in the spring of '12 and returned to the football field as well.

Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship to further his or her education at the college level. ★

Alexander Central Star Earns Gatorade Softball Award

CHICAGO—In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, has announced Vada Sherrill of Alexander Central High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year. Sherrill is the second Gatorade North Carolina Softball Player of the Year to be chosen from Alexander Central High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Sherrill as North Carolina's best high school softball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Softball Player of the Year award announced in June, Sherrill joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Alicia Hollowell (2000-01, Fairfield HS, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo

HS, Calif.), Angela Tinch (2002-03, James River HS, Va.) and Kenzie Fowler (2006-07, Canyon del Oro HS, Ariz.).

The 5-foot-8 junior second baseman led the Cougars to a 35-0 record, a No. 1 ranking in the USA Today/NFCA Top 25 and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A championship. She set an NCHSAA state record this year by scoring 60 runs and is the North Piedmont Conference Player of the Year and an All-State selection.

Sherrill has maintained a 3.94 GPA in the classroom. A talented singer and a devoted member of her church youth group, she has volunteered locally on behalf of a nursing home and a food pantry.

"Sherrill is a phenomenal leadoff hitter," said Carlee Carpenter, head coach at North Lincoln High. "She not only does a great job of getting on base, but nine times out of 10, when she gets on, she will score. She also drives in runs as well or better than most clean-up hitters. She's the total package."

Sherrill will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year pro-

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

Sherrill joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Softball Players of the Year Lexi Shubert (2012-13, Fred T. Foard), Lexi Davis (2011-12, Porter Ridge), Chelsea Wilkinson (2010-11 & 2009-10, Alexander Central), Tisha Mahon (2008-09, North Davidson), Chelsea Leonard (2007-08, Central Davidson), and Ashton Ward (2006-07, Butler) among the state's list of former award winners. ★

Apex Standout Captures Gatorade Girls Track and Field Honor

CHICAGO—In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Sydnei Murphy of Apex High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Murphy is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Apex High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Murphy as North Carolina's best high school girls track & field athlete.

Murphy joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Ia.) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-4 junior soared 19 feet, 5.25 inches to win the long jump and leapt 39-7.5 to capture the triple jump at the Class 4A state championship meet this spring. Murphy also finished second in the triple jump and third in the long jump at the New Balance Nationals Outdoor championship. Her season-best effort of 41-7.25 in the triple jump ranked as the nation's No. 3 distance among prep competitors in 2014 at the time of her selection.

Murphy has maintained a weighted 4.37 GPA in the classroom. A devoted member of her church community and a math tutor in her school, she has volunteered locally on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and youth sports programs.

"Sydnei is one of the hardest working athletes that we have had in our program in the past 30 years," said Apex coach Roy Cooper. "This year she was willing to add the triple jump as one of her events, and she broke the school record on her first attempt and ultimately won the state championship."

Murphy will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

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

In Memorium

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

DIEGO HASTY

GASTON—Veteran football coach and athletic administrator Diego Hasty died suddenly of a heart attack in late July at the age of 60.

He had been serving as head football coach and athletic director at KIPP Pride in Gaston in Northampton County. He also coached basketball there.

His career had been spent primarily in the northeastern portion of the state. His coaching stops included Weldon, Northampton-East for 15 seasons, two stints at Northampton-West, Hertford County and KIPP Pride. He guided Northampton-West to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A football championship game in 2005, where his team lost to Elkin.

Hasty won more than 200 games during his career as a head coach, which spanned

over 35 years. He was a 1977 graduate of Elon and had been an outstanding athlete in high school at Northampton High.

HERMAN HINES

REIDSVILLE—North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame member Herman Hines died on Wednesday at the age of 87.

He passed away at Greensboro Place Assisted Living. Funeral services will be Monday at 1:00 pm. at Zion Baptist Church in Reidsville. Visitation will be 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm prior to the service. Burial will follow in Greenvew Cemetery. Public viewing will be Sunday, August 3 from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm at McLaurin Funeral Home.

He touched just about every base one could during his long career related to athletics.

A graduate of Darden High and a 1950 graduate of then North Carolina College, Hines embarked on a career in education that saw him teach, serve as a principal and even serve on the school board, all in his home area of Reidsville.

In athletics, he also made his mark serving as a game official at both the high school and collegiate levels for many years. Hines was a booking agent in basketball for the NCHSAA and then served a supervisor of officials, helping recruit and train officials.

Hines has been honored by induction in both the North Carolina Central University Hall of Fame (1985) and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame (1997). He joined the NCHSAA Hall of Fame in the class of 2002-03. ★

Cardinal Gibbons Standout Named Gatorade North Carolina Female Soccer Player of the Year for Outstanding 2014 Year

CHICAGO—In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, has announced Morgan Reid of Cardinal Gibbons High School as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Reid is the first Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Player of the Year to be chosen from Cardinal Gibbons High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Reid as North Carolina's best high school girls soccer player.

Reid joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Alexi Lalas (1987-88, Cranbrook HS, Mich.), Heather O'Reilly (2001-02, East Brunswick HS, N.J.) and Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.).

The 5-foot-6 senior midfielder led the Crusaders to a 20-2-2 record as they advanced to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association quarterfinals before losing to eventual state champion Chapel Hill. Reid scored 22 goals and passed for nine assists through 21 games, missing the first two state tournament games to participate in a training camp with the U.S. Soccer Under-20 Women's National Team. A two-time club Youth All-American selection by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, she is also a two-time Class 3A First Team All-State honoree. She entered the postseason with 56 goals and 50 assists in her prep soccer career.

Reid has maintained an A average in the classroom. A student ambassador at Cardinal Gibbons, she has volunteered locally with Adopt-

A-Family, providing goods and gifts to underprivileged families, and as a youth basketball referee.

"Morgan Reid is a great player," said Scott Summers, head coach of Hunt High. "She reads the field really well, she makes quick decisions and is very vocal."

Reid has signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer on an athletic scholarship at Duke University this fall.

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Reid joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Girls Soccer Players of the Year Alexis Shaffer (2012-13 & 2011-12, Green Hope High School), Caroline Lindquist (2010-11, Ravenscroft School), Mollie Pathman (2009-10 & 2008-09, Durham Academy), Nicole Danford (2007-08, Green Hope), and Nicole Panek (2006-07, Mount Tabor) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

Helpful Information About 2014-2015 NCHSAA Handbook



The Handbook of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association has undergone a major transformation, as it has been redesigned and restructured to help you better locate particular topics in an orderly fashion. We hope you find it easy to use as you apply our rules, regulations, policies, and procedures and being to become familiar with it.

The Handbook has been reorganized into six parts: Introduction (Staff, Board Members, Table of Contents, Calendar, Regional Meetings, Articles of Incorporation, and Bylaws), Section 1 (Student), Section 2 (School), Section 3 (State), Section 4 (Interscholastic Athletic Activities), and Appendix (History, Conferences, Index, and Corporate Sponsors).

To familiarize yourself with the new format of the Handbook, here are some recommendations:

- **Review the "Changes for 2014-2015" on the inside of the front cover.** *Italicized print identifies information that is a part of the bolded print listed above it (i.e. *Italicized*)*
- ***Sport by Sport Officials* Information underneath **Officiating**.** Most of the changes will also be noted in the Handbook immediately after the rule (i.e. **Revised: December 2014**).
- **Review the Table of Contents beginning on Page 4.** Look through the items listed under each section. Note rule number on the left hand side and page number on the right hand side (i.e. 1.1.1 Initial Eligibility and page number 20) of the page.
- **Review the Index beginning on Page 128.** The bolded print is an alphabeti-

cal listing of main items located in the handbook. *Italicized print indicates an item that is a part of the main bolded print item listed above it (i.e. *Date of First Practice*, *Date of First Game*, etc. located below **Baseball: General**).* Rule and page numbers are listed beside the items.

- **Note additions to this year's Handbook:** Health and Safety (2.5, page 39) and Officiating (3.3, page 53)
- **Note sidebars on pages indicating the main item on this page.**
- **Look over Handbook and notice the new numbering system:** Basketball Mercy Rule 4.3.1.o, Coach Not Attending Rules Clinic 3.2.2.d.22, and Wrestling LAT or First Responder Required 4.14.1.f.1. ★

Rules Changes Approved In High School Baseball, Softball

INDIANAPOLIS—Beginning with the 2015 high school baseball season, teams will be allowed to use video monitoring or replay equipment for coaching purposes during games.

This revision to Rule 3-3-1 was one of five changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Baseball Rules Committee at its June meeting in Indianapolis. The committee's recommendations were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Previously, video equipment was permitted but it could not be used during games for coaching purposes.

"With advancements in technology, it was extremely difficult for officials to determine if teams were using video replay during games," said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of sports and educational services and liaison to the Baseball Rules Committee. "The committee determined it was the right time to permit teams to use these technological aids if they so choose."

In softball, two rules changes were recommended by the NFHS Softball Rules Committee at its June meeting in Indianapolis and subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Rules 1-6-1 and 1-7-1 were revised to state that the batting helmet and the catcher's helmet

shall have a non-glare surface (not mirror-like).

Theresa Wynn, NFHS director of sports and officials education and liaison to the Softball Rules Committee, said the committee instituted these changes because helmets that are mirror-like in nature are distracting and could be dangerous for other players.

In other baseball rules changes, the committee expanded the definition of interference in Rule 2-21 to include follow-through interference and backswing interference.

Rule 2-21-4 will state that "follow-through interference is when the ball hits the catcher after the batter has swung at a pitch and hinders action at home plate or the catcher's attempt to play on a runner," and Rule 2-21-5 will state that "backswing interference is when a batter contacts the catcher or his equipment prior to the time of the pitch."

Hopkins said that follow-through interference and backswing interference are separate and distinct acts that previously were not addressed in Rule 2-21. The rule previously covered offensive, umpire and spectator interference.

The rules committee approved a change in Rule 1-5-1 regarding the batting helmet to be consistent with the rule for helmets used by defensive players. As is the case with head

protection worn by field players, the batting helmet now must have a non-glare surface (cannot be mirror-like in nature) and meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.

The definition of a foul ball in Rule 2-16-1 was expanded to be consistent with language elsewhere in the rules book. Specifically, Rule 2-16-1f will now state that a foul is a batted ball "that hits the batter in the batter's box." Article "g" will state that a foul is a batted ball "that hits the ground or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat which is held by the batter while he is in the batter's box."

The final change approved by the Baseball Rules Committee involves the following additional language to Courtesy Runner Rule No. 1: "In the event that the offensive team bats around, the pitcher and/or catcher who had a courtesy runner inserted on their behalf may bat in their normal position in the batting order."

Baseball is the fourth-most popular sport for boys at the high school level with 474,791 participants in 15,632 schools during the 2012-13 season, according to the NFHS Athletics Participation Survey. Fast-pitch softball is the fifth-most popular sport for girls at the high school level with 362,488 participants in 15,067 schools during the 2012-13 season. ★

North Carolina Teams Sweep South Carolina In Soccer Clash of Carolinas

CHARLESTON, SC—The North Carolina high school all-stars won both ends of the eighth annual Clash of the Carolinas soccer all-star games at Blackbaud Stadium on Daniel Island against the best from South Carolina.

North Carolina won both the women's game and the men's match by 2-1 scores.

Carrboro's Caroline Houser scored a goal in the 79th minute to left North Carolina to victory in the women's contest.

The Clash of the Carolinas is billed as the "nation's only interstate all-star game" for high school soccer players. ★

North Carolina Coaches Association Lists Coaches For All-Star Games In 2015

GREENSBORO—The North Carolina Coaches Association has announced its list of coaches for its annual East-West all-star games, played in conjunction with the North Carolina Coaches Association clinic each July.

In men's basketball, Larry Edwards of Southeast Halifax will serve as the East head coach, assisted by D.H. Conley's Rob Maloney. David Rhoney of Clyde Erwin will be the head coach of the West, assisted by Graham's Mike Williams.

The East head coach for the women's basketball all-star game is Durham Hillside's Ovester Grays, with Clayton's Marion Lee assisting. Randy Joines of Bunker Hill will serve as the head coach for the West squad with Deborah Jones of Greensboro Page the assistant coach.

Richmond Senior's Bennie Howard has been named head coach of the East team for the men's soccer match, while Seth Davis of Forbush will lead the West. The women's soccer game will pit East head coach Amy Green of the Durham School of the Arts against

David Smith of Cornelius Hough for the West.

In the football all-star game, Jimmy Williams of West Johnston will be the East head coach. His staff will include Michael Hobgood (South Granville), Clarence Inscore (Millbrook), Tim Laspada (Swansboro), Chris Lee (Louisburg) and Rodney Quick (Scotland County).

The West head coach will be Mike Newsome of Kannapolis A.L. Brown. His coaching staff includes Josh Brooks (Franklin), Steven Davis (Greensboro Dudley), Kevin Gillespie (Greensboro Page), Joey Robinson (Mountain Heritage) and Robert "Spider" Thompson (Statesville).

The NCCA also selects the head coaches for the annual North Carolina-South Carolina all-star basketball games, pitting top players from the two states. Chris East of Raleigh Millbrook will serve as the head coach of the North Carolina women's team, assisted by Asheboro's Terry Allmon. Ricky Edwards of North Duplin will head the North Carolina men's staff, with the assistant coach Al Andrew of Albemarle. ★

**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER
HANDBOOKS AND DIRECTORIES**
using the form on the
NCHSAA web site!

Prohibition of Jewelry Lifted By NFHS In Track and Field

INDIANAPOLIS—Effective with the 2015 high school track and field season, the prohibition of jewelry will be eliminated.

This was one of several rules changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Track and Field Rules Committee at its summer meeting in Indianapolis. The committee's recommendations were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

Becky Oakes, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Track and Field Rules Committee, said the committee determined that prohibiting jewelry in high school track and field and cross country is not necessary.

"The wearing of jewelry ordinarily presents little risk of injury to either the competitor or opponents," Oakes said. "Elimination of the rule allows officials to focus on meet administration directly related to actual competition. Coaches continue to have the obligation to see that competitors are properly equipped."

In other changes, language regarding the time limit to initiate a trial in the throwing and jumping events was revised. Previously, competitors in these events had to initiate a trial and carry it to completion within one minute. Beginning next year, participants must only initiate the trial within the one-minute time limit. Completion of the event will be allowed beyond the prescribed time.

Another change was made in field events involving implements. In events such as the shot put, discus, javelin and pole vault, an additional trial will be allowed when an implement breaks – and thus becomes illegal – during competition due to no fault of the competitor.

The revised note in Rules 6-2-17 and 7-2-17 reads as follows: "If a legal implement breaks during an attempt in accordance with the rules,

no penalty shall be counted against the competitor and a replacement trial shall be awarded. If the implement breaks upon completion of the trial, a replacement attempt shall not be awarded and the results of the trial shall be recorded, provided it was made in accordance with the rules."

In the discus throw, it no longer will be a foul if a competitor is out of control when exiting the back half of the circle. Also, in the discus, shot put and javelin, the requirement for the judge to call "mark" was eliminated.

Another change involves the high jump and pole vault events. A new article in Rule 7-2 will state that "a crossbar displaced by a force disassociated with the competitor after he/she is legally and clearly over the crossbar shall not be a fault and is considered a successful attempt."

In Rule 8 involving special events, the committee approved the 1,500-meter run as an alternate for the 1,600-meter run in the decathlon and pentathlon. Oakes said when using the IAAF standard scoring, the 1,500-meter run is the standard distance. In addition, the indoor weight throw was approved for the listing of special events.

The final change involves Rule 1-4 on indoor track. Since many indoor meets are held in college facilities, the committee approved the 60-meter high hurdles and dash as alternates for the 55-meter high hurdles and dash. Oakes said this option eliminates special marking of the facilities for the hurdles and dash.

Track and field is the second-most popular sport for boys with 580,672 participants in 16,001 schools and is the No. 1 sport for girls with 472,939 participants in 15,962 schools during the 2012-13 season, according to the NFHS Athletics Participation Survey. ★

Special Feature Articles Are Added To NCHSAA Website

Some new features have begun on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association website may be of interest to member schools.

One is called "Compliance Corner," and will simply feature a question about rules, regulations and policies with the NCHSAA and the answer, almost always with the specific Handbook reference.

The Compliance Corner will be one of the headline stories each Monday. Many of the questions will come directly from those that the NCHSAA staff has fielded from principals, athletic directors or coaches.

The other feature is entitled "FOUR QUESTIONS—A CONVERSATION WITH...", a headline story that is basically an interview with somebody who is involved with high school athletics in North Carolina. Among the possibilities are NCHSAA staff members, principals, athletic directors, coaches, superintendents, media representatives, game officials or others involved with high school athletics.

The first installment in that series was an interview with NCHSAA commissioner Davis Whitfield. "Four Questions" will regularly appear on Thursdays on the website during the academic year.

A "North Carolina Honor Roll" has been developed to recognize the increasing number of coaches who are embarking on professional development. The Honor Roll honors those who have taken the ap-

propriate courses through the National Federation to earn Accredited Interscholastic Coach (AIC) status.

The Honor Roll will be updated regularly and can be found under Schools in the navigation bar at the top of the front page, and then scroll down to the link for the North Carolina Honor Roll.

We hope you will find these new features both informative and interesting, and we plan to try to continue to run the series throughout the academic year.

There are also a couple of recurring features that are continuing. "This Day In NCHSAA History" highlights a significant accomplishment or new item that occurred on a particular day in history. With the nature of what the NCHSAA does, it is just about impossible to find Association activities or historical information for certain dates during the summer, but our research has put together about 300 of those dates and we will continue to run them throughout the year.

The "Association Spotlight" is a periodic feature highlighting some of the special programs and scholarship opportunities that are available to NCHSAA member schools, such as the Wells Fargo Cup, the Conference Cup, Scholar-Athlete, the student services program, and many others. ★

The National High School Sports Record Book can be purchased from the National Federation of State High School Associations.

A number of North Carolinians are among the national record holders. More information is available at (317) 972-6900.

T.C. Roberson Athlete Selected By Gatorade Company As North Carolina Baseball Player of The Year For 2014

CHICAGO—In its 29th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with USA TODAY High School Sports, today announced Braxton Davidson of T.C. Roberson as its 2013-14 Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Player of the Year. Davidson is the third Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from T.C. Roberson.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Davidson as North Carolina's best high school baseball player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Baseball Player of the Year, Davidson joins an elite alumni association of past state award-winners in 12 sports, including Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Roy Halladay (1994-95, Arvada West HS, Colo.), David Price (2003-04, Blackman HS, Tenn.), Chipper Jones (1989-90, Bolles School, Fla.), Derek Lee (1992-93, El Camino HS, Calif.) and John Lester (2001-02, Bellarmine Prep, Wash.).

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound senior left-handed pitcher compiled a 4-2 record with four saves, a 1.94 ERA and 81 strikeouts in 47 innings this past season, leading the Rams (16-11) to the second round of the Class 4A state tournament. A returning Class 4A First Team All-State selection as named by the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association, Davidson, also a first baseman and center fielder, batted .462 with five home runs, 11 doubles, 14 stolen bases, 20 RBI and 34 runs scored. He participated in the Perfect Game All-American Classic this past summer at PETCO Park in San Diego, Calif.

Davidson has maintained a 3.58 weighted GPA in the classroom. In addition to volunteering daily with Roberson's Progressive Education Program, he has served as a youth instructor on behalf of the Ted E. Tourist Adaptive Baseball League.

"He's a beast," said Alex Smith, head coach at rival McDowell High.

"He's far different than most high school players we normally see year in and year out. He's so good at the plate and in the field. He's pretty dang good on the mound. He's controlled and throws strikes. He just has so many tools."

Davidson has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at the University of North Carolina this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft.

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

Davidson joins recent Gatorade North Carolina Baseball Players of the Year Ryder Jones (2012-13, Watauga High School), Corey Seager (2011-12, Northwest Cabarrus High School), Dillon Maples (2010 - 11, Pinecrest High School), Matt Roberts (2009-10, Graham), Brian Goodwin (2008-09, Rocky Mount), Tyler Hanover (2007-08, North Davidson), and Madison Bumgarner (2006-2007, South Caldwell) among the state's list of former award winners.

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

NCHSAA Website Wins International Blue Drop Award

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association website has been honored as the Best Sports Website in the 2014 Blue Drop Awards.

Created in 2012, the Blue Drop Awards is an annual international award that honors excellence in Drupal web development.

"We were very excited to learn that DesignHammer had won this prestigious award for their redesign of our North Carolina High School Athletic Association website," said NCHSAA Commissioner Davis Whitfield. "They were very responsive to our input and we have received a tremendous number of positive comments by visitors to our site."

Drupal is a popular free open source content management system that powers more than one million websites worldwide. The CMS is used by prominent entities such as the White House, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Louvre.

More 120 Drupal websites from 19 countries were community nominated in 18 categories, with a selection of finalists moving forward for community voting. The winners were announced at Drupalcon, the world's premiere Drupal conference, which took place in Austin, Texas this year.

The NCHSAA collaborated with DesignHammer to launch a website built on the Drupal 7 platform, the current version of the popular content management system.

"DesignHammer delivered an ideal website that is professional, innovative, and allows us to communicate with our various target audiences," said Quanta Holden, Assistant Director of Communications at the NCHSAA.

Drupal is highly flexible CMS with more than 10,000 community-contributed modules to extend its functionality. Drupal contains an abundant list of features and add-ons to provide for a variety of content needs.

"Drupal offers freedom for developers to create something innovative, as well as plenty of room for growth as an organization's goals and needs change over time," said DesignHammer Developer Kosta Harlan.

Two additional DesignHammer projects were selected as finalists for the award, with The Carolina Theatre in the running for Best Entertainment Website and the Raleigh Rescue Mission for Best Fundraising Website.

Founded in 2001, DesignHammer is an award winning, full-service website design and development agency. The firm specializes in graphic design, content management systems, online application development, search engine optimization, usability and hosting, with experience in serving the needs of organizations of all sizes. ★

Spring Scholar-Athlete Winners Named By NCHSAA

CHAPEL HILL—High school students in the spring semester earned over 18,000 individual awards for achievements in the classroom as well as on the playing court or athletic field.

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association made the awards in its Scholar-Athlete program presented by the North Carolina National Guard, which includes recognition of varsity teams that attain certain grades as well as individual athletes.

A total of 8,232 student-athletes earned the individual Scholar-Athlete award.

Individual Scholar-Athletes attained at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester in which he or she competed. The award is based on first semester grades for fall and winter sports and second semester grades for spring sports, and the school submits the nomination form verifying the grade point average on behalf of the athlete or team.

In the team division, a varsity team earns Scholar-Athlete recognition by attaining a 3.1 aggregate GPA for that designated semester. The school receives a certificate from the Association honoring the accomplishment and each member of the squad will also receive a certificate. A total of 10,332 individual awards were given in this category, and 498 varsity teams captured team honors.

A minimum of five individuals is necessary to constitute a team, and all team members must be included in figuring the team GPA. The team achieving the highest grade point average in the state in its particular sport and submitting its application by the appropriate deadline receives a plaque commemorating that achievement.

“We are extremely proud of the achievements of these outstanding

student-athletes,” said Davis Whitfield, NCHSAA commissioner. “Our Scholar-Athlete program demonstrates that we have a tremendous number of athletes who are participating in athletics and succeeding in the classroom.”

Weddington captured top honors in three sports and West Wilkes was a double winner.

The Scholar-Athlete recognition has been a part of the NCHSAA program for over 25 years. Over 1,200 varsity teams were recognized during the 2013-14 academic year and over 37,000 certificates were presented.

NCHSAA SCHOLAR-ATHLETE TEAM AWARD WINNERS

NCHSAA Spring Sports 2014

Presented by the North Carolina National Guard

SPORT	SCHOOL	GPA
Softball	West Wilkes	3.720
Baseball	West Wilkes	3.670
Men's Tennis	Wilkes Central	3.904
Women's Soccer	Weddington	3.759
Men's Track	Weddington	3.492
Women's Track	Avery	3.800
Men's Golf	Union Pines	3.650
Women's Lacrosse	Weddington	3.560
Men's Lacrosse	Page	3.333

Sites Finalized For NCHSAA Regional Basketball Tournaments

CHAPEL HILL—The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has announced its two regional basketball tournament sites for the 2014-15 season.

The Eastern Regional event will once again be played in Fayetteville, while the Western Regional tournament will return to Winston-Salem. The dates for the tournaments are March 3 through March 7.

In the Eastern Regional, games will be held at the Crown Coliseum complex, at both the Crown Arena and Crown Coliseum. In Winston-Salem, tournament games are planned at the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum and the coliseum annex.

“We are pleased to be returning to the Crown Coliseum complex for our Eastern Regional basketball tournament as well as to Winston-Salem for our Western Regional. We are extending the contracts at the two sites for an additional year,” said Davis Whitfield, NCHSAA commissioner. “The Cumberland County schools have been an exceptional host in the East, and the city of Fayetteville and the Crown complex have worked hard to provide a wonderful atmosphere for our participating schools.

“And due to other needs for the Greensboro Special Events Center, the Greensboro Sports Commission, Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem have once again opened their athletic facilities to the NCHSAA for our event. In typical Wake Forest fashion, we anticipate our student-athletes will have a first-class experience.”

Whitfield also said that the University of North Carolina at Greensboro had been a great host for Western Regional games during the last few years and noted the university’s continuing willingness to work with the NCHSAA.

Fayetteville had been an Eastern Regional host city earlier, with the tournament calling Cumberland County home from 1987 through ‘90. The regionals were held in Greenville from 1990 until the 2010-11 season, when they moved back to Fayetteville, where they have been for the past four years. Winston-Salem hosted the Western tournament for several years until it moved to Greensboro, where it has been since 2009.

Winners in the NCHSAA playoffs advance to regional play, with four men’s teams and four women’s teams from each classification qualifying. The winners from the regionals advance to state championship games. ★

UPDATING SCHOOL INFORMATION—

Schools are urged to keep this information current throughout the year to make sure email notices go to the appropriate personnel, so if you have changes, please make sure you make the appropriate adjustments in your school information on line with the NCHSAA.

West Sweeps Pair In All-Star Basketball In Greensboro

GREENSBORO—The West All-Stars swept a pair of games from their counterparts from the East in the North Carolina Coaches Association basketball all-star games at the Greensboro Coliseum during NCCA Clinic Week.

The West women took an 82-68 triumph while the West men downed the East 98-86.

The opening game saw the West women assume command with a 9-0 run late in the first half after trailing 17-16 after one quarter. The West pushed the advantage to as many as 20 points in the second half.

Shaylen Burnett of Southern Alamance was named the game's Most Valuable Player, as she scored 16 points, pulled down eight re-

bounds and handed out seven assists. She is headed to Elon University.

Cameron Nieters of Bishop McGuinness and Myers Park's Saadia Timpton each scored 13 points, while Malaya Johnson of North Surry scored 12, hitting six of six from the floor, and Sheridan Pressley of Pisgah added 10. Johnson will attend Elon.

Jamie Cherry of West Craven, a University of North Carolina recruit, led the East with 24 points, including hitting five shots from beyond the arc. Fayetteville E.E. Smith's Alecia Hardy scored 13.

In the men's game, the West held a 49-40 advantage at halftime before the East rallied

to cut it to two late in the third quarter. The West responded and moved to a 17-point advantage, and the East could get no closer than six at 92-86 with 1:25 to play.

Greensboro Page's Jeremy Harris led the way for the winners, scoring 24 points on nine of 14 shooting from the field, and he was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

James Tillman of Kings Mountain scored 16 and Weddington's Brandon Watts 14, including three three-pointers, for the West.

Ricky Council II of Northern Durham was the top scorer for the East with 21 points. Deshawn High of Bunn added 15 and Dante Battle of Rocky Mount scored 13. ★

East-West Football All-Star Game Ends in Tie

GREENSBORO—The East and West battled to a 10-10 deadlock in the North Carolina Coaches Association football all-star game at Jamieson Stadium.

The West, which trailed 10-0 with five minutes to go, rallied to put together a 63-yard march in the final minute of the contest to get to the East 18 with four seconds to go, where West kicker Luke Hayek of Shelby booted a 35-yard field goal to knot the score. It was the first tie in the East-West gridiron series in 40 years

and only second in the history of the game.

Kenneth Purvis of Central Cabarrus had scored the West touchdown earlier in the fourth quarter and Hayak had booted the point after.

The East scored all of its points in a burst, in three plays spanning just 11 seconds of the second quarter.

Nick Christiansen of Clayton kicked a 31-yard field goal with 7:14 to go in the second quarter to put the East in front 3-0. Then

Christiansen's kickoff was fumbled by the West and recovered at the 4-yard line by the East. One play later, Clayton's Diquon Cox ran it in and Christiansen's extra point made it 10-0.

Purvis led the West rushing attack with 70 yards in 10 carries. Diquan Cox of Richmond picked up 82 yards in 15 attempts to lead the East. Logan Bradley of Gastonia Forestview completed seven of 14 passes for 96 yards for the West team. ★

West Women, East Men Victorious in NCCA All-Star Soccer Contests

GREENSBORO—The West women and the East men won in convincing fashion in the North Carolina Coaches Association soccer all-star games at UNC-Greensboro.

The West women rolled to a 4-1 victory and the East men scored a 5-2 triumph.

In the women's game, the West led 1-0 at halftime after an own goal, but then scored twice within a 10-minute period in the second half to assume command. Erin Settle of Mooresville, who scored the West's final goal, was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

The West attempted 20 shots to 13 for the East.

Caroline Houser of Carrboro had the only goal for the East. Other West goals were scored by Charlotte Catholic's Lindsey Tully and Southeast Guilford's Meredith Dunker.

The East forged a 2-1 lead in the men's contest and then had three second-half goals, winding up with a total of 24 shots to 15 for the West.

Tyler George of New Hanover, who scored the first goal for the East and assisted on another, was named the game's Most Valuable Player. The East scored twice in two minutes, with George and then Bronson Watts of Camden finding the back of the net.

Raleigh Sanderson's Ryan Turner of the East had two goals within an eight-minute span in the second half. Mitchell Brown of Mount Airy and Jordan Couch of Smoky Mountain tallied for the West.

It was the third win for the East in the series in the last five years and the East has an 11-8-4 edge in the series. ★

RECORD BREAKERS?

Don't forget, if you have any potential state or national listings for the record book, there is a form on line to send that information for consideration.

Help us to make our state and national books as inclusive and complete as possible.

Any questions call Rick Strunk at (919) 240-7367.

And don't forget to check the latest version of the state record book on line!

Restart Procedure Altered In High School Boys Lacrosse

INDIANAPOLIS—Restarts by the defensive team no longer will be required to take place outside the goal area in high school boys lacrosse, so long as any player is not within 5 yards of the ball carrier.

This revision in Rule 4-22 was one of 11 changes recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee at its July meeting in Indianapolis. The committee's recommendations were subsequently approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

On a violation by the offensive team where the defensive team is to be awarded the ball, the defensive team no longer has to restart play outside the goal area. With this revision, the defensive team could now restart play from the goal area or in the crease.

"This change will allow the defense to restart play more quickly and will keep the game moving," said Kent Summers, director of performing arts and sports and liaison to the rules committee. "It also addresses risk minimization by maintaining the requirement for all players to be at least 5 yards from the ball carrier on the restart."

Other changes concerned with minimizing the risk of injury include Rules 1-7-3 and 2-1-3. In Rule 1-7-3 concerning the crosse, any strings or leathers will be limited to a hanging length of 2 inches. In addition, any additional strings or laces (e.g., shooting strings, V channels) must be located within 4 inches of the top of the crosse. No more than one side-wall string on each side is allowed.

"This revision will allow the ball to become dislodged more easily, thus reducing the risk of slashes and cross-checks used to dislodge the ball," Summers said. "This rules change will create more active play and improve passing."

With a revision in Rule 2-1-3, a game no longer can be continued if a team has fewer than seven on-field players because of lack of available players, injuries, penalties, etc. The result of the game shall be determined by the state association or appropriate sponsoring authority.

Another change approved by the Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee involved the duties and authority of the Chief Bench Official (CBO). Rule 2-7-2 now states that the CBO "shall supervise and have complete jurisdiction over the timekeeper, penalty timekeepers, scorers, coaches,

substitutes and any other persons within the bench areas, the special substitution area and the penalty box."

This rule also will now include the procedure for the CBO to call violations and apply appropriate penalties, as well as how to inform the on-field officials when violations occur.

Following are other changes approved by the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee (rule references are from the 2014 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book).

- Rule 1-6-2: Added the following procedure to check to make sure the ball can easily roll out of the head of the crosse – "...With the ball in the crosse, horizontal to the ground at the deepest point of the pocket, tip the crosse forward 90 degrees to ensure that the ball rolls out of the top end of the head."
- Rule 2-10-1: Balls on the bench side are needed only at the table and not along the sideline.
- Rule 3-1-2: More clearly defined when the running clock begins in those games where the score differential reaches 12 goals or more.
- Rule 5-5: A player using a crosse found to be illegal for not meeting any required specification other than a deep pocket will receive a three-minute non-releasable penalty (except hanging string length and end caps as in Rule 1-7-3). Also, any crosse ruled illegal and resulting in a three-minute penalty will remain in the table area for the remainder of the game.
- Rule 6-4: Added "with his feet no wider than shoulder-width apart" to the section on illegal offensive screening.
- Rule 6-5-2e: The 30-second penalty has been erased in situations when a goal is scored by the opponent.
- Rule 6-5-2w: "Take a dive or feigning a slash to the head or body in order to deceive the official and draw a penalty" was added to the examples of illegal procedure.

A total of 101,687 boys participated in lacrosse during the 2012-13 season according to the NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey. ★

Alexander Central Coach Earns National Softball Honor

Alexander Central High School head softball coach Monte Sherrill has been named the National Softball Coach of the Year by MaxPreps.

Sherrill led his team to a perfect 35-0 record and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A softball championship. Alexander Central was actually ranked second nationally to Amador Valley of California in the MaxPreps Xcellent 25 final rankings.

According to MaxPreps, "This season was so rewarding because we learned to win in a different style," said Sherrill, 49. "Before, we had Chelsea Wilkinson (Georgia All-American in 2014) and she struck out two of every three batters. She graduated and we had to invent a new style of play—more emphasis on defense, hitting, pick-off plays and baserunning.

"Our baserunning was something to behold," said Sherrill, who has guided Central to four state titles in the last six seasons. "Our baserunning put us on another level."

Alexander Central, which set an NCHSAA state record for runs scored (426), will enter the 2015 season riding a 67-game winning streak.

On March 27, Sherrill recorded his 700th win (against just 59 losses). His next coaching victory will be his 722nd.

Sherrill noted that "this team was all about AC (Alexander Central). I am so proud of our two pitchers, Kiana Millsaps and Bailey Rhoney, who shared time without any ego. They worked together and supported one another. It was special to be a part of."

In addition, Sherrill got to share the 2014 season with daughters Bailey Sherrill and Vada Sherrill. Bailey, a senior, earned the MVP award at the state tournament, and Vada, a junior, was the North Carolina Gatorade State Player of the Year. ★

NCHSAA Hall of Famer Reflects On High School Athletic History

Tim Stevens of the Raleigh News and Observer is a member of both the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the National High School Hall of Fame. He authored the special 100th anniversary commemorative book for the NCHSAA.

As the News and Observer celebrates its 120th anniversary, he had an opportunity to reflect on some high school athletic memories in a special column for the paper. Reprinted with permission.

The definition of “most memorable” is pretty easy for me. Whatever I remember is most memorable.

But much of what I remember probably isn’t very noteworthy in the grand scheme of things. My first basketball game was at old Henderson Vance High in the spring of 1967. I remember returning the next year and getting lost. I ended up in Virginia, my first trip out of state. Those memories probably register on no one else’s memory chart.

The same is true of my first football game in the fall of ’67, when Clayton played Meadow. I remember former Clayton football coach Glenn Nixon saying after a win at Apex in a downpour that the last time he’d seen a game played under those conditions was in the leather helmet days. In hindsight, that might have been no exaggeration. I remember I couldn’t get in the announcer’s booth and my notes washed away.

I remember when Oxford Webb played in a basketball gym where spectators could beat on the ceiling and when Bunn played in a gym with all the bleachers on one side. Fuquay-Varina was a girls’ basketball power in the late 1960s behind the play of Sheila Cotton, but back then there was no state playoffs for girls.

I once was the only white guy in the gym.

Baseball was played on a red-clay infield, and the 100 referred to yards, not meters. Track athletes competed in the hop, skip and jump. A local athletics director said the school would add swimming if the kids were willing to practice in the Neuse River.

I also remember plenty of stories I wish I hadn’t written, or had written a different way. There have been times when I literally threw up because of printed mistake.

But those are my memories and not really the most memorable events in covering high school athletics for about 50 years. In honor of The N&O’s 120th birthday Tuesday, here are some of the more memorable things that have happened to high school athletics in North Carolina. Some are good. Some, I think, are bad. Some are just different.

- 1 Adding girls sports: High school athletics was dragged into gender equality by Title IX. Adding girls’ athletics ranks with integration as the best things that ever happened to high school athletics.
- 2 Values based programs: Charlie Adams, then the executive director the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, met me for lunch – I had blackened shrimp with cheese potatoes – to say high school athletics had to embrace character education and start emphasizing the values that were being taught. I asked whose values? Everybody should agree honesty, sportsmanship, dedication, fair play, accountability and healthy lifestyles are commendable, he said. Soon character-based education became the mantra of high school athletics.
- 3 Emergence of other sports: Coach Bob Catapano’s Sanderson Spartans once went a national record 109 consecutive games without a loss during the mid 1980s. Catapano changed the way high school soccer was covered in the state and set the stage for coverage in all sports instead of just football and basketball.
- 4 Player proficiency: I literally could not see the ball when East Carteret’s Brien Taylor pitched in 1991. He had a slow and easy windup and you’d hear the mitt pop. Josh Hamilton hit baseballs harder than seemed possible. Players perform feats unimaginable in 1967.
- 5 Electronic coverage: Garner’s undefeated season in 1987 changed high school football coverage in the Triangle. Garner became a television darling behind the running of the exciting Anthony Barbour. The proliferation of electronic devices makes finding information about games much easier.
- 6 Emergence of non-boarding parochial schools: Cardinal Gibbons used to play basketball inside a small gym on Western Boulevard. The Crusaders’ early attempts at resuming football were a struggle. But from the 2005-06 school year when the Crusaders entered the NCHSAA until now, the Crusaders have become the state’s most dominating athletic program. Cardinal Gibbons has won 45 state titles, including seven each in girls’ cross country, volleyball and boys’ tennis. Charlotte Catholic, another parochial non-boarding school, has 41 state titles. East Chapel Hill and Broughton are tied for third on the title list with 23 since 2001-02. No school in Harnett County has won a state title in an NCHSAA sport.
- 7 Emergence of private school athletics: For years I put private school basketball at about the level of the NCHSAA’s 2A classification. Now, it is common for seven or eight of the top boys’ basketball players in the state to play in the N.C. Independent Athletic Association or in a non-affiliated program.
- 8 Dynasties: Former Cary wrestling coach Jerry Winterton had a 642-13 dual-meet record. Programs such as Broughton girls’ soccer, Charlotte Independence football and Enloe’s boys’ swimming, have joined the Imps in collecting state titles in bunches.
- 9 A loss of loyalty: Kids used to grow up dreaming of playing for the local high school team. Today’s children often have no idea of where they are going to high school. The proliferation of various kinds of schools, various enrollment criteria and other options have altered the old standard of local kids playing for the local school.
- 10 The quest for scholarships: Athletic scholarships used to be a rarity. Now they are expected by many parents. The quest for scholarship dollars is having a profound affect on high school athletics, and almost all the changes are negative. Today’s athletes often specialize too early, play too much, are injured too often and sometimes are pressured excessively. It seems that at times everything else is sacrificed in the pursuit of an athletic scholarship. ★

KEEP CHECKING THE WEB SITE!

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

www.nchsaa.org

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

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONS

2013-14 ACADEMIC YEAR

(Head Coach in Parentheses)

FALL SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

- 1A—STAR MOUNT (Jon Symons)
- 2A— HENDERSONVILLE (Erica Cantrell)
- 3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Logan Barber)
- 4A— WAKEFIELD (Cynthia Terrell)

WOMEN'S GOLF

- 1A/2A—SALISBURY (Dale Snyder)
- 3A— LEDFORD (John Ralls)
- 4A— ARDREY KELL (Bart Whitney)

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Robert Youtz)
- 2A— EAST LINCOLN (Jill Farrar)
- 3A— CARDINAL GIBBONS (Nick Mangum)
- 4A— GREEN HOPE (Mike Miragliuolo)

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Robert Youtz)
- 2A— NC SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATH (Charlie Payne)
- 3A— WEDDINGTON (Rick Spencer)
- 4A— BROUGHTON (Dave Christian)

WOMEN'S TENNIS (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A— MOUNT AIRY (Scott Kniskern)
- 2A— SALISBURY (Scott Maddox)
- 3A— CARDINAL GIBBONS (Andrew Tuttle)
- 4A--- PANTHER CREEK (Nathaniel Blalock)

MEN'S SOCCER

- 1A— WALLACE-ROSE HILL (Michael Graybar)
- 2A—SALISBURY (Matt Parrish)
- 3A— MARVIN RIDGE (Jason Zak)
- 4A-- T.C. ROBERSON (Rob Wilcher)

FOOTBALL

- 1A— MURPHY (David Gentry)
- 1AA— JAMES KENAN (Ken Avent, Jr)
- 2A— SHELBY (Lance Ware)
- 2AA— T.W. ANDREWS (Rodney McKoy)
- 3A— HAVELOCK (Jim Bob Bryant)
- 3AA—SOUTHERN DURHAM (Adrian Jones)
- 4A—DUDLEY (Steven Davis)
- 4AA—MALLARD CREEK (Michael Palmieri)

WINTER SPORTS

WRESTLING (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A— MITCHELL (Ed Duncan)
- 2A— NEWTON-CONOVER (Eddy Clark)
- 3A— MOREHEAD (Daniel Bradford)
- 4A— PARKLAND (Maurice Atwood)

WRESTLING (TOURNAMENT)

- 1A— CHATHAM CENTRAL (Joe Little)
- 2A— THOMASVILLE (Richard Herman)
- 3A— MOREHEAD (Daniel Bradford)
- 4A— PARKLAND (Maurice Atwood)

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK

- 1A/2A/—HUGH CUMMINGS (Donald Davis)
- 3A— MARVIN RIDGE (Cameron Starr)
- 4A— PARKLAND (Antwan Hughes)

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK

- 1A/2A—NORTH BRUNSWICK (Garry Bishop)
- 3A— MARVIN RIDGE (Cameron Starr)
- 4A— KNIGHTDALE (Chris Miller)

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

- 1A/2A— RALEIGH CHARTER (Matt Mosher)
- 3A— MARVIN RIDGE (Melissa Scott-King)
- 4A— CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC (Brian Gross)

MEN'S SWIMMING

- 1A/2A— NC SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATH (Michael Newbauer)
- 3A— CHAPEL HILL (Steve Riegler)
- 4A—GREEN HOPE (Lauren Nosal)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Brian Robinson)
- 2A— T.W. ANDREWS (John Shearin)
- 3A— CHAPEL HILL (Sherry Norris)
- 4A— MYERS PARK (Barbara Nelson)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- 1A— WINSTON-SALEM PREP (Andre' Goud)
- 2A— KINSTON (Perry Tyndall)
- 3A— FREEDOM (Casey Rogers)
- 4A— APEX (David Neal)

SPRING SPORTS

MEN'S GOLF

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Scott Savage)
- 2A— NEWTON-CONOVER (John Echerd)
- 3A— FORESTVIEW (Ken Beaty)
- 4A— BROUGHTON (Anderson Marlowe)

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- 1A— NORTH STOKES (Mike Williams)
- 2A— NORTH BRUNSWICK (Garry Bishop)
- 3A— TERRY SANFORD (Terrance Armstrong)
- 4A— MOUNT TABOR (Patrick Cromwell)

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Robert Youtz)
- 2A— MONROE (Nikki Jackson)
- 3A— WESTERN ALAMANCE (Mae Haith)
- 4A— PARKLAND (Antwan Hughes)

MEN'S TENNIS (DUAL TEAM)

- 1A— BISHOP MCGUINNESS (Bob Weckworth)
- 2A— CARRBORO (Jon Noyes)
- 3A— CARDINAL GIBBONS (Andrew Tuttle)
- 4A— WAKEFIELD (Ken Stewart)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

- 1A— COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF DAVIDSON (Chad Solomonson)
- 2A— WEST STOKES (Chris Manley)
- 3A— CHAPEL HILL (Ron Benson)
- 4A— W.A. HOUGH (David Smith)

LACROSSE

- Women: CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC (Dee Bier)
- Men: 4A— CHARLOTTE CATHOLIC (Bo Turner)
- 1A/2A/3A—CARDINAL GIBBONS (Alex Buckley)

BASEBALL

- 1A— WHITEVILLE (Brett Harwood)
- 2A— MIDWAY (Jason Fussell)
- 3A— TOPSAIL (Granville Gehris)
- 4A— WEST FORSYTH (Brad Bullard)

SOFTBALL

- 1A— NORTH STOKES (Jeff Frye)
- 2A— EAST RUTHERFORD (Laura Hopper Ray)
- 3A— SUN VALLEY (Robert Enloe)
- 4A— ALEXANDER CENTRAL (Monte Sherrill)

Olympic High School Stadium Named In Honor Of Johnson

CHARLOTTE—Olympic High School has named its football stadium in honor of a long-time coach and athletic director.

The stadium was named in honor of Dave Johnson at the 2014 football season opener at Olympic in a game against Myers Park.

Johnson began his career in education at North Mecklenburg High School in 1965, but he spent 41 years at Olympic. While there, he taught math and also coached baseball, football, basketball, tennis and golf at one time or another.

He served as athletic director at Olympic from 1986 to '98 and also was very active in the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. Johnson was the president of the state athletic directors' organization in 1991-92. ★

Facilities Named For Former Coaches In Guilford County

GREENSBORO—The Guilford County Board of Education has approved the renaming of two venues in the school system.

The baseball field at Southeast Guilford was renamed in honor of coach Kevin Callahan. Callahan was an educator in the exceptional children program at Southeast for more than 33 years and served the school as the varsity head baseball coach for 24 years.

The gym at T.W. Andrews was renamed George E. Foree Gymnasium in honor of the former Red Raiders coach. Foree was the head men's basketball coach at the former William Penn High School as well as at High Point Andrews. He also taught driver's education, health and physical education. ★

UPDATING SCHOOL INFORMATION—

Schools are urged to keep this information current throughout the year to make sure email notices go to the appropriate personnel, so if you have changes, please make sure you make the appropriate adjustments in your school information on line with the NCHSAA.



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

CHAMPIONSHIP REVIEW



BASEBALL

Whiteville Rallies To Edge East Surry For 1-A Baseball Crown

GREENSBORO—Zack Pait and Hunter Harwood had run-scoring doubles in the seventh inning to lift Whiteville to a come from behind 3-2 victory over East Surry in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A baseball championship series at Five County Stadium.

Whiteville won the series two games to one. The Wolfpack had evened the series with a big 10-0 win earlier on the final day, pounding out 15 hits and dealing East Surry its first loss of the season. East Surry won the opener with four runs in the sixth en route to a 7-4 triumph.

Freshman MacKenzie Gore, who has been outstanding in the postseason, was named the championship Most Valuable Player. He came on in the fifth inning in relief of Connor Grainger and shut the door, earning the victory, and he had two hits and the pitching win in game two.

East Surry managed only two hits for the game, but scratched out a run in the first and then scored an unearned run in the fifth to take a 2-1 lead. Scott Meredith and Alex Wilson had the base hits for the Cards.

In the seventh, Grainger singled for the Wolfpack, scored on a double by Pait and then Harwood chased Pait home with a double. Five Whiteville players each had one hit for the winners.

The Wolfpack ran their record to 26-6 in winning their sixth NCHSAA baseball title all-time, while East Surry wound up 31-2, with the Cardinals' only losses in the championship series.

This is the 98th year for baseball championships in the NCHSAA. The Raleigh Sports Consortium and Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau serve as host city sponsors for the championship.

NCHSAA STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES Five County Stadium, Zebulon

Class 1-A: Game Three

Whiteville 1 0 0 0 0 0 2 — 3 5 1

East Surry 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 — 2 2 2

WP—MacKenzie Gore (8-0). LP—Seth Brim (4-1).

Class 1-A: Game Two

East Surry 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 3

Whiteville 0 0 7 0 3 — 10 15 1

WP—MacKenzie Gore (7-0). LP—Scott Meredith (8-1).

Class 1-A: Game One

Whiteville 0 1 0 0 0 2 1 — 4 7 3

East Surry 1 0 0 2 0 4 x — 7 12 2

WP—Tyler Marion (13-0). LP—Zach Pait (11-2). HR—Pait, Whiteville.

West Forsyth Takes 4-A Baseball Series With 6-3 Game Three Victory

GREENSBORO—Alex Vanderstok had three hits in four trips and Tripp Shelton blasted a big three-run home run at West Forsyth defeated Richmond Senior 6-3 in the decisive third game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A baseball championship series at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

West Forsyth took the best of three series two games to one and won its first NCHSAA baseball title, making its second trip to the finals and first visit in 12 years. The Titans finished 29-6 on the year while Richmond wound up 24-9-1.

Vanderstok, with a single, double and triple in the game, was selected as the series Most Valuable Player.

In the opening game, Vanderstok had three hits and drove home a run to lead West to a 6-4 win as the Titans came back with four runs in the sixth inning to win.

Richmond evened the series at a game apiece earlier on the final day of play, as a solo home run by Ethan Baucom tied the game in the seventh and a walk-off single by Cody Leviner as the Raiders won, 8-7.

Shelton ripped his homer in the second inning of the decisive game to give the Titans a 4-0 lead, which mushroomed to 6-0 after four before the Raiders rallied. Richmond scored three times in the fifth, with the big blow a two-run single by James Buie, who was two for four in the game. Richmond had a chance to do more damage with three runs in, two on and only one out, but failed to score more in the frame. The Raiders left 10 men on base. Jake Mayhew was the winning pitcher and Travis Holden came on the sixth to get the save. Buie was charged with the loss. Jarrett Corder had two hits in the nine-hit Titan attack.

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NCHSAA STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Class 4-A: Game Three

West Forsyth	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	—	6	9	1
Richmond	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	—	3	7	2

WP—Jake Mayhew. LP—James Buie. HR—Tripp Shelton, (West Forsyth), 2nd with two on.

Class 4-A: Game Two

West Forsyth	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	—	7	9	2
Richmond	1	5	0	0	0	0	2*	—	8	12	3

Two out when winning run scored.

WP—Joe Butler (2-2). LP—Alex Vanderstok. HR: Nick Baucom, Richmond, solo in 7th.

Class 4-A: Game One

Richmond	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	—	4	9	3
West Forsyth	0	2	0	0	4	0	x	—	6	9	0

WP—Michael Bates (13-2). LP—Nick Bullard (9-3).

Midway Slips Past Bunker Hill 4-2 To Clinch 2-A Baseball Title

GREENSBORO—Matt Barefoot scattered six hits and struck out eight for Midway as the Raiders downed Bunker Hill 4-2 in the third and final game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A baseball championship series at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Midway, in the championships for the second straight year, won the series two games to one and Barefoot was named the championship series Most Valuable Player.

In the opening game, Austin Hardison had three hits in four at bats and Dylan Hardison went the distance on the mound as Midway rolled past Bunker Hill 10-3. The Bears came back in game two earlier as Cooper Wray went two for three with three RBI to lead Bunker Hill to a 4-3 decision while Barefoot had two hits for the Raiders.

Midway jumped in front with three runs in the first with some timely hits. Luke Clark, who topped the Raider attack with three hits in four trips, had a run-scoring single, as did Kyle Hawley and Tyler Pope. Cole Ervin, the Bear starting pitcher, did not make it out of the first and was relieved by Colton Chapman, who went the rest of the way.

The Bears sliced it to 3-2 with a pair of runs in the third without a hit, stringing together a hit batsman, error, fielders choice, stolen base, a couple of walks and a wild pitch. Midway made it 4-2 in the sixth when Cody Baker delivered an RBI single.

In the seventh, Bunker Hill brought the tying run to the plate after a single by Chapman, his second hit of the night and fourth time he reached base, but Barefoot struck out the next two hitters to preserve the win.

Ervin had a single and a double in three at bats for the Bears.

The Raiders completed the year 27-5, while Bunker Hill, in its first trip to the championship series, wound up 27-7.

This is the 98th year for baseball championships in the NCHSAA.

NCHSAA STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Class 2-A: Game Three

Midway	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	—	4	9	1
Bunker Hill	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	—	2	6	1

Class 2-A: Game Two

Bunker Hill	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	—	4	6	1
Midway	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	—	3	5	1

WP—Clay Ervin (10-2). LP—Taylor Calcutt (7-2).

Class 2-A: Game One

Midway	1	2	0	0	6	1	0	—	10	12	1
Bunker Hill	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	3	7	5

WP—Dylan Hardison (10-0). LP—Colton Chapman (12-2).

Topsail Holds Off Piedmont 5-4 In 3-A Game Two To Clinch Title

ZEBULON—Trent Hansley went the distance on the mound and also blasted a two-run homer to lead Topsail to a 5-4 victory over Monroe Piedmont in the second game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A baseball championship series at Five County Stadium.

The victory gave the Pirates a sweep of the best-of three series. Topsail had won the opening game by a 5-3 count, with Sam Luchansky getting the pitching win and also driving in two runs.

Hansley, an East Carolina signee, struck out seven and walked four while scattering eight hits, after striking out the side in the seventh to get the save on Friday night. His two-run homer, his ninth of the season, came in the first to get Topsail off to a fast start and he was named the championship Most Valuable Player.

Clark Cota was three for three for the winners and also drove home two runs.

Topsail led 5-1 in the seventh before Piedmont roared back with three runs, keyed by a two-out bases-loaded double by David Nash that cleared the bases, but Hansley got Jack Gamble to fly out to end the game. Aaron Braswell was a perfect four for four for the Panthers.

Topsail, making its third appearance in the last seven years in the NCHSAA championships, wound up 21-8 overall while Piedmont slipped to 21-10.

This is the 98th year for baseball championships in the NCHSAA. The Raleigh Sports Consortium and Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau serve as host city sponsors for the championship.

NCHSAA STATE BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Five County Stadium, Zebulon

Class 3-A: Game Two

Piedmont	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	—	4	9	0
Topsail	2	0	1	0	2	0	x	—	5	8	2

WP—Trent Hansley. LP—Corey Sikes. HR—Hansley (Topsail), 1st with one on.

Class 3-A: Game One

Topsail	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	—	5	11	0
Piedmont	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	—	3	3	1

WP—Sam Luchansky. Save—Trent Hansley. LP—David Nash.



SOFTBALL

North Stokes Takes 1-A Softball Championship With 10-1 Win

RALEIGH—North Stokes batted around in the six-run second inning and coasted to a 10-1 decision over Whiteville in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 1-A softball championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Lindsay Brown had two hits and went the distance on the mound for the winners. She pitched all three games in the series and was named the Most Valuable Player of the championship.

The Vikings unleashed a 14-hit attack in the final game, with every starter hitting safely at least once. North Stokes scored one run in the first, six in the second and one more in the third to take command. Tana Frye, Emily Hughes and Ashley Smith also had two hits apiece for North and Sabrina Dodson hit a two-run homer.

Lauren Edwards led Whiteville with three hits in three trips to the plate.

North Stokes, which won its first NCHSAA state softball championship, finished 28-4 while Whiteville wound up 26-8.

North Stokes had won the opener 3-0, keyed by a two-run home run by Sabrina Dodson, and then Whiteville evened the series earlier on the second day of play with a 6-3 victory. Lauren Worley had two hits and was the winning pitcher for the Wolfpack in the second game.

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East Rutherford Takes 2-A Softball Crown In Extra Innings Over Jordan-Matthews In Game 3

RALEIGH—Savannah Davis had two hits, drove in two runs and was the winning pitcher as she led East Rutherford to a tight 4-2 victory in nine innings in the third and decisive game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 2-A softball championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Davis was named the Most Valuable Player of the series. She was the winning pitcher and had two hits in East Rutherford's 2-1 series-opening win, but Jordan-Matthews tied the series at a game apiece earlier on the second day of action with a 4-3 win, rallying from a 3-0 deficit.

East Rutherford carried a 2-1 lead into the seventh, but Jordan-Matthews tied the game in the bottom of the inning to force extra innings.

Dee DeCristofaro led the Jets with two doubles in four trips to the plate. Emily Dobson had two hits and two RBI for East while Jordan Gray also had two hits.

The Cavaliers outlit J-M 9-5 in the game, and there were seven errors, four by East.

Jordan-Matthews finished 24-6 overall while East wound up 27-4.

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Sun Valley Clinches 3-A Title With Sweep Of Charles B. Aycock

RALEIGH—Sophomore Brittany Pickett was the winning pitcher and also had two hits, including a double, as Monroe Sun Valley completed a sweep of Pikeville Charles B. Aycock by a 6-4 count in game two of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 3-A softball championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

Pickett, who was also the winning pitcher in the opening game as Sun Valley took a narrow 6-5 decision, was named the championship Most Valuable Player. She won her 16th game in the clinching contest and struck out five, while Allie Philips took the loss.

Aycock scored two runs on three hits in the second to open up a 2-0 lead, but the Spartans struck back with a run in the third and then three in the fourth to take the lead for good on the strength of just one hit and two of the Golden Falcons' four errors on the day.

Meredith Burroughs hit safely twice in four trips for Aycock, which ended the year 21-5. The Golden Falcons have made eight trips in the last 15 years to Walnut Creek for state competition and won the state crown in 2012.

Sun Valley finished the year 26-5 and earned its first NCHSAA state softball championship since 1997.

Alexander Central Completes Perfect Season With Sweep In 4-A Championship Series

RALEIGH—Bailey Sherrill had two hits and drove in three runs to help lead Alexander Central to a convincing 18-7 victory over Cape Fear in the second game of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state 4-A softball championship series at Walnut Creek Softball Complex.

The victory by the Cougars gave them a sweep of the series and completed a perfect 35-0 season. Sherrill, who had two hits in Alexander Central's 4-3 victory in the opening game of the series, was named the series Most Valuable Player.

Alexander has made seven trips to the championships since 1996 and has won four state titles in the last six years.

The game was close until the late innings, with Cape Fear leading 3-2 after two and then scoring twice in the fifth to cut the margin to 6-5 after the Cougars had scored four times in the third. But Alexander Central tallied five times in the sixth and then scored seven times in the seventh when the game was halted due to the 10-run rule.

Tianna Batts hit safely four times for Alexander Central while Averi Miller had two hits and three runs batted in. Haley Cashwell and Kelli Freeman had three hits apiece for the Colts, who finished 26-3.

The Raleigh Sports Consortium and Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau serve as host city sponsors for the championship.

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