## Julius Peppers



## NFHS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME NOMINATION PACKAGE

**SUBMITTED FRI. NOVEMBER 18, 2022** 

**AMENDED NOV. 14, 2023** 





JULIUS FRAZIER PEPPERS SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL | BAILEY, NC CLASS OF 1998

COLLEGE: UNC-CHAPEL HILL FOOTBALL (1998-2001) & BASKETBALL (1999-2000)
NFL: CAROLINA PANTHERS, CHICAGO BEARS, & GREEN BAY PACKERS
2002 NFL DRAFT #2 OVERALL PICK | RETIRED 2018

Nomination Form



### HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Julius Frazier Peppers
(first, middle, last)

#### Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Brandon Moree

Phone: 919-240-7367

Street Address: 222 Finley Golf Course Road

City, State, Zip Code: Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Signed: \_\_/.../.../\_\_\_\_

Date: Nov. 14, 2023

Email: brandon@nchsaa.org

#### NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category: ☐ Official ☐ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others Name of Nominee: Julius Frazier Peppers (first, middle, last) Current Address: C/O Bessie Brinkley (Mother) 3017 New Watkins Lane (street address) Raleigh, NC, 27616 (city, state, zip) Email: CarlCoreyJr@gmail.com (agent) Phone: 919-201-0096 Date of Birth: 1/18/1980 School Affiliation (if any) Southern Nash High School City: Bailey State: NC Place of Birth: Wilson, NC Date of Retirement: 2018 Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes If yes, please explain: If deceased, date of death: Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Mother: Bessie F. Brinkley Address: 3017 New Watkins Lane, Raleigh, NC, 27616 Phone: N/A **Schools Attended:** Name of School City and State Year Graduated Degree High School: Southern Nash High School Bailey, NC 1998 Diploma College/University: University of North Chapel Hill, NC B.S. 2002 Carolina at Chapel Hill Post Graduate School: N/A N/A N/A | Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.) Letters of Recommendation Attached Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

#### **ATHLETE**

Athletic Participation in Senior High School [give complete details concerning specific performances, years, records, etc. Please note the classification of the high school (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Julius Peppers attended Southern Nash High School in Bailey, NC. He played football, basketball, and ran track at the 3A school (NC has 4 classifications). Peppers never played football until his high school coach, Ray Davis convinced him to come out for the football team his sophomore year. Peppers was 6' 7", 250 pounds and ran a 4.6 second 40-yard dash as a sophomore, so naturally he chose to play running back. In his first seaons playing football, Peppers rushed for 1,044 yards and 15 touchdowns on the varsity team. He finished his football career at Southern Nash with 3,501 yards and 38 rushing touchdowns, catching six more scores.

Peppers was the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in basketball in 1996, finishing his career at Southern Nash with more than 1,600 career points, 1,000 career rebounds, and more than 500 assists. Peppers was a four-event threat in track as well, participating in the triple jump, shot put, 400 meters, and the 4 X 400 relay. He finished third in the state meet in the Triple Jump in 1996 and was a part of the state championship 4x400 meter relay team from Southern Nash in 1998, helping the school win its first team State Championship in men's Track & Field program history.

Peppers was the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year in 1998. He was a first-team Parade All-American in 1997 (football), and was the football team's Most Valuable Player for three straight years.

Honors (give complete details of high school and post-high school athletic honors and achievements, awards, and recognition received as a result of high school achievements)

Peppers attended the University of North Carolina on a football scholarship and also played on the University's Basketball Team. As a member of the Tar Heels 1999-2000 Final Four, he averaged 15 minutes a game and just under 5 points per contest. Peppers is the only athlete to play in both an NCAA Final Four and the Super Bowl. (Donovan McNabb was a part of a Final Four team as a reserve, but did not see the floor at the Final Four as a walk-on reserve for Syracuse). After two years of playing football and basketball at UNC, Peppers decided to focus on football, where he ranks as 2nd all-time in school history with 30.5 sacks in his career.

His list of awards at the collegiate level is extensive:

- First-team All-ACC as a sophomore
- Led the nation in QB Sacks with 15 as sophomore (2000)
- Second-team All-American honors (sophomore)
- First team All-ACC (junior) (2001)
- Unanimous First Team All-American (junior)
- Won 2001 Chuck Bednarik Award (Nation's top defensive player)
- Won 2001 Bill Willis Trophy (Nation's best defensive lineman)

Peppers went on to play professionally in the NFL, playing from 2002-2018, in three different franchises. Peppers was drafed with the second overall pick by the Carolina Panthers in 2002, staying with the franchise through 2009, returning to the team from 2017-2018. Peppers also spent time with the Chicago Bears (2010-2013) and the Green Bay Packers (2014-2016).

Much like his list of collegiate accolades, his lis of awards in the NFL is lengthy:

- NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (2002)
- 3x First-team All-Pro (2004, 2006, 2010)
- 3x Second-team All-Pro (2008, 2009, 2012)
- 9x Pro Bowl selection
- NFL 2000s All-Decade Team
- NFL 2010s All-Decade Team
- Pro Football Writers Association (PFWA) All-Rookie Team (2002)
- 100 Greatest Bears of All-Time
- North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame inductee (2021

Other information (not previously listed)

Peppers is an outstanding humanitarian as well. He was nominated by the Carolina Panthers in 2018 for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award for his efforts in eastern North Carolina after a pair of devastating hurricanes hit the state in the fall of that year. After retirement, Peppers has been a regular contributor to three charities the Center for Community Transitions, Girl Talk Foundation, and the Young Black Leadership Alliance.

Letters of Recommendation



Sportsmanship • Developing Student-Athletes • Equity • Fair Competition Fair Play • Honesty • Integrity • Respect

Thursday, November 10, 2022

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N.C. Department of Public Instruction

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

It is my honor to submit Julius Peppers from Southern Nash High School in Bailey, North Carolina as a candidate in the athlete category for consideration of inclusion in the NFHS High School Hall of Fame. North Carolina has a proud tradition of high school athletics, and we firmly believe that Julius Peppers' accomplishments in high school, college, and professional athletics as well as his character, philanthropy, and his support of young people make him a highly qualified candidate for inclusion as North Carolina's first inductee in the athlete category.

Amazingly, Peppers never played football until his sophomore year in high school when his school's football coach, Ray Davis, talked him into coming out for the team. What an incredible difference this decision and relationship made in the life of Julius Peppers! Without the influence of Coach Davis talking Julius into playing football the Carolina Panthers would never have reached the Super Bowl in 2003, as Peppers was a disruptive force on that defensive team that went from worst defense in the league in 2001, to second-best defensive unit in the league in Peppers' rookie season of 2002. Maybe without that nudge from Coach Davis in high school, we still would never have seen an athlete play in both the Final Four and a Super Bowl!

As a 6'7", 250 pound running back at 3A Southern Nash, Julius rushed for over 1,000 yards in his first season playing football and amassed more than 3,500 career rushing yards and 44 total touchdowns. If you view the video, included in the supporting materials as a link to a story from WRAL-TV, you'll find that Peppers was a rare combination of power, speed, and grace at the running back position.

He also participated in basketball and track at Southern Nash. He helped the Firebirds Men's Track Team to the school's first team State Championship in the sport in 1998. Peppers ran as a member of the school's 4 X 400 Relay team that won the 3A State Championship in the event by more than a second at 3:23.10. He also finished second in the Triple Jump with a performance that spanned 46' 10".

Peppers was an outstanding basketball player for Southern Nash as well, scoring more than 1,600 points and grabbing more than 1,000 rebounds during his career at the school. He went on to play football and basketball at the University of North Carolina, averaging 16 minutes per game on the Tar Heels 2000 Final Four team under Bill Guthridge before choosing to focus on football after two years playing both sports for the university.

It is easy to see how high school athletics made an impact in the life of Julius Peppers; and it is even more apparent how Julius is committed to making an impact in young people's lives as he seeks to give back to his community. Peppers was a finalist for the NFL's Walter Peyton Man of the Year Award in 2018, selected by the Panthers as their nominee for that prestigious honor, because of the charitable work that Peppers did when two destructive hurricanes ravaged eastern North Carolina in 2017.

Peppers is a regular contributor to his community, supporting three charities that seek to support young people and families in our state. Peppers has donated

to the Young Black Leadership Alliance and the Girl Talk Foundation, both groups empowering young leaders and helping equip them to be successful in school and life. He has also been involved with the Center for Community Transitions, a group that offers assistance to families dealing with someone who has been incarcerated.

As one of the top five members of the NFL's all-time sack list, a multi-sport athlete throughout high school and college, and a generous, active, and involved community leader, we believe that Julius Peppers' accomplishments, life's work, and connection to Southern Nash High School more than qualify him for inclusion in the NFHS Hall of Fame. It would be my distinct honor as Commissioner of the NCHSAA to hang the NFHS Hall of Fame medallion on Julius Peppers as the first individual from the athlete category from our great state to join this prestigious Hall of Fame.

Warmest Regards,

Que Tucker

**NCHSAA** Commissioner

Whitegor Gert Erreture



To: NFHS Hall of Fame Committee

From Anglia Miller Executive Director of Athletics

Remail us Repriers

Date: 117 / 227

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Johns Pappers to the NPHS High School Hall of Pame. Poppers began his high school coreer at Southern Nosh High School in Borley, NC, in 1991. He was 6 ft. 5 in. and weighout 225 lbs. Poppers had never played organized football before. With his size and athletonism, the craches felt he would bring a strong presence to the gridition for the Firebooks. During his high school years, he played running hack and defensive lineman, and his coreer for sh was 3,501 malang yords and 46 touchdowns. He was one of the higgest threats as a lineman in the state of North Carolina. Also as a Prochim, he excelled at basketball, to tering and being voted All-Conference for four consecutive years. As a Track and Field sprinter, Poppers beined Southern Nash High School win the state championship for the first time in the school's history. He wen in the 4x200 mater team relay and as a triple junger. His section year, Poppers was named to the Parade magazine high school. All-American team in football as an all-purpose talent. In 1998 Julius Puppers was named Male Athlete of the Year by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, which elsted Nash County Public Schools During his high-school stint he was named by the Rocky Mount Telegram as one of the 50 Createst Athletes from the Twin Counties (1.6). Nash and Edgesonder).

Peppers has been a dedicated supporter of the Southern Nash Pirchirds and of all of the Nash County Schools athletes and teams. He continues to mentor and guide fellow athletes in his homotown as an adult. Poppers is a dedicated, remarkable gentleman with outstanding character. We at Nash County Public Schools highly recontanced him for this mexingous away.

Singere.w.

Arigo a Miller, hisecutive Director of Adulatics and Wellness

Nash County Public Schools:

#### Southern Nash High School

6448 Southern Nash High Road Balley, North Carolina 27807

"Students First"



To NEUS Hall of Fame Committee.

From: Ray Davis, Former Head Football Couch & Athletic Director

Re: Julius Peppers

Date: 11/12/22

As the athletic director and head football ceach of Southern Nash High School during Julius Pepper's atlandance, I would like to recommend him for induction into the NFFS High School Hall of Fame. I want to focus on his character, which is clearly his best attribute and actines him as a respectable man.

Julius was blessed with the physical stature and afaleticism to give him a natural advantage over most competitors. He was also blessed with last working parents who taught him early in life the value of affort. His periods also taught him to respect others and that kindness was paressory to be successful in 1 for 1 and Julius when he was in the moth grade, and 1 immediately thought of him as a gentle giant. Despute his overwhelping size and formidable intent, he never looked down on anyone, and never tried to gen attention just because he could. Julius was always a team player, not a one-man show. No matter what position or role he had on a team, he wanted to be a value in the whole team and do his best. To this day, I've never known him to depart from that way of thinking.

Julius is highly respected by everyone who has hed the pleasure to compete with and against him. Furthermore, he combutes to do for others, mentoring in his hometown community, and he is a loving father and bustand. He is the options of a strong othlete, role model, and leader, and I highly recommend him for this outstanding honor as a NFHS High School Hall of Fame condidate.

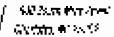
Sumerely

George Ray Davis

Former Head Footbell Couch and

Large Roy Dais

Athletic Director of Southern Nesh High School.







November 18, 2022

NEUS Hall of Fame Committee PC Box 690 Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear NEHS Hall of Fame Committee

From Balley to Southern Nash High School to the University of North Carolina to the Carolina Hantners, Julius Pappers has made a tramendous difference in communities across North Carolina, Julius' support of various initiatives has enabled him to touch the Ivas of countless ditizens in the Tar Heel state. His impact makes Julius a unique and highly qualified candidate for induction into the NFHS Nationa, High School Hall of Fame.

Our relationship with Julius began when the Parthers selected him in the first round of the 2002 NFL Draft, continued for 16 years until his rethement following the 2018 season and continues today as a Parthers Legend, where he uses his participant to serve the needs of communities throughout his home state. There are many recent examples.

After seeing photos and viceos of damage along the coast of North Carolina and areas in the eastern part of the state caused by Huminaire Florance in 2018. Julius started the Huminaire Florance relief fund to provide relief to victims of the storm. Many of the numicane ravaged towns reminded him of his humetown, which prompted him to spend several days in Rubeson County in North Carolina and Madboro County in South Carolina helping down up.

Even after retiring Julius has remained involved. In the spring of 2019, has apported local non-profit organizations that serve individuals transitioning from Incarceration back into society, provided dail assistance for qualified non-violent offenders, heiped young single mothers and worked to improve police and community relations. I ending up to the 2020 presidential election, the land the strength of his voice and stature to a PSA for the teams voter engagement initiative that almed to educate register and mobilize voters in the Carolinas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a firsthand perspective of Julius: logacy with the selection committee. We appreciate you considering him for indusion in the NFHS National High School Hali of Fame Class of 2003.

Sincerely.

Kristi Coleman President

Carofria Panthers



Support Data

### THE WILSON DAILY TIMES

## Sports



Babe Ruth Southeast Regional Commissioner James Fenland, right, listens as Kent Montgomery talks about Fleming Stadium. Joining the two are, from left, Babe Ruth District 4 commissioner Nathan Stallings and WCYAA director Mickey Davis. Fleming is the proposed site for the Babe Ruth ages 13-15 Southeast Regional beginning in July.

### WCYAA takes biggest step, to host regional

BABE RUT

By Phil Goble Jr.

**Daily Times Sports Editor** For five days this summer, Wilson will become the final step to the World Series the Babe Ruth ages 1.3-15 World Series, that

The Wilson County Youth Athletic Association was officially awarded the league's

Southeast Regional Tournament Saturday in a ceremony at the office of Athletic Director Mick-

"Our organization has come a long way in the last six or seven years and we're ready for it," said Davis. "We know we did real well with the state and district tournaments last year. We've hosted a 9-10 state tournament in

Tar Heel (League) and a 15-17 state in Tar the people to come out to the ball park and

"This is the biggest tournament yet, but I think we're prepared for it."

The event will run July 30-Aug. 5 and will be played in Fleming Stadium. Alternate sites will be used if weather interferes with the double-elimination event.

'When you walk into Fleming Stadium, ifs baseball; it shouts baseball," said Davis, who hopes to use the Fike, Hunt and Beddingfield high school diamonds for practices. "Ifs a great facility."

The tournament will field nine teams Eastern North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Tennessee, defending champion Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. The final squad is an automatic entry from the host league.

The winner advances to the World Series in Little Rock, Ark., the week after the

Regional. "As far as I'm concerned, this (Fleming Stadium) is one of the top three facilities I've been in (for Babe Ruth)," said Babe Southeast Regional Commissioner and International Board Member James Penland, who represented Ruth at the contract signing. "We appreciate Wilson County being a part of Babe Ruth. We'd like for

see some good games."

Many area families may also have a reason to go Fleming — Babe Ruth requires all players to be housed in private homes during the tournament.

That means the WCYAA is facing a daunting challenge - to find rooms for approximately 125 players.

"The biggest thing we take pride in is host families," said Penland. "We require

See Babe Burth, page 2B

## WDT salutes Peppers

SNSH multi-sport star named Athlete of Year

By Phil Goble Jr. Daily Times Sports Editor STANHOPE — For four years,

the name Julius Peppers has been synonymous with Southern Nash athletics.

Tile 6-foot-7, 250-pound standout excelled on the football field, basketball court and track, raising eyebrows with every touchdown run, two-handed slam, race and

From all-area teams to all-conference squads, state and national honors, Peppers, said his former football coach and athletics director Ray Davis, has brought nothing but honor to the Class 3-A school in the tobacco fields of Nash County.

Monday morning, in front of more than 300 classmates, teachers and family, Peppers brought honor again, this time being named the 1998 Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year.

Peppers was chosen from among more than 1,200 athletes at Il area high schools that comprise the Daily Times coverage area. The graduating senior headed a list that included Mark Strickland and Jennifer Laughridge of Hunt; Shemkia Reid of Fike; Antwane Yelverton of Greene Central and Roger Stone of Greenfield.

Peppers, the 25th recipient, becomes the second straight athlete from Southern Nash to be honored, following Rikki Cockrell in 1997. He also ends a run of four female winners, becoming the first male named since Beddingfield's Corey Thomas in 1993.

"He is one of those individuals that come along one in a million," said Davis, who coached Peppers for three years in football. "You don't find too many people who have that God-given ability and are that good a person."

Known as shy and quiet around campus, Peppers is by far that on the field of athletic competition.

In football, the son of Bessie Faye Brinkley and George Peppers rushed for 3,501 yards and scored 38 touchdowns.

In 101 high school basketball games, Peppers scored 1,661 points, hauled down 876 rebounds; handed out 215 assists; had 151 steals; and blocked 142 shots.

On the track, he won the 1996 and 1998 N.C. High School Athletic Association Eastern Regional triple jump championship and was a national Junior Olympic long See Peppers, page 2B



Southern Nash's Julius Peppers ... Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year

## Wanniors grind to first 3-A regional golf title



Hunt's Chris McKeel won a playoff to finish the individual runner-up.

### Hunt a state qualifier for fourth straight year; Demons Parker earns first trip to Chapel Hill

By Tom Ham
Executive Sports Editor
PINETOPS — The abundant array of championship banners adorning the Hunt High School gymnasium wall will soon include the only one miss-

ing in the sport of golf.
Hunt now owns a regional championship.

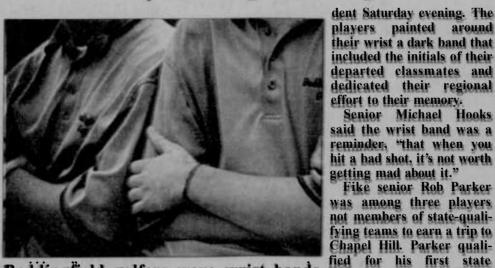
The Warriors, Big Eight conference champions in all five years of the league's existence, grinded down the stretch to add the N.C. High School Athletic onship to their lengthy list of laurels on a cloudy Mon-day and m occasional light rain at Maccripine Coun-

Coached by Jeff Best, Hunt posted a 309 total for its low four individuals to qualify for the NCHSAA 3-A Championship for the fourth consecutive year.

The Warriors trimmed North Lenoir of the Coastal Conference. Led by medalist Matthew Denmark, a junior, the Hawks carded a 311. Hunt and North Lenoir were joined by Coastal Conference champion White Oak in seizing state berths. White Oak finished third at

Manteo finished fourth at 333, followed by Southern Nash at 335, Fike, in third place after nine holes, at 336, Beddingfield at 343, Kinston at 344 and Havelock at

Beddingfield players dealt with the grief that result-ed when fellow athletes/classmates Rebekah Anderson and Benji Edmondson lost their lives in a traffic acci-



Association Class 3-A Eastern Regional champi- Beddingfield golfers wore wrist bands in memory of two classmates who died in a weekend auto accident.

(Photo by Tom Ham)

more Mark Hale of Kinston with a 37-37-74. Denmark, playing in the same group with senior Will Pope and junior Chris McKeel of Hunt, turned in a machine-like performance in firing a 35-35-70, 1-underpar over the 6,200-yard Maccripine layout that played at near-maximum difficult with testy pin placements and faster-than-usual greens that had been double-cut three

consecutive days.

McKeel birdied the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to best Eisner for second place. McKeel fashioned a 38-35—73 in a round that included two birdies. Without a birdie for his second straight round, Pope, headed to

East Carolina University, came in with a 38-38—76.

The Warriors also counted a 41-38—79 from freshman Scott deKeyzer, while junior Taylor Lyon and sophomore Hyatt Field each shot 81. Senior Dwayne Baker fired a 70 to pace the regional field.

See Hunt, page 2B



### Babe Ruth Southeastern Regional set

(Continued from page IB)
you put a minimum two (players)
to a home

"That (finding families) is the biggest challenge. Years ago, that wasn't a problem. Now, parents have become more cautious. It's getting tougher and tougher to get homes."

Players will be in homes anywhere from two to five days, depending on how far their team advances.

"That (housing) is a worry," said Davis, "but we've had a lot of people volunteer and we'll handle it"

And if they handle it — and the rest of the tournament — well, Davis and Penland agree a World Series could be on WCYAA's horizon.

"Definitely" said Davis of

"Definitely," said Davis of WCYAA hopes of running a World Series. "If we were going to do a tournament for a one-shot deal, we wouldn't do this.

"When this is over, we'll sit down and look at it. If we feel we've done the job for Wilson County and Babe Ruth, then the letter will go in."

Then the major fundraising will begin. While the Southeast Regional will cost WCYAA \$2,500, the World Series takes a commitment of \$40,000.

"Rest assured, it (WCYAA and Fleming) meets all the requirements for a World Series," said Penland.

The commissioner said the earliest open date at the moment is 2001, but that could change if a current site is unable to host.

Davis is certain the WCYAA can live up to the responsibility.

"No one is going to outwork us," he said. "Wilson County is baseball and what else best represents baseball than a World Series.

"It's every kid's dream to play in a Babe Ruth World Series. If we do a good job, I think the World Series is ours."

That job begins in earnest July 30.

Middle schools

### Cougars, Hawks close with wins

Speight wrapped up its middle school baseball schedule on a winning note Monday, while Toisnot did likewise Friday afternoon.

### Cougars edge Cobras

SARATOGA - Speight Middle School concluded its season with a 3-2 victory over visiting Springfield Monday afternoon.

The Cougars of coach Tom Riddle closed with an 8-4 record as Ryan Beamon drove in the winning run with a triple in the bottom of the sixth inning. Springfield forged a 2-2 tie with a run in each of the fifth and sixth innings.

Speight right-hander Michael Thigpen pitched the win, allowing two hits, walking three and striking out 11. Thigpen compiled a 6-2 record.

The Cougars, who struck for two runs in the fourth inning, got a hit each from Beamon, John Coffey, Thigpen, Todd Exum and Kevin Gardner.

### Hawks blank Speight

Erie Morris and Travis Eatmon crushed consecutive home runs FYiday afternoon in a six-run, fifth-inning rally as Toisnot finished an 8-4 season with an 8-0 victory over visiting Speight. Morris' shot was his seventh of

the season, while Eatmon enjoyed a 2-for-2 day at the plate. Ricky Webb was 3-for-4 with a double for the Hawks.

Eatmon picked up the pitching win by striking out 12 batters and allowing only two hits.

### Webber barred

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP) — Washington Wizards forward Chris Webber on Monday was barred by an administrative law judge from driving in Maryland for 120 days.

The restriction is punishment for refusing to submit a blood sample after a Prince George's County police officer concluded Webber was driving under the influence of marijuana in January.

### Hunt corrals long-elusive regional crown

completed the lineup with a 92.

Best explained he did not mention a regional championship as a feat his Warriors must accomplish, but admitted, "if's one I've been thinking about for a long time. If's the only banner we didn't have in the gym for the golf team.

"Of course, we wanted to qualify (for the state finals), but we wanted to do our best to try and win the regional. We didn't play spectacular and we didn't make a lot of putts. But we hung in there and did what we had to do."

The Warriors grinded through the difficult Nos. 16-18 stretch. McKeel and Pope each parred all three layouts. Lyon and deKeyzer each surged down the stretch. Field played the first eight layouts at I-over before struggling, while Baker encouraged his teammates with a solid start.

"It was character at its best," Best said of the Warriors' performance.

Pope called a one-shot penalty on himself and deKeyzer, despite being a freshman, played with the poise of a senior by taking an unplayable lie rather than attempt a shot of extreme risk on three occasions.

Hunt golfers sensed they had clinched a state spot, but were uncertain of their regional-title chances. The Warriors capitalized when a North Lenoir golfer, whose score counted, suffered a triple bogey the final layout.

The Warriors, 3-A state champs



Fike's Rob Parker ... first-time state qualifier

in 1996, claimed the regional's final state berth last season and Pope exclaimed, "I feel 10 times better out here than I did last year this time."

Pope and McKeel persevered despite witnessing a dazzling exhibition from Denmark, who seldom missed a shot and putted brilliantly from long-range in putting together the regional's only under-par round.

Denmark birdied Nos. 2, 3 and

12 and was boosted by rolling in a long, downhill putt on the treacherous No. 2 green. His bogeys occurred at Nos. 9 and 17.

"I made really long putts at Nos. 2 and 11 and the one at No. 2 got me started," said Denmark. "I hit the ball great. To play this course, you just had to control the ball and two-putt.

"I was excited, but I was kind of nervous because of great players here like McKeel. I haven't been playing that well lately and I didn't want to play badly in the same group with him."

The Hawks also got an 80 from Denmark's freshman brother, Stephen; an 85 from senior Brent Pelletier, a top-10 regional finisher in 1997; and a 76 from senior Dusty Harrison.

White Oak was paced by senior Lance Oliver, last year's regional runner-up, with a 78.

Parker is state-bound despite problems at Nos. 16 and 18 (4-over).

"This was pretty much my main goal," Parker said of his state opportunity. "But I wasn't sure I made it and I didn't want to go and get happy —and then find out I didn't. I hit it great until No. 16.1 hadn't hit it that good all season and I wasn't putting bad. But I didn't think I was going to make it and, when I got in, I was not happy with the way I played."

Parker was a lot happier afterwards.

And Eisner, a tough-minded freshman, was not disappointed

3-A regional golf results

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL SOUTHERN NASH (3)

Gorham Michael Michael Josh Fle Justin C Derrick

Walker Abney

BEDDINGFIE

Brad Perry
Mike Hooks
Jim Dubovec
Patrick McMahon
Justin Webb
Shane Davis

KINSTON
Mark Hale

Mark Hale 37-37
Brandon Weils 47-46
Ray Deepa 52-45
Matt Taylor 49-55
B.J. Murphrey 66-70
Matt Pullen 43-37

HAVELOCK (366)
Teddy Neuhaus
Corbett Norris 54-52
Eddie Cruz 47-42
Frank Wasko 49-54
Mike Schwarz 46-46

Ashley Davis. C B Aycock Joseph Spamhour, Pender 45-48 Spencer Pake Washington David Cummings, SW Edge Greg Mulder, Bertie Justin Hagee, Washington

Lenoir's runner-up finish.

going to the state," he said. "I think we gave Hunt a good run." Now Hunt's focus is toward

"I am really excited about us

Now Hunt's focus is to Chapel Hill.

"We've still got a little unfinished business," Pope said. "I can look back on winning this regional the rest of my life, but I am looking forward right now."

#### WDT Athlete of the Year

### Julius Peppers career



Football
All-Big Eight Conference
3 years

WDT All-Area 3 years

> Shrine Bowl 1997-98

Parade All-American 1997-98



Basketball

All-Big Eight Conference
4 years

Big Eight Conference
Player of the Year
1995-96

WDT All-Area
4 years

WDT Player of the Year
1996-97

Honorable Mention AllState



Track
Regional Triple Jump
champion

Junior Olympic long jump finalist 1996

1998, 1996

All-Big Eight Conference 3 years

(Graphic by Phil Goble Jr.)

## Peppers is top WDT athlete (Continued from page IB) state championship. then an assistant and the recent-

1997-98

(Continued from page IB) jump finalist (1996). Currently, Peppers competes in the shot put, triple jump and runs the third leg of the Eastern Regional-championship 400-meter relay for the Firebirds.

"I don't think anyone can question Julius' commitment to Southern Nash athletics," said boys track coach Alton Tyre. "I'm going to have some great memories of him. He's been a tremendous asset for this program."

An asset that has been on dis-

play almost continually since he began competing as a freshman.

In his first year, Peppers par-

ticipated in basketball, track and Junior Olympic track. With no break, the rising

sophomore then played football, basketball, track, Junior Olympic track and Amateur Athletic Union basketball.

As a junior, Peppers played football and basketball before deciding to skip track for the season and summer. It was his first athletic break in nearly three full years.

Peppers' final season may have been his best —Parade All-America in football with more than 1,200 yards rushing; honorable mention all-state after averaging double-figures in scoring and rebounding; the intimidating factor of a track team with more than a fair shot at winning the

He was also named the NCH-

SAA Male Athlete of the Year last week.
"I always thought I was one of

myself that," said Peppers, who has signed a national letter-of-intent to play football at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "It feels funny right now. I'm starting to realize it (high school career) is almost over. When I came here as a little kid, they weren't that good. I thought, maybe, I'd have a chance to make it (Southern Nash) better."

That, he has done with style. In his career, Southern Nash returned to the football playoffs and captured an NCHSAA sectional championship in basketball. The track team has been proclaimed an Eastern Regional champion and, come Friday afternoon, could be proclaimed the 3-A state champ.

But for all his talents and abilities, Peppers said the real heroes are the men and women who coach the Firebirds.

"They treat everybody the same way," he said. "They don't care how good you are; they just want the best person playing sports. They did everything the right way."

The right for Peppers started in the ninth grade with Brian Foster,

ly-named successor to Davis as head football coach for the Firebirds.

"When I was in ninth grade, he told me he knew I'd have the chance to play college sports," said Peppers. "He helped pick me up after a bad game. He was there to just talk. He helped my confidence out a lot."

Also there to prod and direct was Peppers' mother, Bessie Faye.

"She just stayed on me all the time about doing right and wrong," Peppers said. "When she would say, no, I used to get mad; now I see it was all the best for me."

And that has made Peppers the best he can be —not just for himself, but for his school and his county.

"I think just the character he has and what he's done for Southern Nash is incredible," said boys basketball coach Rick Ruffin. "It's amazing to see somebody 6-7 and 250 pounds do some of the things he does.

"More importantly, he's stayed on track and gotten an education. I'm glad to be associated with and coach the type of player he is. I'm going to miss him as a person; he'll be a good memory for Southern Nash."

And, with size 19 feet, Peppers will leave big shoes to fill for all

# Athlete destined to become special From the freshman moment he stepped onto the basketball

From the freshman moment he stepped onto the basketball court for his varsity debut, Julius Peppers was destined to become special.

His tall powerful frame

over his playoff loss to McKeel,

who hit the par-5 layout in two

being a good player," Eisner said

of McKeel, "and I am pretty excit-

ed. I just came out and felt my

way around. I stuck a lot of shots

close. It worked out pretty good."

Neither could Matthew Den-

mark complain about North

"I had heard a lot about him

shots and two-putted for birdie.

His tall, powerful frame implied, "I am going to be bad (awesome)."

Pretty soon, onlookers were anticipating an explosion from this youngster within a man's body.

Thus proceeded an argumentative career in the sports of basketball, football and track.

Peppers accomplished plenty—rushing for over 1,000 yards in football three consecutive seasons, accumulating over 3,500 yards and attaining All-America status; pouring in over 1,500 points and snaring over 800 rebounds, and being proclaimed the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in basketball; and excelling in the triple jump and emerging as an impressive relays performer in track.

Tile aforementioned accolades only brush the surface. And, as graduation approaches, the honors are piling up. In a span of less than a week, Peppers has been saluted as the N.C. High School Athletic Association male Athlete of the Year and The Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year. More recognition is forthcoming.

Attesting to his potential and ability is the prompt willingness of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to offer him a football scholarship — which he accepted. The stipulations include allowing him to try basketball.

Ib earn a scholarship with such a top-flight program as the one at North Carolina is, in itself, remarkable. And to suggest Peppers is athletic enough to play both football and basketball in the esteemed Atlantic Coast Conference is astonishing.

But did Peppers do enough? Could he have accomplished more? Actually, Southern Nash's most

celebrated athlete never went about prep sports with an "I am bad" personna. His demeanor was always laid-back, tolerant and perhaps considerate of his teammates and opposition. He shunned attention and the spotlight.

Gradually, Peppers displayed more of a willingness to take charge and, sometimes, was forced into that role. When that was the case, opponents were in big trouble. The involvement of his teammates always seemed a top priority.

Southern Nash head boys bas-

Southern Nash head boys basketball coach Rick Ruffin points out that Peppers' contribution were multiple. He ranked among the team leaders in scoring,



rebounding, assists, steals and blocked shots.

Perhaps, at times when he should have been thundering over and dominating foes and ruling the backboards, Peppers was conscious of involving his teammates.

His status as a powerful running back was obvious on the gridiron. Peppers also displayed breakaway capabilities.

Smaller defenders must have felt their prayers had been answered when the Firebirds' showcase back ran wide and afforded them an opportunity to tackle from an angle and go for the feet, instead of having to deal with his brute force straight-on.

On the track, Peppers was blessed with the ability to contribute in about every event.

The multi-sport star ended his prep football career with a name-taking, butt-kicking exhibition—the type of display easily envisioned for him.

His basketball farewell was less glorious. Peppers struggled against an aggressive, physical sophomore from East Chapel Hill. That night in Southern Nash's first-ever appearance in the 3-A Eastern Regional was one of his longest.

But Peppers bounced back and kept his promise to coach Alton Tyre to compete in track his senior season. Tyre says he never ceases to be amazed by Peppers' feats.

Onlookers won't soon forget

his performance in the 400-meter relay in the Big Eight Conference championship meet. Peppers, running the third leg, took the baton several meters behind the front-runner and simply blitzed him.

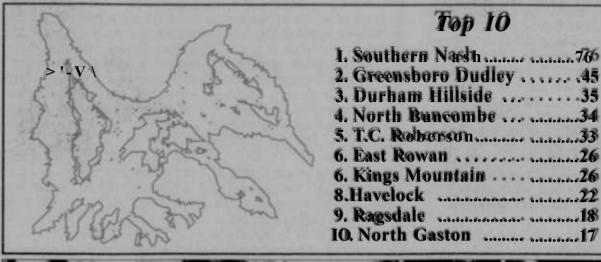
"How's that for athleticism," said an admiring Tyre.

Perhaps many that followed Peppers were not certain of what to expect from him because of not being qualify to measure or appreciate his abilities.

After all, they were watchinga 6-foot-7, 245-pound athlete who performed with the versatility and agility of an athlete who stood 6-0 and weighed 180.

Southern Nash athletics stepped another level during Peppers' four years but could it be that he will be most remembered for being too unselfish.

## Firebirds capture state championship





Southern Nash's Arthur Deans, left, and SouthWest Edgecombe's Deshawn Richardson race to the 1110-meter hurdles finish. Deans won the event and Richardson took second. (Photos by Grant Roberson)

### So. Nash wins with total package

By Scott Jones

Daily Times Staff Writer RALEIGH — Without a doubt, this year's Class 3-A boys track state champion has the best team in the

More often than not, the N.C High School Athletic Association track team title is more representative of which team has the most premier athletes, rather than a true gauge of depth and overall superiority. However, Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr track. Southern Nash showed the rest of the state that, indeed, it has the total package in rolling to the school's first ever track state championship.

Southern, whose previous best state finish was 8th in 1995, blasted the competition just as it has all year, with this performance being much more impressive since it came against the best the state has to offer The Firebirds rolled to 76 team points, outdistancing runner up Greensboro Dudley's 45. Rounding out the top five were long-time 4-A power-house Durham Hillside (35), North Buncombe (34), and last year's champion. Skyland TC. Roberson (33). Fike posted the next highest finish

"It's been a team effort all year long," proud Firebirds head coach Alton lyre beamed. "It helped us having an all-around program. Roberson did well in the field, but couldn't score much on the track. Dudley was strong on the track but didn't have any field events. But we had them both - track and field. We had the

total package.

Evidence that the Firebirds indeed possesed the total package is that Southern could roll to such an easy team victory while winning just two events after having qualified in 16 of the 18 events. However, ond, third, and fourth places proved to be Firebird Country, and the rest of the state quickly found out that those points can add up in a hurry.

Southern's only individual champions was senior Arthur Deans. Deans edged a very familiar competitor, Richardson, to win the 100 hurdles. Both runner's posted a 14.2 second hand-time performance, but Deans won with the lean. Deans tripped on a hurdle in last year's regionals and did not qualify for the 110's, his specialty, and that trip up proved to be this year's motivating factor.

"I was making up for lost time," Deaus said of his personal victory. "This is a great



for area schools, amassing 16 points to finish tied for lith. Southwest Southern Nash coach Alton Tyre son's second-piace showing in the no raises his hands in victory after hurdles to the for 23rd with eight points, and Backing ind rounded out being doused with a water cooler 0M^rnts" ringbytyingf0r3" hwith by his athletes.

"All these guys have worked so hard since they've been here, it really makes me proud to see them achieve such an outstanding accomplishement.

> - Alton Tyre Southern Nash boys track coach

way to end my senior year. We knew7 coming in we were the favorites, but we still had to prove it. And we did."

Southern's other win came in the 1600 elay, proving to be a fitting finish for the Firebirds' dream season. Dudley took the early lead and seemed intent on preventing Southern from beginning its celebration with a championship in the final event. However, Southern's unit, consisting of Cornelias Gary. Brian Jones, Julius Peppers, and Derrick High would not be denied (High in particular) and battled back to win by nearly a full second with a time of

would win the meet," said High, a junior that Tyre considers the heart and soul of the team. "But finishing second, that didn't satisfy us, so we had to win the 4-by-4." High typified Southern's overachiveing

the meet High's surprise second place finish in the 200 dash turned Tyre's worried anticipation into a victorious grin. However, High's performance (he set the school record with a time of 21.96 in the trials) was just the cap on a day that saw Southern athlete's rise to the ocassion time and again.

"We came into the meet not knowing for sure we could win, but Coach Tyre had us believing," High said. "We just ran with everything we had, and it all just fell

Senior Demaryland Cooper could not match last week's regional championship performance of 6-feet-10 in the high jump, instead he settled for runner-up status with a leap of 6-8 He more than made up for that slight regression, however, mances in both the long and triple jumps. Cooper, a Western Carolina recruit, soared 22-7 to place fourth in the long jump, then bounded 45to take fifth in the triple jump Peppers, the NCHSAA Athlete of Year, nearly matched his career best with a leap of 46-10 to place second in the long jump. Robersons William Montgomery the meet's MVF. won each of the

Southern took on the look of a winner with a blistering performance in the 800 relay. Tile unit of Gary, Jones, High, and Deans, which had already shattered the school record last week, re-set the school record with a blistering time of 1:27.78, good for a close second behind Dudley.

Deaas posted a runner-up showing in the 300 hurdles after setting a school record with a time of 39.4 in the trials.

"All these guys have worked so hard since they've been here, it really makes me proud to see them achieve such an outstanding accomplishement," Tyre said "We've worked since Day One with the goal of wining a state championship. All the time, all the effort has really paid off. These kids sacrificed a lot to be here. They don't have the fancy cars that other kids do because they practice instead of working. They gave up a lot for this team, and it really is good to see all that hard work pay off with something like this."

Fike's Tim Wells came from nowhere to sprint to victory in the 400 dash. Wells was seeded just sixth coming into the finals, but he blazed past the field coming out of the last turn, outstriding Burlington Williams

### **Demons** advance

By Jay Mumford

FUQUAY-VARINA - Fike High School's version of "Murderer's Row" came to the rescue Friday night in pounding out out a 15-12 win over Fuquay-Varina in a second round game in the N. C. High School Athletic Association's 3-A baseball playoffs.

Led by the home run power of seniors Brandon Godwin, Gerry Grimes and Jon Stancil, the Demons overcame erratic pitching in advancing to the Eastern semifinals at home Tuesday night against Southern Durham, a 5-3 winner over Washington.

Fike (16-6), the Big Eight Conference co-champion and No. seed, pounded out 18 hits and needed them all to offset a combined mound effort which produced six wild pitches and four passed balls.

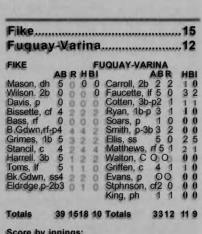
Fuquay-Varina (17-6), the Five County Conference's champion and No. I seed, fared badly as well, releasing eight wild pitches, including five by losing right-hander Neil Soars in a five-run, sixthinning rally.

Fike never trailed, although a fifth-inning error allowed the Bengals to eventually score four unearned runs and tie, 8-8. The Golden Demons held leads of 5-1, 84, 13-8 and 15-10.

'It was a struggle," said Golden Demons' head coach Will Flow-ers. "No lead was safe, because this game had a lot of stuff in it. Sometimes it was ugly; some-

times it was pretty."
Fike's decisive rally started with center fielder Brent Bissette walking, advancing to second on a wild pitch and scoring on God-win's fourth hit, a single to center.

Soars, who had come on in relief of right-handed reliever Jeremy Cotten, became unglued, unleashing another wild pitch, then surrendering a one-out, two-run homer to left by Stancil. Chris Harrell and senior Justin Toms laced consecutive singles, then



The state of the s					
Pitching Eldredge	IP 4	H	R 5	ER 4	BBSC
Davis (W, 5-2)	1	1	3	0	0
Godwin	2	4	12	3	4 3
Smith	21/3	5	- 20	- 15	0 0
Cotten	21/3	6	3	2	1 1
Soars (L. 1-3)	1	5	- 5	5	73 3
Ryan	11/3	2	2	2	1 3

proceeded to score as three more of Soars' pitches soared over the head of Bengals' catcher Joe

"We certainly hurt ourselves with the wild pitches," Fuquay-Varina head coach Milton Senter said. "But we didn't expect Fike to hit the ball as well as they did tonight. We just didn't have the pitching to get their big guys out."

Stancil was one of Fike's biggest guys, enjoying a 4-for4 night with four RBL Godwin, who belted a three-run homer in the third inning, also went 4-for4 for the Golden Demons, who equaled their fartherest advance in the playoffs at the 3-A level.

Harrell, freshman Brock Godwin and Bissette added two hits each for the Golden Demons.

The surge left the Golden Demons with a 13-8 lead, and the Bengals never came closer than three afterward, much to Senter's

disappointment.

"We kept coming and coming at them (Golden Demons)," he said.
"But we could never come far enough. I thought we had turned the corner when we tied the game in the fifth, but they got that big rally in the sixth, and there we

See Fike, page 2B



Southern Nash's Felicia Harris runs a leg of the state championship 800meter relaV. (Photos by Grant Roberson)

Hunt pitcher Jessica Tedder

(Photo by Tom Ham)

struck out 10.

#### SN girls take 2nd From staff reports RALEIGH — Led by a championship performance from the 800

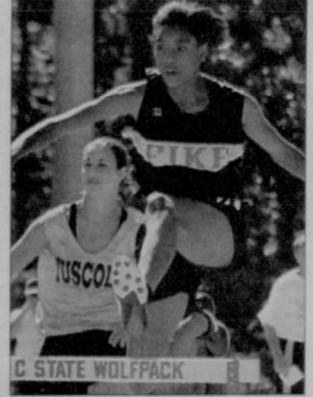
meter relay team, Southern Nash finished the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A girls track runner-up for the second straight year on N.C. State University's Paul Derr Track Friday.

TC. Roberson was again the state champion with 66 points, followed by the Ladybirds of coach Brian Foster with 58. Going into the 1,600-meter relay, the final event, Southern Nash could have shared the title by finishing three positions ahead of Rober-

Tresha Hunter, Meka Battle, Felicia Harris and Thomasina Parker comprised the Ladybirds' 800 relay that posted a first-place time of one minute, 42.2 seconds. Fike also claimed a state champi-

on in junior Tiffany Smith, who scorched the 300-meter intermediate hurdles field with a time of 44.87.

A detailed report of the girls' championship meet will appear in Monday's Daily Times sports section.



Fike's Tiffany Smith leaps over a hurdle in the 300-meter finals. Smith won the title.

### Lady Warriors oust Bertie, 3-2 By Tom Ham WINDSOR — Hunt returned to the scene of its poorest 1998 outing to turn in one of its sharpest performances on a gorgeous Friday afternoon.

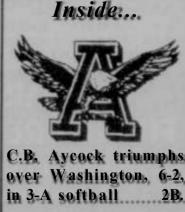
The effort was enough to boost the Lady Warriors of head coach Teresa Allen into the third round of the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A fast-pitch softball playoffs for the first time in the 20-year history of the softball program with a 3-2 squeaker over Big Eight Con-

ference rival Bertie. Hunt, 15-3 and victorious in 15 of its last 16 games, conquered the Lady Falcons for the second time in three meetings this season in reaching the Eastern semifinals on the road Tuesday at 7 p.m. against Charles B. Aycock, a 6-2 winner in eight innings over Washington Friday. The Lady Warriors and Bertie, which concluded 14-6, deadlocked for second place in the regular season.

The Lady Warriors, the Big Eight's No. 2 seed, constructed a 3-0 lead and withstood a Bertie bunting spree in the sixth inning.

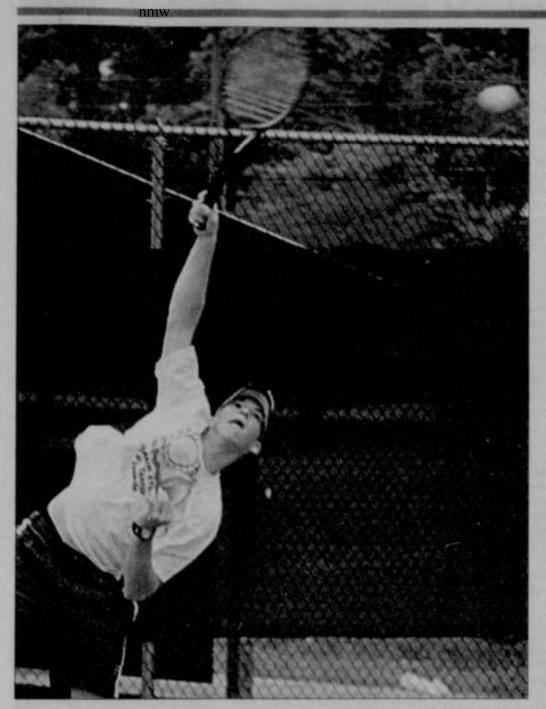
The Lady Falcons, making their first fast-pitch playoffs appearance and qualifying for the softball postseason for the first time in seven years, did not resort to the bunt in

See Hunt, page 3B





Greenfield advances to the NCISAA girls soccer championship with a win over Carolina Day.....2B.



Fike's Whitaker Askew smashes a shot during his championship victory Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Jay Mumford)

## Askew grabs crown

### Fike jumior beats No. I seed to win regional

By Jay Mumford **Daily Times Staff Writer** Fike's Whitaker Askew had two

dilemmas Saturday afternoon.

His first one would be whether he would have the stamina to play three singles matches in one day in the N. C. High School Athletic Association's Class 3- A Eastern Regional boys tennis

The junior's second dilemma was where to put the wall chart, signifying his march to the championship, punctuated by a 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory over top-seeded junior Henrik Teiwik of White Oak, an exchange student from Limoping, Sweden.

Beddingfield's No. I doubles team of Lee Vaughn-Beaty Bass failed to match the No. 2-seeded Askew's title accomplishment, falling 6-2, 6-1 in the finals to Washington's top-seeded duo of Vinnie Maurizzio-David Cook. Vaughn-Bass entered the tournament as the No.

The semifinalists in singles and doubles advanced to the NCHSAA 3-A championship at the Burlington Recreation Tennis Center Friday and Satur-

"I wasn't worried about playing three matches in one day," said Askew, who occupies the No. I position on the Golden Demons ladder. "Coming into the finals, I didn't feel tired. I felt like I was in pretty good shape.'

The final five games were a testament to Askew's efforts. Hampered by cramping muscles, he staved off a rally

scored when Hunt

Weller over ran the

the second run in

the second inning,

singling, then mov-

ing to second on an

attempt and scoring

on an infield error

on a grounder from

senior right fielder

Brandon Godwin.

Junior

pick-off

center

Southern sweeps track regional

Eldredge scored

### 3-A results

Class 3-A EASTERN REGIONAL

FINALS Askew d. Teiwik, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4

by Teiwik, taking momentary breaks betweem points to attempt to stretch his legs in order to continue.

Teiwik couldn't take full advantage of Askew's physical problems, however, despite closing within 5-4 after falling behind 4-0.

He said Askew's tenacity was a major contributor to the outcome.

"He's a great player," Teiwik said. "The players in my conference (Coastal) would hit the ball maybe two or three times, and give up on a point. He hit the ball hard, kept it in play and kept me running.

"It was very tiring."

After routing Washington's Marcus Jones. 6-0, 6-0 in the quarterfinals and Southern Nash's fourth-seeded Braxton Patterson, 6-1, 6-1 in the semis, Askew dominated Teiwik, who entered the match with a 21-0 record.

Askew mixed crisp down-the-line and cross-court forehand volleys to build a 5-2 first-set lead, but Teiwik stormed back to take a 6-5 advantage.

"I ws getting a little concerned when he started to come back," Askew said. "But I didn't want to second-guess myself, because, when you do that, you penalize yourself by losing your focus.

"But I was real concerned when he took the 6-5 lead. Somehow7I managed to break his serve and force the tiebreaker.'

The undefeated Askew (17-0) forged a 6-2 lead in the tiebreaker then held on to win the set.

The second set began as a carboncopy of the first, with Askew racing to a 4-0 led, capitalizing on what he said was a weak backhand attack by Teiwik Teiwik battled back again, but there

would be no tiebreaker this time. "It was same old, same old," Askew said "But I wasn't about to let him come back all the way again.'

"I lost concentration in the first parts of both sets," Teiwik said. "Ifs very hard to come back from those deficits and have a shot at winning."

Vaughn-Bass rallied from a one-set deficit to win the semifinal encounter

See Askew, page 2B

### Fike makes best of second chance

#### Golden Demons rides bats, Davis' arm to Big Eight top seed opened the second

By Phil Goble Jr.

Daily Times Sports Editor
Fike High missed an opportunity to sew up the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference regular-season title when it slipped at archrival Hunt two weeks ago.

Saturday night, the Golden Demons did not let a second chance get away.

Behind an eight-hit offensive and the pitching of right hander David Davis, the Golden Demons wrapped up the league's top seed in the N.C. High School Athletic Association playoffs with a 4-0 victory over the visiting Warriors.

The contest became necessary when both finished the Big Eight tied for first with 10-4 worksheets.

The co-champions get home games in the first round Tuesday night - Fike entertains Durham Hillside while Hunt welcomes Southern Durham. Both games are set for 7 p.m.

"We should have won over at Hunt," said Fike senior second baseman Matt Eldredge. "We felt we shouldn't have had to play this game tonight."

But play they did — in every aspect of the game

In the field, Davis was king of the hill. Using a fastball and curveball, the junior befuddled Hunt batters most of the night,

three. He hit one batter: "He's got a good curveball and a good

striking out nine while walking just

fastball and he blended pike them well tonight," said Hunt. Fike head coach Will Flowers, whose team improved HUNT to 14-6 overall. The Warriors had both

their hits in the first inning Tant, 1b Skinner, and had their biggest threat in the second, when they loaded the bases. That, however, was all the Totals

offense Hunt could muster. Davis worked out of the

bases loaded jam with a Fike strikeout — an out that started a string of 12 straight.

Hunt got runners on in the final two innings due to Davis (W, 4-2) errors and walks. "I only threw two pitches

- fastball and curveball," said Davis, who improved to 4-2. "I was mixing it up well to their good hitters. We've been talking about it (rematch) since we lost over there. They (Demons) were pumped up when we got here, so I knew we had a good chance.'

The chance got even better when Fike came to the plate.

Despite hitting into three double plays, the Demons rapped eight hits and benefited from four Hunt errors.

Senior first baseman Gerry Grimes



fielder Brent Bissette earned theonly RBI — slapping a double to left- center field that scored Eldredge in the fifth inning.

errant

Fike's final run came in the sixth on two singles and a two-out error.

"As far as our team, it's good to see them step up and play that way (hard)," said Flowers. "It shows the coach they care."

Eldredge and Grimes each wound up 2for-3 with two runs scored while Bissette wound up 2-for-2.

Cedric Williams suffered the pitching



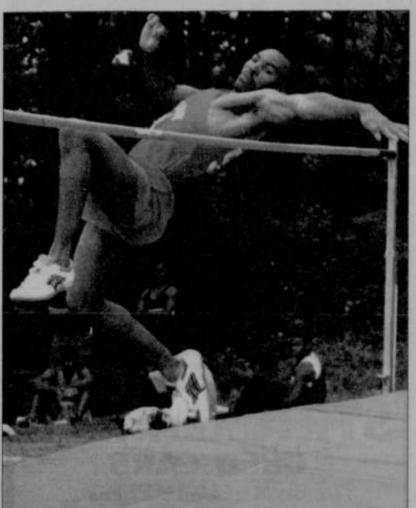
Fike center fielder Brent Bissette rips a single in the first inning Saturday evening. (photo by pwi Goble jd

loss for Hunt, falling to 2-1 after striking out one and walking one in six innings.

"We made too many errors and had too many strikeouts," said Hunt head coach Stevie Hinnant, whose team dipped to 13-6. "We were making the kid look good on his off-speed pitches. Don't get me

wrong, he was mixing it up well, but we were trying to hit it out of the park instead of just going to the right side like

we've been doing. "But. we're going to the playoffs; we're co-champions and that's all I care



Southern Nash senior DeMaryland Cooper soaredto the high jump championship with a leap of 6feet-10. (Photo by Scott Jones)

### Boys catch field unprepared

By Scott Jones Daily Times Staff Writer

STANHOPE — Maybe now that the state track meet is on the horizon, Southern Nash will finally be able to find some competition.

In a scene so repetitive that it now almost borders on monotony, Southern Nash's boys track team has followed the same formula for success all season long: show up, find the competition unprepared for the impending onslaught, and race to victory by a ridiculous margin.

Such was the case Saturday afternoon as the host Firebirds blitzed the Class 3-A Eastern Regional field in preparation for what Southern hopes will be the school's first-ever N.C. High School Athletic Association track championship Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr Track Complex.

If numbers count, Southern will posses a decided advantage in its championship quest. The Firebirds are qualified to compete in a gaudy 16 of the 18 events, with the 100- and 400-meter dashes being Southern's only non-qualifiers. The top four finishers in each event qualified for the state meet. All six area members of the Big Eight, with Fike, Hunt, Beddingfield, Southwest Edgecombe, and Charles B. Aycock joining the Firebirds, will be represented at the state meet. Pike will have the area's second largest contingent as the Golden Demons are qualified in six events.

Such domination equaled 171 team points for the Firebirds Saturday, a total that decimated runner-

See Firebirds, page 2B

### Ladybirds crush foes again

By Scott Jones Daily times Staff Writer

STANHOPE — the season has already been ultra successful, but Southern Nash's girls track team has competed all season with a sense that it had some unfinished business to handle. The opportuni-

ty is now a week away. The Ladybirds came close last year to experiencing the ultimate in prep competition — a state championship. Southern finished 14 points behind TC. Roberson, taking home the silver runner-up plaque. All season long the Ladybirds have pointed towards bringing home the gold first-place plaque. If Saturday's N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A Eastern Regional, held at Southern Nash, is a true indicator, the Ladybirds are definitely

poised for a championship run.

Southern, as has been the case all year, outclassed the competition in romping to 170 team points, easily outdistancing runner-up Fike's 78. Thanks to a strong showing in the field events, the Ladybirds needed just seven events to amass a point total high enough to win the meet. Southern had 70 points coming out of the field, and Tish Pope's third place finish in the 100-meter low hurdles effectively sealed the outcome, giving Southern

82 points. However, Southern's success was not limited to the field. The Ladybirds qualified in a staggering total of 16 of the 17 state championship events that will be contested Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr

See Ladybirds, page 2B



Fike's Calin Burkett en route to one of her three \ictories. (Photo by Scott Jones)

### **Jackets** add two titles

By Jay Mumford **Daily Times Staff Writer** 

The staple of Roanoke Rapids' proud tennis tradition has been the play of its doubles teams.

Saturday afternoon at the Barton College Tennis Complex, the Yellow Jackets continued to build on the program's rich heritage by adding the N. C. High School Athletic Association's 2-A Eastern Regional boy's tennis singles and doubles championships

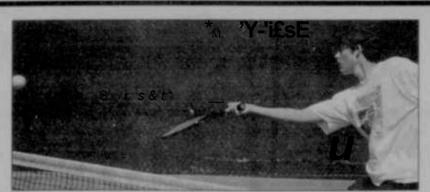
The Yellow Jackets placed both of its doubles teams in the finals, doing so at the expense of Eastern Plains Conference member Greene Central, which held the top two tournament seeds.

The Rams' No. 2-seeded team of Lance Miller-Ken Morgan dropped a 6-1, 6-2 decision to eventual tournament champions Philip Artmann-Adam Swecker; while No. I seeds Steven West-David Monroe dropped a threeset, 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 marathon to Will Spears-Brad Young.

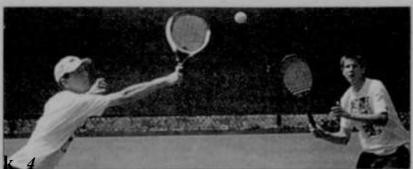
Artmann-Swecker defeated Spears-Young, 6-2, 6-4 for the title. All four teams, as well as the individuals who reached the semifinals of the singles event, into the NCHSAA 2-A state championship

tournament, which begins Friday

at N. C. State University. Claiming the singles championship was the Yellow Jackets' top-seeded Dennis Lerchl, who ripped Northern Vance's fourthseeded Spencer Delbridge, 6-0, 6-0 in the finals. So overpowering was Lerchl, that two consecutive games lasted a combined time of



Dennis Lerchl smacks a shot. (Photos by Jay Mumford)



Adam Swecker, left, and Phillip Artmann coordinate in doubles.

### 2-A results

N. C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION Class 2-A EASTERN REGIONAL

SINGLES
Semifinals
(No. 1 seed) Dennis Lerchl (Roanoke Rapids) d. Adam Fields (Warren County), 6-2, 6-0; (No. 4) Spencer Delbridge (Northern Vance) d. (No. 2) Jay Carraway (Swansboro), 6-0, 6-0 SINGLES

Lerchl d. Delbridge, 6-0, 6-0. DOUBLES

Will Spears-Brad Young (Roanoke Rapids)
d. (No 1) Steven West-David Monroe
(Greene Central). 6-1, 2-6, 6-3. (No. 4) Phillip
Artmann-Adam Swecker (Roanoke Rapids)
d. (No 2) David-Ken Morgan (Greene Central). 6-1, 6-2.

Finals
Artmann-Swecker d. Spears-Young, 6-2, 6-

one minute, 45 seconds.

Lerchl, a junior and an exchange student from Germany, improved to 19-0 for the season. He defeated Warren County's Adam Fields 6-2, 6-0 in the semis, while Delbridge dispatched a 7-1 record, while Swansboro's No. 2-seed Jay Caradvances at 6-2.

raway, 6-6, 6-0. Lerchl dropped but two games in four matches

Artmann-Swecker improved to 16-1, while Spears-Young stand 14-2. Carraway is 15-5. West-Monroe go into the state tournament with a 7-1 record, while Miller-Morgan

### Askew leads state qualifying contingent

(Continued from page one)

against fourth-seeded Jason McDaniel-Robert Strickland of North Lenoir, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Vaughn raced across the court to make a lunging return, which whistled past a ducking Bass and over the net to set up match point.

"I just ran as hard as I could and got it back over," Vaughn said. "Our last two sets were a lot better than the first. It was very ugly.'

The Bruins' duo said they were able to get their

Firebirds rule

regional roost

(Continued from page one)

up Coastal conference represen-

tative Washington's 60. Southern's

fellow Big Eight conference

member Fike was third with 48

points. The meet was comprised

of the Big Eight and Coastal con-

ferences, plus Northeastern-

Albermarle misfit Manteo. The

Redskins are the only 3-A mem-

ber of the Northeastern-Alber-

As the score indicated, South-

ern found the competition lack-

ing. As a matter of fact, the Fire-

birds had enough team points

(68) after the first five field

events were in the books. Howev-

er, the final field event, the high

jump, provided the day's best competition, and a Firebird rose

Southern senior DeMaryland

Cooper, a Western Carolina

signee, wowed a gathering that

grew with each raising of the high

jump bar by clearing a school-

record six feet, IO inches. The

competition Cooper faced was

familiar - Hunt's Mark Strick-

land and Beddingfield's Brian

Blount, each of whom cleared 6-8.

The trio has switched off big-

meet titles all season, with Blount

taking the Wilson Daily Times

Track Classic title and Strickland

claiming top honors in the Big

Eight conference meet. Cooper

to the task there as well.

marle conference.

ground strokes down in the final two sets, which wasn't working for them at the outset of the match.

However, nothing worked well for them in the finals, while Maurizzio-Cook performed like a welloiled machine in racing to the championship.

"We used a lot of aggressive play at the net," Maurizzio said. "Last night's (Friday) (quarterfinal against Beddingfield's John Green-Jeff Bryant) was our toughest match of the tournament. Today was a lot of fun."

### 3-A boys results

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION Class 3-A EASTERN REGIONAL Boys Track Meet (at Southern Nash High School)

TEAM RESULTS
Southern Nash (SN) 171. Washington (Wj
60, Fike (F) 48, Havelock (Hav) 40, White
Oak (WO) 38, Pender County (PC) 36,
Charles B. Aycock (CBA) 33. Goldsboro (G)
22, Hunt (H) 22, Beddingfield (B) 22, Kinston
(K) 20, Southwest Edgecombe (SWE) 17.
Hertford County (HC) 14 North Lenoir (NL)
8, Manteo (M) 5, Bertie (Ber) 1.

SHOT PUT — Burgess (W) 51 feet, 8 1/2 inches; Earp (SN), Howell (PC), Rose (H), Breen (H), Peppers (SN)

DISCUS — Rowell (PC), 162-1; Burgess (W), C. Rogers (SN), Reddick (W), Dickens (SWE), T. Rogers (SN).

LONG JUMP — Coleman (G), 21-11 3/4; Cooper (SN), B. Perry (SN), Langston (B), Dalley (Hav), Carver (M).

TRIPLE JUMP — Peppers (SN), 45-8 3/4; Cooper (SN), Atkinson (F), Foster (F), Perry (SN), Carver (M).

HIGH JUMP — Cooper (SN), 6-10; Strickland (H), Blount (B), Joyner (B), Bowen (W), Coleman (G), Bass (Ber)

POLE VAULT — Howard (SN). 11-6; Butler (CBA), Winstead (SN), Corbitt (CBA), Thomas (SN), Archbell (M).

3,200 RELAY — Southern Nash (Keen,

made two attempts at seven feet before passing on his final attempt to return to the triple jump competition.

"The high jump today was all motivation," Cooper said. "I didn't make it to the state meet last year, and that really upset me because I knew I should have been there. That pushed me a lot. I knew I could do it (clear 6-10) all along, but it did come as a surprise.

jump until Goldsboro's Travis

Daniels, McGarvey, Evernham), eight minutes, 33.4 seconds; White Oak, Havelock, Hertford Co., Beddingfield, C B. Aycock.

110 HURDLES — A. Deans (SN), 14.4; Richardson (SWE), Gibbs (W), Dunn (CBA), Joyner (SN), Smith (SN).

100 — Hardy (K), 10.5; Macklin (F), Phelps (Hav), Musgrave (G), Dailey (Hav), Hardy (NL).

(NL).
800 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones, High, Deans), 1:28.3; Fike. Pender Co., North Lenoir, Washington, Goldsboro.
1.600 — Mollahar. (WO). 4:42 4; Hubbard

1.600 — Mollahar. (WQ). 4:42 4; Hubbard (CBA). McGarvey (SN), Long (H), Roseboro (NL), R Perry (SN) 400 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones Peppers, High), 42.7; Fike. Goldsboro, Havelock, Kinston. North Lenoir. 400 — Bowen (W), 50.8; Wells (F), Boney (PC) McKinney (SWE), Ward (K), R Deans (SN).

(SN).
300 HURDLES — Gibbs (W), 39.7; Gary (SN), Deans (SN), Butcher (H), Matthews (F), William (B). Evernham (SN), Valentine (HC), Dupree (SWE).
200 — Gentry (WO), 22.0; High (SN), Hardy (K), Phelps (Hav), Dailey (Hav), Bowen (W)
3.200 — Mollahan (WO), 10:37.2; Hubbard (CBA), McGarvey (SN). Mucci (Hav), White (W). Waters (M).

(W). Waters (M).

1.600 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones. Peppers, High). 3:26.3; Pender Co., Washington, Fike, Southwest Edgecombe.

Coleman topped him by an inch

Cooper also posted secondplace finishes in the long and triple jumps. He led the long and 3/4 on his final attempt. Cooper's teammate, Julius Peppers, the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year, captured the triple

"I'm awestruck," Southern head coach Alton Tyree said of his team's third regional title in the past four years. "These guys never cease to amaze me. We put on some outstanding performances today. We've practiced since Day One with the goal of winning the state championship. We feel really good about next

### **Damsels** rule GPIC tourney

### Greenfield blanks Hale High, 5-0

By Tom Ham **Executive Sports Editor** 

ROCKY MOUNT -State qualifiers had best not underestimate Greenfield's chances of repeating as the N.C. Independent Schools Athletic Association 1A girls soccer champion.

The Damsels of head coach Ben Forbes sent a warning on Rocky Mount Academy turf Satafternoon, blanking Coastal Plains Independents Conference regular-season champion Hale High of Raleigh, 5-0, to seize the tournament crown.

Junior Cindy Tetterton, pro-claimed the tournament's Most Valuable Player, not only defused dynamite Hale eighth-grader Katherine Kelley, the CPIC Player of the Year, but recorded a hat trick (three goals) as Greenfield avenged its only regular-season CPIC loss and boosted seedings hopes for this week's state tour-

Amy Sullivan, also a junior, knocked in the other two goals as the Damsels rocketed to a 2-0 halftime lead and then dominated deflated Hale (14-2).

Tetterton's primary responsibility was to mark Kelley, who has wrecked the Damsels in Hale's 3-2 regular-season tri-

"When we played them the first time, we were not marking No. 8 (Kelley)," Tetterton said. "Forbes told me not to leave her to be like I was a part of her. She's a great player and she's their playmaker. Everything they do offensively starts with her. We knew we had to shut her down." Kelley did not get off a shot

until Tetterton and the Greenfield

### Ladybirds get

(Continued from page one) Track Complex. The only event the Ladybirds did not post a topfour showing (the requirement for advancing to the state meet) was the 100-meter dash.

The Ladybirds will be joined by area rivals and fellow Big Eight conference members Fike, Beddingfield, Southwest Edgecombe and Charles B. Aycock at the state meet. Hunt was the only area school that failed to post a state qualifier.

"I think it is nice for the girls to be rewarded for their hard work," Southern head coach Brian Foster said. "I think these girls represent themselves well everywhere, not just on the track. It's good to see people like that win."

Southern posted just two individual wins, but Ladybirds were omnipresent in the second, third, and fourth places slots. Junior Kineta Williams captured the shot put competition, and sophomore Meka Battle soared past teammate Felecia Harris in the triple jump to give Southern its individual wins. Harris and Battle finished second and third, respectively, in the long jump. Havelock's Christia Wallace sailed 16 feet, IO 1/2 inches on her final attempt to edge Harris by a half inch.

The Ladybirds also took wins in three of the four relay races. Fike

### 3-A girls results second crown

(12-8) starters had departed.

offense.

was not our day.

unassisted goal.

Forbes lauded Tetterton for

being smart enough to know when

to abandon Kelley and become

involved in the Greenfield

me," Kelley said of Tetterton. "I

kind of expected it. They were not

ready for us the first time, but,

today, they were prepared. It just

goals, with sophomore Claire

Smith assisting the first. Green-

field's offense turned to the

attack mode once Smith was

moved up front. Tetterton's sec-

ond goal came on a penalty kick

with just over three minutes

remaining in the first half and

she closed the scoring with an

"I just happened to be there,"

Tetterton said of her goals.

"Claire gave me a really nice

square at the goal on the first one.

Thatterton drilled both first-half

"She did a good job of marking

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION Class 3-A EASTERN REGIONAL Girls Track Meet (at Southern Nash Senior High)

TEAM RESULTS TEAM RESULTS
Southern Nash (SN) 170, Fike (F) 78,
Havelock (Hav) 62, Hertford County (HC) 58,
Kinston (K) 27, Southwest Edgecombe
(SWE) 26, Beddingfield (B) 25, Washington
(W) 22, Charles B. Aycock (CBA) 12, North
Lenoir (NL) 12, Hunt (H) 9, Manteo (M) 6,
Pender County (PC) 4, Bertie (Ber) 3.

SHOT PUT — Williams (SN), 37 feet, 5 1/2 inches; Sessoms (HC), Whitley (SN), McNeil (Hav), Sparrow (NL), Dunston (SN).

DISCUS — Sessoms (HC), 112-10; McNeil (Hav), Sparrow-(NL), Whitley (SN), Dunston (SN), Williams (SN)

LONG JUMP — Wallace (Hav), 16-10 1/2; Harris (SN), Battle (SN), Graham (NL), Burton (SN), Harrell (Ber).

TRIPLE JUMP — Battle (SN), 37-9; Harris (SN), Hinnant (F), Fonville (WO), Williamson (SN), Corrigan (H).

HIGH JUMP — Wallace (Hav), 4-10; Pierce (SN), Foster (SN), Lewis (HC).

3,200 RELAY — Fike (Thomas, Bond, Moore, Burkett), 10 minutes, 37.4 seconds; Beddingfield, Southern Nash, Havelock, Hunt.

took top honors in the 3200 relay to prevent the Southern sweep, and sophomore Carin Burkett was a big reason why.

Burkett turned in the day's most impressive individual performance by sweeping the distance events. As well as running the anchor leg on the 3200 relay, Burkett also placed first in the 800-, 1600-, and 3200-meter runs. Any track observer will testify that Burkett pulled off a grueling quartet of victories, Burkett only seemed to get stronger as the day went on. Her margin of victory in the 3200, her last race, was 30 sec-

(tourney MYP).

Greenfield's Lauren Forbes, left, contests Hale's

Elizabeth Rendleman for possession. (Protoby TomHan)

Then I got lucky and got a penal-

ty kick. On the last one, I saw the

ball coming and just, went for it."

In between, Sullivan converted

Rhia

and freshman

Aycock

assists from freshman Elizabeth

sparkled in goal with five saves

and senior Lauren Forbes, wear-

ing the scars of physical tourna-

Gretchen Barber turned in stellar

Tetterton was joined on the all-

tournament team by teammates

Barber, Sullivan, Forbes and

Smith and Forbes were each

"I'm happy," Tetterton said of

being the tourney MVP. "But I

knew we didn't have the Player of

the Year and I just wanted some-

body from Greenfield to get it

named all-conference,

junior Tiffany Rudolph

accorded honorable mention.

Tetterton, Sullivan,

Bischoff and Tetterton.

Sophomore

ment play,

performances.

Aycock.

100 HURDLES — Burgess (W). 14,8; Smith (F), Pope (SN), Schmidt (CBA), Anderson (K), Dawes (SN).
100 — Burgess (W), 12.4; Williams (K), Picott (HC), Jackson (K), Street (SWE), McNeil (HC).
800 RELAY — Southern Nash (Hunter, Harris. Battle. Parker). 1:44 8; Southwest Edgecombe, Fike, Hertford Co., Havelock, Kinston.

1.600 — Burkett (F), 5:32.4 Bronars (Hav), Newsome (No),
Cook (WO).
400 RELAY — Southern Nash (Parker,
Pope, Dawes, Hunter), 50.3; Southwest
Edgecombe. Hertford Co., Beddingfield, Kin-

400 — Davis (Hav), 1:00.3; Parker (SN), Harris (SN), Hayes (PC), Corrigan (H), Pope

(B).

300 HURDLES — Smith (F), 46 3; Schmidt (CBA). Burton (SN), Foster (SN), Joyner (HC), Pope (SN).

SOO — Burkett (F), 2:31.1; Marshburn (SN), Hall

SCO — Burkett (F), 2:31.1; Marshburn (SN), Hall (Bedd), Smith (K), Abell (WO), Newsome (HC) 200 — Picott (HC), 26.3; Hunter (SN), Williams (K), Street (SWE), Thompson (H), Burgess (W). 3,200 — Burkett (F), 12:27; Joyner (SN), Bronars (Hav), McIver (M), Flowers (H),

Pittman (W).

1.600 RELAY — Southern Nash (Hunter, Pope, Battle. Parker), 4:18.5; Fike. Bedding-field, Southwest Edgecombe, Bertie, White Oak.

"When I first started running, I thought I'd have more competition than I iiad," said Burkett. "I just know that I have to keep everyone behind me. If they are behind me, I know I'm doing good."

Fike junior Tiffany Smith was the only other area competitor to capture a first-place finish. Smith bested Charles B. Aycock junior Stephanie Schmidt by nearly three seconds to take top honors m the 300-meter hurdles.

### Reid, Brown spearhead Greene Central advance tie for second (10.9) in the 100

SNOW HILL — Reginald Reid aid Alfae Brown paced Greene central's boys track team to a clurth-place finish in the N. C. High School Athletic Associaon's 2-A Eastern Regional at creene Central High School Satday afternoon.

Reid earned a pau of berths to

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the NCHSAA 2-A Championship meet in Charlotte Wednesday with championships in the long and triple jumps. Reid leaped distances of 21 feet, nine inches and 44-6, respectively.

Brown claimed invitations with a first-place effort in the 200meter dash (22.8 seconds), and a

**KEVIN JOYNER** 

Hwy. 301 S., Wilson

meters. Their respective showings,

along with a first-place finish from the 400 -meter relay team and a runner-up effort by Tony Darden in the 400-meter dash garnered the Rams a total of 57

Whiteville took the team championship with 85 points.

The Lady Rams qualified only one individual (top four finishers are state bound). Freshman Amette Pridgen placed fourth in the shot put. The Lady Rams' 800meter relay team placed second to advance to Wednesday's meet.

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### THE WILSON DAILY TIMES

## Sports



Southern Nash three-sport standout Julius Peppers, left, accepts his award from former NCHSAA board member Ronald Chavis, center, and Que Tucker. (Photo by Phu Goble JD

### Peppers named top male athlete

Daily Times Sports Editor
CHAPEL HILL — For the past four years, Southern Nash
three-sport star Julius Peppers has won nearly every award he could think of — All-Class 3-A Big Eight Conference in football and basketball; Wilson Daily Times

all-area in football and basketball; Firebird f(x)tball and basketball MYP; Parade football All-American.

Thursday afternoon inthe Dean Smith Center, Peppers won one he did not know existed — and it may have been one of the

In front of a crowd of nearly 300 coaches, athletics directors and adminLstrators, the 6-foot-7, 250-pound Peppers was named the 1998 N.C. High School Athletic Association's Male Athlete of the Year.

The award, presented at the NCHSAA's annual meeting, is in its 13th year and has been bestowed upon such athletes as Robert Siler of Jordan

Matthews (1986-87), CTiester McGlockton of Whiteville (1987-88), Rusty LaRue of Northwest Guilford (1991-92), Na Brown of Reidsville (1994-95) and Tyrell Godwin of East Bladen

'I found out about it last week," said Peppers, accompanied to the ceremony by coaches Ray Davis and Brian Foster as well as a small army of family members. "I didn't even know they had one. I don't think it's sunk in yet."

Peppers was chosen from more than 120,000 athletes that complete in 22 NCHSAA-sanctioned events across the state The final field for the Pat Best Memorial Award was narrowed to eight, according to NCHSAA Associate

Executive Director Rick Strunk. Receiving the Female Athlete of the Year award was Clifeteana McKiver of East Duplin High School. McKiver excelled in volleyball, basketball and track for the Lady Panthers of the 2-A East Central Conference. The two-time ECC Player of the Year led East Duplin's basketball team to a 29-0 record and the state 2-A title this year,

finishing her career with 1,924 points, 1,330

rebounds and 555 blocked shots, Peppers' basketball numbers were nearly identical — more than 1,600 career points, 1,000 rebounds and more than 500

See Peppers, page 3B

## Championship day in the Big Eight

Pike, Hunt share soccevy baseball titles; C.B. Aycock claims softball crown



Pike senior Stacey Radford (18) kicks ball as Hunt freshman Sara Beth Cox defends Thursday at Pike. (Photo by Scott Jones)

### Demons tie for title with I-0 decision

By Scott Jones

Daily Times Staff Writer A few youthful Fike fans pointed towards the scoreboard and gave Hunt senior soccer player Camille Harrison a bit of a razzing as she walked down the sideline Thursday night, to which she replied, "It ain't over."

In a way she was right, but not on this night. With Fike leading 1-0 with six minutes and 30 seconds left. Harrison and the rest of the visiting Lady Warriors thought they were headed to their bus to wait for some still-distant bad weather to pass. However, 20 minutes later, the officials ended the ame because of lightning, and the Lady Golden Demons broke into a celebratory frenzy when they earned their upset of the state No. 4-ranked Lady

The controversial outcome left the two tied atop the Big Eight Conference standings at IM — and co-champions. Fike, now 14-1-1 overall, travels to Hunt, 15-2, Wednesday night at 7 for a game to decide which team earns the Big Eight's No. I seed in the upcoming N. C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs. Hunt won a coin toss prior to last night's game to earn the right to be the home

So, as Harrison said, it ain't over yet. But Thursday's game is definitely history, and a happy bit of history it is for the Lady Demons. Fike freshman Kelly Reid scored on a breakaway seven minutes into the second half, then the Golden Demons defense, anchored by junior Elizabeth Spencer and senior Stacy Radford, combined with the weather to hold Hunt scoreless for the first time in league play since Fike accomplished the feat in

As the played developed, Reid's gem did not immediately have the look of a Golden Demons goal. Fike freshman Jamie Crocker won a loose ball ust on Fike's side of midfield and booted the ball long tow'ards Hunt's goal, apparently to no one in particular. However, Reid quickly emerged with a burst of speed, controlled the ball, and looked goalward. A Hunt defender moved in, but Reid stopped and drilled the ball into the right portion of the goal

See Demons, page 2B

### Warriors top SN to share crown

By Tom Ham

Hunt High varsity baseball players barely celebrated Thursday afternoon.

And they had earned every right. But head coach Stevie Hinnant and his Warriors sensed they had survived a flat performance in seizing a share of the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference championship with archrival Fike by turning back Southern Nash, 7-2, on the Hunt diamond.

Hunt, 13-5, 10-4 in the Big Eight, emerged the co-champion after coming off a disappointing 1997 season. A year ago, the Warriors were projected Big Eight contenders — but finished 4-10 in the

"To be the conference co-champion is overwhelmingly good," Hinnant said. "We were very much overlooked at the beginning of the year. To lose seven seniors off a team that went 4-10 in the conference, you've got to be happy with the conference championship

"I'm thankful we got it done, but I am badly disappointed in the way we got it done. We had no enthusiasm at all."

But Hunt took command with six unearned runs in the second inning against a Firebirds' squad, that in the opinion of head coach Tommy Warrick, was not especiaUy motivated to deprive the Warriors the

"This is the way it has been all year," Warrick said, "it has been a

Southern Nash, a playoffs contender until the final week, exited 10-9, 7-7 in the conference.

Senior shortstop Bert Boswell, who triggered Hunt's big second with a bases-loaded double, echoed his head coach's sentiments.

"I thought we were in a good frame of mind and ready to play before the game," Boswell said. "I don't know what happened. It was like we knew what we had to do to get it (win the championship) done, but we didn't know that we were getting it done.
"We didn't have any enthusiasm

.. 3-for-4 afternoon and didn't play like we are supposed to play. Once we got up six runs, I thought we would have a little more enthusiasm. It never showed. It had bet-

The Warriors struck for the six runs after starting Southern Nash junior right-hander Jeremy Hardy (2-2) retired the first two batters in the bottom of the second. Left fielder Blake Weller

See Hunt, page 3B

### Pike enjoys third game with Bruins

By Jay Mumford **Daily Times Staff Writer** 

For Fike's varsity basebaU team, the third meeting against county and Class 3-A Big Eight Conference rival Beddingfield was extremely charming.

The Golden Demons manufactured a five-run fifth inning rally and went on to secure a 10-7 victory, to claim a share of the conference championship with its other archri-

I've blasted 15 hits in the win to improve to 13-6, 10-4 Big Eight, while Beddingfield, the 1997 champion and N.C. High School Athletic Association 3-A runner-up, completed its season with marks of 9-10, 7-7 Big Eight.

The (bolden Demons and Hunt, who defeated Southern Nash, 7-2, Thursday afternoon. The Warriors and Golden Demons will collide in a special playoff game on the Fike diamond at 7 pm. Saturday to determine the Big Eight's Nos. I and 2 berths in the N. C. High School Athletic Association 3-A playoffs, scheduled to begin next

Fike won the coin flip this morning to determine Saturday's playoff

Several "thirds" led to Fike's

· The go-ahead rally in the fifth was the third inning in which the

(bolden Demons scored. · Junior third baseman Chris Harrell provided the go-ahead hit, a two-run double to right. The hit

was his third in his third at-bat. The RBIs were Harrell's second and third. • Senior left fielder Justin Toms followed Harrell's double with a two-run homer to left — on the

third fastball he received from losing pitcher Kris BosweU. But as charming as it was, F'ike's fifth-inning rally almost

failed to materialize. Tied 3-3 entering the bottom of the fifth inning, Fike opened its rally with an infield hit by junior center fielder Brent Bissette.

Senior right fielder Brandon (Godwin popped to second, but junior

He picked up the ball, and threw to second to retire Bissette. Godwin, who seemed to be in a daze, stood watching the developments a few feet before reaching first, but quicldy recovered and

Junior catcher Jonathan Stancil singled for the

See Fike, page 3B

### second baseman Erie Pierce allowed the ball to drop to the ground. beat the relay throw to the bag.

### Lady Golden Falcons wrap up first Big Eight title in first year of fast-pitch Kathy McClenny doubled and

Charles B. Aycock wrapped up ole possession of the top spot, and lunt settled for a share of second place in the conference and Bed-dingfield slipped past Fike in high school varsity fast-pitch softball competition Thursday.

Warriors was official.

**CBA** tops Big Eight

PINETOPS — In its first year fast-pitch and in its first year

### Softball

as a member of the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference, Charles B. Aycock captured the league championship, blanking host Southwest Edgecombe, 3-0. The Lady Golden Falcons of

coach Al Yelverton enter the N.C.

High School Athletic Association playoffs with an 18-3 record, finishing 12-2 in the Big Eight. SouthWest's season ends at 8-12, 6-8 in the league.

"We are very pleased," Yelverton said of the Lady Falcons topping the Big Eight after shifting from the 2-A East Central Conference. "I think we're shocked. You certainly can't do anything but

praise the girls for adapting to the hitting, pitching style and basic rule changes in fast-pitch."

Emily West, a senior right-hander, stopped the Lady Cougars on four hits. West struck out three and walked one.

CBA managed eight hits off losing pitcher Audrey Eason and got a run in each of the first, second and sixth innings.

scored on senior third baseman Stephanie Cannon's single in the first. Senior Jeri Lynn Coker singled arni scored on senior Amanda Bardin's hit in the second.

Bardin tripled in Coker in the

Brent Bissette

**Bert Boswell** 

bases loaded double

Cannon batted 3-for-3, while Bardin was 2-for-3.

Tile Lady Falcons will play at

home in their playoff opener.

### Hunt edges Firebirds

STANHOPE - Visiting Hunt claimed the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference's No. 2 spot in the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs by out-lasting Southern Nash, 10-8 in

See Hunt, page 2B

#### SNS features Late Model Sportsman 100-lapper KENLY An 100-laps Late Model Sportsman race headlines the Spring (lassie 275 auto racing program scheduled at Southern

National Speedway Saturday night. features in all divisions are planned for the first time in four

The lineup includes features of 75 laps in Late Model Stock, 40 laps in Pro Trucks, 35 laps in Super Stock and 25 laps in Four Cylinder Stock.

The green flag drops for the first feature at 7:30.

SOUTHERN NATIONAL SPEEDWAY (Through races of May 2)

#### Late Model Stock

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1.Hank Jarman	Kinston	4	172
2. Deac McCaskill	Raleigh	08	164
3. Jamey Caudill	Four Oaks	50	162
4. Jay Crawford	Durham	69	142
5. Marty Ellis	Wilson	11	140
6 David Humphrey	Raleigh	Ю	130
7. Cam Strader	Wilson	16	128
8.Billy Ray Lucas	Wilson	0	122
9 Tony Grady	Raleigh	1	116
IO. Jake Yelverton	Selma	6	110

#### **Late Model Sportsman**

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
I Randy Renfrow	Raleigh	87	100
2. Eddie Massengill	Goldsboro	1	99
3. Jim Kelley	Newport	K7	98
4. Shelton McNair	Plymouth	M3	97
5. Barry McCaskill	Wendell	2	96
6. John Jones	Goldsboro	5	95
7 Tony Jackson	Chocowinity	v 3	94
8. Ricky McKeel	Black Creel	42	93
9. Chris Dunn	Raleigh	14	92
10. Tony Pendley	Chocowinit	v 4	91

**Pro Trucks** Driver H'town Car I. Pat Patterson Fuq-Varina 33

## Stan Perrine Raleigh Linwood Mozingo Pikeville Trouble Gray Fremont David Warren Goldsbord Wayne Skinner Wilson

#### Super Stock

1. Brandon Head Goldsboro 16 2. Allan Head Goldsboro 32 3. Stacey Pate Pikeville 5 4. Ricky Brantley Zebulon 7 5. Ron langley Elm City 39 5. Russell Barbour Smithfield 73 7. Perry Bauer Clayton 92 8. Mack Best Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood Benson 8	Driver	H'town	Car	Pt
3. Stacey Pate 4. Ricky Brantey 5. Ron langley 5. Russell Barbour 7. Perry Bauer 8. Mack Best 9. Stacy Wood 8. Mack Bost 9. Stacy Wood 9. Stac	1. Brandon Head	Goldsboro	16	25
4 Ricky Brantley 5. Ron langley 5. Russell Barbour 7. Perry Bauer 8. Mack Best 9. Stacy Wood 6 Rebush 7 Elm City 39 8 mithfield 73 Clayton 92 Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood 8 Benson 8	2. Allan Head	Goldsboro	32	25
5. Ron langley Elm City 39 5. Russell Barbour Smithfield 73 7. Perry Bauer Clayton 92 8. Mack Best Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood Benson 8	3. Stacey Pate	Pikeville	5	29
5. Russell Barbour Smithfield 73 7. Perry Bauer Clayton 92 8. Mack Best Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood Benson 8	4 Ricky Brantley	Zebulon	7	28
7. Perry Bauer Clayton 92 8. Mack Best Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood Benson 8	5. Ron langley	Elm City	39	28
8. Mack Best Mount Olive 6 9. Stacy Wood Benson 8		Smithfield	73	28
9. Stacy Wood Benson 8		Clayton	92	29
	8. Mack Best	Mount Oliv	ve 6	27
10 Ch D Et 20	9. Stacy Wood	Benson	8	27
10. Sherm Davis Jr. F Ville 28	10. Sherm Davis Jr.	F'ville	28	26

#### Four Cylinder Stock

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Wil Smith	Raleigh	23	300
2. Pat Renfro	Warsaw	13	291
2. Andy Smith	Goldsboro	44	291
4 Roy Creech Jr.	Clayton	16	289
5. Ed Little Jr.	Princeton	24	284
6. Bob Brink	Wendell	50	282
7. R.Schnegelbergr	Raleigh	31	279
8. Tom Justice	Franklinton	74	278
9. Jason O'Brien	Clayton	5	277
10. Gary Poythress	Wilson	12	275

#### Regular program planned at County Line

ELM CITY —Timed trials to determine starting positions are on the agenda in Saturday night's auto racing program at County Line

Heat races are set in the Limited Sportsman, Super Street, Economy Street, Modified Four Cylinder and Stock Four Cylinder

The lengths of the "Mothers' Day" observance main events will be 40 laps in Late Model Sportsman, 25 laps in Limited Sportsman, 20 in Super Street and Modified Four Cylinder and 15 in Economy Street and Modified Four Cylinder.

Racing begins at 8 p.m. COUNTY LINE RACEWAY

(Through races of May 2)

IO Junior Pearce IO J. R Bryant

Smithfield

Wilson Nashville

**Modified Four Cylinder** 

#### **Economy Street** Late Model Sportsman

J. P. Cascell J. Mike Wall J. Jeff Horne

Billy Poythress
Jerry Baker
Bill Dale
Ronald Beichnr

Jim Upchurch Mark McKenzie

I. Greg Williams

6. Jimmy Hughes 7. Jim Massengill 8. Victor May

Ronnie Johnson Pine Lev. Matthew Barnes Lucama

9. Tom Ridgeway Spring Hope 49 IO Terry Thompson Smithfield T2

Stock Four Cylinder

Elm City

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Jimmy Edwards	Hope Mills	48	142
2. Cy Nelms	Rocky Mt.	37	132
3. Roger Lucas	Benson	79	122
4 Randy Lucas	Apex	15	120
4 Tater Liles	Bailey	LI	120
6. Ervin Rigsbee	Knightdale	R5	114
7. James Batten	Rocky Mt.	21	108
8. Chrlie Stephensn	Raleigh	85	104
9. Neal Sykes	Apex	11	88
10. Jimy Holcombe	Elm City	3	80

### **Limited Sportsman**

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. John Fulghum	Kenly	50	150
2. Bobby Whitley	Rocky Mt.	6	138
3. Bobby Bottoms	Elm City	47	136
4 Al Boykin	Kenly	11	130
5. Spencer Liggon	I∆icama	9	128
6 Tom Knghtmger	Rocky Mt.	5	126
7. Dykes Maynard	Raleigh	65	112
8. John Whitley	W'alstonbu	rg I	106
9 Buddy Garten	New Bern	57	64
9. David Upchurch	Saratoga	05	64

### Super Street

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Jmmy Hndrcks	Btleboro	17	154
2. Steve Messer	Wendell	15	144
3. Scooter King	Rocky Mt.	10	136
4. Mike King	Rocky Mt.	7	118
5. James Cascell	Rocky Mt.	56	110
6. Pat Ferrell	Rocky Mt.	43	108
7. Jay Pender^ ass	Rocky Mt	11	102
7. Wade Ferre	Rocky Mt	42	102
9 Kenneth Corbitt	Rocky Mt.	07	86

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.	1. Johni
1. Jmmy Hndrcks	Btleboro	17	154	2. Tom
2. Steve Messer	Wendell	15.	144	3. Ricky
3. Scooter King	Rocky Mt.	15	136	4. Jim (
4. Mike King	Rocky Mt.	7	118	5. Mich:
5. James Cascell	Rocky Mt.	56	118	5. Greg
6. Pat Ferrell	Rocky Mt.	43	108	7. Chet
7. Jay Pender^ ass	Rocky Mt	43	102	7. Kyle
7. Wade Ferre	Rocky Mt	42	102	9. Chris
9 Kenneth Corbitt	Rocky Mt.	07	86	10. Lee E

### Race to benefit Duke Children's Hospital

The Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center or the Duke Children's Miracle Network will benefit from the inaugural Race for the Champions, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Southern National Speedway near Kenly.

The plans were announced this week by NASCAR Late Model Stock driver Cam Strader of Wilson and his father, R.B. Strader The endeavor involves Team Wilson, the sponsor of Cam Strader's Thunderbird.

The Late Model Stock drivers in the race will collect donations from fans by passing helmets through the grandstands. In addition, proceeds from designated box-seat tickets will be donated to the Duke Children's Hospital for pediatric health care, basic and applied research, health care education and children's health advocacy.

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### Bardin's courage saluted by NCHSAA

CHAPEL HILL - May, 1997, is a month Rosalie Bardin will never forget.

Walking away from a softball game her Southern Nash Ladybirds were playing at Southwest Edgecombe, Bardin was struck by a bolt of lightning.

Just a few feet from the bus, Bardin was jolted backwards and knocked unconscious.

Amazingly, a few days later, she was back at school, getting the team ready for the playoffs.

Bardin's comeback from such a tremendous shock was saluted Thursday afternoon at the Dean Smith Center in front of a crowd of nearly 300 coaches, athletics directors and administrators with an N.C. High School Athletic Association Courage Award

"I got a letter last week saying I was going to be honored, but I didn't know what it was," said Bardin, who admits to staying indoors more when storms begin to swell. "It's great. I've been really blessed."

Blessed not only with life, but

with a position as assistant principal at Nash Central Junior High, a job Bardin believes helps her affect more lives than ever.

"I used to think I made a difference in a lot of young athletes' lives," she said. "Now, I think I make a difference in a lot more lives at the middle school level."

But that is not to say her decision to leave Southern Nash Senior and the coaching ranks was easy — Bardin led her 1995 team to the state 3-A slow-pitch softball championship and the 1996 squad finished second in the state fast-pitch softball playoffs.

"It was a tough decision and a good decision," Bardin said. "It was tough to leave the players and kids (at Southern Nash).

Bardin was one of three recipients of a Courage Award - football and softball coach Walt Davis of Yatesville Northside and soccer coach George Kennedy of Western Guilford were the others.

Davis' award was given after his successful return from a mow-



Former Southern Nash coach Rosalie Bardin, left, stands with award presenter James "Bonecrusher" Smith Thursday. Photo by Phil Goble jr>

ing accident that left him impaled on a stake. Kennedy suffered a heart attack- and endured to

return to coaching. The awards were presented to the trio by former world heavyweight boxing champion James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

- Phil Goble Jr.

### Peppers honored as best male athlete in state

(Continued from page one) In football, the running back

gained 3,501 yards and scored 38 touchdowns. A national Junior Olympics long jump finalist in 1996, Peppers competes in the long jump,

triple jump, shot put and the 400meter relay for the Firebirds. "I'm going to miss it ail," said Peppers of his high school days. "Playing in our gym when it was

Next season, Peppers will bring his talents the to another great

packed — it was a great atmos-

phere.

atmosphere — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Julius signed a letter-of-intent to play football for the Tar Heels and expects to see some playing time in the Smith Center on the basketball team as well.

"I think it (college) is going to be a lot of fun," he said.

But for now, the son of George

Peppers and Bessie Faye Brinkley was just proud to be honored. Proud not because of the personal glory, but proud because of the reflection the honor brings to Southern Nash and his team-

"It's a reflection on our school." said Peppers, who was given his award by NCHSAA Deputy Executive Director Dick Knox, Assistant Executive Director Oue Tucker and former NCHSAA board member Ronald Chavis. "There's a lot of people who helped me out my coaches in football, basketball and track and the players who

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Charles B. Aycock High products B.J. Smith and Noah Edens sparked Lenoir Community College to a 9-7 conquest of the University of South Carolina at Salkehatchie in the opening round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region X baseball tournament in Fleming Stadium Thursday.

Smith, a freshman third baseman, rapped three hits in four trips and drove in two runs. Edens, a freshman right-hander, was the winning pitcher in relief of starter Jon Smith. In seven innings, Edens scattered six hits, allowed one run, walked two and struck out six.

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Shortstop Mike Elswick, a two hits.

Southeastern Community College outlasted Louisburg, 10-9 in 10 innings, in the other openinground game.

Action was scheduled to resume in Fleming Stadium at 10 this morning, with Southeastern opposing Spartanburg (S.C.). Lenoir was scheduled to test Brevard at I.

Losers' bracket games are scheduled for 4 and 7 this evening. The winners' bracket final is set for I p.m. Saturday. The championship series begins at I p.m. Sunday.

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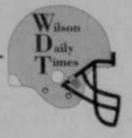
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## All-Area Football Team



### Ironman

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
Mark Strickland, Hunt	Back	6-3	225	Senior
Julius Peppers, So. Nash	Back	6-7	247	Senior
Antwane Yelverton, Greene Ct.	Back	6-0	190	Senior
Virgil Parker, Hunt	Back	5-9	215	Senior
Rayvonne Newkirk, Fike	Back	6-0	185	Junior
Kelsie Langston, Beddingfield	Back	6-0	190	Senior
Johnny Aytch, Greene Ctrl.	Line	5-7	170	Senior
Kyle Creech, No. Johnston	Line	6-3	330	Senior
Dominique Lindsay, Beddingfield	Line	6-2	190	Senior
J.T. Windham, Fike	Line	5-10	180	Senior
Adam Pittman, C.B. Aycock	Line	5-10	157	Senior
Terrell Bright, Greene Ctrl.	Line	6-2	225	Senior

Ironman of the Year: Mark Strickland

### Offense

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
Jermaine Moore, Greene Ctr.	Back	6-0	157	Senior
Tavarus Redmond, SW Edge.	Back	6-0	200	Junior
Alfae Brown, Greene Ctrl.	Back	5-11	173	Senior
Anc McClennahan, ENCSD	Rec.	6-0	150	Senior
Reginald Reid, Greene Ctrl.	Rec.	6-3	182	Senior
Shaun Breen, Hunt	Line	6-5	300	Senior
Adam Mills, Southern Nash	Line	5-6	200	Senior
Preston Anders, Beddingfield	Line	6-3	255	Senior
Mark Barnes, Hunt	Line	6-3	215	Soph.
Brad Walston, SW Edge.	Line	6-0	210	Junior
Mitch Gay, Greene Ctrl.	Line	6-0	195	Junior
John Hyde, Hunt	Kick.	5-10	165	Junior

Offensive Player of the Year: Mark Strickland

### Defense

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
A W. Abbott, Greene Ctrl.	Back	6- I	170	Senior
Ron Harris, Southern Nash	Back	5-9	149	Senior
Antonio Jones, Greene Ctrl.	Back	5-10	160	Junior
William Barnes, Fike	Back	5-9	170	Senior
Chico Deberry, Hunt	LB	5-11	210	Soph.
Mike Marcello, Hunt	LB	5-10	185	Senior
B.J. Deans, Hunt	LB	6-1	200	Junior
Trevlan DeVaughn. Bedd.	LB	5-10	215	Senior
Shaun Rose, Hunt	Line	6-6	310	Senior
Chris Wilder, Southern Nash	Line	6-1	280	Junior
Georgic Bullock, SW Edge.	Line	6-1	280	Soph.
Demetrius Blount, Hunt	Line	6-1	220	Senior

Defensive Player of the Year: Shaun Rose

### Player of the Year: Mark Strickland, Hunt



















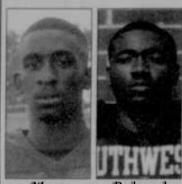






Bright

Offense

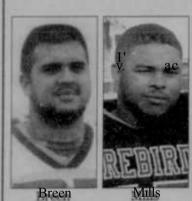




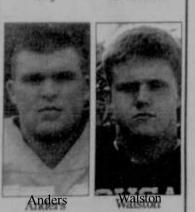
McClennahan Brown



Reid







## Warriors, Rams dominate

### Hunt's Strickland and Rose collect more individual accolades

By Daily Times Sports Staff Hunt, after a losing wake-up call at Hertford County, proceeded to simply dominate the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference varsity football ranks.

The Warriors claimed revenge against Hertford County and were again the last Big Eight team left standing in the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A

A classification lower, Greene Central was the scourge of the Eastern Plains Conference. The Rams' exit in the opening round of the 2-A playoffs was a shocker. But the dominance of Hunt and

Greene Central of the 1997 Wilson Daily Times All-Area lineup comes as no shock The Warriors set the pace with

IO representatives among the 36 players selected to the Ironman, Offensive and Defensive units. Greene Central landed nine. Senior tailback Mark Strick-

land and mammoth defensive tackle Shaun Rose of the Warriors garnered the Big Eight's top individual accolades. Ditto among the All-Area elite.

Strickland emerges as the landslide choice of the Daily Times sports staff as the Player of the Year. The 6-foot-3, 225-pound, multi-purpose performer reigns as the Ironman of the Year and the Offensive Player of the Year in the process.

Rose, at 6-6, 310 pounds and a Shrine Bowl selection, stands huge as the Defensive Player of the Year. Rose has verbally committed to continue his career at East Carolina University.

Strickland, who also excelled defensively and as a punter, is joined by senior teammate Virgil Parker, a fullback-linebacker on the Ironman unit.

Greene Central is the Ironman front-runner with the senior trio of Antwane Yelverton, also headed for ECU, Johnny Aytch and Terrell Bright.

The exclusive unit also features 7, 245-pound senior Southern lash running back-defensive end Julius Peppers. Peppers, who verbally committed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will also be showcased in Satur-day's Shrine Bowl in Charlotte.

Other Ironmen are senior J.T. Windham and junior Rayvonne Newkirk of Pike, seniors Kelsie Langston and Dominique Lindsay of Beddingfield, senior Kyle Creech of North Johnston, and senior Adam Pittman of Charles

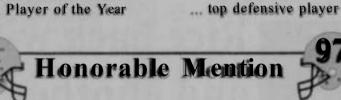
Single-season 1,000-yard rushes Tarvarus Redmond of South-lest Edgecombe and Alfae Brown of Greene Central trigger an offensive unit, directed by senior Greene Central quarter-back Jermaine Moore.



Mark Strickland ... Player of the Year



Shaun Rose



BEDDINGFIELD - Brandy Barnes, James Williams, Kelvin Beamon, Tuck Thomas. FIKE — Justin Mason, Antonio Rogers, Johnny Coley, Rod Harris, James Roundtree, Philip Bissette, Frank Sasser.

HUNT - Montae Ruffin, Derrick Gray, Donnelle Knight, Anthony Barnes, Robert Best, Cedric Williams, William Hesmer, Mike Linsey,

Bobby Hinnant, Kedran Bynum, Eddie Barnes.

SOUTHWEST EGECOMBE — Bash Knight, Clifton Wooten, Brandon Hussey, Quarry' Williams, John Pittman, Frank Barnes, Brad Cobb, William Autry, Deshawn Richardson, Jerard Wiggins.

SOUTHERN NASH — Travis Battle, Derrick High, Cornelius

Gary, Terrell Taybron, Jason Earp, Derrick Lucas, Jon Keen, Demario Daniels, Derrick Jones.

CHARLES B. AYCOCK — C.C. Dunn, Edwin Finch, Nelson Cunningham, Jerry Johnson, Adam Butler, Les Stewart, Ardar Hicks, Matt Rast, Stevie Parrish, Bryant Hoots.

CREENE CENTRAL

GREENE CENTRAL - Jody Ginn, Matt Noble, Irvin Perkins, Tamarka Davis, Michael Croom, Dennis Hines, Austin Suggs, Ben

NORTH JOHNSTON — Dennis Brockington, Devon Hinton, Lee Melvin, Antonio Stanch, Jay Creech, Dusty Johnson, Scott Miles,

Greg Sawyer.
ENCSD —Patrick Squire, Jamaine Black, Bruce Fritz, Patrick McMillan, Edrick Webb, Richard McClennahan.

Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf senior Aric McClennahan and Rams' senior Reginald Reid are the receivers, while Hunt junior John Hyde is the kicking specialist.

The linemen are 6-5, 300-pound senior Shaun Breen of Hunt, senior Adam Mills of Southern Nash, junior Brad Walston of Southwest, senior Preston Anders of Beddingfield, sophomore Mark Barnes of Hunt and junior Mitch Gay of Greene Central.

Rose anchors the defensive front that includes junior Chris Wilder of Southern Nash, senior Demetrius Blount of Hunt, and sophomore Georgic Bullock of Southwest.

The linebacking quartet is the Hunt trio of senior Mike Marcello, junior B J. Deans and sophomore Chico Deberry and senior Trevlan Devaughn of Bedding-field.

In the secondary are the Greene Central tandem of senior A.W. Abbott and junior Antonio Jones, senior Ron Harris of Southern Nash and William Barnes of Fike. senior

Strickland became the Warriors' all-time top single-season rusher with 1,970 yards and scored a whopping 31 rushing touchdowns. He averaged some 35 yards per punt and, at crunch time, was situated in the defensive secondary. sive secondary.
"Mark developed into a much

better football player every year," said Hunt head coach Randy Raper. "He's very aggressive and just has that natural knack."

Strickland demonstrated abilities as a power runner his junior season at fullback. He proved he

could block, but his senior campaign saw him step out with above-average speed and mobili-

"We didn't really know how well he would do," Raper said. "A tailback must have a certain vision and feel for the game. Mark had

Raper proudly describes Rose as "a man among boys." His allstar foundation is not based on statistics —but impact. Rose didn't just occupy a sizable amount of space.

"He creates his own space," Raper said. "Teams ran away from him a lot this year, or they were trying to double-team, chop or cut him. He runs the 40 (-yard dash) in 4.9 (seconds) and has great feet. He was dominating player. He was just about our whole defense."

That's a powerful statement, considering the presence of Parker, Strickland, Marcello, Deans, Deberry and Mark Barnes. But Raper explains teammates enjoyed all-star seasons because of Rose's presence.

Deberry and Deans became a lethal pair well into the season. Parker was there on defense, and provided running room for Strickland. Hyde seldom missed on extra-point and short fieldgoal kicks. Mark Barnes excelled as a blocker and became a capable receiver. Strickland couldn't be blamed for following Parker and Breen.

McClennahan ranked as the area's top receiver, while Moore was the most accurate passer benefiting from targets such as Reid, Jones and Bright. Yelverton filled multiple Greene Central roles despite a nagging injury and Brown stepped up to join Strickland, Redmond and Peppers as backs piling up more than 1,000 yards rushing.

Peppers cracked the 1,000yard plateau for the third consecutive season, but his greatest value may have been defensively. Peppers, Harris, the leading tackler; Wilder and Mills guided the Firebirds into the playoffs for the second straight year.

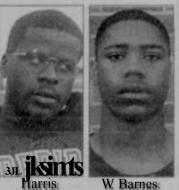
Deserving much credit for the Fike turnaround is the trio of Newkirk, William Barnes and Windham.

Defense was rugged for Greene Central because of a secondary, where Abbott was solid, and Jones was spectacular. Aytch's quickness plagued Rams' opponents both sides of the football.

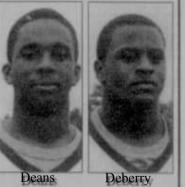
Mainstays Langston, Lindsay, Anders and Devaughn were bright spots during a bleak Beddingfield season.

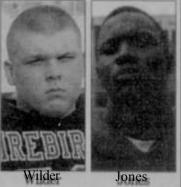


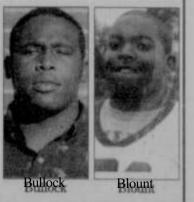
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Devaughn Marcello







### Peppers, Lewis repeat atop All-Area lineups

For the second consecutive season, junior 6-foot-6 center Julius Peppers of Southern Nash and senior 5-10 guard Tynesha Lewis of Southwest Edgecombe have been named The Wilson Daily Times male and female Player of the Year, respectively, but the remainder of the 1996-97 All-Area 15-player rosters include many new faces.

Peppers is joined by by Beddingfield senior forward Grady Farmer and Hunt senior forward Reggie Farmer as boys repeaters. Each, a second-team choice last season, joins Peppers, Hunt senior center Corey Cooper and Beddingfield senior guard Garrison Harris on the first team.

Lewis, an N.C. State signee, enjoyed another phenomenal season for the Lady Cougars, who were 109-12 during her four years. She is joined on the first team by Fike senior guard Roc Canady, junior Charles B, Aycock guard Jeri Lyn Coker, North Johnston senior forward Heather Casey and senior Southern Nash forward Rikki Cockrell.

The girls team lists seven repeaters. Lewis and Canady have been first-team selections the past three seasons (each was also named her freshman season). Coker and Casey were secondteam picks a year ago while Cockrell is a newcomer.

Second-team picks for the boys are Greene Central's Antoine Davis, Hunt's Jeff Strunk, CBA's Ray Potts, Southwest Edgecombe's Willie McGhee and Fike's Derrick McDowell.

The third team: Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf's Jamaine Black, Fike's Johnnie Lucas, Greenfield's Jason Gunnin, North Johnston's D.J. Brockington and Southern Nash's Demario

The girls second team is North Johnston's Sora Standley, Greene Central's Jameka Dixon, Fike's Shemkia Reid, Hunt's Chavonne Pippiens and Southern Nash's Kari Ezzell.

The third team: Emily West and Susan Herndon of CBA, North Johnston's Kelly Holland, Hunt's Natasha Locus and Southwest Edgecombe's Susie Beamon.

#### Players of Year

The unselfish, low-key Peppers, pability to dominate games, turned in an outstanding allaround performance.

Southern (14-13) finished second in both the Big Eight regular season and tournament, and head coach Rick Ruffin says Peppers deserves much of the credit.

"I think in some people's eyes, he didn't have as good a year," Ruffin said, "but percentage wise, he shot better and his assists were way up."

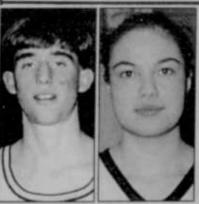
The high-flying Peppers shot a torrid 60,1 percent from the field (179-298), averaging 16.9 points, 9.7 rebounds, three assists, 2.1 steals and 1.7 blocks — usually with two or three defenders surrounding him. He averaged nearly 18 points and 10.4 rebounds in Big Eight games.

Willie McGhee

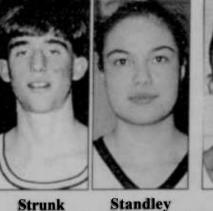
**Derrick McDowell** 

### Second teams

#### Third teams



Davis



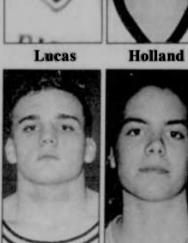


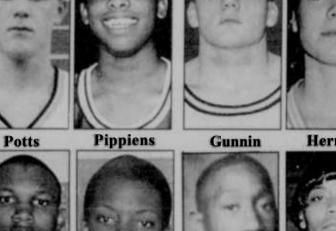




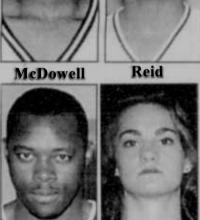


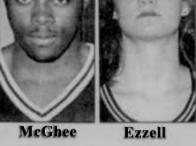


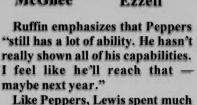




Dixon







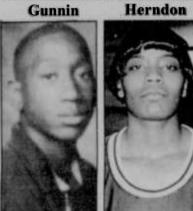
Like Peppers, Lewis spent much of her season helping teammates develop confidence, but, when the game was on the line, she took control. With superior ballhandling, slashing moves to the basket and a long-range jumper,

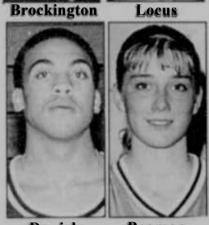
6-3

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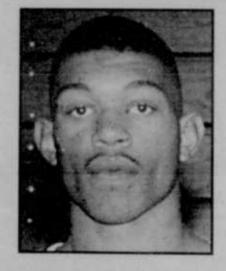
Daniels Beamon

the two-time Big Eight Player of the Year dominated.

Lewis averaged an area-high 22.4 points, eight rebounds, 5.5 assists and four steals. She is also ranked 12th in her class academically and is the student government president.

"She is a complete player," Langley said. "She can score, plays outstanding defense and is an excellent leader. I have no

### **All-Area First Teams** Boys



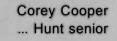
### Player of the Year **Julius Peppers**

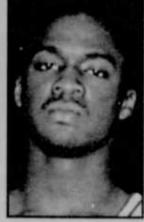
Southern Nash

**Junior** 245 pounds

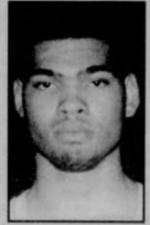
Peppers led the Firebirds to second-place finishes in the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference regular-season race and league tournament. He averaged 16.9 points and 9.7 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.7 blocks per game.



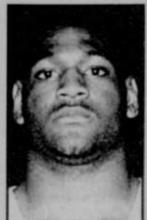




Reggie Farmer ... Hunt senior



**Grady Farmer** ... Bruins senior



6-foot-6

**Garrison Harris** ... Bruins senior

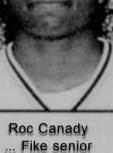
### Girls Player of the Year **Tynesha Lewis**

SouthWest Edgecombe Senior Guard 5-foot-111

Lewis led the Lady Cougars to their third consecutive undefeated Class 3-A Big Eight Conference record, their third straight league tournament championship and into the state playoffs. Lewis, whose defending 3-A state champs lost in the sectionals, signed a letter-of-intent to attend N.C. State.









Jeri Lyn Coker ... C.B. Aycock junior



**Heather Casey** ... N.J. senior



Rikki Cockrell · So. Nash senior

doubt she could have averaged 30-35 points a night, but she wanted to get her teammates involved.

"Looking at all the girls I've coached, I think Tynesha may have the best chance to make it big at the collegiate level because of her versatility."

Supporting casts Cooper, the Big Eight Player of

PLAYER

the Year, was runner-up for All-Area Boys Player of the Year averaging 15.4 points and nine rebounds. Reggie Farmer averaged 10.5 points and helped trigger Hunt's defense en route to Big Eight regular-season and tourney and Eastern Carolina Classic championships. Grady Farmer was the steady player for the Bruins, knocking down 16.4 points per game. Harris (14.7 ppg), the

HGT

All-Area Offensive Player of the Year in football, was Bed-

dingfield's primary outside threat. On the second team, Greene Central's Davis scored at a 14.6 clip and Strunk ignited many rallies during a precedent-setting Hunt season. Potts pumped in 16.4 points per game for CBA; McGhee worked hard inside for his 14.7 points for SWE and McDowell net-

> ted 13.7 ppg for Fike. ENCSD's Black emerged the top area scorer at 21 points per game. Lucas jump-started struggling Fike when he joined them in late December; Gunnin powered Greenfield's attack at 17.3 ppg; **Brockington averaged 11.5 points** for the Panthers; and Daniels was Peppers' capable sidekick.

On the girls first team, Canady sacrificed personal goals for team goals and it netted the Lady Demons sectional and regional championships and a state runner-up trophy. She averaged 11.6 points and five assists. Coker was CBA's catalyst, averaging 16.9 points. Casey averaged 12.1 points and Cockrell led Southern to its

best record, 17-11. The second team includes three centers. Standley was North Johnston's top scorer at 13.3 per game; Reid averaged 12 points; and Ezzell (13.3 ppg) joined Cockrell to provide Southern with a solid one-two punch. Forward Pippiens (17.7 ppg) powered Hunt and Dixon (16.9 ppg) was Greene Central's leading scorer in all but one game.

West (15.5 ppg) and Herndon (10.0) were tough inside for CBA. Locus, a four-year starter, and Holland, ran the show for Hunt and North Johnston, respectively, while SWE's Beamon used her 6-1 frame to average IO points an outing.

### All-Area boys roster

### First team

PLAYER	SCHOOL	POS	HGT	YR
Julius Peppers	S. Nash	c	6-6	JR
Corey Cooper	Hunt	C	6-6	SR
Grady Farmer	Beddingfield	F	6-4	SR
Reggie Farmer	Hunt	F	6-3	SR
Garrison Harris	BeddIngfield	G	6-3	SR
	Second team	n		
Antoine Davis	G. Central	F	60	SR
Jeff Strunk	Hunt	F	6-3	SR
Ray Potts	C.B. Avenck	C	6-4	SP

SW Edgecombe

Third team	ı		
ENCSD	F	6*2	JI
Fike	G	5-8	S
Greenfield	F	6-4	S
N. Johnston	F	6-0	J
S. Nash	F	6-5	J
	ENCSD Fike Greenfield N. Johnston	Fike G Greenfield F N. Johnston F	ENCSD F 6*2 Fike G 5-8 Greenfield F 6-4 N. Johnston F 6-0

### Honorable mention

**BOYS** 

BEDDINGFIELD - Kelly Winstead, Travia Taylor CHARLES B. AYCOCK — Bobby Byers, Kamaal Goyens, Parker King. ENCSD — Anc McClennahan, Patrick

FIKE —Idris Talib, Rashaun Sauls.

GREENE CENTRAL — Antwane
Yelverton, Jermaine Moore, Devone GREENFIELD — Paul Gay.
HUNT — Keji Dickerson, Greg Ward,
Kevin Wiggins, Tony Clay, Tim Car-

NORTH JOHNSTON — Jason Morgan, Travis Barnes, Tim Cuddington, SOUTHERN NASH — Derrick High,

Darius Newkirk.
SOUTHWEST EDGECOMBE — Leon
Dupree, Jay McKinney, Jovie Sumner.
WILSON CHRISTIAN — Bert Harris, Andrew Perry, Robbie Bennett, Dennison Dew.

BEDDINGFIELD - Katherine Bagley, Ashley Green. CHARLES B. AYCOCK — Stephanie Cannon, Stephanie Lawrence. ENCSD — Mellisa Chatman, Melissa

Hargrove.
FIKE — Carolyn Gillikin, Elizabeth
Spencer, Beth Foster, Kalita Marsh.
GREENE CENTRAL — Key's Darden
HUNT — Vakesha Thomas, Jennifer Laughridge. NORTH JOHNSTON - Melody Toole, Dana Evans, Amy Hicks. SOUTHERN NASH - Julie Pitts, Anna Tharrington, Melissa Pendley. SOUTHWEST EDGECOMBE - Loni Ayers, Chessins Thigpen
WILSON CHRISTIAN - Julie Jones,

### All-Area girls roster

### First team

SCHOOL

Tynesha Lewis	SW Edgecombe	G	5-11	SR
Rec Canady	Fike	G	5- 8	SR
Jeri Lyn Coker	C.B. Aycock	G	5- 4	JR
Heather Casey	N. Johnston	F	5-10	SR
Rikki Cockrell	S. Nash	F	5-10	SR
	Second tean	na		
Sora Standley	N. Johnston	c	5-10	JR
Jameka Dixon	G. Central	G	5- 7	JR
Shemkia Reid	Fike	C	5-11	JR
Chavonne Pippiens	Hunt	F	5- 7	SO
Kari Ezzell	S. Nash	C	5-11	JR
	Third team			
Emily West	C.B. Aycock	c	5-11	JR
Kelly Holland	N. Johnston	G	5- 8	JR
Susan Herndon	C.B. Aycock	F	5-10	JR
Natasha Locus	Hunt	G	5- 4	SR
Susie Beamon	SW Edgecombe	C	6- 1	SR

Majore

By The Associated Press

All Times EDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

L LEAGUE

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Home 12-4 12-6 10-6 4-13 5-11

NATIONAL LEAGUE Thursday's Games
San Francisco 6, Montreal 1, 1st game San Francisco 2, Montreal 0, 2nd

ame Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 7 San Diego 3, N Y. Mets 1, 1st game San Diego 6, N Y Mets 2, 2nd

San Diego 3, N.Y. Mets 1, 1st game San Diego 6, N.Y. Mets 2, 2nd game
Cincinnati 11, Florida 8
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 2
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 3
Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 0
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 1
Friday's Games
Late Games Not Included
Cincinnati 11, Chicago Cubs 3
Atlanta 3, Houston 2
Florida 8, St. Louis 7
Milwaukee at Colorado, (n)
Pittsburgh at Arizona, (n)
Montreal at Los Angeles, (n)
Philadelphia at San Diego, (n)
N.Y. Mets at San Francisco, (n)
Saturday's Games
Milwaukee (Kart 4-1) at Colorado
(Ritz 0-1), 3:05 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Reed 3-2) at San Francisco (Rueter 4-2), 4:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Clark 2-5) at Cincinnati (Reminger 3-4), 7:05 p.m.
Atlanta (Maddux 5-2) at Houston
(Reynolds 3-2), 8:05 p.m.
Florida (Hernandez 2-3) at St. Louis
(Stottlemyre 4-3), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Schmidt 5-1) at Arizona
(Anderson 1-4), 10:05 p.m.
Montreal (Vazquez 1-4) at Los
Angeles (Dreifort 0-4), 10:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Beech 1-2) at San
Diego (Brown 3-2), 10:05 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 1:15
p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 2:10 p.m.

Atlanta at Houston, 2:35 p m Milwaukee at Colorado, 3:05 p m Montreal at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m. Philadelphia at San Diego, 4:05

p.m. N Y Mets at San Francisco. 4:05 p.m. Pittsburgh at Arizona. 9:05 p.m.

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### nder AY 18 PREP BOYS GOLF

NCHSAA Class 3-A championship Hunt, Fike at Chapel Hill......7:30 a.m.

PREP GIRLS SOCCER NCHSAA Class 3-A playoffs Western Harnett at Hunt.....7 p.m. Clayton at Fike......7 p.m.

Detroit	13	23	361			W-3
Texas Anaheim Seattle Oakland	W 25 20 19 16	19	Pct 625 .513 475 410	<b>GB</b> 415	6-4 3-7 z-5-5 z-3-7	L-1 L-2
			1	NATI	ONAL	LEAG
1200	w	4	Pct	GB	LIO	vision Str
Atlanta New York Philadelphia	31 19	11 17	738 528	9	z-9-1 z-6-4 7-3	W-7 L-2
Montreal					7-3 z-4-6 3-7	W-1 L-2
Florida	14	28	333			
Houston	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO z-6-4	Str L-2
Chicago Milwaukee	23	18	625 561	21	Z-7-3 3-7	L-2 L-1 L-1
Cincinnati St Louis	21	20	.512	4's	Z-6-4 z-3-7	W-3
Pittsburgh	19	21	475	6	z-7-3	W-1
	w		Pct	-	110	vision Str
San Diego San Francisco	23	18	650 561	3*2	z-5-5 z-7-3	
Los Angeles Colorado	19 17	21 24	475 415	7	3-7	L-1 L-4
Arizona	9	31	225	915	z-2-8	W-1
7.00					game	was a
AMERI						
Thurs Minnesota 2,	day's Bost	Ga on 1	mes 1, 12	inning	gs	Sar
Minnesota 2, Kansas City Detroit 8, Oa	10, Takland	amp 3	a Bay	12		Sar game
Cleveland 5.	Baltir	n 4 nore	4			Chi Sar
Chicago Whi Texas 7, N Y.	te So Yank	x 5, kees	Seat 5,13	tle 3 innir	ngs	Sar
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Tampa Bay 4 Boston 5, Ka Minnesota 7, Chicago Whi	nsas N Y	City	2 kees	6		Cin
				lle 3		Atla
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(Worrell 2-4). 1						Moi
Texas (Witt (Burba 3-4), 1:0			t Cl	evela	nd	NY
Seattle (Fas	sero	4-1	) at	Toro	nto	(Ritz (
(Guzman 1-5),			0)	P-	ton	N Y
(Avery 0-0), 10			-U) at	Bost	on	Chi nati (F
Tampa Bay (A	Arrojo	5-2	at B	altimo	ore	Atla (Reyn Flor
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Yankees (Mend	loza 2	2-1),	1:35	p m.		(Ande
Oakland (St	ein C	)-1) -2)	at 0	Chica p m	go	Angel
00 Sund						Diego
Anaheim at E Texas at Clev	etroit	, 1 ( l, 1:	05 p.n	n. m.		Chi
Kansas City a Tampa Bay a	at Bos	ston.	1:05	p.m.	m,	Flor
Minnesota a	tNY	. Ya	nkee	s, 1:	35	Milv
35 <sup>p.m.</sup>	<b>.</b>			_		Phil p.m.
Oakland at 2:05 p m					οx,	N Y p.m. Pitts
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### Golf **PGA**

**Byron Nelson Classic** 

DeMuth. T—2:23. A—38,941 (54.370).

IRVING. Texas (		
after the second ro	ound of the \$	2.5 mil
lion Byron Nelson C	Classic, playe	d on the
6.924-yard, par-70	(35-35) TPC	at Las
Colinas and 6,846-	yard, par-70	(34-36
Cottonwood Valley		
Hal Sutton	66-65 —	- 131
Harrison Frazar	64-68 —	- 132
Fred Couples	66-67 —	- 133
Robert Damron	68-65 —	
Bob Friend	63-70 —	
Bob Estes	66-68 —	
Jeff Sluman	67-67 —	
Ted Tryba	66-68 —	
Phil Mickelson	66-68 —	
Tom Watson	64-70 —	
John Cook	66-68 —	
Scott Gump	65-70 —	
Russ Cochran	68-67 —	
Jay Don Blake	67-68 —	
Payne Stewart	68-67 —	
Jim Carter	68-68 —	- 136
Jim Furyk	66-70 —	
Tiger Woods	65-71 —	
Mark O'Meara	67-69 —	
Donnie Hammond	66-70 —	
Gabriel Hjertstedt	70-66 —	
Bob Tway	70-66 —	
Doug Martin	69-68 —	
LenMattiace	71-66 —	
Willie Wood	69-68 — 65-72 —	
Frank Lickliter		
Glen Hnatiuk	68-69 —	
Blaine McCallister	65-72 — 71-66 —	
Steve Flesch	67-70 —	
Chris Perry		
Rocco Mediate	67-70 —	
Corey Pavin	70-67 — 68-69 —	137
Justin Leonard	69-68 —	107
Craig Barlow LeeRinker	69-68 —	
Omar Uresti	69-68 —	
Omai Gresti	09-08 —	- 13/

#### LPGA McDonald's Championship ROCKLAND, Del. (AP) — Scores Friday after the second round of the \$1.3 million McDonald's LPGA Championship, played on the 6.386-vard, par-

Senio	rs
Change sharpers.	100000
Kim Saiki Vickie Odegard	69-74 — 143 69-74 — 143
Penny Hammel	70-73 — 143
Jenny Lidback	70-73 — 143
Michelle McGann	68-74 — 142
Catrin Nilsmark	69-73 — 142
Helen Alfredsson	71-71 — 142
Rachel Hetherington	71-71 — 142
Kris Tschetter	71-71 — 142
Missie Berteotti	72-70 — 142
Michelle Estill	72-70 — 142
Joanne Morley	73-69 — 142
Liselotte Neumann	73-69 — 142
Michele Redman	70-71 — 141
Juli Inkster	70-71 — 141
Maria Hiorth	71-70 — 141
Cathy Johnston-Forbes	
Kelly Robbins	69-71 — 140
Chris Johnson	69-71 — 140
Annette Del uca	70-70 — 140
Dawn Coe-Jones	71-69 — 140
Meg Mallon	71-69 — 140
Tammie Green	72-68 — 140
Emilee Klein	72-67 — 139
Jane Geddes	69-69 — 138
Wendy Ward	71-67 — 138
Donna Andrews	71-67 — 138
Dale Eggeling	68-69 — 137
Usa Walters Usa Hacknev	66-69 — 135 70-66 — 136
Se Ri Pak Usa Walters	65-68 — 133
71 DuPont Country Clu	
71 DuPont Country Clu	

#### Saint Luke's Classic BELTON, Mo (AP) - Scores Friday's

after the first round	of the \$1 million
Saint Luke's Seniors	Classic, played on
the 6,539-yard, par	35-35-70 Loch
Lloyd Country Club:	
Fred Gibson	32-33 — 65
Bruce Summerhays	32-36 — 68
Larry Ziegler	34-35 — 69
Isao Aoki	35-35 — 70
Bob E Smith	35-36 — 71
Bob Duval	36-35 — 71
Don Klenk	35-36 — 71
Ed Sneed	36-35 — 71
Charles Coody	33-38 — 71
Tom Wargo	35-36 — 71
Chuck Thorpe	39-33 — 72
Don Maddox	35-37 — 72
Dana Quigley	35-37 — 72
Jim Colbert	36-36 — 72
Bob Murphy	36-36 — 72
Mike McCullough	36-36 — 72
Bobby Stroble	35-37 — 72
Tom Jenkins	38-35 — 73
Rik Massengale	36-37 — 73
Jerry McGee	35-38 — 73
Miller Barber	36-37 — 73
Tom Shaw	38-35 — 73
Dave Eichelberger	36-37 — 73
Gibby Gilbert	36-37 — 73
<b>T</b> ******	-41
Tropos	etlene

Transactions
BASEBALL American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Purchase the contract of RHP Bobby Munoz froe Rochester of the International League Optioned C Charlie Greene
TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Recalle LHP Scott Aldred from Durham of the International League Optioned LH Ramon Talls to Hudson Valley of the New York-Penn League Transferre RHP Bryan Rekar from the 15-day for 60-day disabled list, retroactive to Marco
31. Pacific Coast League CALGARY CANNONS—Activate

LHP Rich Pratt from the disabled list Released INF Rene Gonzales.

Midwest League

WISCONSIN TIMBER RATTLERS—
Placed LHP Ryan Anderson on the disabled list, retroactive to May 12.
Recalled RHP Harold Koehler from Lancaster of the California League

Texas-Louialiana League
LUBBOCK CRICKETS—Signed CBray Woodruss

Western League
BEND BANDITS—Traded INF-OFDanny Grice to the Madison Black
Wolves of the Northern League for future considerations. Released RHP
Brett Wiggins
MISSION VIEJO VIGILANTES—
Signed LHP Wally Ritchie and OFRandy Curtis
PACIFIC SUNS—Signed OFAlex
Sanchez, INF Raphael Ozuna, OFKadir
ViHalona, RHP Erick King, RHP Jose Luis
Mussett, INF Steve uolias, Chris
Mussett, INF Steve uolias, Chris
Mursett, INF Steve uolias, Chris
Mursett, INF Steve Hollinger, Chilson
Antigua, LHP Tim Davidson, 18 Marc
DiCarlo, and INF Jess Olivares
RENO CHUKARS—Announced the
retirement of C Shane Slayton
BASKETBÁLL
United States Basketball League
ATLANTA TROJANS—Placed G
Antwon Hall and C Lorezno Hall on the
inactive list Signed F Dementurs Alexander and G Russell McCutcheon
CAMDEN POWER—Placed G Andy
Dostick, G James Head and G Garfield
Yulliw on the inactive list
CONNECTICUT
SKYHAWKS—
Placed G Rasaun Young on the inactive
list. Released G Sean Estwick Signed F
Dorian Graham
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Named
Phil Neri director of college scouting
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Resigned LB Bryan Schwartz, LB Kevin
Hardy and G Rich Tylski
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Named
Tom Modrak director of football operations.
TENNESSEE OILERS—Agreed to
terms with OL Evan Pilgrim.

TENNESSEE OILERS—Agreed to terms with OL Evan Pilgrim.

Canadian Football League

HAMILTON TIGER-CATS—Signed CB Brad Ford
TORONTO ARGONAUTS—Named Greg Mandziuk director of media relations.

tions.

COLLEGE

CANISIUS—Announced the resignation of Christine Cunningham, women's assistant basketball coach, to accept a position at Quinmpiac

OSWEGO—Named Danya Pilgrim women's field hockey coach

### NBA **Playoffs**

Glance All Times EDT

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-7)
Saturday. May 16
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
Sunday, May 17
Indiana at Chicago, 3:30 p.m (NBC)
Monday, May 18
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 8:30 p.m (TNT)
Tuesday. May 19
Indiana at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. (TNT)
Friday. May 22
Utah at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m. (TNT)
Saturday, May 23
Chicago at Indiana, 3:30 p.m (NBC)
Sunday. May 24
Utah at L.A. Lakers, 3:30 p.m. (NBC)
Monday. May 25
Chicago at Indiana, 3:30 p.m (NBC)
Tuesday, May 26
L.A. Lakers at Utah, 9 p.m. (NBC), if necessary
Wednesday. May 27 CONFERENCE FINALS

Mednesday, May 27
Indiana at Chicago 9 p.m. (NBC), if necessary

Chicago at Indiana. TBA (NBC), if necessary

Utah at LA Lakers, TBA (NBC), if necessary

Sunday, May 31
Indiana al Chicago, TBA (NBC), if necessary

ecessary
L A Lakers at Utah, TBA (NBC), if

#### Auto racing The Winston Lineup

The Winston Lineup
CONCORD. N.C. (AP) — The starting
lineup for Saturday night's 14th annual
running of The Winston all-star race at
Charlotte Motor Speedway, with car
number in parentheses, driver, hometown, type of car and qualifying speed in
mph (final starting spot will go to winner
of Winston Open qualifying race):
1. (94) Bill Elliott, Dawsonville, Ga.
Ford, 142.084
2. (5) Terry Labonte, Corpus Christi,
Texas. Chevrolet, 141.380
3. (18) Bobby Labonte, Corpus
Christi. Texas, Pontiac, 141.201.
4. (24) Jeff Gordon, Vallejo, Calif.,
Chevrolet, 141 068
5. (6) Mark Martin, Batesville, Ark.,
Ford, 140 968
6. (40) Sterling Marlin, Columbia.

5. (6) Mark Martin, Batesville, Ark., Ford, 140 968
6. (40) Sterling Marlin, Columbia, Tenn., Chevrolet, 140,932
7. (88) Dale Jarrett, Hickory, N.C., Ford, 140 453.
8. (21) Michael Waltrip, Owensboro, Ky., Ford, 140 101
9. (1) Darrell Waltrip, Owensboro, Ky., Chevrolet, 140,052.
10. (28) Kenny Irwin, Indianapolis, Ford, 139 767
11. (7) Geoff Bodine, Chemung, N.Y., Ford, 139 601
12. (10) Ricky Rudd, Chesapeake, Va., Ford, 138,772
13. (4) Bobby Hamilton, Nashville, Tenn., Chevrolet, 138,756
14. (99) Jeff Burton, South Boston, Va., Ford, 138,556
15. (36) Ermie Irvan, Salinas, Calif., Ponliac, 138,126
16. (2) Rusty Wallace, St. Louis, Ford, 137,694
17. (88) Rick Sickle, Edgerton, Wis.

17. (98) Rick Sickle, Edgerton, Wis., Ford, 137.070. 18 (43) John Andretti, Indianapolis, Pontiac, 135 401. 19 (3) Dale Earnhardt, Kannapolis, N.C., Chevrolet, no speed.

#### NHL **Playoffs** Glance

All Times EDT SECOND ROUND (Best-of-7) Wednesday, May 13 pton 2, Ottawa 0 3. Edmonton 1, Dallas leads Thursday. May 14 Montreal 1, Buffalo wins

5, St Louis 2, Detroit leads Washington 3, Ottawa 0, Washington wins series 4-1

Saturday, May 16

Edmonton at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, May 17
St. Louis at Detroit, 2p m (FOX)
Monday, May 18
Dallas at Edmonton. 8:30 pm.
(ESPN), if necessary

TEAM RESULTS

Southern Nash 76 Greensboro
Dudley 45, Durham Hillside 35, North
Buncombe 34, Roberson 33, East
Rowan 26, Kings Mountain 26, Havelock 22, Ragsdale 18. North Gaston
17 Fike 18 Webb 16 Andrews 13,
Fayetteville Smith 13, Fuquay-Varina
12, Rockingham County 11,
Mooresville 10. Kinston 10. Burlington
Williams 9, Concord 9. West Henderson 9, Southwest Guilford 9, Parkland
8, West Rowan 8. Central Davidson 8
Burns 8, Washington 8, Southwest
Edgecombe 8. Hickory 6, Charlotte
Harding 6, Pender County 5, WinstonSalem Carver 5, Wilkes Central 4.
Enka 4, Western Guilford 2, White Oak
2, Sun Valley 2, Asheville 1, South
Point 1, North Iredell 1, Harnett Central 1, Beddingfield 1.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

100 METER DASH
1 Kelly Hardy, Kinston High 10 7h;
2 Jeremy Holman, Hillside Hig 10.8h;
3. Leron Phelps, Havelock Hig 10 9h;
4 Martin Hicks Webb High SC 11 Oh
5 Ryan McCain, Burns High S 11 In;
6 Tyree Kirby, Carver High 11. In 7.
Bryant Macklin, Fike High SC 11.3h:
8 Jessen Houston, Sun Valley High
21.53, 2. Derrick High, Southern TEAM RESULTS

Boys

200 METER DASH

1 Marcus Oneal, Dudley High
21.53, 2. Derrick High, Southern
Nash 22.17; 3. Leron Phelps, Havelock Hig 22.24; 4 Nick Holman, Hillside Hig 22.29; 5 Anthony Gentry,
White Oak Hi 22.33; 6. James Coleman, Dudley High 22.49; 7 Jonathan
Norman, Roberson Hig 22.56

400 METER DASH

1 Tim Walts Fixe High SC 50.05.

400 METER DASH

1. Tim Wells, Fike High SC 50.05;
2. John Richmond. Williams Hig 50.15;
3. Clair Turner, Hillside Hig 50 21; 4.
Braxton Williams. Dudley High 50 32;
5. Shon Perry Lilkes Centr 51.30; 6.
Matt Boney, Pender Count 51 36; 7.
Tyrick Holmes, Hickory High 52.51; Keddrain Bowen, Washington DQ.

800 METER RUN

Matt Boney, Pender Count 51 36; /.
Tyrick Holmes, Hickory High 52; 51; Keddrain Bowen, Washington DQ

800 METER RUN

1 Ricardo Bell, Havelock Hig
1:55,73; 2 Dustin Tysinger, Central
Davil 55,89; 3. Drew Meyers,
Andrews High 1:59,61; 4 Drew Caffery, North Buncom 1:59,71; 5. TY
Gilliard, Parkland Hig 2:00,20; 6. Jay
Jahnes. Southwest GU 2:00, 20; 6. Jay
Jahnes. Southern Southern
Roberts, East Rowan H 2:04, 15; 13.
Samuel McNeil, Oertford Hig 2:04, 59;
14. Michael Williams, Beddingfield
2:04 84; 15 Andy Painter, Fuquay-Varin 2:05, 51; 16. Jimmy Evernham,
Southern Nash 2:07, 35
1,600 METER RUN
1 Darrell Metcalf, North Buncom
4:23, 9h, 2. Ryan Hobday, Concord
High 4:31, 8h; 3. Tom Wilson, Hickory
High 4:32, 6h; 4. Chad Pearson, Kings
Mounta 4:34, 3h; 5. Jeremiah Johnson,
Lest Henders 4:35,8h; 6. Jerrod Hesson, North Iredal 4:38,40; 7. Cyrus
Burroughs, Ragsdale Hig 4:41,7h; 8.
Sean Mollahan, White Oak HI 4:44,7h;
9. Jeff Hubbard, C.B. Aycock High
4:45,6h; 11. Kwame Williams,
Dudley High 4:50,0h; 12. Luke Clark,
North Gaston 4:55,9h; 13. Derek
Mapes, Southwest GU 5:03,0h, 14.
Jason McGarvey. Southern Nash
5:03,5h; 15, John Long, Hunt High
5:03,5h; 15, John Long, Hunt High
5:03,5h; 15, John Long, Hunt High
5:03,5h; 20,0h Long, Hunt High
5:04,0h; 20,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 22,0h; 23,0h; 24,0h; 23,00h; 24,0h; 24

SC 5.08 8h

3,200 METER RUN

1 Jessie Norman, Fuquay-Varin
9:44 Oh; 2: Chad Pearson, Kings
Mounta 9:50 Oh; 3. Ryan Recchion,
Mooresville 9:58.3h; 4. Darrell Metcalf,
North Buncom 10:07 2h; 5 Kevin
Crosby, Sun Valley H 10:11 Oh; 6.
Jeremiah Johnson, West Henders,
10:20 00; - Derek Wilson, Western
Guil NT; - Brandon Hillis, Western Guil
NT; - Jeff Hubbard, C.B. Aycock
High NT; - John Mucci, Havelock High
NT; - John Mucci, Havelock High
NT; - Josh Houghton, West Rowan H
NT; - Sean Giese, North Buncom NT;
Sean Mollahan, White Oak HI NT; - Ryan Strader, Rockingham C NT:
110 METER HIGH HURDLES

1 Arthur Deans, Southern Nash
14.4h; 2: Deshaum Richardson,
Southwest Edgecombe 14 4h; 3.
Chad Milsaps, North Gaston 14.9h; 4.
Clement Gibbs, Washington 15.Oh; 5.
Lamartive Etheridge, Smithfield15.3h; 7. Tron Morehead, Smith High
S 15.5h; - Javon Quartes, West
Rowan H FS.

300 METER INT HURDLES

1 Chad Milsaps, North Gaston
38.78; 2 Javon Quartes, West
Rowan

300 METER INT HURDLES
1 Chad Milsaps, North Gaston
38.78; 2. Javon Quartes. West Rowan
H 39.16; 3. Arthur Deans. Southern
Nash 39.59; 4. Cornelius Gary,
Southern Nash 39.62; 5. Clement
Gibbs, Washington 40.20; 6. Freddie
Tumer Hillside Hig 40.35; 7 Brandon
Summrers, Smith High S 41.08; 8.
Sean Anding, Harnett Cent 42.05.
4X100 METER RELAY
1. Hillside Hig 42.66; 2. Ragsdale

1. Hillside Hig 42.66; 2. Ragsdale Hig 42.86; 3. Southern Nash 42 98: 4 9; 6 South Point 43.32: 7. Fike 2: 0 43.79: 8 Havelock Hig 2: 9 Burns High S 43.95; 10 Sun 3: 44.01; 11. Asheville Hi 44 17: Goldsboro Hi 44.20; 13. Dudley 44.27; 14. Mooresville 44.69; 15. h Gaston 45.15; 16. Harding High

48.15.

4X200 METER RELAY

1 Dudley High 1:27.3h; 2. Southern Nash 1:27.8h; 3. Fike High SC 1:28.4h; 4 Hillside Hig 1:28.5h; 5 Ragsdale Hig 1:30.4h; 6. Asheville Hi 1:30 Sh; 7 Pender Count 1:31 9h; 8 West Rowan H 1:32.2h; 9. Foard High S:132.7h; 10. Andrews High 1:33.0h; 1 Webb High SC 1:33 Ih; 12. North Gaston 1:33.5h; 13. Kings Mounta 134.2h; 14 North Lenoir 1:34 8h; -Carver High DO.

4X400 METER RELAY

1. Southern Nash 3:23.10; 2. Dud ley High 3:24.29; 3. Smith High S:27.81; 4 Pender Count 3:30.60; 5 Roberson Hig 3:31.33; 6 Williams Hig 3:32.26, 7. North Buncom 3:32.71; 8. Hickory High 3:32.78; 9 East Rowan H 3:34 12; 10. Andrews High 3:34.43; 11. Asheville Hi 3:34.96; 12 Concord High 3:35 84, 13. Hillside Hig 3:36.25, 14 North Gaston 3:36.72, 15 Washington 3:57.25. - Fike High SC DNR 4X800 METER RELAY

1 North Buncom 8:11.6h; 2 Ragsdale Hig 8:17.8h; 3. West Henders

4X800 METER RELAY

1 North Buncom 8:11.6h; 2 Ragsdale Hig 8:17 8h; 3. West Henders 19.2h; 4 Dudley High 8 22.5h; 5 Hillside Hig 8:23.10; 6. Andrews High 8:23.40; 7 Southwest GU 8:24.30; 8. Smith High S 8:29.3h; 9. Roberson Hig 8:30.8h; 10. Southern Nash 8:34.6h; 11. Asheville HI 8:38 6h; 12. Mooresville 8:41.lh; 13. White Oak Higher Market Medical Higher State Higher Medical Higher Higher Medical Hight Higher Medical Higher Medical Higher Medical Higher Medical Hight Higher Medical Higher Medical Higher Medical Higher Medical

### Class 3-A track results

6-02, 13. Lamartive Etheridge. Smith-field-S 6-0: 13. Leon Moore, Carver High 6-0: 13 S McFarland, Mooresville 6-0; - Chris Erwin, Roberson Hig NH.
POLE VAULT

POLE VAULT

1 Matt Price, East Rowan H 14-06.
2. Kenny Murray. Southwest GU 12-06; 3. Aaron Aldridge North Buncom 12-06; 4. Chris Lider, Mooresville 12-0; 5. Kevin Loiselle, Western Guill 12-0; 6. Bryan Lynch, Northeast GU 12-0; 6. James Thomas, Roberson Hig 12-0; 8. Arron Rhymer, Erwin High S 11-06; 10. Josh Moss, Mooresville 11-0; 12. Kelvin Howard. Southern Nash 11-0; 19. Or Brand Wurzinger. Williams Hig 11-0; 10. Josh Moss, Mooresville 11-0; 12. Kelvin Howard. Southern Nash 11-0; 19. Brand On Winstead. Southern Nash NH; Paul Corbitt, C.B. Aycock High NH: Joep Dykes, Franklin Cou Nit Adam Butler, C.B. Aycock High NH: LONG JUMP

1. William Montgomery, Roberson Hig 24-11; 2. Marcus Oneal. Dudley-High 23-09 75; 3. Justin McConkle, Harding High 23-09.25; 4. Demaryland Cooper. Southern Nash 22-04; 6. Sam Mills, North Gaston 22-04; 6. Sam Mills, North Gaston 22-05; 7. Travis Coleman, Goldsboro High SC 21-08.50; 9. Michael Jones, Trinity High 21-05.75; 10. Kelsie Langston. Beddingfield 21-05.75; 11. Dominic Weaver, Mooresville 20-06; 12. Sebastian McClain, Fuquay-varin 19-11.75; 13. Tron Morehead, Smith High S 19-07 50; 14. Josh Burler, North Gaston 19-05.50; 15. Joel Bowman, North Surry 17-10.75; Nick Hoard, East Rowan H ND TRIPLE JUMP

1. William Montgomery, Roberson Hig 47-03; 2. Julius Peppers, Southern Nash 46-10, 3. John Logan, Burns High S 45-10; 4. Tron Morehead, Smith High S 45-02.50; 5. Demaryland Cooper, Southern Nash 45-01; 6. Jamie Scott, Concord High 43-09.75; 7. Delvin Barker, Webb High SC 43-08.75; 8. Dominic Weaver, Mooresville 43-01.75; 9. Tony Price, Smith High S 45-10; 3. Tony Price, Smith High S 45-10; 5. Tomay High SC 43-08.75; 8. Dominic Weaver, Mooresville 43-01.75; 9. Tony Price, Smith High S 45-10; 5. Case Johnson, Smith High S 40-11.50; 16. Jones Rowan H 41-09.75; 11. Hasaan Reddick, Andrews High 42-02.250; 12. Brian Atklinson, Fike High SC 44-08; 15. Case Johnson, Smith High S 40-11.50; 16. Jones Rowan H 51-08.25; 5. Jerome Rucker, Harnett Cent 51-03; 7. James, Roswell Pender Count 49-01

DISCUS

1. Ike Oglesby, East Rowan H 17108; 2. Kareem Marshall. Kings Mounta
148-02 75; 3. Steve Gray, Andrews
High 145-01-50; 4. Isaac Herndon,
Webb High SC 144-05-25; 5. Champ
Burgess, Washington 139-01-75; 6.
Chris Glenn, Rockingham C 139-01; 7.
Brandon Cheek, Andrews High 13604-50; 7. Daniel Collier, Western Guil
136-04-50; 9. Chuck Sexton, Enkla
High SC 132-04, 10. Randy Cass,
North Iredal 124-08-50; 11. Sean
Karcher, Smokey Mount 118-05; 12.
Chris Rogers, Southern Nash 11701; 13. Kenneth White. Southern Ala
105-09-50; - James Rowell, Pender
Count FOUL; Brad Boone, North
Buncom ND

#### Girls

Roberson 66. Southern Nash 58
Eden Morehead 44, Southern Durham
30, Hickory 27, South Caldwell 26,
Hertford County 24, Greensboro Dudley 22, Western Gullford 19, Southwest Guilford 18.5, Enka 16, WilsonFike 15, Trinity 14, Andrews 14,
Durham Hillside 12, Charlotte Harding
12, Mooresville 10, Havelock 8.5,
Northwest Cabarru6 7, North Buncombe 7, Sun Valley 7, Clayton 6,
Fayetteville Smith 6, Rockingham
County 6, Fuquay-Varina 5, North
Surry 4, Harnett Central 4, Franklin 4,
Concord 4, Kinston 4, East Rowan 3,
Asheboro 2, Saint Stephens 2,
Burlington Williams 2, Central Davidson 1, Washington 1
INDIVIDUAL RESULTS
100 METER DASH
1, Anissa Gainey, Clayton High
12 bb 2, Streen James, Hickory High

100 METER DASH

1. Anissa Gainey, Clayton High
12.2h; 2. Shirena James, Hickory High
12.2h; 3. Demiko Picott, Hertford High
12.2h; 4. Shamika Scales, Morehead
High 12.6h; 5. Calina Williams, Kinston
High 126h; 6. Courtney, Carter,
Williams High 12.6h; 7. Ronetta
Burgess, Washington 12.6h; 8. Laqui-

800 METER RUN

3,200 METER RUN

3,200 METER RUN

1. Sarah-Vance Goodman, Roberson Hig 10:54 64; 2 Beth Fonner, Trinity High 11:32 66; 3 Erin Kelly, Roberson Hig 1141 03; 4 Michelle Cooper, Fuquay-Vann 12:08 56, 5 Carin Burkett. Fike High SC 12:12-54; 6 Jeniter Williams, East Rowan H 12:16 04; 7. Autumn Read, northwest CA 12:23 14; 8 Hennah Grimes, Asheville HI 12:27 44; 9 Julie Elmore, South Caldwer 12:30-17; 10 Emily Galvin, East Henders 12:34 41; 11 Emma Batchelor, East Chapel 13:02 71; 12 Jennifer Bronars, Havelock Hig 13:11 38; 13, Shahrzad Rezvani, East Chapel 13:13, 38; 14, Shauna McIver, Manteo High 13:15 88; 15, Kelly Gates, Western Guil 13:25 43; 16. Crystal Joyner, Southern Nash 13:32 01

13:32 01 IOO METER HIGH HURDLES

1. Lavemia Chambers, Hillside Hig 15.0h; 2. Heather Carpenter, Southern Dur 15.9h; 3. Kwanna Skinner, Southern Dur 16.9h; 3. Kwanna Skinner, Southern Dur 16.9h; 4. Virginia Lacombe, South Caldwe 16.2h; 5. Angie Ward, Tuscola High 16.4h; 6. Brandy Belk-dahlmoor, Mooresville 16.5h; 7. Liffany Smith, Fike High SC 16.5h; 8. Leslie Bigelow, Hickory High 17.4h. 300 METER INT HURDLES

1. Tiffany Smith, Fike High SC 64.87; 2. Virginia Lacombe, Southern Southern Dur 48.20; 5. Leslie Bigelow, Hickory High 26.75; 6. Leslie Bigelow, Hickory High 48.44; 6. Tiffany Deans, Dudley High 48.95; 7. Mandy Mulford, Roberson Hig 50.07; 8. Ria Diggs, Harding High 50.42; 4. 4v.100 METER RELAY

1. Dudley High 48.17; 2. Southern Nash 49.71; 3. Western Guil 50.07; 4. Harding High 50.43; 5. Hillside Migh 50.46; 6. Hickory High 50.66; 7. Andrews High 50.95; 8. Western Ham 51.20; 9. Roberson Hig 51.27; 10 Mooresville 51.51; 11. Asheville Hi 51.58; 12. Southwest ED 51.84; 13. Hertford Hig 52.19; 14 Kings Mounta 52.56; 15. Beddingfield 52.62; 16. Erwin High 5.36; 11. 4v.200 METER RELAY

1. Southern Nash 1:42.2h; 2. Western Guil 1:44.9h; 3. Roberson Hig 1:45.4h; 4. Hickory High 1:45.7h; 5. Andrews High 1:45.9h; 6. Southern Dur 1:47.0h; 7. Hillside High 1:45.4h; 4. Hickory High 1:45.7h; 5. Andrews High 1:0. Southwest ED 1:49.2h; 11. Hertford Hig 1:50.5h; 12. East Henders 1:51.70; 13. Wilkes Centr 1:54.3h; 14. Kings Mounta 1:54.4h; -Harding High DQ 4.00.82; 2. Roberson High 2:00.99; 13. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews High 4:07.70; 5. Smith High S.4:10.15; 6. Southern Nash 1:40.88; 4. Andrews Hig

4x800 METER RELAY

1 Roberson Hig 9:44 Oh; 2: Southwest GU 10:03 8h; 3: Enka High SC 10:07.4h; 4: North Buncom 10:08 4h; 5: East Rowan H 10:10.Oh; 6: Sun Valley High 10:20.lh; 8: Lest Henders 10:20.8h; 9: East Chapel 10:39.lh: 10: Piedmont Hig 10:43:Sh; 11: Fike High SC 10:44; 7h; 12: Beddenfield 10:50.5h; 13: South Caldwe 10:53:30; 14: Southern Nash 10:59 Oh: 15: Western Guil 11:21:2h; 16: Havelock Hig 12:12.7h. HIGH JUMP

12:12:7h.

HIGH JUMP

1. Virginia Lacombe, South Caldwe
5-08. 2 Greta Ray, Mooresville 5-04;
3. Carol Kiser. Concord High 5-04;
3. Carol Kiser. Concord High 5-04;
3. Crystal Goure, Roberson High 5-02;
6. Christia Wallace, Havelock High 5-02;
6. Christia Wallace, Havelock High 5-02;
7. Shena Clark, Rockingham Coulties, 1999.
7. Southern Mash NH

Dianna Lewis. Southern Nash NH

LONG JUMP

1. Toshima Dabbs, Morehead High 17-04,50;
7. Meka Battle, Southern Nash 16-11;
7. Taressa Davis, Southern Nash 16-11;
7. Taressa Davis, Southern Nash 16-11;
8. Taressa Davis, Southern Dur 16-08,50;
8. Roslyn Bingly, northwest CA 16-07.75;
7. Alpha Johnson, Dudley High 16-07.25;
8. Keesha Butler, Mooresville 16-03,50;
9. Anissa Gainey, Clayton High 16-03,50;
9. Taressa Davis, Southern North Davids 15-08.25;
9. 12. Jennifer Bain, South Point 15-07-50;
9. Anna McLean, South Point 15-07-50;
9. Anna McLean, South Point 15-07-50;
9. TRIPLE JUMP
1. Toshima Dabbs, Morehead Highsouth Point 14-05.50.

TRIPLE JUMP
1. Toshima Dabbs, Morehead Highsouth Point 14-05.50.

1 Miriam McLeod, North Gasto 118-02 75; 2. Janiece McNeil, Have 00-02 75; 2. Janiece McNeil, Have 00-02 75; 2. Janiece McNeil, Thompson Coard, Andrews High 108-01-75; 2 Traci Gwyn, North Surry 107-71-1 50; 2 Kia Sessoms Hertford High 105-01-28

### Saturday's programs

9:00 — Golf — Benson & Hedges International

Open, Golf Channel. 12:00 — Horse racing — Schaefer Handicap; Pimlico Distaff; Sir Barton Stakes, ESPN.

12:00 — Lacrosse — NCAA Division I men's quarterfinal at Hempstead, N.Y.: Duke vs. Princeton, HTS.

1:00 —Major league soccer — D. C. United at

New York/New Jersey, ESPN 2. 1:00 — Auto racing — Indy 500 pole, time trials, WTVD-Ch. II.

2:00 — Golf — Byron Nelson Classic, WTVD-Ch. 2:00 — Auto racing — Indy 500 pole, time trials,

- NBA basketball - Western Conference Finals: Los Angeles Lakers at Utah, WITN-Ch. 7, WNCN-Ch. 17.

3:00 — Horse racing — Maryland Breeders Cup; The Dixie, ESPN.
3:00 — Bowling — Greater Detroit Open, WRALr

Ch. 5, WNCT-Ch. 9.

4:00 — Golf — McDonald's LPGA Championship, WRAL-Ch. 5, WNCT-Ch. 9. 4:00 - Drag racing - MIRA Pro Stock, TNN Horse racing - The Preakness, WTVD-

1 1 0

5:30- Auto racing — Indy 500 pole, time trials,

Golf — Saint Luke's Classic, ESPN. 7:00 — Major League Baseball — Tampa Bay at Baltimore, HTS

7:30 — Auto racing — Winston Open; The Winston, TNN. 7:30 — NHL hockey — Playoffs: Edmonton at

Dallas, ESPN. 8:00 — Major League Baseball — Atlanta at Houston, TBS.

8:00 — Boxing — IBA cruiserweight championship: Kenny Keene vs. Rocky Gannon; heavyweights: Lamon Brewster vs. Garing Lane; junior middleweights: Todd Foster vs. Francisco Mendez,

9:00 — Golf — McDonald's LPGA Championship, Golf Channel. 10:00 — Auto racing — USAC Silver Crown,

Meekend televised sports

13.

ESPN2. 12:30 — Tennis — Italian Open, ESPN. 12:30 — Arena football — Milwaukee at Arizona, ESPN2.

1:00 — College baseball — ACC tournament, taped, HTS.

#### Sunday's programs 9:00 — Golf — Benson & Hedges International,

Golf Channel. 12:00 — Drag racing — Mopar Parts Nationals,

1:00 — Auto racing — GN CoreStates Advantage 200, ESPN. 1:00 — Auto racing — SCCA Trans-Am, TNN

1:05 — Major League Baseball — Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, WGN. 1:30 — Major League Baseball — Tampa Bay at Baltimore, HTS.

1:30 — Auto racing — Indy 500 time trials, WTVD-Ch. ll.

2:00 — NHL hockey — Playoffs: St. Louis at Detroit, WLFL-Ch. 22

2:30 — Major League Baseball — Atlanta at Houston, TBS. 3:00 — Golf — Byron Nelson Classic, WTVD-Ch.

3:00 — Golf — Saint Luke's Classic, ESPN. 3:00 — Auto racing — Indy 500 time trials,

ESPN2. 3:30 — NBA basketball — Eastern Conference Finals: Indiana at Chicago, WITN-Ch. 7, WNCN-Ch. 17.

4:00 — Golf — McDonald's LPGA Championship, WRAL-Ch. 5, WNCT-Ch. 9.

5:00 — Auto racing — Indy 500 time trials, ESPN.

— Horse racing — 2Day at the Races, ESPN2.

7:00 — College baseball — ACC tournament, HTS. 8:00 — Major League Baseball — Seattle at

Toronto, ESPN. 9:00 — Golf — McDonald's LPGA Champi-

onship, Golf Channel. 12:30 — Tennis — Italian Open, ESPN.

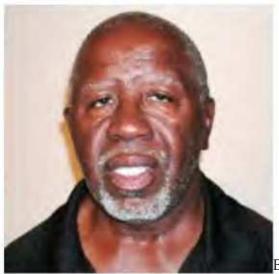
### 2017 NBNO Mike Byrnes Coach of the Year: Alton Tyre

Jun 30, 2017by Steve Underwood



#### **Quietly Building a Legacy**

Some folks might think a national track and field coach of the year award is reserved only for those whose athletes win national titles, rack up All-American honors, or at least accumulate a couple handfuls of state championships.



But sometimes it's the individual who has the ability to be among those who quietly advance the sport, positively affect lives in different ways, and become forces for good in their communities who merits such an honor. Sometimes it's that person whose influence gradually begins to outgrow the coach's community and region, to the point where folks start to feel this person deserves recognition at a higher level.

**Alton Tyre** has become that person. And if ever there was a coach who did not seek out such recognition and thereby was stunned to learn he'd receive such an award, it's this **Southeast Guilford, N.C.** boys and girls T&F mentor – who will be honored as the **2017 Mike Byrnes Coach of the Year** at this year's NBNO.

"I'm shocked," he said, "and I'm grateful and deeply honored." It's not just Coach Tyre's humility, but the fact that his primary focus was basketball and football for the first third of his 39-year coaching career. He'll tell you when he tried track and field a few years in high school, he was awful, and while he was better at football and basketball, he began to quickly gravitate toward coaching during his college days.

Tyre's first gig out of college was as a social studies teacher and coach at **Bunn High School** in N.C. in 1978. His dream was to become a "big-time head basketball coach." By 1989 he was at **Southern Nash HS** in Bailey, N.C., coaching four sports with some success, but ultimately not completely satisfying.

It took then-Southern Nash AD **Ray Davis** to change and reset Coach Tyre's focus. "He said, 'Your strength is coaching track.' I needed to embrace that." Tyre knew how to identify talent, and he was getting better and better at developing it. That first became clear in '79 at Bunn when he helped a barely known rising star named **William Baker** get a scholarship at St. Augustine College with legendary Coach George Williams – where he would unexpectedly become an NAIA All-American. "That kind of put me on the map," he said. "I do know talent when I see it."

Coach Tyre didn't know everything there was to know about the sport, but he knew if you wanted to get better, you learned from the best. He connected with track and field coaching legends like **George Williams** at St. Augustine College, and **Dr. Russell Blunt**. Like Tyre, Blunt juggled basketball and track.

It's not surprising that Tyre's greatest success during his Southern Nash years came while **Julius Peppers** was on his team in in the late 1990s. Peppers' story is legend from those parts – not just that he would later become a UNC All-American and 3-time first team All-Pro NFL star, but that he didn't even try football until his sophomore year in high school. But Peppers had long loved hoops, and T&F was up there, too. Even better, Coach Tyre loved the type of kid Peppers was. "He would make plays or have performances where you say, 'I didn't believe what I just saw.' You didn't trust your own eyes ... But Julius was never full of himself. He was just one of the guys." And, despite being 6-7 and 255 pounds, according to Tyre, he was 2nd in the state meet triple jump and ran on the winning 4x400. Then Southern Nash defended its title in 1999, after Peppers had graduated.

Coach Tyre was at Southern Nash for 17 years, through the 2006 season, but the 164-mile round trip daily commute had been wearing on him and it was time to work a little closer to home. He loved the school, but that summer he took teaching and coaching positions at Southeast Guilford – and went about building a great program again.

During the 2012 indoor season, Tyre's boys' squad tied for the state title with Knightdale. Then in 2016, the coach was surprised and delighted when his school's big early-season meet was renamed the **Alton Tyre Invitational Relays.** 

"A lot of my former athletes were there," he said. "It was an incredible day."

Hopefully, June 18, 2017 will be just as incredible a day for Alton Tyre.

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#### Julius Peppers calls it a career



#### Mark Cone

Southern Nash graduate and Carolina Panthers defensive end Julius Peppers is hanging up his helmet. Peppers, who currently is fourth on the NFL's all-time sack list, announced his retirement after 17 NFL seasons on Friday.

Hailing from Bailey, NC Peppers, 39, is heavily favored as a first-ballot NFL Hall of Fame selection in five years when he becomes eligible to receive the honor.

In his NFL career which included stints with The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers before returning home to where he started his career in Charlotte Peppers' total 159.5 career sacks putting him firmly in the fourth place position over Terrell Suggs of the Baltimore Raven who has 132.5. Peppers trails Kevin Greene by only .5 at 160. Bruce Smith (198) and Reggie White (200) round out the elite top five.

Across 17 seasons Peppers missed only six games, amassing a game playing total of 266 making him the sixth highest in games played by defensive player during their career in NFL history. Peppers is ending his career by playing 176 consecutive games, the second-longest active streak among active players behind NC State alum and Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers.

Peppers said his goodbye to fans worldwide in a video release that said:

"Thank you. For the victories and the good times," Peppers said in a video announcing his retirement. "For the lessons and the times we desired more. For the sacrifices, the belief, the confidence and the unwavering support - I'm thankful. Because without you, this wasn't possible. Thank you for the spirit, the resolve and the attitude to Keep Pounding. It's not something we just say around here, it's how we live. I'm thankful for the things you showed me about life that were bigger than football and for a second chance - a new beginning. See the players, we come and we go, but the constant is you. And as the saying goes, 'Once a Panther, always a Panther.' Thank you for the memories, the friendships, the laughs and the culture we created. For the understanding and for being family. Thanks for all the years, and cheers. And for being home now and forever. I wouldn't change a thing about this journey. It was the best teacher I've ever had and was everything I could've hoped for. The tough times never lasted and the tough people inspired me to be better and give more. I hope I did the same. Only time can reveal what's next, but my time here is up. No regrets, no looking back and nothing left to give. It's not goodbye, it's kinda like, 'I'll see you later' But until then I'm grateful, I'm satisfied and at peace with all that comes next."

"Julius is one of the greatest to ever play the game of football," head coach Ron Rivera said in a statement. "To put up the numbers he did for as long as he did speaks to his incredible talent and commitment. He is a leader in the locker room and in the community. Getting to know him over the last two seasons has been tremendous because of the type of person he is. What he did for the people affected by Hurricane Florence, getting involved and bringing them hope, says a lot about who he is. I'm proud that I get to say that I was one of his coaches, and I think it's fitting that he gets to end his career as a Carolina Panther."

Peppers started his football journey in a small metal building that served as the field house for Southern Nash High School in the fall of 1994. In 1995 as a sophomore he emerged as one of the premier high school running backs in the state gaining 1044 yards and scoring 15 touchdowns in his first year of varsity play. He finished his career with 3501 total rushing yards, which put him in the number two position behind Lamont Avent, he now sits in the number six position on that list.

By the time he graduated in 1998, Peppers had been named the NCHSAA male athlete of the year for his performance in football, basketball, and track. He is one of only two Firebirds to receive statewide Athlete of the Year honors in school history. He was also the first Firebird to be named as an All-American.



An article published by the N on a football scholarship. The consecutive years. He rushed



tar in football, basketball and track, headed to the University of North Carolina n Parade All-American in '97 and was his team's Most Valuable Player for three while catching passes for six more scores.

In basketball, he was the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in 1996 and finished his career with the Firebirds with over 1,600 career points, 1,000 career rebounds and over 500 assists. He earned all-conference honors and all-area honors all four years he played. In track, he competes in four events, including the triple jump, shot put, 400 meters and the four by 100 relay, and was third in the state meet in the triple jump in 1996.

Former Southern Nash Football Coach and athletic director Ray Davis of Southern Nash says that Julius "is the most unselfish individual I have ever coached. He is truly a phenom."

Longtime Southern Nash Head Coach Brian Foster was an assistant coach at the school until the year Peppers graduated. "Julius...to me he is not Julius Peppers the NFL star, he is just Julius...is one of the most genuine people you will ever know," said Foster. "The things with the Hurricane victims recently, that is genuine Julius...that's not a photo op, he truly cares and he has always been very caring and giving. He has done things for people and schools and communities that nobody will ever know about, he doesn't want credit - that's just the person he is. When Kim and Zack were in the wreck Julius showed up at the hospital - he didn't have to do that, but he did and nobody ever knew it."

As a senior at Southern Nash, Peppers selected "The greatness of work is inside man" as his senior quote. He played his college career at UNC where he was awarded the Chuck Bednarik Award, the Bill Willis Trophy, and the Lombardi Award. He is ranked second in All-Time UNC history for 30.5 sacks.

Peppers also is in a rare class of athlete that has played in both an NCAA Final Four and the Super Bowl. A search of sports history could find only one other athlete, Donovan McNabb that was part of a team that was in both, but McNabb did not see Final Four playing time as a walk-on reserve at Syracuse, making Peppers the only athlete to have actually played in both.

Peppers was nominated by the Carolina Panthers for this year's Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award for his humanitarian efforts in eastern North Carolina after two devastating hurricanes left the area in ruins in the fall of 2018. The winner of that award will be announced this Saturday at NFL Honors in Atlanta.

"He did things the right way, which is what we try to get all of our athletes at Southern Nash to do," said Foster. "He associated with the right people, he worked hard, and he had a great career. I am really proud of Julius for all his accomplishments as an athlete and a family man, I am thankful that he stayed healthy so that now he can enjoy what he has earned."

#### Reader Comments

Jill

FEB 01, 2019 • Can I come and work for y'all? Your writing is grammatically incorrect three times in the first paragraph! \*\*Publisher's note: The first 'paragraph' is two sentences long. I did review those two sentences and did not find any grammatical errors in them. In response to your request; at this time I would have to respectfully decline as the use of the word "ya'll" is never considered grammatically correct in the English language.\*\*

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FOOTBALL

### WRAL Storytellers: Julius Peppers in his unbelievably dominant days in high school

Tags: Julius Peppers, football, High School Football



Julius Peppers as a high school running back!?!? Former WRAL sports director Bob Holliday shares tales on how much bigger, stronger and faster Peppers was in the mid-1990s at Southern Nash compared to his opponents.

Reporter: Jared Fialko 8:06 p.m., Jun 21, 2020

### **Hide Transcript**

#### Transcript:

RUSSELL WILSON MAKES \$35 MILLION, AND BIG BEN \$34 MILLION. >>> THE FORMER PANTHERS SACHAR, JULIUS PEPPERS, ONE OF THOSE IN THE RUNNING FOR THE HALL OF FAME, BUT HIS CAREER HAD QUITE A DIFFERENT START, AS WE EXPLAIN IN THIS EDITION OF WRAL STORYTELLERS. >> ONE OF THE BIGGEST ASSETS, THE MOUNT KILIMANJARO LEVEL OF PLASTIC WE HAVE THAT IS THE ARCHIVES, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF ANYBODY HAS SHOWN ME A CLIP THAT HAS MADE MY JAW DROP TO THE FLOOR AS MUCH AS THE TIME SOMEONE SHOWED ME A PIECE OF VIDEO FROM SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL WHERE JULIUS PEPPERS WAS PLAYING RUNNING BACK.>> QUITE SIMPLY, JULIUS PEPPERS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST ATHLETES THE STATE HAS EVER TURNED OUT, WE SAW THAT HIS FRESHMAN YEAR, THE COACH WAS DETERMINED TO PERSUADE HIM TO GIVE FOOTBALL A TRY, AND I DON'T KNOW THIS FOR SURE, I HAVE AN IDEA THAT HE OFFERED JULIUS THE CHANCE TO PLAY WHEREVER HE WANTED AS AN ENTICEMENT. JULIUS CHOSE RUNNING BACK, HE TOLD ME I WANT TO TOUCH THE BALL AND HAVE SOME FUN.>> Reporter: SUCH A LARGE RUNNING BACK AT SOUTHERN NASH, NORTH CAROLINA RECRUITED HIM FOR DEFENSIVE END. >> WHEN YOU ARE ON THE SIDELINES FOR FOOTBALL FRIDAY, HOW DO NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THE SPECTACLE. >> SPELLBINDING, HE COULD GET 7 YARDS, 12 YARDS.>> Reporter: A 21 YARD TOUCHDOWN PASS TO JULIUS PEPPERS. JULIUS PEPPERS WILL GO 47 YARDS. >> THEY HAD A TRADITION OF BIG RUNNING BACKS, THEY HAD A GUY NAMED ABE JONES, AND JULIUS WAS 6 FOOT SEVEN, 250 AS A SOPHOMORE, THE COACH TOLD ME. >> HE RAN A FOUR POINTS SIX 40, HE COULD GET TO THE CORNER BEFORE OTHER BIG GUYS. 4.6, AND I SAID IS IT OKAY TO DRAG THEM, AND HE SAID YES, THEY GET AROUND MY ANKLES, I LIKE TO DRAG THEM AS FAR AS THEY CAN, HE WOULD DRAG DEFENDERS FOR 3500 YARDS AND 38 TOUCHDOWNS. >> IT'S WILD, HE'S LIKE TWICE THE SIZE OF MOST OF THE PLAYERS. >> THAT WAS OUTRAGEOUS.

### MORE ON THIS

- 🖆 Mack Brown, Julius Peppers among NC Sports Hall of Fame 2020 class
- 2 Julius Peppers among NFF College Football Hall of Fame nominees
- 🖆 Julius Peppers: 'It's see ya later' in retirement from Carolina Panthers

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#### 2018 NFL Man of the Year - Fact Sheet

Link to the Application

Link to application here: <a href="http://www.nflfoundation.org/applications/programs/campaign/MOY">http://www.nflfoundation.org/applications/programs/campaign/MOY</a>

How has your nominee shown dedication and commitment to community efforts this year?

Always someone who has aimed to avoid the spotlight, Panthers defensive end Julius Peppers has never enjoyed the talking-to-the-media part of being an NFL player.

He prefers to talk when he has something to say.

After seeing the photos and videos of the hurricane damage along the coast, Peppers, who grew up in eastern North Carolina and played football (and basketball) at UNC, had something to say and wanted to help.

He partnered with the Foundation for the Carolinas and started the Julius Peppers Hurricane Florence relief fund by donating \$100,000 and encouraging his teammates and other NFL players to do their part, as well.

"I think it would be a great statement if we had 100 percent participation," Peppers said of fellow Panthers supporting the cause. "To be honest, I think that would say a lot to these fans and the community. We rely on their support every week to come to the games and buy our jerseys. It's only right for us to give the same support back to the them and help them in their time of need."

Funds will be directed to nonprofit recipients of grants from Foundation For The Carolinas' Hurricane Florence Response Fund, which is providing relief to victims of the storm.

"When these disasters happen you don't have the basic necessities. Sometimes we take those things for granted," Peppers said. "That's what's on my mind. I'm just trying to do something to help."

However, his donation was only the beginning of his commitment. Since his donation, he's spent two of his off-days visiting hurricane-ravaged areas - Robeson County in North Carolina and Marlboro County in South Carolina, both impoverished areas that reminded him of his hometown where people were too busy picking up the pieces of their lives to gawk at an NFL star.

Peppers understood. And he wasn't too busy to listen, to help, to take the time in the midst of the football season to travel five hours roundtrip to see how he could assist in some small way those struggling in the wake of a natural disaster.

"Home is a couple of hours away, and it reminds me of Bailey a lot," Peppers said, referencing his North Carolina hometown that was spared when Hurricane Florence tore through his home state three-plus weeks ago. "It hits home. It's tough to see people in these situations. They're just regular people who don't have very much to fall back on, don't have many resources.

"It's one thing to write a check. That's great, but it's another thing to come out, be on the ground and actually see the devastation, see the effects with your own eyes."

How has your nominee shown dedication and commitment to community efforts in years past?

Historically someone who prefers to contribute "behind the scenes," Peppers has donated more than \$300,000 to the University of North Carolina's Light on the Hill Society Scholarship fund that supports African-American students. Peppers gave \$100,000 to the fund in 2009 and \$250,000 to the fund in 2012. The scholarship program is a tribute to Carolina's earliest African-American graduates and a vehicle for alumni and friends of the university to support African-American freshman who exhibit academic excellence and the potential to contribute while at UNC and after graduation. The Light on the Hill Society Julius Peppers Scholar receives an annual 1,000 award, renewable for up to three years.

Peppers has made donations to various churches in Charlotte, Nash County (NC), Houston and Dallas for projects, including youth development, transportation, radio devotionals and building repair. From 2005-08, he funded the Julius Pepper Project, youth development programs in Charlotte, Nash County and Chapel Hill that secured motivational speakers to discuss social and educational issues with area youth.

In Chicago from 2010-12, he made financial contributions and organized youth development through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Chicago.

How does your nominee demonstrate consistency in positive character and how does he model a lifestyle of giving back?

Selected to the All-Decade team for the 2000's, Peppers is universally regarded by teammates and players throughout the League as one of the game's great ambassadors and someone who plays the game "the right way." Reflective of his positive leadership and the respect he garners from his teammates, Peppers has been selected a team captain six times, including four seasons in Carolina and twice in Chicago. During his three-year stint in Green Bay, the Packers did not select captains for the season but was selected as one of the team's postseason captains in each of his three seasons with the team.

While he is a star player in the NFL, Peppers has always been reserved in his demeanor. However, he recognized the need to help others in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence and has devoted his resources and, more importantly, his time to helping the low-income rural areas that are often left behind in relief efforts.

How has your nominee demonstrated excellence on the field during his career?

Selected by the Panthers second overall in the 2002 draft, Julius Peppers is the only player in NFL history with 150 sacks and 10 or more interceptions. He (156.5) leads all active players in sacks, including an all-time franchise record of 94 with the Panthers. The 17-year veteran needs four to surpass Kevin Greene (160.0) for third in NFL history since sacks became an official statistic in 1982. He needs two forced fumbles to surpass Robert Mathis (52) for the most forced fumbles since 2000 and his 33 career forced fumbles for Carolina rank first in team history. With one more game played, he will increase his total to 256, an amount that ranks sixth in NFL history among defensive players. Peppers has also played in 166 consecutive games, the second-longest streak among active players.

Is there anything else we should know about your nominee?

#### **JULIUS PEPPERS – DEFENSIVE END (2002-2009, 2017-2018)**

#### **Honors**

- NFL All-Decade Team 2000s, 2010s
- Pro Bowl **2004**, **2005**, **2006**, **2008**, **2009**, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015
- AP All-Pro First Team **2004**, **2006**, 2010
- AP All-Pro Second Team 2008, 2009, 2012
- College & Pro Football Weekly All-Pro 2004
- Football Digest All-Pro 2004
- Pro Football Weekly All-NFL **2004**, **2006**, 2010
- Pro Football Weekly All-NFC 2004, 2006, 2010, 2012
- Sporting News All-Pro 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010
- NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year 2002
- USA Today Sports Weekly All-Pro 2006

(Bold =With Panthers)

#### **NFL Superlatives**

- 266 games played are the sixth most by a defensive player in NFL history.
- Ranks fourth in NFL history with 159.5 sacks.
- Finished in top 10 in NFL in sacks six times 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012.
- Produced 10 seasons with double-digit sacks, the fourth most in NFL history.
- Only player in NFL history with 150 or more sacks and 10 or more interceptions.
- 11 career interceptions are the second most by a defensive end in NFL history.
- Ranks second in NFL history with 51 forced fumbles (since 2000 when the statistic became available).
- Credited with 82 career pass deflections, the second most in NFL history by a defensive end (since 2000 when the statistic became available).

#### **Panthers Accomplishments**

- Led/tied for team lead in sacks seven times 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2017.
- Recorded a career-high 14.5 sacks in 2008, equaling the third most in team history.
- Totaled 143 interception return yards in 2004, the second most in team history and an NFL record for a defensive lineman at the time.
- Key member of Panthers defense that finished in top 10 six times 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2017.
- Helped Panthers defense rank among the NFL's top 10 in sacks per pass attempt five times 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2017.
- Named Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee in 2018.

#### **Panthers Team History Ranks**

- 5 Pro Bowls 2nd (Tied)
- 97 Sacks 1st
- 23 Multi-Sack Games 1st
- 583 Tackles Most by a defensive lineman
- 34 Forced Fumbles 1st
- 10 Opponent Fumble Recoveries 3rd
- 9 Blocked Field Goals 1st

#### <u>Career Statistics – Season-By-Season</u>

Year	Team	GP	GS	Tot	Т	Α	Sack	Yds	Int	PD	FF	FR	TD
2002	Carolina	12	12	54	37	17	12.0	78.0	1	4	5	0	0
2003	Carolina	16	16	65	48	17	7.0	39.0	0	6	3	0	0
2004	Carolina	16	16	85	63	22	11.0	71.0	2	6	4	1	1
2005	Carolina	16	16	70	46	24	10.5	61.5	0	4	2	1	0
2006	Carolina	16	16	75	61	14	13.0	89.0	0	6	3	2	0
2007	Carolina	14	14	55	37	18	2.5	22.5	1	3	3	2	0
2008	Carolina	16	16	63	41	22	14.5	82.5	0	7	5	0	0
2009	Carolina	16	14	56	35	21	10.5	52.5	2	4	5	1	1
2010	Chicago	16	16	64	47	17	8.0	54.0	2	7	3	0	0
2011	Chicago	16	16	43	31	12	11.0	60.0	0	1	3	2	0
2012	Chicago	16	16	43	33	10	11.5	73.5	0	0	1	4	0
2013	Chicago	16	16	47	35	12	7.0	44.0	1	4	2	1	0
2014	Green Bay	16	16	45	33	12	7.0	41.5	2	11	4	3	2
2015	Green Bay	16	16	42	31	11	10.5	57.0	0	0	2	0	0
2016	Green Bay	16	11	30	22	8	7.5	47.5	0	3	2	1	0
2017	Carolina	16	5	33	27	6	11.0	61.0	0	0	2	2	0
2018	Carolina	16	8	27	19	8	5.0	47.5	0	7	2	1	0
Career Totals		266	240	897	646	251	159.5	982.0	11	73	51	21	4
Carolina Totals		154	133	583	414	169	97.0	604.5	6	47	34	10	2

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SHOP

#### Julius Peppers caps year of community service with celebration at charity sneaker ball

Feb 15, 2019 at 09:27 AM



**Max Henson** 



CHARLOTTE - For Julius Peppers, Thursday night at the Harvey B. Gantt Center was the culmination of nearly a year's worth of community service.

Peppers, who was Carolina's 2018 NFL Man of the Year nominee, hosted a formal sneaker ball in support of three charities that he handpicked.

#### **RELATED LINKS**

Julius Peppers pens "thank-you" note to coaches, teammates, fans

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"I'm excited. All this stuff started out with the hurricane relief fund," Peppers said just before the party began. "We decided to do a charity ball for All-Star Weekend with the spotlight on the city of Charlotte and we wanted to celebrate as well.

"It's great to go out and have a good time and also have it benefit a good cause. That means a lot."

Peppers, usually known for backing away from the spotlight, was basking in the glow throughout the night. Since announcing his retirement, he's been overwhelmed by the collective love and support, and he was happy to mingle with guests and pose for a photo with anyone who asked.

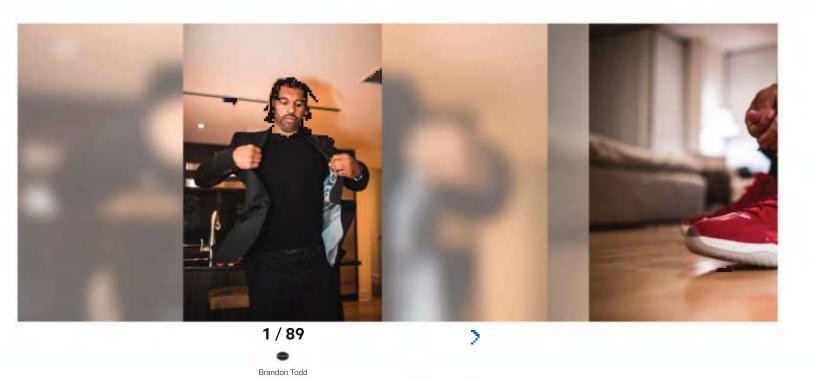
This was a charity event, but it was also a chance to celebrate the close of a legendary career.

Several coveted pieces of sports memorabilia were up for grabs at the event. Among the items on display? A Steph Curry signed jersey, a signed Saquon Barkley helmet, a Drew Brees autographed ball and a signed Patrick Mahomes jersey.

And of course, several current and former Panthers were on hand to share in the celebration.

#### Julius Peppers Charity Sneaker Ball

View photos from Julius Peppers' charity sneaker ball in Charlotte at the Harvey B. Gantt Center.



"A lot of support from my teammates, well, former teammates," Peppers said with a chuckle. "Everyone has been congratulating me on a great career and it feels good to be appreciated."

The community is certainly appreciative of Peppers for all the work he's done during and after his final NFL season.

Here's what he had to say about the three charitable organizations his gala supported:

"The Young Black Leadership Alliance – they give exposure to youth locally and around the world. I thought they were great when I went out and visited them. I fell in love with it."

"The Girl Talk Foundation is run by someone that I know from my first stint with the Panthers. They are empowering young girls to be strong women. It's great."

"The Center for Community Transitions – they offer stability and assistance to families dealing with someone who has been incarcerated. A lot of people deal with that at one point or another, and that hit home for me.

# Best NC Athlete ever? How about Julius Peppers

https://www.wralsportsfan.com/best-nc-athlete-ever-how-about-julius-peppers/19204859/

Posted July 25, 2020 4:54 p.m. EDT Updated July 27, 2020 6:44 a.m. EDT **By Bob Holliday, WRALSportsFan columnist** 

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — Recently I stumbled onto a social media thread asking opinions about the best high school athletes who competed in North Carolina. I immediately thought of Julius Peppers.

It's not just the fact that Peppers ran for more than 3500 yards and 38 touchdowns in three years as a running back at Southern Nash High School, though I must say the images of the big teenager running over and even running past would be defenders are indelible. But Peppers was about more than just running the ball, and he was about more than just football. In fact, until his sophomore year, there was no football.

Peppers, as a freshman, made his mark at the school in Stanhope on the basketball court and on the track. He would ultimately score 1661 points and haul in almost 960 rebounds playing hoops. The sport of track and field afforded Peppers even more ways to showcase his extraordinary gifts. He helped the Firebirds win the NCHSAA 3A Championship in two entirely different ways: He ran one leg of Southern Nash's first place 4x400 meter relay team; then as an individual he competed in the triple jump and finished second in the state. Ironically, it was the triple jump that brought Peppers and Southern Nash football coach Ray Davis together.

Davis one day watched Peppers practicing the triple jump-he fashioned a distance of 37 feet even as a freshman. Davis told Peppers he needed to come out for football the next fall. Legend has it Davis promised Peppers he could be a Hall of Famer if he worked hard.

Julius joined the Firebird football squad in the fall of 1995. Perhaps as part of the enticement to get him on the gridiron, Davis allowed Peppers to play any position he wanted. The sophomore chose running back.

Now Southern Nash has some tradition playing big running backs. In the early Nineties the Firebirds unleashed the 6'4 240 pound Abe Jones on opposing defenses. But as Davis later told me, "Julius makes Abe look like a little baby." Indeed. Peppers stood 6'7 and weighed 250 pounds. But his prowess was about more than size. He ran a 4.6 40 yard dash, which gave him the speed to get around those players big enough to tackle him-and there weren't many. He also had the strength to drag smaller tacklers for extra yards, often many extra yards. Think of Gulliver in the land of the Lilliputians in Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels."

Ray Davis understood that ultimately Peppers would be playing against men more his own size in college and beyond, and that that might warrant a position change. Yet he believed that for Southern Nash, using Peppers primarily as a ball carrier, helped the team more than putting him somewhere else.

As for Julius, I asked him why he chose running back. "I want to touch the ball, have fun," he told me.

Southern Nash, like many high schools, makes use of two way players. Davis experimented with playing Peppers at defensive end. As his stamina improved, the big guy played more and more defense. By his senior year, Peppers played every down on defense. Although he was still the team's running back it just made sense to give the burgeoning number of recruiters a thorough look at a potential college superstar defensive end.

## On to Chapel Hill

Peppers understood his future lay in the trenches but the amount of time he spent playing running back meant that he arrived at UNC having taken fewer reps at defensive end than if he had specialized. As things turned out, Peppers red-shirted during the 1998 season in Chapel Hill, which gave him time to focus full-time on defensive end-for the first time.

Peppers started for Coach Carl Torbush from the very first game in 1999, even though his techniques for defeating college level blocks needed some refinement. His size and quickness more than compensated for what he might have lacked in knowhow. He caught on quickly-also got busy in the weight room. The 250 pound high school running back became a 290 pound college defensive end.

#49 led the Tar Heels in sacks and tackles for loss that first campaign (he didn't become #90 until the NFL), then put together a monster season in 2000. Peppers led the entire

country in sacks with 15 and ranked third in tackles for loss with 24. Though just a sophomore, he made All-ACC and All-America.

John Bunting, a top NFL defensive coach, took over as head coach at UNC in 2001, leading the Tar Heels to an eight win season that included a bowl victory over Auburn. Peppers again flourished despite facing frequent double teams. He won the Bednarik and Lombardi Awards as the nation's top defensive player, and made unanimous All-America. He finished tenth in balloting for the Heisman Trophy. Having scaled college football's highest heights, Peppers entered the NFL draft for 2002.

Bunting wanted NFL scouts to get a good look at this big athletic defensive end. He organized a pro timing day for Peppers, Ryan Sims, and UNC's other NFL prospects. Scouts spent time evaluating Peppers' skill at trench warfare; there was a lot of hand fighting that day I remember. Peppers impressed the Carolina Panthers enough that they used the #2 pick in the entire draft on him.

Julius Peppers' three year legacy at UNC compares favorably with any in school history, even those who played four varsity seasons. He ranks second in career sacks with 30 and second in career tackles for loss with 53. But that's just the beginning. He was credited with 42 quarterback hurries. He defended 13 passes, an extraordinary number for a defensive end, deflecting the ball while rushing the passer on most of the 13, but he was also known to drop back into coverage. Peppers forced five fumbles and recovered two more. He intercepted five passes. And when he got his hands on the football, Julius knew what to do with it-he was first a running back after all. Peppers scored three defensive touchdowns at UNC. Small wonder he was recently nominated for the College Football Hall of Fame.

### Basketball, too

On top of his football accolades, Peppers in 2001 was voted the top two sport athlete in America by the Sporting News. A former all state basketball player at Southern Nash, Peppers joined Bill Guthridge's team as a walk on following the 1999 football season. It took some time for Peppers to adapt his now 290 pound body to the hardwood, as well as to learn the nuances of UNC's offensive and defensive principles. But as January lapsed into February and March, Peppers saw more and more playing time.

The football star certainly won over his basketball teammates. That was evident in a television story we did in 2000. Point guard and team leader Ed Cota was Peppers' biggest booster. "I played a lot of pickup with Julius this summer," Cota said, "and I knew what he was capable of doing out there." Peppers confided that "Ed was telling me all the time you can play on our team." Did he ever!

Peppers came off the bench and got rebounds at both ends of the court. As you might imagine, he excelled at defense, making steals and blocking shots. He could also put the ball in the basket, hitting all four shots in a game at Duke and knocking down 6-7 in a 14 point outing against Georgia Tech. As teammate Joe Forte put it, "Julius is the best athlete I've seen in my life. The sad part is he's just playing the game for fun."

Peppers probably had the most fun in his brief college basketball career one March Saturday against #1 seed Stanford. The Cardinal boasted a huge front line, three players 6'10 or bigger, all of whom were quite muscular. Carolina countered with 7'0 Brendan Haywood and Kris Lang, who although 6'10 was more of a finesse player. Peppers, who played with both Haywood and Lang in their AAU days, became the great equalizer against Stanford. Peppers, by now known as the "super sub," came off the bench late in the first half against the Cardinal and converted a critical three point play to give UNC a 28-27 lead at intermission-and belief in the possibility of an upset. Peppers played most of the second half, 24 minutes in all, recording six points, three rebounds, two steals, and three blocked shots.

North Carolina, a 20-13 team some said didn't even belong in the NCAA Tournament, took down 27-4 Stanford 60-53.UNC's interior defense, led by Peppers, held the Cardinal's formidable front court to 7-29 from the floor. As Bill Guthridge was later to say, "Julius Peppers has been a godsend to our team. We wouldn't be here without Julius."

That UNC team went all the way to the Final Four in Guthridge's final season. Peppers played an even greater role as a sophomore, averaging 7 points and 4 rebounds. Impressively, he led the team in field goal percentage, hitting 64% of his shots from the floor. Peppers so impressed new coach Matt Doherty that he suggested if Julius gave up football and concentrated solely on basketball he could be an NBA player. Peppers, of course, went in precisely the opposite direction.

No one who watched his Hall of Fame worthy NFL career could ever second guess his decision to concentrate on football, yet the notion that he could possibly have had a pro career in a different sport adds another layer to the legacy of one of America's great all around athletes.

# **Favorite memory**

My favorite memory covering Mr. Peppers comes from Super Bowl Media Day in 2004. Members of the media know Julius never sought the spotlight. He wanted to let his play speak for itself and let his teammates do the talking. When Julius gave interviews he answered questions thoughtfully, but quietly. As he became an NFL veteran, Peppers did fewer and fewer interviews. But on Tuesday in Houston, five days before the

Panthers' showdown with the New England Patriots, Peppers made himself available. There were just a few of us at Peppers' booth. Most crowded around Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith. I practically had a one on one with the Panthers' young star.

"Julius," I said, "as you look all the way back to your days as a running back for Coach Ray Davis at Southern Nash, can you put into words what getting the chance to play in the Super Bowl means to you?"The smile on his face said it all. I never shall forget that smile.

#### CHICAGO'S LEAP OF FAITH

#### HTTPS://VAULT.SI.COM/VAULT/2010/09/06/CHICAGOS-LEAP-OF-FAITH

#### DAMON HACK

GETTING TO THE QUARTERBACK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER, WHICH IS WHY THE BEARS TOOK A \$91.5 MILLION CHANCE ON DEFENSIVE END JULIUS PEPPERS—HIS CRITICS BE DAMNED

When the wind blew, the tobacco stalks would shake and the trailer in which Julius Peppers lived would rock. In his bed, which was too short for his long legs, he would sometimes lie still and listen to that double-wide groan. But other times the growing boy would rise, duck his head beneath the low roof and take off with the gusts blowing through Bailey, N.C. "Running to get in shape," he says, "or just running for no reason."

He was impossible to miss: 6'3" by the time he was in middle school, already broad and thick and muscular. Just about everyone in Bailey (pop. 670), famous for its Country Doctor Museum, knew of Julius's sporting prowess and quiet nature. One youth coach would pick him up at home for a game, and a different coach might drop him off afterward. On certain days the townsfolk would talk about what Julius could do on the basketball court. Other times it was Julius and that football. And sometimes it was Julius running around that oval. All the while Julius's mother, Bessie Brinkley, worked long hours in a ceramics shop.

"I've known Julius since the fifth grade," says Alton Tyre, who coached him in track and field at Southern Nash High. "I was in Wilmington when Michael Jordan was there. I coached against Clyde Simmons. Julius is the greatest athlete I have ever seen. A guy that big and that strong is not supposed to be that fast."

Julius was one of the few not trumpeting his gifts. Although he was already bigger than almost everyone he met, he was happy to share the spotlight, even when many of the people in the bleachers just wanted to see him dunk. "He was very introspective and reserved," Tyre says. "I taught him African-American history and U.S. history, and he used to answer essay questions with a level of depth you don't see from a lot of kids. At the eastern regional track meet when he was a sophomore, this kid took the lead on him in the triple jump and starts pointing at Julius's chest, as if to say, You're not man enough to do what I did. Julius gets on the track with these beautiful phases and jumps 46' 11½" to beat the kid. Julius got out of that sand and didn't say a word. He didn't even look at the kid. He just walked around the track with his teammates, high-fiving."

Asked about his muted response to his own athletic feats, Peppers says, "I think I was just born like that, a personality trait. I'm an observer."

Peppers's power and perspective helped make him an All-America defensive end at North Carolina (where he also walked on to the basketball team), an All-Pro with the Panthers and, last March, the key free-agent pickup of the off-season. When he signed a six-year, \$91.5 million deal with the Bears it underscored the importance of the pass rusher in the era of the quarterback. Chicago already had the face of its franchise in middle linebacker Brian Urlacher, but Peppers gave the team a big-play threat—a player with strength, speed and quickness honed on the track and the basketball court as well as the football field. "I'm sure every sport he [competed in] played a part in what he's able to do," says Brian Foster, who was Peppers's defensive coordinator at Southern Nash, "but he always had that first step and that freakish ability. I think his burst is from God."

Just as significant, signing with the Bears ended Peppers's 30 years in North Carolina, during which he had been called everything from a boyhood legend to the greatest pass rusher since Lawrence Taylor to an underachiever who didn't bring it on every play. The charge that Peppers's fire didn't always match his physical gifts first surfaced shortly before the Panthers drafted him second overall out of UNC—despite the fact that he used to run sprints with the defensive backs because his fellow linemen were too slow. The talk was heard as recently as last season, when with the Panthers off to an 0--3 start, linebacker Jon Beason told a radio station that he wanted to see more "intensity" from Peppers. The following week Beason said he had been wrong to go public with a team matter, and both players and coaches came to Peppers's defense. "I never saw the kid take a practice off," says Browns quarterback Jake Delhomme, a teammate of Peppers's in Carolina for seven seasons. "I never saw him miss a practice in training camp. I never saw him miss practice during the season. I never saw him gloat. He came to play, he came to work. Julius is a quiet guy, and people might misunderstand him because he keeps to himself."

Delhomme remembers that the negative chatter about Peppers was loudest in 2007, when Peppers had just 2½ sacks. "We were 7--9, and he was just crucified," Delhomme says. "People seem to forget, we weren't winning games, so teams were running the ball late in the game and you're not going to get sacks. And then the next year he has a good year [a career-high 14½ sacks], but we were 12--4 and teams had to throw it. You have to look at the big picture."

Peppers says the criticism used to bother him, but he understands that it's inevitable, given his nature. "You can be an emotional, high-strung guy, and that might work for you," he says. "I think I can be reserved and quiet and play as well as the next guy."

Sal Sunseri, the linebackers coach at Alabama, was a Panthers' defensive coach from 2002 to '08. "There was never a guy I coached who was better prepared," Sunseri says. "Sometimes a young man gets frustrated when they're sliding protection over and doing everything they can to block his ass. When you're the top dog, they're doing everything they can to keep you from the

quarterback. If you're an offensive coordinator, you better know how you're going to block Julius Peppers."

Even though he had allies among the Panthers, Peppers admits he had been thinking about leaving Carolina for two years. After he turned down a four-year, \$54 million offer from the team before the 2009 season, the Panthers placed a franchise tag on him, which meant he made more than \$18 million last year. This season, citing financial reasons, the organization decided against using its franchise tag on him (it would have cost more than \$20 million), leaving Peppers free to test the market.

Departing meant leaving behind a remarkable legacy of triumph—and controversy. Peppers was named Defensive Rookie of the Year for 2002 after a season in which he had 12 sacks in 12 games, but he missed Carolina's last four games for violating league policy on banned substances. (Peppers, who has said the positive test was the result of a diet supplement containing ephedra that he obtained from a friend, called it "crazy" for people to think he needed steroids to boost his performance.) The following season he helped lead Carolina to the Super Bowl, which the Panthers lost to New England on a late Adam Vinatieri field goal. Carolina hasn't made it that far since.

"It was time for a change, not only from that franchise but from the state," says the 30-year-old Peppers. "I'm from a small town, and I've lived in Charlotte, which is really a small city and a small town too, but I've never lived in a big city or had to perform under the spotlight in one. That's a challenge in itself. I like those things. I wasn't going to shy away."

Peppers has quickly warmed to Chicago, where he plans to start a foundation to help at-risk young men. He also embraced the city's fast pace: Following his introductory press conference in March, Peppers ventured out to the club Crescendo and bought 25 bottles of Perrier Jouet Fleur de Champagne (about \$350 per bottle) for the patrons. Captured on YouTube, it's a big-city moment light years from Bailey: As bottles lit by sparklers are passed around the room, the DJ can be heard shouting his appreciation over the thumping sound system. "Make some noise for the new Chicago Bear, J. Peppers in the building!" the DJ says. "Super Bowl, next year, 2010, Chicago Bears. Thank you, Julius."

The Bears see Peppers as a complete defensive end who can help stop the run and cause general discomfort to opposing offenses, but it's his ability to pressure the quarterback that makes him most valuable. "Our scheme is predicated on the pass rush," says Chicago general manager Jerry Angelo. "We think third down on first down, so a player of Julius's skill set really accentuates what we want to do on defense."

His teammates are already getting a taste of the discomfort Peppers can cause. At a recent practice he lined up at right end. At the snap he engaged the left tackle, freed himself, rushed the

quarterback, leaped into the air as the quarterback threw a screen pass into the flat, spun around and chased down the running back, who saw the ball sail over his head. Peppers did it all so quickly that he made it look easy.

"You go up to block him, and you don't expect to get pushed back, because it doesn't look like he's coming off real hard," says Bears tight end Desmond Clark. "Then you lock onto him, and you find yourself backpedaling. As soon as you meet that force and he's pushing you back, it doesn't matter what it looks like. It didn't look hard for Michael Jordan, but he always got it done"

Urlacher shakes his head. "Three hundred damn pounds," he says. "I don't know how a man his size moves as good as he does. This dude busts his ass every day. I don't understand [the criticism]. The expectations for him are so high, people wanting him to get a sack every single play—you can't do it."

Coach Lovie Smith and defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli plan to take advantage of what Smith says are "a couple of outstanding [pass-rushing] moves and a great countermove off them." The more attention an opposing offensive line pays to Peppers, the more it opens up chances for other pass rushers. "Everybody you talked to about Julius said the same thing," says Smith. "A guy like Ron Meeks, his defensive coordinator [with Carolina last season], said, 'This is one of the best guys you will ever be around.' And Julius did his homework on us too. I talked to him about the teachers we had on our staff. Stern teachers. We're not going 'm-f' and cursing guys out on the football field, but each day we're going to coach them hard and try to teach them exactly what we want them to do."

Marinelli, a former defensive line coach to Warren Sapp and Simeon Rice, says of Peppers, "It's his work habits, attention to detail, his presence at meetings, how he takes notes. He's a pro, and he's setting a standard on how to be a pro, and he doesn't even have to say anything."

And so Peppers doesn't. The giant man maintains a low profile as usual. But one thing about him has changed. Never a stat hound in his career, Peppers has made it known that he has his eye on Michael Strahan's single-season sack record of  $22\frac{1}{2}$ . "Realistically, who knows if I ever get there, but if you don't shoot for it, you never will," he says.

He'll have to run like the wind to do it.

#### CLOCKWORK FOOTBALL

PEPPERS BENEFITED FROM HIS THREE-SPORT BACKGROUND, BUT, SAYS HIS HIGH SCHOOL COACH, "I THINK HIS BURST IS FROM GOD."

# Recruiting History: Julius Peppers, The Freak

Julius Peppers was a once-in-a-generation talent at Southern Nash High School — and North Carolina.

https://247sports.com/college/north-carolina/article/julius-peppers-unc-recruiting-history-north-carolina-tar-heels-football-basketball-149482487/



The stories appear to be more myth than truth.

Hear them and it's hard to tell if years distorted memories or minor exploits created unbelievable legends.

"I saw him block a punt and return it for a touchdown while outrunning a cornerback... at 240 pounds."

"We decided to put him at running back because he was as quick as other players on the team. It was just that he did it at 6-5, 230 pounds."

"I remember him hitting a quarterback as he threw, tipping the ball in the air and diving for an interception in a flash."

"In our final game of the season, he intercepted a pass and ran it back all the way for a touchdown. You're not supposed to do that at his size."

"I really believe this, but he could've played any position on the football field and been an All-American. He was that talented."

"He's probably the best player to ever come through North Carolina."

Sound unbelievable? Sound made up?

They aren't.

All those things were said by people who coached, covered or followed Julius Peppers.

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Basketball, not football, was Julius Peppers's first love. As a kid, it's what he most enjoyed. He dreamed of hitting game-winning shots and playing in college, before making it to the NBA.

His first year at Southern Nash High School, Peppers didn't even go out for football. He was intent to play basketball as his primary sport and, hopefully, earn a scholarship offer to his favorite school—North Carolina.

Ray Davis, the football coach at Southern Nash, couldn't let that stand.

"The first time I ever noticed him was when he was in middle school," Davis says. "He was really a big kid for a seventh grader. He was gangly and a little awkward I remember. I'd say he was like 6-foot-1 then."

What surprised Davis the most about watching Peppers was the position he was playing.

"It was strange because he was the tallest guy on the team and he's out there playing running back," explains Davis. "He was just super dominant because he was so much bigger than everybody else. He had his eye on basketball, but this was a kid who we knew could be great."

Davis set up a meeting with Peppers one winter afternoon after basketball practice to discuss his sophomore season and the football team.

"I tried to tell him that he was going to be a dime a dozen size-wise on the basketball court," says Davis. "But on the football field, his size, his speed and his athleticism could be special."

In the end Peppers, who loved competing and loved sports, said he'd play football. His one major concern, though, was possibly being forced to play on the offensive line.

"I said, 'Son if you play football for me I'll make you a running back,'" Davis recalls. "Maybe that sold him, I don't know. But he showed up that summer ready for conditioning."

During the 1995 season, Peppers's sophomore year, he rushed for 1,000-plus yards and intimidated opponents, media members, fans and even players on his own team.

Running backs weren't supposed to be 6-foot-5.

They weren't supposed to weigh 230 pounds and have basically no body fat. And if they did do all those things, they were supposed to be slow and plodding, not fast and effortless.

Davis even caught flak for not taking better advantage of Peppers's size.

"As a coach, I always favored big running backs and we always had them at Southern Nash," he says. "I didn't think I was playing him out of position."

If there's one thing 6-foot-5 running backs get, it's attention.

Just a few weeks before playing his first high school football game, Peppers received his first attention from colleges.

"Donnie Thompson, who was an assistant coach at North Carolina, was the first person I talked to about Julius," Davis says. "He had seen him at track meets the prior spring just like I did and couldn't believe his combination of strength, athleticism, speed and everything else."

Thompson was a Carolina assistant coach under Mack Brown and Carl Torbush. He coached some of UNC's best defensive players, NFL first-round picks like Greg Ellis, Ebenezer Ekuban and Marcus Jones.

Thompson recruited southeast Florida and eastern North Carolina for the Tar Heels. When he saw Peppers—in person and on film—his talent jumped out of the VCR.

"Even then, he was a man amongst boys," Thompson says. "Every chance we got we started monitoring him and dropping him letters about Carolina. He was already a Carolina fan, but he was more in his early years because he was an AAU basketball phenom."

Peppers's love of basketball played right into UNC's recruiting pitch.

Thompson regularly talked about his friendship with Rocky Mount, N.C. native and Tar Heel assistant coach Phil Ford.

"The first time I saw him play football, he was playing against a school out of Wilson and we were recruiting Octavus Barnes and he was the best player on the field," says Thompson. "He's running and jumping and we're like, 'Wow, this young kid is good."

Carolina sent coaches to Southern Nash whenever they could go, sent letters as often as possible under NCAA rules, and invited him to football camp during the summer.

"By the time he became a national recruit, everyone knew they had to beat Carolina," says Thompson. "We were really locked into his mind. We felt good during his junior year and at that point our focus was to keep it a local battle and keep him from making those national visits."

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Davis admits he was a little overwhelmed by the spring of Peppers's junior season. The phone calls never stopped. The interview requests kept coming in. Coaches constantly dropped by.

"I'd get through teaching classes and there'd be a couple or three coaches sitting outside my office waiting to talk to me. From the west coast, to Florida, to Michigan, to everywhere. Stanford, even Big 10 schools."

Peppers's recruitment became national, just as Thompson had feared. He had offers from Florida State, Florida, Miami, Nebraska, Penn State, USC and a host of other national powers.

"Basically anyone you can think of was after him," Torbush says. "I don't feel like he would've gone more than four or five hours from home, so he basically was going to stay in the southeast. He was that type of kid."

Thompson, Torbush and Mack Brown worked on Peppers throughout the summer and just after leaving UNC's summer camp, he gave the Tar Heels a verbal commitment. Though he liked the coaching staff, especially Thompson, it was another UNC assistant that sealed the deal.

"That camp was the first time we met Coach Brown in person," says Davis. "But what locked him in on Carolina was when Phil (Ford) came by the office and told him that if he wanted to play basketball then he was welcome to do both. Coach Brown nodded his head in agreement and (Julius) said 'I'm coming."

Adds Thompson: "I have to give credit to Dean Smith and Phil Ford. They really extended themselves in the recruiting process by committing to him at least being on the junior varsity team when he got to Carolina."

His commitment was a seminal moment for UNC's recruiting efforts. Before most other schools had a chance, the Tar Heel staff had discovered, evaluated, offered, pursued and eventually gotten a commitment from the state's best.

Thompson says it was the model for how Brown approached recruiting.

"We shut down the borders, that's what Mack wanted to do," he says. "We believed in our heart that you can go with the Tidewater (Virginia) and North Carolina and you could beat anybody in the country anytime, but you've got to get them all. ... We went to every coach in the state. If you can control those regions, that's the formula for UNC to be successful."

He continues: "That was the strategy. We'd recruit the top 25 players in the state, but we had to have 12 or more of them. Getting Julius gave us No. 1 and we worked our way down from there."

Peppers's senior season wrapped up one of the most accomplished high school careers in state history. He finished his career with 3,501 rushing yards and 46 touchdowns. He was a Parade All-American, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Male Athlete of the Year, and earned all-state honors as a junior and senior.

"When we got his high school film, on the defensive end he kind of relaxed a little bit because people were scared to run his way," says Thompson. "Every now and then they'd test him and then he'd run some guy down from 50 yards out. Most of the time, though, he got no defensive action. We were intrigued by his offensive skills and how we [maybe] could mold him a little."

Peppers also helped Southern Nash win the state championship in track, as part of the  $4 \times 200$  relay team and as a triple jumper.

"I just can't tell you how amazing he was athletically," says Davis. "A kid that size, with feet that big, he could do standing back somersaults all the way down the football field in full gear. He could throw the football 60 yards. He just had God-given things the rest of us didn't."

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Two months after Peppers committed to UNC, John Mackovic was preparing his Texas team to host No. 11 UCLA more than 1,300 miles away.

Mackovic had won a share of the Southwest conference title in 1994, won it outright in 1995 and captured the inaugural Big 12 championship in 1996.

The UCLA game was the beginning of the end, however. The Bruins handed the Longhorns a 66-3 loss, the worst home defeat in school history. Mackovic and his team limped through the season finishing 4-7.

After a season-ending loss to rival Texas A&M on Nov. 26, 1997, Mackovic was fired. Eight days later, Dec. 4, 1997, Brown was introduced at a press conference as the Longhorns' new coach.

Torbush was named UNC's interim head coach.

Twenty-four hours after Brown's press conference, Peppers informed Thompson he was thinking of decommitting from UNC.

All of Thompson and Torbush's work from the previous three years was in jeopardy.

"We had to hold onto him after Mack left," Thompson recalls. "When that happened his phone started ringing, but he was really only listening to Florida State, Clemson and us."

Florida State was—arguably—the country's top program at that point. The Seminoles were coming off an 11-1 season that ended with a Sugar Bowl blowout win over Ohio State.

Peppers thought about visiting, but again UNC's basketball and football coaches—Torbush, Ford and Thompson—assured him he could play both sports at UNC.

"That was meaningful for his appetite," says Thompson. "They (Florida State) came up to Southern Nash and he was about to visit them, but our combination of football and basketball at the time, no one could touch it."

Still, the thought of not playing for Torbush and Thompson, who had recruited and coordinated some of the best defenses in UNC history, bothered Peppers.

After UNC's dismantling of Virginia Tech in that year's Gator Bowl, Torbush permanently kept the head coaching job.

And the Tar Heels kept Peppers. He signed a letter of intent in February of 1998.

"The biggest thing that kept him was Carolina hiring Torbush and him keeping quality people on staff," says Thompson. "I was able to continue his recruitment with no breakup. Coach Torbush was able to step right in and Julius came on in."

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The other part of Brown and Torbush's philosophy was to recruit athletes and figure out what position to put them at after they arrived on campus.

Ideally, Thompson says, the Tar Heels would recruit multiple players to fit a certain profile and—through weightlifting, nutrition and practice—convert them to specific positions as needed.

"We started him as a fullback and tight end," Torbush said. "Honestly, I'm not sure if any of us knew where he'd line up long term, but we thought that was a good place to start."

Thompson had no doubt about where Peppers needed to be.

"I recruited Ebenezer (Ekuban) and he was a tight end and then (Alge) Crumpler," says Thompson. "Julius came in and he beat out Ebenezer and so they moved Ebenezer to defensive end. We had just lost Greg Ellis to the (Dallas) Cowboys. So we decided to redshirt Julius, let him get his weight up a little bit and have him play for me at defensive end, because Alge was very good."

The results were immediate and startling. During UNC's pro day in the spring of 1999, Ekuban gave a confession to scouts in attendance.

"They kept asking him how good he could be and he jokingly said 'I'm not even the best defensive end on our football team," Thompson remembers. "There's a guy named Julius Peppers who's going to be twice as good as I am."

Ekuban obviously knew what he was talking about.

In Peppers's first season, he led the Tar Heels in sacks and tackles for loss and was named a Freshman All-American.

The itch to play ACC basketball, however, remained. Not just junior varsity basketball, but for the Tar Heels who were fresh off a Final Four appearance.

Peppers came to Thompson before his redshirt sophomore season and asked his position coach for a favor.

"He said, 'Coach, if you let me go play basketball in summer league, I will come back and I'll outrun everybody on the team in our conditioning test," Thompson says.

The test was a series of "suicides," where each team member lined up on the goal line then ran to the 10-yard-line and back. Then to the 20. Then to the 30. Then to the 40. And so on and so forth until they reached the other goal line.

"He said 'I guarantee you I'll have the best time on the team if you let me play basketball this summer," Thompson says. "So, we let him out of summer conditioning to play basketball."

On the first day of fall camp, Torbush told the team it was time for the conditioning test.

"He outran everyone," Thompson says with a laugh. "The defensive backs, the running backs, the quarterbacks, everyone. That's just the kind of athlete he was."

He played so well in the summer league that Ford asked Thompson and Torbush if he could join the basketball team in December.

They obliged and he played an integral role, helping the 1999-2000 basketball team make its third Final Four in four years.

Peppers played two more football seasons at UNC, becoming arguably the most decorated player in school history.

Torbush only coached him for three of his four years in Chapel Hill, however. He was fired following the 2000 season and replaced by John Bunting.

"One of the best plays he ever had, it ended up being my last game at Carolina," Torbush says. "We were playing Duke and he dropped into coverage. The quarterback thought he could get it by him, but Julius got the interception and took it back for a touchdown. Those kinds of things just make you shake your head. He was unreal."

He was named a first-team All-American by The Sporting News, the Associated Press, the AFCA and took home the Chuck Bednarik Award in 2001, given annually to the nation's best overall defensive player.

He finished his Carolina career second on the school's all-time list for tackles for loss (53) and sacks (30.5) in just three full seasons.

Peppers opted to forego his senior year and enter the NFL Draft. He was the No. 2 overall pick—the highest ever for a UNC player—of the Carolina Panthers in 2002.

His NFL career ultimately spanned 17 seasons. He was named to nine Pro Bowls, ranks fourth all-time in sacks, and is the only player in NFL history with at least 150 sacks and 10 interceptions.

"When he went hard, if he decided he wasn't, he wasn't going to get blocked by anyone," says Thompson. "I've seen him dominate an entire offensive line by himself. He was the best I've ever coached—by far."