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## High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

XXXVIX No. 9 - April 30 - May 16, 2026

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64 Pages

### Could SC have two baseball stars drafted in the first round? Likely!

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Moncks Corner**—Two high school baseball programs, located 8 miles apart in the state of South Carolina, who are also region rivals in Class AAA, are expected to have their star senior players drafted in the first round of the July major league baseball draft, and if this happens it would be a first time in recent memory that two high school players, in the same region, went in the first round of the draft.

Have we got your attention? What does this verify about the high-level prep baseball talent within the Palmetto state?

First and foremost, we always pause to give a special thank you to **Mark Grainger** and the fine folks at *Modern Turf* in Irmo and Rembert for their sponsorship of this monthly recruiting feature page.

The two players who have an excellent chance of making prep baseball history in the Palmetto State are **Southside Christian LHP Carson Boleman** (6-4, 210) and **Christ Church SS/3B Bo Lowrance** (6-5, 200).

Last month we ran a feature story on Boleman and in recent games he has continued to mow down batters at the rate of 17 to 18 strikeouts a game. In the Sabres 6-0 win over **Chaman** on May, 16 Boleman pitched all seven innings with 15 strikeouts, and he allowed just one hit.

There have been new developments that have come to the attention of the *HSSR*. We wanted to give some coverage to Lowrance, a shortstop from Christ Church who is also projected as a first-round

See **Recruiting**, pg. 33

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## CROWNING THE CHAMPIONS



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The Carolina Academy Softball



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# High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

## It just might be time to write a memoir book after 40 years of fun and hard work

**Moncks Corner**—I have been giving a lot of thought lately about writing a Memoir Book focused on the many wonderful experiences, and thousands of outstanding people, that have intersected with my orbit in a 40-year pursuit to discover the world's greatest football player, or the world's greatest baseball player etc.

Recently, one of our writers from the 1990's checked in on me, and he brought up the fact that the *HSSR* use to produce a 96 - page publication each and every week between the middle of August until Christmas? By my count that was like 16 straight weeks!

It is often a challenge these days to produce a publication once a month, particularly during Spring break when coaches are scattered everywhere. Honestly, the publication you are reading in your hands right now is not produced, in similar fashion, anywhere in the United States. One could agree that this makes this publication unique, and a true one of kind experiment in sports journalism.

I have been thinking about some Chapter Titles for the Memoir. How about a chapter focused on real people that I met at the Waffle House after football games all across

South Carolina at 11 pm on a Friday night. Probably not a good idea but it would make for some interesting reading.

Here is a chapter that might get some interest: Who were the Top 100 best football players I ever covered between 1986 and 2026, within the state of South Carolina? No doubt we will mention **AJ Green** from Summerville, **Steven Davis** from Spartanburg, and what about a guy from South Pointe High with a name like **Clowney!**

Here is an idea for another chapter: Who truly did the best job as guest speakers at the 100-plus all-state banquets the *HSSR* sponsored for outstanding coaches and athletes over a 35-year period, before the Pandemic closed down the awards company we bought some really cool awards from. Some of our better-known speakers have been **Lou Holtz, Steve Spurrier, Dabo Swinnie, Philip Fulmer, Dawn Staley**, etc.

Coach Holtz, and may he RIP forever, did some magic tricks during his talk and he was really on point in his message. **Ray Tanner** spoke five times at our all-state baseball banquets, over the years, and all five times he tore up the check I always gave to speakers. When Coach Spurrier spoke, he insisted I tell him 10 minutes

ahead of when the banquet was to be over so he could duck out through the kitchen at Seawells. You got a room full of high school football coaches, not to mention several big-time football players in the audience and he had no interest in a little hand shaking afterwards.

Honesty, Coach Swinnie from **Clemson** was not in a hurry, or rush to leave at the conclusion of the *HSSR* football banquet he spoke at around 2008, or so. He shook hands and talked to people for a good 20 minutes. He also had a keen sense of where a top prospect had been sitting.

The strangest thing a speaker every asked me to do at one of the *HSSR* all-state banquets came from **Philip Fulmer** who spoke to a packed room at Seawell's, one month after the Vols won a national football championship. He said, "Billy, clear your throat every time a potential first round NFL draft pick gets an award today."

No kidding, I only cleared my throat twice, and you will have to buy the Memoir book one day to find out who those two players were. They indeed became first round NFL draft picks but did they end up at Tennessee? Stay tuned.

### SCISA AA Softball, continued from pg. 8

her four doubles and five hits during the game. In the circle Frye worked four innings, allowed five hits with three strikeouts before being relieved by Ham for the final two innings when the Bobcats had built an 8-1 lead.

Other Bobcat hitters in the state championship win included center fielder Ham, a sophomore, who went (3-of-4 & two RBI's) and in her two innings of relief in the circle Ham allowed one hit while striking out three batters. Sophomore third baseman **Lauren Sims** went (2-of-4 & 2 RBI's). Sophomore first baseman **Lexi McCutcheon** had a hit and two RBI's, while freshman shortstop **Paisley McCutcheon** went (2-of-4).

Freshman second baseman **Natalie Brayboy** contributed a hit and senior right fielder **Savannah Mc-**

### Spartanburg Day, continued from pg. 18

a coach on defense to work with the linebackers and defensive backs," said Coach Moffitt. "We also need an assistant to help with skill positions like receivers on offense."

Spartanburg Day will be a SCISA AA member, and they will be in a region with teams like **Greenwood Chrisitan, Orangeburg Prep, Pee Dee Academy** and **Williamsburg Academy**.

"We have a lot of talented teams in our region like **Pee Dee Academy** and **Williamsburg Academy**, and they are moving up from Class A, where they won a SCISA state title a year ago," said Coach Moffitt. "We will have a lot of travel for sure."

"It has been really gratifying to see how much progress our players have made over the past two seasons," said Coach Moffitt. "We have a lot of smart kids who are quick learners. It has been quite a process to see our players grow physically and mentally, with added size and strength, along with added knowledge of the fundamentals of the game."

"We are not going to set goals based on wins and losses," said Coach Moffitt. "Our main goal is to go out and compete in every practice and in every game. We want to play physical and we want to be competitive for all four quarters."

"Win or lose, I want our opponents to leave the field after

### White Knoll, continued from pg. 16

in the back half of the season she started to pour it on and keep us in games. She's a battler along with our other pitchers."

The White Knoll baseball team finished 10-14 and 5-5 in Region 4-5A, but had a bounce-back season after going 7-22 and 0-10 the year before. The Timberwolves reached the play-in series of the 5A Division 2 District 3 tournament, but fell two games to zero in the best-of-three series with **Lugoff-Elgin**. White Knoll fell 4-1 in game one, but rallied for six runs in game two after falling behind 7-0. The Timberwolves

**Cutcheon** had a hit with two RBI's.

After the game, The Kings Academy head coach **Jennifer John** told the *HSSR*. "I am really proud of my team, and this was the first time we have been in the state finals," she said. "Our two senior starters are our third baseman **Lauren Mills** and our first baseman **Kate Buckley** and our two senior subs are **Maddie Cottrill** and **Maddie Creveling** and we will miss all four of them."

"We really have a young team and with this game today it will fuel our returners to want to play harder and get back here again with a better result," said Coach John. "We will have seven starters back including our sophomore pitcher **Addison Bescher**."

While the Bobcats had perhaps their best overall

playing us, knowing that we gave great effort and that we battled to the very end," said Coach Moffitt. "Our goal is to strive to reach our potential every practice and with every game. We want every day to matter and count towards our progress and growth as a football program."

Coach Moffitt is also appreciative of how the "school community" has embraced and supported the team the past two seasons. "The support for the football program from our school administration (especially Head of School **Dave Skeen**) has been the best I've ever experienced," said Coach Moffitt. "At all of our home games the past two seasons we have had large crowds supporting us. We can't wait for our first home varsity game against **Thornwell Charter** on August 28<sup>th</sup> which is our third game of the season."

Coach Moffitt would like to thank two special ladies who have served as "*Team Moms*." "I know it is impossible to thank everyone, but we have two team Moms who are very dedicated to the program, especially in helping organize pre-game meals for the team," said Coach Moffitt. "These two fine people are **Katie Crain** and **Brelan Montgomery**, and they have been very generous in helping out in so many ways."

had a 4-run rally going on in the bottom of the seventh with two outs and two men on, but a strikeout closed out the game and the season.

Senior **Dillon Woods** led the team with a .465 batting average, five home runs and a .573 on-base percentage. Senior **Jean Maldonado** batted .364, and junior **Tra Johnson** batted .329.

The team loses six seniors but has plenty of younger hitters, fielders, and pitchers to put together another successful season next year.

game of the season, this game was certainly not one of the better ones for The Kings Academy. "We got behind early and we just never recovered from the five runs they scored in the first inning," said Coach John. "I feel like, you know what, that this game will motivate us to come back stronger next season."

The Lions got six hits in the game. Bescher led the team with two hits. She also had 9 strikeouts in the circle. Center fielder **Emma Taflinger** had a hit as did catcher **Emma Atkinson**. First baseman **Kate Buckley** and shortstop lead-off batter **Ava Grace Keefe** provided a hit.

(See full version of this article at hssr.com)

### Grassroots Movement


by Edward Jack Smith  
 Poet Laureate of Dorchester County, SC  
 Written for the Rom Reddy campaign, 2026

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**Recruiting, continued from pg. 33**

for a kid his size.”

Lowrance is currently batting .433 with 39 RBI's, including 12 home runs and three triples. He has a .624 on base percentage with a slugging percentage of 1.119. His fielding percentage is .922.

Lowrance had been committed to **Virginia**, but when their head coach (**Corey Muscara**) left to take over the program at **Duke** last summer, Lawrence flipped to Duke.

**Shawn P. Kernahan** is a baseball writer for **Three Quarter Slot**. This was Kernahan's scouting report on Lowrance recently: "The offensive foundation is already in place, with a left-handed swing that shows balance, control, and an advanced sense of the zone. Lowrance uses his length effectively, creating leverage without sacrificing barrel accuracy. Most of the present damage comes to the opposite field, but there's a growing understanding of how to turn on pitches when counts and locations allow. Swing decisions are a strength, and the hit tool gives him a stable floor even as the power is still coming.

Kernahan also wrote in talking about Lowrance: "Physical projection does a lot of the future work here. Strength gains should unlock considerably more pull-side impact, with raw power pointing toward a potential carrying tool as the body matures. Defensively, third base is the cleanest long-term fit, where the arm, hands, and body control line up, though continued physical growth could eventually test his mobility and push him to another corner. The profile leans more on projection than present production, but the combination of approach, barrel control, and physical upside give him a wide runway and a chance to develop into a true bat-driven corner piece.

Lowrance joined a national elite travel team out of Charlotte last summer, known at that time as the Charlotte Baseball Academy but it has since changed its name to the CBA Orioles Scout Team.

This elite team played in well scouted tournaments in Georgia, Florida, Jupiter, Florida and Cary, NC.

"It's a pretty special situation to be in right now as a baseball player," said Lowrance. "This time a year ago I did not think I would be in this position. I am humbled to be in consideration to be selected in the first round of the

**SCISA AAAA Softball, continued from pg. 8**

hard, and they deserve this championship and they never quit," said Coach Truett. "I didn't want to put any pressure on them earlier in the game, but I told them to keep after it, because we were just one hit away from blowing the game open. I told them to believe in themselves and keep going.

"All our state titles have been special, but this one, with 9 seniors who have been together for years now; I am just so happy for them," said Coach Truett. "This one is really special."

So many high fives should be extended to the Pinewood Prep (27-2) program which re-started a varsity softball team after a few seasons of non-play. The team was comprised of four 7<sup>th</sup> graders (three started), two 8<sup>th</sup> graders, three 9<sup>th</sup> graders, two sophomores, two juniors and no seniors. In fact, up into late into the Fall, the school was focused on just having a junior varsity team, but as more interest grew a decision was made to have a varsity team.

The Panthers are head coached by **Ben Snyder** who had spent the past 20 years as an assistant varsity basketball coach at **Summerville High**. Coach Snyder had a connection with softball by being a summer travel team coach for the past few years. "We are so proud of our girls, and I just told them in our huddle talk how much they mean to coaching staff and to the school for the success they had as a first-year program," said Coach Snyder. "The loss does not hurt. What hurts is

**SCISA A Softball, continued from pg. 8**

"We were playing a little bit uptight, made a bunch of errors that we don't normally make, but that's the thing about this team is that they do not give up," Knight said. "It doesn't matter what inning it is, what out it is, they just keep fighting and fighting and fighting. We've had girls that had problems bunting, then all of a sudden, they laid down the bunt when it came time to do it."

Bell went 2-for-3 with a triple and Prescott had two hits. Burleson tripled, Hinson doubled, and Steigler drove in three runs.

Hinson pitched two full innings of relief and got the win.

Hinson also started Game 1 of the series Monday and worked four innings for the win. Holly Hill jumped on

baseball draft. It would be a dream come true for sure."

Lowrance said that 15 major league clubs have invited him in for personal workouts at their facility prior to the draft. He also said that he has yet to discuss sign ability with any major league team and he says going to Virginia and playing college baseball is still on the table. He said that he will address the issue of sign ability with any club interested in him in the very near future.

Lowrance is truly gifted to be 200 pounds with a 6.6 time in the sixty. His range at shortstop is off the charts and he can move left or right with same dexterity.

"I work out three days a week with my personal trainer, **Glen Hunt**, and we work on agility drills all the time," said Lowrance. "We do a lot of side-to-side drills to improve foot work also. Carson has the same trainer I have."

Lowrance says that when he is on the field, on defense, he usually cheats over two feet against right-handed batters, and if they are left-handed, he moves to his left a couple steps. "I study batters and my goal is to get a good jump towards the ball and have good reflexes in making a play on the ball and having a strong delivery to first," he said.

As a hitter, Lorange talks about his strengths. "I am able to hit a baseball to all fields, from down the line to both power alleys," said Lowrance. "Of the 12 home runs I have hit this high school season, half of them are back-side.

"I trust my swing," said Lowrance. "I feel like I am a good two-strike hitter and I tend to open my zone some with two strikes. I try not to change my mechanics much."

When this year's draft begins on July 11 in Philadelphia, Lowrance was asked how he felt he might react to having his name called out in the first round. "It would be one of those states of shock moments in my life for sure," he said. "But within three days I hope I am on a plane reporting to the club that drafted me. I am ready to get to work.

"I am ready to embrace the process of continued development and playing professional baseball has been my dream for a long time," he said. "Honestly, I am not going to change at all if being drafted in the first round

that we do not get to practice tomorrow, or to keep being together at practices or games. This will be the hardest part.

"My team has a bright future, and we are already looking forward to next season," said Coach Snyder. "We will continue to build the team around our freshman pitcher **Morgan Everitt** (5-11), and the sky is the limit for her. She is already hitting 63 miles per hour with her fast ball, and she is an incredible power hitter.

Everitt finished the regular season with 104 K's in 50.1 innings of work with an ERA of 0.95. She hit .458 with three home runs and she scored 26 runs.

Pinewood started with two juniors in game two, **Elizabeth Ellis** in leftfield and **Ally Flaherty** started for the first time all year in right field. Seventh grade outfielder **Alexis Buso** is a rising star in her own right. She went 4-of-5 against LMA in game two with a home run and three RBI's. During the regular season Buso hit .532 with three homers and 36 runs scored during the regular season.

The team's other two 7<sup>th</sup> grade starters are **Sarah Grace Wickersham** (batted .611) who starts at shortstop and she had two hits in game two. **Sofia Reed** (batted .553) is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader starting at catcher. Oddly enough, Pinewood Prep starting first baseman **Juliet Sussman** (batted .486) missed the game due to a wedding. She was replaced in the line-up by DP **Claire Ellis**.

Richard Winn (12-8) for four runs in the first inning and two more in the second end route to an 11-8 victory at Holly Hill Academy.

Prescott went 4-4 with two doubles and three RBI to lead the Holly Hill offense. **Peyton Strickland** and **Wright** both doubled, and **Burleson** drove in three runs.

Seniors Hinson, Burleson, Strickland, and Bell made up the core of Holly Hill softball for the past several years, Knight said.

"We wanted them to go out on top," Knight said. "My daughter went out on top last year and I wanted to make sure those four girls went out on top this year. That was the main goal for the team. We gelled really well together, we didn't implode a lot, and we fought for each

makes me a millionaire. I am just going to tuck it away, show my love and appreciation to my family for their support, and focus on being the best baseball player I can be."

Lowrance said off the field he loves to fish and hunt. "I really like to catch large mouth bass," he said. "I love to hunt deer. I even like to collect sharks teeth."

Lowrance has had one significant sit-down meal with a scout. "We had a serious conversation over dinner about my goals in the game of baseball and it was a very educational meeting," said Lowrance. "I enjoyed the experience very much."

Lowrance said that he and Carson are good friends. "I don't get to face many truly outstanding left-handed pitchers in high school, but I consider him the best left-handed pitcher I've faced so far," said Lowrance. "If there is something I am still working to improve upon it would be doing a better job in the box when facing left-handed pitchers."

All baseball fans in the Palmetto State should be proud of the fact that two teenage boys who play high school baseball at schools 8 miles apart are in Greenville and are highly likely to experience life changing moments within 30 minutes of each other on the night of July 11.

Also, the *HSSR* would like to extend a shout-out to **James Island** shortstop **Tai Marchand** who was recently named the Player of the Year in SC from all classifications by the South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association.

Marchand, an Ole Miss signee, is currently batting .513 with 40 RBI's and 13 home runs. His high school team is heavily favored to defend the Div. I AAAAA state title he helped them win a year ago.

Marchand is projected as a late second round, to early third round draft pick, but it only takes one club to push him into the first round along with **Boleman** and **Lowrance**.

All three of these young men are special athletes and first class off the field also.

Pinewood soph third baseman **Makayla Sullivan** (batted .456) had two RBI's in game two while 8th grade first baseman **Kensley Gibbs** (batted .580) had two hits and four RBI's in game two. Freshman **Grace Snyder** (batted .420) started at second base for the Panthers. Freshman LF **Lacey Elis** batted .396 during the regular season.

In the circle, Pinewood's Everitt allowed 8 hits, three earned runs, and had 9 strike-outs in game two.

In game two LMA had 8 hits with Prickelmyer leading the way with four hits and 4 RBI's. Left fielder **Marlee Black** had two hits in game two, and during the season she batted .418 with 15 RBI's. Shortstop **Ashley Rae Hodge** had a hit in game two and for the season she hit .429 with a team leading 32 RBI's. Third baseman **Lily Welborn** had two hits and one RBI in game two and for the season she hit .380 with 19 RBI's.

Other top hitters for LMA were pitcher **Kendall Tanner** (.310), **RF Maggie Welch** (.295), and **Caroline Welch**. (375 & 19 RBI's).

In game two Tanner and **Avery Floyd** teamed up to pitch for LMA. Tanner allowed three hits, one K in just over two innings of circle duty. Floyd, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, worked 5.1 innings, allowed five hits, and had two K's with two earned runs allowed.

(Note this story was edited due to space limitations, see full version for free at hssr.com)

other the whole time.

Richard Winn head coach **Millie Lambert** said this season was a turning point for the program.

"For the last several years we've been struggling mentally with fundamentals, but we finally came around," Lambert said. "We played hard after finishing second in the region and pushed through, and here we are playing for a state championship. It's been 35 years since we played for a state championship at Richard Winn.

Coach Lambert, who was on the team that last competed for a state title, added that next year's teams will remember well what was accomplished this year.



# 2026 Baseball & Softball Stats



## Baseball

BATTING AVERAGE	AT LEAST .400	AVERAGE	RUNS SCORED	AT LEAST 23	RUNS	STOLEN BASES	AT LEAST 14	SB
SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	0.63	SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	52	CHARLIE DAVIS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	32
LANDEN KIRKBRIDE	HORSE CREEK ACADEMY	0.556	JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	45	KADEN SMITH	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	32
COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	0.543	SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY LEADERSHIP	43	KYLE SMITH	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	32
LANDON HERSHBERGER	BRASHIER MIDDLE COLLEGE	0.538	LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	42	TRISTAN STROUD	YORK PREP	31
MASON SMITH	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	0.529	COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	41	JOSHUA OWENS	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	29
MIKE JOHNSON	GEORGETOWN	0.52	CALEB PEEPLES	LOW COUNTRY LEADERSHIP	39	COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	28
BRYCE KING	LAKE VIEW	0.519	CHARLIE DAVIS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	37			
CODY BRANHAM	CENTRAL	0.518	ETHAN OFFING	DUTCH FORK	37	PITCHERS ERA	AT LEAST 20 INNINGS	ERA
JEMETRIS SCARBOROUGH	LOWER RICHLAND	0.51	EVAN LEE	EAST CLARENDON	37	PARKER DAVIS	FOUNTAIN INN	0.19
SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY LEADERSHIP	0.5	DRAKE MARTIN	GREENVILLE	36	CARSON BOLEMON	SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	0.23
BRYCE GUNTER	HORSE CREEK ACADEMY	0.492	JAMES ARTHUR	WEST FLORENCE	36	JAKE FRICK	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	0.34
MICHAEL MYERS	EDISTO	0.49	KYLE LARSON	HILTON HEAD ISLAND	35	ELI CHOWNING	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	0.38
TYLER TOLSON	MARLBORO COUNTY	0.489	ROME DERENZO	ST. JAMES	35	BRAYDEN PASSMORE	FOUNTAIN INN	0.48
KADEN SMITH	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	0.488	CASE DAVIS	BARNWELL	35	RUSH HARVEY	WALHALLA	0.64
ETHAN OFFING	DUTCH FORK	0.487	JENSEN BORETTI	HILTON HEAD ISLAND	34	SAYLOR KITTRELL	ORANGEBURG PREP	0.65
LAWSON LEWIS	FOX CREEK	0.485	CORBIN SPILLIARDS	DANIEL	34	LEVI SROCK	LUCH BECKHAM	0.66
						HUNTER MORRIS	WOODLAND	0.66
						COLLIN WILSON	FOUNTAIN INN	0.69

RUNS BATTED IN	AT LEAST 20	RBI's	HOME RUNS	AT LEAST 2	HRS	BATTERS STRUCK OUT	AT LEAST 35
LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	41	KADEN JONES	TRAVELERS REST	14	PARKER REAVIS	CAROLINA FOREST
RICHARD JACOBS III	GREENVILLE	39	NEWT HINSON	WEST FLORENCE	11	CULLEN SIGHTLER	CALHOUN ACADEMY
KADEN JONES	TRAVELERS REST	39	SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	10	LEVI SROCK	LUCY BECKHAM
SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	37	LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	10	MADDOX UCKOLS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN
ROMAN COLELLA	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	37	COLLIN PHILLIPS	WALHALLA	7	DALTON DIAL	WALHALLA
LIAM PURCELL	DANIEL	36	TY SIMPSON	DANIEL	7	JOHNATHAN BONDS	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY
CREWS FELDER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	33	RICHARD JACOBS III	GREENVILLE	6	COLT SPARGUR	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN
COLEMAN FRYER	DUTCH FORK	32	SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY LEADERSHIP	6	CLARK JONES	CARVERS BAY
FISHER RICHARDSON	LATTA	32	CODY BRANHAM	CENTRAL	6	TRISTAN HECKMAN	PEE DEE ACADEMY
TY SIMPSON	DANIEL	32	BRODY CAUDLE	WESTSIDE	6	ANTHONY STRONG	CHERAW
NICK STARLINGS	SOUTH AIKEN	30	HUDSON RIORDAN	LEGION COLLEGIATE	6	TURNER SCOTT	MIDLAND VALLEY
SAWYER GREENWALT	LOW COUNTRY LEADERSHIP	30	AMARE COUNTS	BLYTHEWOOD	5	GABE PRIEST	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH
A J KIPYBIDA	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	30	JACKSON RISER	CAROLINA FOREST	5	MAX GULLEDGE	CHESTERFIELD
WILL FRISCHMANN	FOX CREEK	30	TRE LAWRENCE	CANE BAY	5	PARKER DAVIS	FOUNTAIN INN
GRADY CHERINGTON-DUNTON	HILTON HEAD ISLAND	29	CARTER KELLY	FOUNTAIN INN	5	DANIEL ZELENKIK	MAULDIN
NEWT HINSON	WEST FLORENCE	29	DILLON WOODS	WHITE KNOLL	5		

## Softball

BATTING AVERAGE	AT LEAST .450	AVG.	RUNS SCORED	AT LEAST 26	RUNS	STOLEN BASES	AT LEAST 14	SB
ZOEY MILLER	WILSON	0.708	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	66	ANSLEY BRANTLEY	LAMAR	54
KASON CARTER	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	0.676	SHALAYAH BADGER	BARNWELL	57	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	51
KENSLEY VICARS	POWDERSVILLE	0.655	KENZIE MCCOY	LORIS	51	JORDYN SCARBROUGH	LAMAR	49
TRISSA MEDLIN	NORTHWOOD ACADEMY	0.652	MILLY KATE PRESCOTT	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	50	CHEYANNE ANDERSON	LAMAR	34
LAYLA MCMILLAN	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	0.65	PAGE WHITE	SOUTH FLORENCE	48	SADIE MCMANUS	LAMAR	35
TAYLOR VOTRA	PHILIP SIMMONS	0.647	REAGAN ROWSEY	SOUTH FLORENCE	47	ZOEY MILLER	WILSON	34
ZAIRE RANSOM	CRESTWOOD	0.643	CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	47	TRINITY BURDETT	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	34
FRANCES LAUGHLIN	HEATHWOOD HALL	0.638	KALEY BELL	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	46	PAGE WHITE	SOUTH FLORENCE	33
DERION SINGLETON	CRESTWOOD	0.636	ANSLEY BRANTLEY	LAMAR	45	SYDNEY HOLLINGS	CROSS SCHOOLS	32
LEXI LUBBEHUSEN	PHILIP SIMMONS	0.632	ELLIE HEATHCOTT	JOHN PAUL II	44	MAKENNA MEEKINS	DILLON	32
KATELYN KING	PHILIP SIMMONS	0.629	PAYTON HERRING	FOUNTAIN INN	43	SHALAYAH BADGER	BARNWELL	32
ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	0.622	MADISON GRAY	WESTSIDE	43	PITCHING ERA	LESS THAN 6 RUNS	ERA
HALEY ANN PREVATT	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	0.611	KENSLEY VICARS	POWDERSVILLE	43	ANNIE ELIASON	WEST FLORENCE	0
BRYNLI BREWER	CLARENDON HALL ACADEMY	0.611	KENDALL O'BERRY	BARNWELL	41	MACKENZIE MELTON	NORTH CENTRAL	0.36
TRINITY JOLLY	BRIDGES PREP	0.605	HALEY SPENCE	LORIS	41	MAKENZIE SEASE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	0.66

RUNS BATTED IN	AT LEAST 23	RBI's	HOME RUNS	AT LEAST 3	HR	PEYTON HENDRIX <th>GRAY COLLEGIATE</th> <th>1.06</th>	GRAY COLLEGIATE	1.06
JAMESON COLLINS	LEE ACADEMY	57	PAGE WHITE	SOUTH FLORENCE	12	JAMIE LEE LANDRUM	WOODMONT	1.08
JESSIE CARTRETTE	LORIS	46	PRESSLI REYNOLDS	A C FLORA	11	KAYSEN WAREHIME	CAROLINA FOREST	1.09
PAGE WHITE	SOUTH FLORENCE	44	MYAH HARVEY	HARTSVILLE	10	OLIVIA MILLER	INDIAN LAND	1.17
PRESSLI REYNOLDS	A C FLORA	44	JAMESON COLLINS	LEE ACADEMY	10	TEVI MULLEN	JOHN PAUL II	1.28
ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	43	CASSIE STOLTZFUS	WEST-OAK	10	BRALEY RICHARDSON	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	1.29
AYLA HOLMES	NORTH AUGUSTA	41	ATALIE GAUNTT	PROVIDENCE	10	ELEANOR BRUMMOND	NORTH AUGUSTA	1.4
MAKENZIE SEASE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	41	TENLEIGH DAVIS	POWDERSVILLE	10	KYNNEDI JENKINS	SOUTH FLORENCE	1.41
MYAH HARVEY	HARTSVILLE	40	ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	9	RAEGAN TIBBITTS	ST. JAMES	1.44
CASSIE STOLTZFUS	WEST-OAK	40	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	9	ADALYNN HOLSOMBACK	RIDGE SPRING-MONETTA	1.46
KENSLEY VICARS	POWDERSVILLE	40	ABBY BROWN	A C FLORA	9	LANEY GRUBBS	BARNWELL	1.55
MILLY KATE PRESCOTT	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	39	AYLA HOLMES	NORTH AUGUSTA	8	KENSLEY THERAPIN	BARNWELL	1.56
TENLEIGH DAVIS	POWDERSVILLE	39	MALIYAH WILLIAMS	MARION	8	KILLEE GRANT	BLUE RIDGE	1.57
GRAEYLN ADAMS	PALMETTO	38	JAI DYN HARRIS	CATAWBA RIDGE	8	PRESSLI REYNOLDS	A C FLORA	1.6
CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	38	CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	8	KADENCE POSTON	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	1.73
ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	38	KENSLEY VICARS	POWDERSVILLE	8	LILLIE IVEY	SUMTER	1.75
KYLE PERKINS	WEST-OAK	37	SATCHER FELTS	GEORGETOWN	7	RAELY FRYE	CAROLINA ACADEMY	1.75
RILEY HERRING	LORIS	37	SADIE OLSON	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	7	CAILIN SHIRER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	1.77
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# AAAAA Division 1 Track Championships

## Wando boys, Blythewood girls claim AAAAA Div. 1 titles

By Thomas Grant Jr.  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** - Harry Parone Stadium has served as a fitting site for the S.C. High School League track and field championships.

The past four years has seen main resident Spring Valley and fellow Richland District Two schools Blythewood and Ridge View come away with Class 5A boys and girls' titles.

On Thursday, the Lady Bengals made it a 4-peat enroute to dominating the final Division I championship. Their 125 total points exceeded second place Dorman by 50 points and produced gold medals by sisters Peyton (400 meters) and senior Hayley Hightower (800 meters).

This marked their second repeat title team up at the school. Back in March, they helped Blythewood win its second straight girls' basketball title.

"This journey has been really amazing," said younger sister Peyton, who's a junior. "I'm just blessed to share with my sister and run with the same track team. I really love her and I'm super proud we're both state champions in our last year."

The Lady Bengals also won both the 4x100 and 4x400 meter relays in building a large lead. Junior Alexis Jones placed second and third, respectively, in the long jump and high school and Brooks Bramlett (100-meter hurdles) and Romell Garway (triple jump) added to the point total with runner-up finishes.

Head coach Aleshia Hawkins credited her team with maintaining their intensity and overcoming the pressure of a 4-peat.

"Our girls are real committed," Hawkins said. "The goal is to just always give something to our young girls to look up to and so, with the older girls and mid-age girls, they just keep coming."

While Dorman finished a distinct second place with 75 points, it did not a record-setter. Senior hurdler Rebecca Okebe became the first female at the S.C. High School League track and field championships to finish the 400-meter hurdles in under a minute.

Her time of 56.70 seconds broke the previous mark by Summerville's Imagine Patterson by four seconds.

"I like it because it's what I've been working on for the past four years of high school," said Obebe, who also won the 110-meter hurdles. "Especially the previous two years and the summer, we've been working really hard to perfect my race and kindly get me the right things to work on alternating and staying consistent in my hurdles. So, I get to see all the hard work pay off."

Other multi-medalists were A'zedah Anderson (Summerville), Ella Nighbor (Clover) and Riley Vaughn (Spartanburg).

The boys' title quite literally came down to the final two field events. Wando had developed an early lead on defending champion Ridge View before winning by a small margin.

The Blazers were looking to make it five straight years a Richland Two school was boys' champion. Spring Valley had won champion from 2021-24.

"It's a battle to the end and we knew

it was going to be that way coming into this meet," head coach Jason Doorman said. "And it was awesome to see. We had pretty step up in places we didn't expect. We had people just bring their 'A' game throughout the entire meet and it was an awesome finish.

"Taking out Ridge View is something because they're a very good team and they've been beating the state over and over and over. So, to be able to defeat them, hey that's an honor to take them down and be able to be in the ranks there on top of the state."

Junior Dylan Carey was the lone individual champion for the Warriors in the 400 meters. Wando did have several medalists in the field events that helped in its points total.

Multi-medalists in the boys' division included Chanin Harris (J.F. Byrnes) and Luke Hurlley (Boiling Springs).

**S.C. HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE CLASS 5A TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS (Top 5 Finishers)**

**GIRLS**

**100 METERS**

1. A'zedah Anderson (Summerville),
2. Jordayn Ratliff (Dorman), 3. Trinity Jones (Summerville), 4. Oliver Taylor (Blythewood), 5. Ciara Williams (Lexington)

**200 METERS**

1. A'zedah Anderson (Summerville),
2. Ciara Williams (Lexington), 3. Kendall McFadden (Fort Dorchester), 4. Olivia Taylor (Blythewood), 5. Alexandra Francique (Blythewood)

**400 METERS**

1. Peyton Hightower (Blythewood),
2. Patience Grant (Stratford), 3. Olivia Taylor (Blythewood), 4. Akya Webster (Spartanburg), 5. Zy'keyia Halley (Spring Valley)

**800 METERS**

1. Hayley Hightower (Blythewood),
2. Ana Laurient (Wando), 3. Rowyn Martens (Wando), 4. Gretchen Kale (Mauldin), 5. Marley Wall (Dutch Fork)

**1600 METERS**

1. Ella Nighbor (Clover), 2. Ava Jagielski (Clover), 3. Callie Rohm (Mauldin), 4. Kendra Miles (Lexington), 5. Taylor Blackwelder (Summerville)

**3200 METERS**

1. Ella Nighbor (Clover), 2. Taylor Blackwelder (Summerville), 3. Avery Griffith (Mauldin), 4. Anna Cavallon (Wando), 5. Anna Kelly (Blythewood)

**110 METER HURDLES**

1. Rebecca Okebe (Dorman), 2. Brooke Bramlett (Blythewood), 3. Gabrielle Cherry (Blythewood), 4. Romell Garway (Blythewood), 5. Sidra Berry (Ridge View)

**400 METER HURDLES**

- \*1. Rebecca Okebe (Dorman), 2. Katelyn McNeil (Spring Valley), 3. Arriana Dooley (Mauldin), 4. Tatiana Dooley (Mauldin), 5. Madison Ross (Blythewood)

**4x100 METER RELAY**

1. Blythewood, 2. Summerville, 3. Dorman, 4. Spartanburg, 5. Spring Valley

**4x400 METER RELAY**

1. Blythewood, 2. Spring Valley, 3. Dorman, 4. Ridge View, 5. Wando

**4x800 METER RELAY**



Wando Boys Track



Blythewood Girls Track

1. Wando, 2. Mauldin, 3. Blythewood, 4. Spartanburg, 5. Dorman

**HIGH JUMP**

1. Miracle McLean (Carolina Forest),
2. Danabella Jackson (Sumter), 3. Alexis Jones (Blythewood), 4. Trinity Hall (Spartanburg), 5. Oprah Tchuendem (River Bluff)

**LONG JUMP**

1. Ciara Williams (Lexington), 2. Alexis Jones (Blythewood), 3. Alahna Valentine (Ridge View), 4. Simone Wells (Sumter), 5. Jordayn Ratliff (Dorman)

**TRIPLE JUMP**

1. Jordayn Ratliff (Dorman), 2. Romell Garway (Blythewood), 3. Naadia Rampersant (James Island), 4. Miracle McLean (Carolina Forest), 5. Oprah Tchuendem (River Bluff)

**DISCUS THROW**

1. Addilyn Elrod (Summerville), 2. Olivia Parker (Spartanburg), 3. Maddie Sanders (Mauldin), 4. Emmie Otto (Carolina Forest), 5. Darcy York (Rock Hill)

**POLE VAULT**

1. Riley Vaughn (Spartanburg), 2. Skylar Singleton (James Island), 3. Emiya Victor (James Island), 4. Mattie Bandy (Dorman), 5. Harmoni Harris (Spartanburg)

**JAVELIN THROW**

1. Elle Cocco (Wando), 2. Morgan Carter (Fort Dorchester), 3. Hailey Greatrex (Fort Dorchester), 4. Kyleigh Moore (Fort Dorchester), 5. Jaylyn Maley (Lexington)

**SHOT PUT**

1. Riley Vaughn (Spartanburg), 2. Emiya Victor (James Island), 3. Harmoni Harris (Spartanburg), 4. Lainey Myers (Lexington) 5. Elle Cocco (Wando)

**TEAM SCORES (Top 10)**

1. Blythewood (125), 2. Dorman (75), 3. Summerville (60), 4. Wando (59.50), 5. Spartanburg (53), 6. Lexington (45), 7. Mauldin (42), 8. Clover (36), 9. Spring Valley (33), 10 (tie). James Island and Fort Dorchester (30)

\* S.C. High School League record

**BOYS**

**100 METERS**

1. Chanin Harris (J.F. Byrnes), 2. Grant Garrick (Lexington), 3. Jeremiah Calhoun (Boiling Springs), 4. Ke'Shon Tate (Spring Valley), 5. Thaddius Rush (Ridge View)

**200 METERS**

1. Chanin Harris (J.F. Byrnes), 2. Jeremiah Calhoun (Boiling Springs), 3. Grant Garrick (Lexington), 4. Devan Erby (Rock Hill), 5. Aidyn Wiggins (J.F. Byrnes)

**400 METERS**

1. Dylan Carey (Wando), 2. Larry Davis (Blythewood), 3. Jaderion Moore (Rock Hill), 4. Brody Johnson (Wando), 5. Jaden Davis (Wade Hampton)

**800 METERS**

1. Josh Voegele (Lexington), 2. Ari Laurient (Wando), 3. Wesley Heimbach (Lexington), 4. Joseph Robinson (Spring Valley), 5. Jack Butler (Wando)

**1600 METERS**

1. Luke Hurlley (Boiling Springs), 2. Jacob Powers, 3. Joseph Robinson (Spring Valley), 4. Sammy Joudeh (J.L. Mann), 5. Evan DeMassi (Dutch Fork)

**3200 METERS**

1. Luke Hurlley (Boiling Springs), 2. Jacob Powell (Blythewood), 3. Hudson Kenemore (J.L. Mann), 4. Ben Elliott (Mauldin), 5. Noah Taylor (Spring Valley)

See AAAAA Div.1 Track, pg. 37

# Class A Track Championships

## Bamberg-Ehrhardt girls, Calhoun County boys claim respective Class A track titles

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** - Bamberg-Ehrhardt high school and Calhoun County high school are 33.9 miles apart on US-601 with a lot in common as they are two of the top Class A athletic programs in the state and now they share back-to-back class A track and field state championships.

The Red Raiders beat the Governor's School to capture the girls title while Calhoun County defeated Blackville-Hilda to win the boy's title.

"I felt if we did what we are capable of doing today we had a good chance to repeat," said BE head coach Travis Wilson. "I want to make sure we to get the race, do our job and focus.

Coach Wilson continued, "Motivation was a big thing coming into the year. Winning last year put us in the hunted role and so we tried to stress it is harder to repeat. The girls started picking it up at the region and lower state meets."

Calhoun County head coach Wayne Farmer is no stranger to back-to-back state championship as this is the third school that he has led to back-to-back class A state championships, the others being Allendale Fairfax and Scott's Branch. It was also the 10th state championship in his career.

"Our focus was to come back and repeat. The challenge this year was that we became the hunted instead of the hunter. The biggest thing is the kids performed with no hick ups. We scheduled a lot of big meets to learn how to compete and it paid off today," said coach Farmer.

The girls meet started off perfect for the Red Raider as their 4x100 meter of Zyasia Whiley, Carmyn Folk, Keyaunjanay Corbit and Daisha Etheridge blazed around the track in a season's best of 50.38 to win gold in the day's first running event.

The 4x800 relay team also won gold in a time of 10:56.16. Kymyhia Jamison, Jayda Sanders, Nilayah Edwards and Rashida Quattara made up the team.

Sanders picked up a silver medal when she finished second in the 800 meters.

Ezariah Williams won a gold and silver medal for the Red Raiders in the Discus and shot put, respectively. She threw the discus 36.73 meters for a new personal record and set another personal best in the shot put with a put of 11.39 meters. Both events earned her Silver Elite performance. She also scored in the Javelin by finishing seventh.

Briaunjenai McMillian won a bronze medal in the Javelin with a toss of 32.94. She also scored in the shot

put finishing eighth.

There were a few individual double gold medal winners. Bethune Bowman's Makiyah Johnson won the 100 and 200 meters. Her winning time in the 100 of 12.17 was a silver elite performance.

"It feels great to win two gold medals. I want this for a long time. Last year I came in second in both events. I put in a lot of hard work and it paid off," said Johnson.

Riverwalk Academy's Emme Herring won gold in both the 800 and 1600 meters while Blackville Hilda's Breyanna Williams won gold in both hurdle events as well as winning a silver medal in the 200.

The Saints were led by Wofford signee Kamari Kelly. Kelly won the 400 meters in a time of 48.56 and then won the 800 meters in 2:03.55. He ran the second leg of the gold medal winning 4x800 meter relay team. He also ran the second leg on the 4x400 meter relay team which won a silver medal.

"These last couple of years to see all the hard work pay off. I very grateful for coaches and family and I just want to thank God," Kelly said.

Joining Kelly on the 4x800 meter relay team were Kamron Johnson, Traveon Baker, and V'Jay Thomas while Baker, Eddie Coleman and Thomas were on the 4x400 relay team with Kelly.

Jamani Canty won two golds in the discus and shot put. His toss of 49.17 in the discus was a new personal best.

Also winning medals for the Saints were St. Julian Johnson won two silver medals in the shot put and the Javelin. He set personal best in both events with a toss of 45.68 in the Javelin and he put the shot 14.22.

Bringing home bronze medals were Kamron Kelly (800), Eddie Coleman (400 meter hurdles), and Darren Ben (Triple Jump). Ben also scored points in the high jump (4th) and in the long jump (8th).

In the 100 and 200 Da'Shaun Albany of Ridgeland Secondary School and Camari Brown of Hardeeville Jr-Sr high finished one-two in each race with Albany winning the 100 and Brown taking the 200.

Hunter Willis of Riverwalk Academy won gold in the 1600 and silver in the 800.

Blackville-Hilda's Da'Montray Allen was a double gold winner as he won the 110 hurdles in a time of 14.84 and the 400 hurdles in 58.16.

Jordan Strong of Lewisville won two bronze medals in the long jump and high jump while capturing a gold in the triple jump



Calhoun County boys track



Bamberg-Ehrhardt girls track



Bamberg-Ehrhardt's Aaron Taylor



Cross' Keyawn Wilson

# AA Track Championships

## Philip Simmons boys & girls dominate AA state meet

By WORTHY EVANS

**Columbia**—Just after the AA state track and field meet in 2025, when the **Philip Simmons** girls dominated the field with 148 points, the boys were runners up to state champion **Fairfield Central**. Iron Horses track and field coaches **Emma Santor** and **Ryan McCauley** got married.

Together, the couple packed the field with Philip Simmons runners and field athletes in the 2026 meet, and while the girls scored 159 points in their repeat victory, the boys scored 106.5 points and claimed their second state championship in three years.

The girl's total was 107.67 points higher than runner-up **Landrum's** 51.33 points.

"We have a huge team that's full of depth, and we've got an amazing group of girls who are always willing to rally around each other, and they know when to show up when it's time," said Coach **Emma McCauley**. "They trust the training, they trust the process, and fortunately for us they all peaked at the right moment, and we were able to pull off another state title."

The boy's team's point total was 59.5 points higher than runner-up **Fairfield Central's** 48, and that was after the Griffins 4x400 team of **Jamie Brown**, **Brenton Mack**, **Kenyan Douglas**, and **Da'Qwan Kelly** closed out the meet with a winning time of (320:41)

"I think we had a little chip on our shoulder from last year and the boys really wanted it this year," said Ryan McCauley. "The boys really showed up in big ways in multiple events."

The girls' team led early and never looked back, just as the Iron Horses did last year.

Sophomore distance runner **Laura Perry** took gold in the 1600 (5:11.73)

and 3200 (5:11.73) runs. Behind Perry in the 1600 were teammates **Flynn Taylor**, second, **Stella Wininger** placed 5th, and **Avah Mallek** was 7th. In the 3200, Wininger took 2nd and **Keziah Varner** took 6th.

"It's actually insane, it's like so much support," Perry said about running events with teammates as opposed to running solo. "If there are so many people, it makes you feel like you're so much better, and it pushes you to be better."

Taylor took gold in the 800 (2:16.30), and the 4x800 relay team of Taylor, Mallek, Varner, and **Samantha Watson** won gold in 9:47.92.

**Julia Reilly** won the triple jump (10.91) meters 5th in the long jump.

**Ashley Roush** won the pole vault (3.8-meters). **Averi Cable** took 4th. Roush was second in long jump and third in high jump.

Other placers for the girls were **Chloe Woods**, **Jordyn Washington-Spencer**, and **Cora Gabriel**, who took 4th, 5th, and 6th in the Javelin, respectively. **Lilah May** took 4th in high jump.

The 4x100 team of **Madison Cobb**, Roush, Reilly, and **Ashlynn Johnson** finished third, and so did the 4x400 team of **Paris Harrison**, **Riley Payne**, **Elle Corbin**, and Taylor.

In the boy's events, Philip Simmons won gold in just two events, but their depth often had two or three competitors earn points.

**Jeremiah Richardson** took first in the 200 dash with a time of 21.79 and the 4x800 relay team of **Brian Stanbaugh**, **Keaton Stuart**, **Gavin Conjurski** and **Stone Sweatman** won gold with a time of 8:09.41.

"I just wanted to put it all out for my team, especially the seniors," said Richardson. "I was so proud of every-



Philip Simmons Boys Track



Philip Simmons Girls Track

body who raced, all the coaches who helped us throughout the whole season."

The 4x100 team of **Luke Chambers**, **Brady Cobb**, **Cameron Steed**, and **Richardson** took second and the 4x400 team of **Steed**, **Connor Roberts**, **Montrell Mungin**, and **Zack Venning** took 6th.

In the rest of the events, several Iron Horse runners competed with one another.

Richardson was 4th 100, in front of **Brady Cobb's** 5th place finish. **Luke Chambers** took 8th place. Behind Richardson in the 200 dash were Cobb (second) and Chambers (seventh).

Sweatman placed fourth in the 800 and **Grady Castiglia** was 7th and **Trent Manning** (8th).

Manning also took 4th place in 1600, with **Griffin Tollison** just behind in 5th).

**Brian Stanbaugh** placed 3rd in the 3200, while Tollison was 4th and Castiglia was 6th.

Mungin took 2nd in 400 hurdles. In field events, **Omonte Taylor** placed 4th he high jump and **Cole Tonon** took eighth in the pole vault. In javelin **Jack Robinson** placed 3rd and **Luke Robinson** was 4th.

"We're super fortunate to have two awesome middle school's feeder programs that go into our school," said Emma McCauley. "Every year we get around 40 middle schoolers that will come out and try out for the team. We're returning a really strong junior class as well, which we're excited about."

(note: this story was edited due to space limitations, see full story for free at hssr.com)

in 41 2/3 innings. Opponents batted just .191 against him.

At the plate, Hatchell batted .338 with a .422 OBP. He led in runs scored with 26 and had 22 stolen bases and eight RBI.

A pair of eighth-graders, **Jack Wyatt Reynolds** and **Grayson Holliday**, led in OBP with .487 averages. Holliday batted .391 while Reynolds had a .359 average.

Junior **Cole Richburg** had a strong season on the mound. He went 4-2 with one save, 43 strikeouts and a 3.26 ERA in 30 innings.

other opening game.

West-Oak swept Belton-Honea Path during the regular season and split with Crescent to go 7-1 in the region. Crescent and BHP split their regular-season

eighth-graders.

"We've got some young athletes coming up as well, so we've got a pretty good solid future," he said.

# AAAAA Division 2 Track Championships

## Fort Mill Edges Westwood To Take Div. II AAAAA Boys Track Title; Fort Mill Girls Take Girls Track Title

By WORTHY EVANS

**Columbia**—With only the pole vault competition left in the Div. II AAAAA state track and field meet at **Richland Northeast High School** on May 16, the **Westwood** boys team held a 94-88 advantage over **Fort Mill** in the point totals.

The Fort Mill girls' team, with 73.2 points, had already been announced the winners of the girl's half of the meet. Meanwhile, as first-place **North Myrtle Beach** pole-vaulter **Kempf Dylan** tried to break the state-record vault of 16 feet, 9 inches, Westwood and Fort Mill waited in the infield for the final score.

Dylan missed out on breaking the record, but when the officials in the score tent finished entering the results, Fort Mill vaulters **Jack Allen**, a sophomore, and junior **Padyn Gossett-McDowell** were tied for fifth place—and earned 3.5 points each.

Those seven points handed the state championship to Fort Mill, which won 95-94 over Westwood.

"I knew before we even came here that pole vault was going to be critical because we had three in that event and Westwood didn't have any that qualified," said Fort Mill head coach **Lee Whitaker**. "That was a big point swing for us. Everything else is going to be back and forth, and that's what it came down to."

Westwood head coach **Rod Lorick** said that while the Redhawks team is filled with sprinters, the team works hard at filling out distance running spots and field events. Pole vaulting, he added, can be hard to get young people interested in trying.

"It's hit or miss every year," Lorick said. "Some kids are scared to do it. We try to fill every field event that we can."

Rather than dwell excessively on the results of one field event, Lorick noted that while the sprinters won gold in several events, he was missing a top sprinter in junior **Jamie Patterson**, who was injured before the meet. Lorick said Patterson could have made a difference in the 100 and 200 meters.

The boy's win was the fourth for Whitaker-coached teams in the 2025-2026 school year. He also coached the boys' and girls' cross-country teams to win last fall.

"We knew before we got here how close it was going to be," Whitaker said. "Westwood is built differently from us, and we knew they were going to score a lot of points in certain events, and I knew we were going to score a lot of points in certain events."

The pole-vault finishes were the last scores to come in, but what set up the victory was the team's bread and butter, distance running. With victories and placings in the individual and relay distance runs, the Yellow Jackets piled up 63 points and three gold medals.

Sophomore **Wyatt Gremillion**, one of the cross-country runners who won gold last year, placed first in the 800 runs with a time of 1:53.64, two seconds ahead of sophomore **Quinton O'Toole**, who placed second and gave the team 18 points in the event.

"I feel really happy but not satisfied," Gremillion said about his effort. "I think

today is a big steppingstone for the future. This team means a lot to me. All these guys are so supportive. I love my coaches; they've helped me so much in my track career."

Another cross-country runner, senior **Connor Demmerle**, won the 1600 run with a time of 4:17.49. Behind him was sophomore **Owen Ware** in second place, junior **Hudson Haley** in fourth, and senior **Finn Leckrone** in sixth. Those placings earned the Yellow Jackets another 26 points.

The 4x800 teams of Leckrone, O'Toole, Gremillion, and Demmerle took first with a time of 7:53.73.

Haley, Ware, and Leckrone also ran the 3200 run, placing fifth, sixth, and seventh, respectively, for nine points.

Senior sprinter **Jahzyr McCants** contributed eight points to Fort Mill's total with an eighth-place finish in the 100-meter dash, a fifth-place spot in the 200 dash, and he finished sixth in the 400 dash. Junior **Tristan Amico** finished seventh in the 400.

In field events, junior **Josh Moore** took sixth in the triple jump, and junior **Smith Stapleton** took seventh in the shot put as well as in the discus throw.

Fort Mill's 4x400 team of Grant Dubak, Gremillion, Amico, and McCants went neck-and-neck with Westwood's team of **Myles Bryant**, Patterson's replacement, **Justin Washington**, and **Jayden Wilson** in the final track event of the afternoon. The Redhawks held on to win the event with a time of 3:20.52, but the Yellow Jackets came in a close second—11 hundredths of a second—to set up the wait for the scores in the pole vault.

Whitaker also talked about how close the 4x400 race was between second and third place. The Yellow Jackets' margin between first and second place was a hair over a 10th of a second, but the **Indian Land** team of **Braden Ledford**, **Christian Davis**, **Ryan Foster** and **Tavian Daniels** was within thousandths of a second of flipping the placing—Fort Mill's time of 3:20.621 was five thousandths of a second faster than Indian Land's time of 3:20.626.

"That flips everything right there, if we end up third and not second there," Whitaker said. "Track at this level comes down to stuff like that."

Other than the Redhawks' 4x800 team of sophomore **Kameron Moore**, sophomore **Aiden Adkins**, junior **Bobby Singleton**, and senior **Bobby Quick** taking second place behind Fort Mill with a time of 8:02.33, Westwood had no point placings in the distance runs.

Instead, Westwood dominated the sprints, getting 58 points in the 100, 200, and 400 dashes, and the 110 hurdles alone.

Junior **Jayden Wilson** took gold in both the 100 and 200, with times of 10.59 in the 100 and 21.53 in the 200. Behind Wilson in the 100 was junior **Myles Bryant** in second place. Senior **Jayden Boyd** took third in the 200 and Bryant took fourth.

Boyd won the 400 dash with a time of 48.13, and senior **Justin Washington** finished fourth.

Junior **Kehinde Howard** placed fourth in the 110 hurdles.

The 4x100 team of Wilson, Bryant,



Fort Mill Boys Track



Fort Mill Girls Track

Patterson's replacement, and Boyd added another 10 points with a first-place finishing time of 41.46.

In field events senior **Leon Morgan** placed eighth in the long jump. Senior **Kyzer Hannah** placed eighth in the shot put and senior **Jeremiah Whitmore** placed third in the discus.

Lorick said that with all of the events the Redhawks won or placed in complete, falling one point short of winning state in spite of the gold medals and high finishes can hurt the kids—but it can also motivate the team to work harder and smarter over the next year.

"It's a disappointment we came in second, we worked hard, we deserved it, but we go back to the drawing board," he said. "With all we did this year, it wasn't without a reason. I've got a lot of juniors coming back, a lot of guys who ran the 100 and 200 are juniors, so we've got something to look forward to next year."

The Fort Mill girls, also coached by Whitaker, clinched their state title earlier in the afternoon with 73.2 points, 8.2 points more than runner-up West Florence.

"This is a total team effort," Whitaker said. "We got a lot of points from our throws, our vaulters had a strong day, our distance runners had a strong day. I can't express enough about the total team effort. We got points from every single discipline."

Senior **Mia Williams** took gold in the 100 and 200 dashes, coming in at 11.75 seconds in the 100 and 24.97 seconds in the 200. Williams also won the triple jump with an effort of 11.80 meters and placed second in the long jump with a 5.51-meter effort.

"I started jumping a little bit my freshman year. In middle school I only did sprints, but my coach in my freshman year wanted me to branch out," Williams said about putting in the work in different events.

The 4x800 team of freshman **Lauren Allen**, junior **Mia Zook**, junior **Kaylee Rovenstine**, and senior **Marlee Cook** won gold with a time of 9:28.51.

What clinched the event for the Yellow Jackets were high placers in several events. Besides Williams' second-place spot in the long jump, Allen finished second in the 1600 run. Rovenstine placed seventh in the 800.

In field events, sophomore **Addison Feinour** took second in the discus and Senior **Kate Marker** placed fourth in the shot put.

Four Fort Mill athletes placed in the pole vault earned the team 8.2 points. Freshman **Ryan Marsh** placed fifth in the event, senior **Cambell Cahaly** placed sixth, and juniors **Adriana Lackey** and **Lucy St. Cressman** tied for seventh place, earning them 0.6 points apiece.

With the 2026 cross country and track and field year in the books, Whitaker said he looks to the runners, throwers, jumpers, and vaulters, along with the school, the assistant coaches, and the community to determine the course of the Yellow Jackets' future success.

"I've been fortunate for sure. I have fantastic kids who worked hard year in and year out, they give 100 percent," Whitaker said. "They show up for practice, they show up in the weight room, they do everything we ask them do."

(Note Due to space limitations please see full story for free at hssr.com)

### Clarendon Hall, continued from pg. 58

girls. I think of all of the great coaches who coached with me and how they poured into the program.

"We had a great run with some amazing girls. If you would have told me we would win four championships and be the runner-up four other times, I don't know that I would believe you."

### SAINTS BASEBALL FINISHES 9-12

The Clarendon Hall baseball team didn't make the state playoffs, but it can't be argued the tremendous improvement it made from last season.

### Belton Honea-Path, continued from pg. 55

like that at this point.

"We are just focused on getting back to practice and trying to get ready for the next game," he said. "Our kids know we have to compete every day to have a

The Saints finished with a 9-12 record under first-year head coach **Jackie McIntosh** after going winless last season.

Senior **Thomas Shorter** and sophomore **Joey Hatchell** were selected to the All-Region 1-AAA team. Shorter had a .339 overall average but had a team best .367 in region contests, in which Clarendon Hall went 3-6. He finished the year with a .448 OBP, eight RBI and nine runs.

Hatchell was the top pitcher, posting a 3-1 win-loss record and holding the lead in six other starts when he left the contests. He had a 3.02 ERA and 77 strikeouts

chance to be successful."

Mountain View is the only non-Region 1 team in the upper state tournament. Crescent, which finished second in the region, beat champion **West-Oak** 13-10 in the

Holland said that while McKenna graduates, she has left a mark on the program. Among returners are Cohen, whom Holland noted broke three school records just as McKenna did this year, and Mootry, along with several underclassmen and seventh- and

# AAAA Track Championships

## South Pointe Boys, Hilton Head girls claim AAAA titles

**By Worthy Evans**  
**Special to the HSSR**  
**Columbia** - Since the school was opened in 2005, **South Pointe High School** has been known as a football school, with eight state championships in nine appearances at the 3A and 4A classifications, most recently last December.

On Thursday night at Richland Northeast, the Stallions added a boys track and field win, holding off a late charge from **May River** to win the 4A boys track and field state championship by a half a point.

“Half a point winning the state championship? Can’t get no better than that,” South Pointe head coach **Calvin McCullough** said.

South Pointe’s win came after an unfortunate injury. While qualifying in the 4x100 meter relay for the state meet last week, **Devin Isley**, one of the state’s top sprinters in any classification, got injured.

“He tweaked something, so he didn’t run today,” McCullough said. “We were counting on winning the 100, 200, and 4x1. We came in fifth in the 4x1, but we only got one point in the 200.”

Instead of counting on the sprinters for a high score, the Stallions turned to the crew of distance runners who just happened to claim the school’s boys 4A cross country title last fall.

“We figured we were pretty good in the distance,” McCullough said. “They actually pulled through and got us not only the top points, but they also got some of the low-end points as well that kept added up.”

South Pointe took the lead with strong distance-running finishes. Senior **Keller Brown** finished first in the 3200-meter run with a time of nine minutes, 21.13 seconds. Brown finished just over 10 seconds faster than May River’s **Talan Farrington**. Stallions sophomore **Copeland Crawford** finished seventh to give South Pointe 12 points in the event.

Brown took second behind May River’s **Jackson Wright’s** 4:16.54 time in the 1600 run with a time of 4:16.71. **Reece Adams** and **Luke Stralow** finished fifth and sixth in the race as well to give South Pointe 15 points in the event.

“The 1600 I was coming in with a PR (personal record) of 4:18 and it was a 4:11 guy (Wright),” Brown said. “I knew that one was going to be more tactical. I was going to have to work for that one. I felt really good about my execution and just got past him at the last second. I got beat by .2 seconds, so I felt pretty good about that.”

“But in the 3200 I ran it really well all season, I felt like I had the legs to just go and run hard and eventually people would drop off,” he added.

**Jayden Finney** took fourth place

in the 800 run for an additional five points.

The team of Finney, **Gray Shelton**, **Jett Shelton** and **Felix Cassidy** took gold in the 4x800 relay with a time of 8:06.59, after the 4x100 team of **Cash Truesdale**, **Ethan Howze**, **Jalen Davis**, and **Isley’s** replacement took fifth place. South Pointe gained 14 points on those finishes.

Houze was the only top finisher for South Pointe in the dashes, taking eighth in the 200 dash for one point.

The Stallions picked up 14.5 points in field events. **De’onta Watson** took first in the long jump with an effort of 6.72 meters. **Jalen Davis** placed seventh and **Cain Cousar** eighth in the event. **Jayden White** tied with **Darlington’s Donte McCray** for seventh place in the high jump for the 1.5 points that clinched the win.

South Pointe had all of its points with several track and field events still being contested. The Stallions led May River 48-42, then 60-50, and then with White’s high jump result posted, 61.5-50.

The Sharks’ 4x400 team of **Antonio Corvato**, **Daeton Z. Altacho**, **Braihilin Paylor** and **Brennan Chase** finished second to boost the team score to 58. **Zavier Polite’s** sixth-place finish in the triple jump gave May River its total of 61 points.

Earlier in the afternoon the Sharks got first-place finishes from **Wright** in the 800 run (1:56.88) and the 1600 run. **Farrington** took fourth place in the 1600 and second place in the 3200.

In the dashes, **Jeremiah Grant** finished fourth in the 200 and **Corvato** placed eighth in the 400.

The 4x100 team of **Mason Sweigart**, **Edward Cooper**, **Chase**, and **Grant** placed fourth, and the 4x800 team of **Farrington**, **Altacho**, **Xavier Flores**, and **Polite** took third.

### Hilton Head Girls win first title since 2017

On the strength of two golds in the relay races and distance runner **Julia McKenna**, who won gold in the 1600, second place in the 800 and fifth place in the 3200, the Hilton Head girls track and field team held off a late charge from **Westside** to claim its first state championship since 2017 and fifth in school history.

Seahawks head coach **Frank Holland** credits McKenna as being a big help in boosting the middle distance and distance runners.

“She is a dynamic runner,” Holland said of McKenna, who took a warm interest in track by her sophomore year but really got into the sport as a junior. “She fell in love with it and all of a sudden her times were incredible to a point where she couldn’t



South Pointe Boys Track



Hilton Head girls track

get enough running. She encouraged other girls to compete and train with her. She’s a big inspiration.”

McKenna, a senior and **University of Tampa** signee, finished atop the field in the 1600 run with a time of 5:00.96. With her finishes in the 800 and 3200, she earned the Seahawks 22 points. Also finishing in the 800 for Hilton Head were **Aly Saleme** and **Stella Morgan**, who placed fourth and fifth respectively, to give the Seahawks an additional nine points in that event.

McKenna was also part of the 4x800 team that took gold with a time of 9:41.33. Her teammates were **Ava Pankuch**, **Saleme**, and **Autumn Pearson**.

“I felt like I did really well considering all four events even though it can get really tiring,” McKenna said. “I just wanted to end it in a really good way and that’s why I decided to do all four. I’m really happy about how my mile and 4x8 went.”

The 4x400 team of **Jourdyn Mootry**, **Pankuch**, **Saleme** and **Kyndal Cohen** beat out second place **Bishop England** by less than two seconds with a time of 3:58.29.

Cohen won the 400 dash with a time of 55.26. She also took eighth in the 100 dash. **Mootry** took eighth in the 200 dash.

**Helena Fister** tied with May River’s **Lily Gluck** for fifth place in the pole vault for 2.5 points.

The Seahawks totaled 65.5 points to the Rams 58 points. Hilton Head overtook host team **Richland Northeast** midway through the event, holding a 51.5 lead to the then-second place Cavaliers. **Bishop England** later vaulted into second place with 41 points to Hilton Head’s 55.5 points.

Westside’s highest track finishers were **Na’ima Jackson**, who took fourth in the 100 hurdles, and the 4x100 relay team of **Jamy’a Tucker**, **Ta’Nijah Speed**, **Gervonna Williams**, and **Amber Henry**, which also placed fourth. **Henry** took sixth in the 100 dash.

The Rams’ push for the title did not come until the field events scores started to fall onto the scorer’s table.

**Janilah Rhodes** took gold in the long jump with an effort of 5.35 meters and won another gold in the triple jump with an 11.52-meter jump.

Behind Rhodes in the long jump was **Williams**, who finished fifth, and in the triple jump **Williams** placed second and **Brooke Bryant** placed sixth.

**Bryant** placed fourth in the high jump, and **Rhodes** took eighth in that event. **Madison Richardson** took fourth in the shot put.

All tolled, 46 of Westside’s 58 points came from field events. While the Rams’ scores came late enough to bolt into second place, Hilton Head stockpiled enough points to have a 7-plus point cushion on the evening.

“We all trained really hard as a

See AAAA Track, pg. 60

## Panthers have special season on softball field

**By Roger Lee**  
**Special to the HSSR**  
**Summerville** – When it comes to SCISA Softball, the new kid on the block has serious game.

**Pinewood Prep** had a remarkable season on the softball diamond. After a lengthy hiatus from fielding a softball team, the **Panthers** restarted the program this school year. Not one senior and only two juniors came out for the team.

Originally first-year Pinewood coach **Ben Snyder**, who formerly served as an assistant basketball coach at **Summerville**, felt it would be best if the Panthers played a JV schedule. However as practice started coaches realized their young players were capable of playing at the varsity level so they switched to a varsity schedule. Pinewood won its first 27 games.

The Panthers didn’t lose until the finals of the **SCISA 4A** playoffs. There, the now three-time defending state champion **Laurence Manning Academy Swampcats** handed Pinewood a 6-4 loss May 11 and an 8-7 loss in extra innings the next day to capture the 2026 state title.

“I’m super proud of our girls,” Snyder said. “We have a tight-knit group of girls so we have a very bright future.”

The young team learned along the way. “There were multiple moments where we didn’t quite know who we were yet because we hadn’t been there and done that,” Snyder said. “Every experience was a little new. None of these girls had ever played varsity softball and I’m not sure but I don’t think any of them have ever played any varsity sport so there wasn’t a kid who could explain to the others what to expect, what a region game is like, what a playoff game is like.”

Pinewood opened its season in the **Lowcountry Leadership Tournament** with a win over **Colleton County**.

“We knew they had a good pitcher but we beat them 10-0 so I felt like we had something special brewing,” Snyder said.

The Panthers got on a roll beating SCISA teams as well as **South Carolina High School League** opponents such as **Oceanside Collegiate** and **Woodland**. That boosted confidence, but as region play rolled around more was on the line.

“We didn’t really know what to expect when we hit region play,” Snyder said. “Going to **Northwood Academy** the first time and winning 8-2 was big. Later we beat them 15-0 at home. That reassured me.”



Photo by Roger Lee  
 Pinewood’s Alexis Buso celebrates during a home-run trot around the bases May 12.

With only one game left on its schedule and a region championship under its belt, Pinewood remained undefeated. The team standing between the Panthers and a perfect regular season was **Fort Dorchester**, a talented and proven squad.

“We thought we could beat them, but you could tell the girls were feeling the pressure Snyder said. “That win helped them realize they could hang with any team in the state on any night.”

Pinewood opened the playoffs with a 16-1 win over **First Baptist**. It then beat the defending state champ 3-1.

The Panthers defeated **John Paul II** 4-0 to advance to the finals where they again faced the **Swampcats**. **Laurence Manning** had to beat Pinewood twice while the Panthers only needed one win to capture a championship, but that wasn’t in the cards.

“Beating Laurence Manning the first time through was big,” Snyder said. “They are 10-time state champions and we showed we could play with them. For our girls to come together and continue to play loose when adversity hit and stay in those games, you can’t say



First Baptist Hurricanes boys soccer

## Hurricanes soccer repeats as state champion

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**Charleston** – Last season, the boys soccer team at **First Baptist** won the SCISA AAAAstate championship, their first soccer title since 1991.

The 2026 Hurricanes were not about waiting another three decades to win another title. **First Baptist** defeated **Wilson Hall**, 2-0, last week to repeat as

state champions. The confidence gained last season and with several key returners made it a reasonable expectation.

**Josh Laney** and **Watts Tisdale** served up the goals and a tough defensive effort made them stand. For Laney, the goal was number 20 on the season and Tisdale’s tally give him 33 goals to go with 11 assists.

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enough about that.”

Next season the Panthers stand to return all their starters, in fact everyone on the roster. That includes the duo that did almost all of the pitching this season, freshman **Morgan Everitt** and seventh-grader **Alexis Buso**. Of the 13 players on this year’s roster, five are still in middle school and four are freshmen. Others expected to return next season are **Elizabeth Ellis**, **Ally Flaherty**, **Sarah Grace Wickersham**, **Sofia Reed**, **Juliet Sussman**, **Makayla Sullivan**, **Grace Snyder**, **Kensley Gibbs**, **Lacey Ellis**, **Claire Ellis** and **Liza Gilmer**.

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Other key performers included **Jack Tipton** (seven goals, four assists), **Cal Oliver** (3 goals, five assists) and **Jordan Aremu** (seven goals, two assists).

Steady in goal all season was **Thomas VonKotnitz**, who recorded 46 saves.

Other members of the team included **Jess Lempesis**, **Tate Kaptanis**, **Dinooy Thomas**, **Liam Shealy**, **Athan Litchfield**, **WaitusAvant**, **Benji Dixon**, **Wyatt Brown** and **Gunner Brown**.

Meanwhile, the girls soccer team posted a 4-13 record overall. The baseball team piled up 15 wins and went 8-3 in region play, and the growing softball program went 7-11-2 this season.



2026 Holly Hill Academy softball - SCISA Class A state champions

## Holly Hill softball answers the call once again

By David Shelton  
Senior Writer

**Holly Hill** – Even with their best player unavailable for about half the season, the **Holly Hill Academy** softball team led from start to finish in claiming their second straight SCISA state title.

The Raiders had a few bumps along the way, losing six games, but under the biggest lights on the biggest stage, the Raiders were unbeatable.

Junior pitcher **Taylor Wright**, who also is one of the top offensive threats, started the season injured and had just one at bat until shewas released to play again. Coach **Kally Knight** was forced to be creative with the lineup to offset the loss of production and has seen the rest of the team step up their efforts with Wright out.

“Nothing bothers them. They handle adversity so well,” Knight said. “It helps that we have several girls who played last year and they know the kind of effort and focus that it takes to win. This is a really fun group to coach. They work hard and they enjoy each other. We have really good team chemistry and it has been fun to see how they respond to a little

## Bays steps down as Lady Saints softball coach

By Dennis Bruson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Summerton** – After 13 seasons, four state championships and four more state runner-up finishes, Jeffrey Bays has decided to step down as the head coach of the **Clarendon Hall** softball team.

Bays said he made the decision to do so for two particular reasons. The main one was because his grandchildren are getting older and he wants to afford himself the opportunity to see them play sports. The other reason is his work schedule was making it difficult for him to put in the necessary time with softball.

“I was just tired and worn out,” Bays said with a laugh.

Bays finished his time with the Saints with a 192-76 record. Clarendon Hall’s first state title under his guidance came in 2015. The other three came consecutively, a SCISA Class A title in 2022 and consecutive AA state crowns in ’23 and ’24.

The run of state championships ended in the 2025 campaign when the Saints lost to **Pee Dee Academy** in the AAA state championship series. Clarendon Hall’s run of consecutive title series appearances ended this year at five when it went 1-2 in the AAA state tournament.

Bays lamented the fact the Saints came up short.

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adversity. We’d love to get Taylor back by the play-offs but we can’t control that. All we can control is how we play with the players we have on the field. So far it has been good.”

Knight says quality senior leadership and a team that has a competitive fight in them. Among those seniors are were outfielders **Kaley Bell (.257)**, and **Peyton Strickland (.298, 12 RBI)**, second baseman **Abby Burleson (395, 33 RBI)** and pitcher/short-stop **Shelby Hinson(7-1)**.

Hinson has stepped up as a pitcher with seven wins, joining junior **Kaylee Cuttino** as the primary workers inside the circle in Wright’s absence. Hinson also hit .333 with nine RBI while Cuttino posting four wins inside the circle.

Eighth-grader **Milly Kate Prescott** had another great year, hitting .580 with 39 RBI., Sophomore first baseman **Mackenzie Futch** hit .380 with 21 RBI and seventh-grade outfielder **Tinsley Kern** batted over .300 and another eighth-grader, **Kinlee Steigler**, batted .318 with 38 RB i. Working behind the plate was **Chloe Mizzell**.

“It was different sitting there watching those other teams play,” he said. “I still feel like we had a team could have gotten there. You never knew when the switch was going to be on or off. We had a lot of games that we had an opportunity to win. We had struggles but a lot of missed opportunities.”

Clarendon Hall finished 10-11 this season, only the second losing one in his tenure. Bays is proud of the fact the Saints missed the postseason just one time over those 13 seasons.

Clarendon Hall had four All-Region picks this year in **Brynli Brewer**, **AC Martens**, **Aubree Richardson** and **Sunshine Brown**.

Brewer batted .588 with 17 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 31 runs batted in and 31 runs scored. Martens hit .395 with six doubles, a triple, five homers, 23 RBI and 36 runs. Brown had a .368 average with 31 runs and seven RBI, and Richardson hit .356 with 28 RBI and 17 runs.

Bays said there isn’t one thing he would change about how his time at Clarendon Hall played out. “There are a lot of memories I’ll cherish forever,” he said. “There are a lot of relationships I built with the

See Clarendon Hall, pg. 60

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# AAA Track Championships

## Mountain View Prep girls, Waccamaw boys successfully defend AAA track championships

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
**Columbia** – **David Milliken** has been the boys track and field head coach at **Waccamaw High School** for two seasons; the same amount of time **Mike Johnson** has been the girls track head coach at **Mountain View Prep**.

The two coaches, along with their respective teams, have met at the same place both years to conclude their seasons: the podium of the AAA state meet to accept state championship trophies.

MVP, which is located in the **Upstate** in **Spartanburg**, and **WHS**, which is on the **Grand Strand** in **Pawleys Island**, defended their titles in dominant fashion on Friday at **Spring Valley’s Harry Parone Stadium**.

The Stars were victorious in six events and scored 155 points, easily outdistancing second place **Greer Middle College’s** 70 to win the girl’s title. The Warriors set an AAA boys record with 127 points while second place went to **Powdersville** with 61.50 points.

MVP is a charter school in its second year, so it knows nothing about winning state titles. “I think this year was more of an overall team effort,” Johnson said. “We were getting points from everywhere, sprints, jumps, throws. It was just an overall team effort.”

For Waccamaw, last year’s title was its first after coming up short two other occasions. The Warriors took a different approach this season. “We definitely had the mentality that we were the hunted this year,” said Milliken, who was an assistant coach for one year prior to taking over. “They kept that in mind every time we competed, that people were chasing us.

“We qualified in every event in the state meet except for the high jump. We just wanted to try to get them to buy into the mindset that we would leave it all on the track every time.”

MVP set the stage for its dominance in the very first event, setting a state record in winning the 4x100-meter relay. The team of **Kimora Pardlow**, **Brionna Boggains**, **Akyra Chamberlain**, and **Keanna Tate** won in a time of 45.97 seconds.

“That was just a great way to start the day,” Johnson said in an understatement. “That gave us a spark.”

The Stars also won the 4x400 relay. The team of **Amari Rambert**, **Aryana Armstrong**, **Chamberlain**, and **Tate** won (3:49.46). Tate finished first in both the 200 (24:09) and 400-

meters (55:02).

MVP claimed the top four spots in the 200 with **Boggains** finishing second, **Chamberlain** third and **Armstrong** fourth. **Armstrong** finished second in the 400 while **Serena Taylor** was sixth.

**Rambert** took home the goal in the 100 hurdles in 1:03.27 with **Nyla Harris** finishing third. **Harris** won the high jump with a height of 05-05.

**Chamberlain**, **Boggains** and **Pardlow** went 2-3-4 in the 100 dash. **Avery Richards** was second in the discus and fourth in the shotput, **Cameron Wilson** was third in the javelin, **Taylor** was fourth in the triple jump, and **Italia Riches** was eighth in the pole vault.

MVP doesn’t have a home track, but it did gain access to the **North Greenville University** facilities this year – a 40-minute drive. That didn’t deter the Stars.

“Our whole thing this year was finish the mission,” Johnson said. “We wanted to go b back-to-back. We felt like if everybody continued to train hard and injuries stayed away; we’d have a chance to do it.

For Waccamaw, not only did it qualify in each event except one, it scored points in each of those events on Friday. The Warriors won four events but scored points by placing in 18 other slots.

The 4x4 relay team won in a time of 3:20.77. The team included **William Howard**, **Orian Nesmith**, **Adrian Grate Jr.** and **Wade Leventis**.

Grate won the 200 in 21.97 with **Leventis** finishing third. Grate also finished second in the 100.

**Leventis** won the 400 in 47 seconds flat, according to the official results. However, according to Milliken, **Leventis** finished in 46.99, which meant he reached his goal of breaking 47 seconds.

**Howard** finished fifth and **Nesmith** seventh in the 400.

The other individual winner was **Wilson Rutherford V** in the 3,200 run in 9:29.83. **Rutherford** also finished second in the 1,600 run.

**Xavier Greggs** came in second in the long jump. The 4x1 relay team of **RJ Rogers**, **Andre Grate**, **Jhustyn Funnyc** and **Adrian Grate Jr.**, and the 4x8 team of **Braxton Haynes**, **Howard**, **William Martin** and **Aden Perry** both finished second.

**Andre Grate** was third in the 110 hurdles, **Vinny Cegledy** was fourth in the javelin with **Andre Grate** seventh, **Kevin Jackson** was fifth in the shot



Waccamaw Boys Track



Mountain View Prep girls track

put, **Mason Dvorschok** was fifth in the pole vault, **Martin** finished sixth in the 800, **Kamari Smith** was sixth in the triple jump, **Leon Womack** was sixth in the discus, and **Leander McCarthy** was sixth in the 400 hurdles while **Talib Turner** was seventh.

“I couldn’t be prouder of this team scratching and clawing and getting every point,” Milliken said. “I’m just super proud of their perseverance.”

Other gold medal winners for the girls were **Laquashia Hardee** of **Loris** in the 100 (11.99), **Christ Church’s Kendall Foster** in the 800 (2:17.68), **Greer Middle College’s Ella Hammon** in the 1,600 (5:00.53) and the 3,200 (11:05.91), the **St. Joseph’s** 4x8 team (9:37.59), **Powdersville’s Scarlett Brewer** in the long jump (17-07.42), **Aynor’s Terrinna Richardson** in the triple jump (37-03.67), **Hanahan’s Avery Morris** in the pole vault (12-09.93), **Greer Middle College’s Anna Kate Barnett** in the discus (115-03.07) and the shot put (40-04.64) and **Broome’s Dia-**

**mond Martin** in the javelin (119-03.49).

Other first-place finishers for the boys were **Silver Bluff’s Jessie Shelley** in the 100 (10.67), **Walhalla’s Brady Callahan** in the 800 (1:55.69), **Greer Middle College’s Jackson Tuck** in the 1,600 (4:20.72), **Chapman’s Keilon Tucker** in the 110 hurdles (14.88) and the 400 hurdles (54.98), **Silver Bluff’s** 4x1 team (42.82), **Greer Middle’s** 4x8 team (8:08.98), **Pendleton’s Jordan Mattress** in the high jump (06-06.74), **Powdersville’s Jadon Dykes** in the long jump (21-05.08), **Silver Bluff’s Joshua Smith** in the triple jump (45-02.12), **Aynor’s Kasen Shaw** in the pole vault (12-11.51), **Newberry’s Lebron Lyles** in the discus (150-0), **Broome’s Aayden Hempbill-Shands** in the javelin (192-08.20), and **Marlboro County’s Kha’Mari Eaddy** in the shot put (52.03.55).

(Note: this story was edited due to space limitations, See full story for free at hssr.com)

# SCISA Softball Championships

## Laurence Manning three-peats in SCISA AAAA softball

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Summerville**—In the championship moment, with all the tension and pressure consuming her, **Laurence Manning** senior **Lyza Prickelmyer** showed up and converted her investment of hard work into four hits, four RBI's, (including a two-run homer), that led **Laurence Manning Academy** to a 8-7 win over **Pinewood Prep**, giving the Swampcats a three-peat in SCISA AAAA softball on May, 12.

At one point in the game, LMA trailed Pinewood Prep 5-0, before the team rallied behind Prickelmyer. With the game tied at 6, in the top of the 8th, International tie-breaking rules, placed a runner at second base to start the inning. Prickelmyer led off the inning, and she talked about her at bat after the game.

"It was a 3-2 full count, and honesty I

came into the game with my hitting a little down, and my goal was to advance the runner, and I didn't want to walk," she said. "I really wasn't thinking much at all, but I had been lucky with some hits earlier in the game, and I just wanted to get a good look and not walk or strike-out."

Brickelmyer's hard level swing met with the 62 miles per hour fast ball, and like a missile launching, it only took seconds for the ball to sail over the fence in center field as the large crowd of LMA fans went totally berserk.

"Winning three straight state softball championships in a row had never been done at my school before," said Prickelmyer. "I think the football team might have won three straight titles back in the 1970's."

"This team is really close, and we have 9 seniors on the team, and we have

been playing softball together since we were like six or seven years old," said Prickelmyer. "We are like a sister hood and we all love each other. We made history together at our school and that is a wonderful feeling and memory for all of us to share."

Prickelmyer bats from the left side, has jail break speed as a center fielder, and plays like a gold glove at first base. She has a career batting average of over .500. If she is not a major college softball prospect the sport should be disbanded by the NCAA immediately. For the season she batted .581 with 28 RBI's, three homers and 13 stolen bases.

Pinewood Prep head coach **Ben Snyder** said this about Prickelmyer after playing against her for three games. "She is the best two strike hitter I've ever seen," said Coach Snyder. "When she gets two strikes, she adjusts every-

thing she is doing in the batter's box. It is quite impressive to observe. She has everything a college is looking for with her arm, glove, and bat. She is an elite center fielder and there is no doubt in my mind that she could play major college softball somewhere."

After the game, LMA head coach **Buddy Truett** was both relieved and excited. "Earlier in the game I told the team we were leaving too many runners on base," said Coach Truett. "I told them to put the ball in play, to get on top of the ball and make it bounce."

Then with the game on the line, his senior veteran hit the bomb that will be talked about around Manning for a long time. "Isn't that fitting," said Coach Truett. "She's special in all aspects of the game."

"Look, all these girls have worked  
SeeSCISA AAAA Softball, pg. 62

## Pee Dee Academy wins fifth straight AAA softball crown

Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Walterboro** — It's official. The **Pee Dee Academy** softball program can now say it has been able to bear the title of state champion for the past half decade.

The Golden Eagles won their fifth consecutive state crown on Tuesday, beating **Colleton Prep Academy** 8-1 at the CPA field to sweep the best-of-3 SCISA AAA championship series.

PDA, which beat the War Hawks 10-0 in five innings on Monday in **Mullins**, finished the season with a 28-2 record.

This is the ninth straight season Pee Dee played in a state title series. It also claimed a championship in 2017.

In Monday's win, senior **Maddie Coward** tossed a 1-hit shutout. Coward, who has started in the circle for each of those five title teams, struck out nine, walked one and hit a batter.

She threw 52 pitches, 43 for strikes.

Pee Dee scored two runs in the first inning, one in the second, three in both the third and fourth and closed it out with a run with one out in the fifth.

**Dinah Johnson** had a 2-run single in the first inning, while **Lilly Grace Rowell** had a sacrifice fly that scored **Carly Carroll** in the second.

The Eagles scored three runs in the third before **Addison Hasty** had a 2-

run double in the fourth followed by an RBI double by **Azeleigh Arnette** to make it 9-0. The game-ending run came on a triple by Careoll

Hasty and Arnette both had two hits to lead PDA's 8-hit attack. Coward added a double, and Rowell had a single to go with her sac fly. Carroll and Johnson had the other hits.

## Carolina Academy softball claims AA title over Kings Academy

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Florence**—Saving their best game of the season for the third game tiebreaker in the SCISA AA softball finals, The **Carolina Academy** Bobcats defeated **The Kings Academy** 14-1 on the Florence Christian softball field to win their second straight state title on May, 13.

The Kings Academy had won game one in Lake City while the Bobcats won game two on the road, so a third game tiebreaker was needed.

For Bobcat head coach **Scotty Phillips**, it was his 7th state title in 27 seasons as the team's head coach.

The Bobcats pounded out 16 hits, from

8 different players in their line-up, and their five-run spot in the first inning set the tone for the rest of the game.

After the game, Coach Phillips told the way over here on the bus," said Coach Phillips. "We sang to Jesus, one song was Gratitude, plus several others and this team truly believes in the Lord. I will tell you that this is a great group of girls who have a lot of faith and they also have a lot of faith in each other.

"Getting five runs in the first inning was huge for us and I will take that every day," said Coach Phillips.

"**Carlie Ann (Smith)** had a fire cracker tonight (went 5-for-5) and she played a great tournament along with **Ella Ham** (3-

of-4 & 2 RBI's) played here tail off and came on strong late in the season and she was the tournament MVP in Sumter as far as I am concerned and she had a great game tonight.

"I feel awesome for the team winning two in a row and they worked their tails off to have success," said Coach Phillips. They have been up and down throughout the season, and we kept telling them that they could be an awesome ball club and they came over here (Florence Christian) and put it all together tonight."

Carolina Academy senior pitcher/center fielder **Raeley Frye** will be named the **HSSR-SCISA AA Softball Player of the Year** when the publication's softball all-star team is announced around June 1.

She has been the ace pitcher in the circle for the Bobcats for several seasons. Coming into the game she had pitched 84.2 innings with 108 strikeouts with an ERA of 2.48. At the plate she batted .352 with 32 RBI's and seven home runs.

Frye was a happy senior captain after the game. "If you had told me years ago (7th grade), when I first started playing softball under Coach Scotty, that we would be where we are today, I probably would have told you no way," said Frye. "It has been a lot of hard work."

Frye went 1-of-2 in the game including an inside the park home run that produced the Bobcat's first two runs in the first inning after Smith led off with one of  
SeeSCISA AA Softball, pg. 63

## Holly Hill Academy claims Class A softball championship

By WORTHY EVANS

**Winnboro**-The **Holly Hill Academy** softball team had just rallied for three runs against **Richard Winn Academy** in the fifth inning to tie Game two of the SCISA Class A state championship series.

The second game of the best-of-three series was played on Tuesday at RWA. The Eagles jumped to a 4-1 lead **Holly** in the first, but the Raiders battled back to a 5-5 tie into the bottom of the fourth. There, Richard Winn scored three runs to take an 8-5 lead.

So, when Holly Hill relief pitcher **Shelby Hinson** was in a jam with the bases loaded and nobody out in the bottom of the sixth, it appeared Richard Winn

was about to jump ahead again.

Fortune suddenly fell upon the Raiders. **Meghan Guzzi** grounded out to Hinson, who instinctively tossed it to catcher **Milly Kate Prescott** for the force out at the plate. **Prescott** then fired first baseman **Kinlee Steigler** for a double play.

Hinson walked **Langley Thompson** but got **Abby Lewis** on a fielder's choice to close out a scoreless inning.

Lifted by a stunning flare of defense, the Raiders scored four runs in the top of the seventh and Hinson sat down the Eagles in order in the bottom half of the inning to close out a 12-8 victory, a series sweep, and the second straight state cham-

pionship.

"We've talked about being rally killers, that's the goal," said head coach **Kallie Knight**, whose team has won three state championships in the last four years. "If you've got the bases loaded, if you can make some big play like that, sometimes it will shut down things. We've done that a ton this year whether it'd be double plays or something that goes right for us."

Holly Hill (17-5) went straight to work with the game still tied 8-8 after the fateful sixth. With one out in the seventh, Richard Winn relief pitcher **Haylee Ann Prevatt** walked **Kaley Bell** and Prescott, and **Abby Burleson** laid down a bunt that

hugged the first-base line, good enough for McLean and Bell to advance to third and second.

McLean intentionally walked **Taylor Wright** and hit Hinson with a pitch to score Bell for the go-ahead run.

Prescott scored Holly Hill's tenth run on a passed ball as **Kinlee Steigler** batted. Then Steigler dropped a 2-run single that broke the game open.

With a 12-8 lead, Hinson took the circle in the bottom of the 7th and sat the Eagles down to earn the win.

Knight said the crowd saw the Raiders do what they have done all season, Rally..

SeeSCISA A Softball, pg. 62



2026 Carolina Academy softball - SCISA AA State Champions

## McClam takes over Bobcats football program with 30 athletes participating in spring drills

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Lake City**—When **David Rankin** left **The Carolina Academy** football program to take over a similar job at **Laurence Manning Academy** after the 2025 season it was a logical move by the school to promote assistant coach and local native **Tyler McClam** to lead the Bobcat program going forward.

Coach McClam and his staff are hoping to improve on the team's 5-6 finish last season when the Bobcats concluded the 2025 season with a loss to **Thomas Heyward Academy**.

"We just finished up last week (May 8) and we had around 30 varsity candidates participating in Spring football drills," said Coach McClam. "With it being my first year as head coach it was a good time to introduce some new stuff to the players. We are losing 13 seniors to graduation from last season, so we are going to rely on a lot of new faces this season."

The Bobcats do have five core players coming back for the 2026 season with a lot of experience and playing time under their belts. "We have four seniors and four juniors on the team this season, so while we will be young, we do have a lot of experience returning," said Coach McClam.

**Dawson Daniel** returns as a key offensive lineman, and he flips to linebacker and defensive tackle on defense. **Ryker Rhodes** will be returning as a two-way player at wide receiver and defensive back. **Carson Hanna** and **Luke Cook** return as running backs and linebackers for the Bobcats. **Tanner Floyd** is also back as a wide receiver and defensive back skill player.

"These five players will be major contributors on the football team for sure," said Coach McClam. "We have some freshman and sophomores who should step up and help us in spots also."

Coach McClam said **Holden Carson** might end up being the Bobcat's starting quarterback and **Kyle Cox** is a young two-way lineman who should get a lot of playing time in the trenches this upcoming season.

Coach McClam said he will not change the system the team had under Coach Rankin very much because it was the system he learned while working with the coaching veteran. "We will be running a power game on offense and will not change our system very much at all," said Coach McClam. "On defense we are trying to simplify things so we can get on the field and play fast."

## Lake City baseball reaches AA lower state tourney

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Lake City** – The **Lake City High School** baseball team may have only finished third in Region 7-AA, but that didn't keep the Panthers from having a great season.

Lake City won its district tournament in the AA state playoffs to earn a spot in the 4-team, double-elimination lower state tournament. The Panthers went 0-2, but that still meant they finished the year with a 20-10 record.

Lake City swept its district by beating **Barnwell** 10-9 and then topping **Chesterfield** twice, 5-1 and 3-1.

Coach McClam is assisted by **David Daniel** who is the assistant head coach. Other assistants are **Clark Johnson**, **Matthew Joy**, and **Jamie Goings**.

## Carolina Academy's "Fyre" Helps Lead Team To Softball Title, Named HSSR-SCISA AA Softball Player of the Year

The **Carolina Academy** Bobcats softball team won their 7th state SCISA softball title under the tutelage of **Scotty Phillips** with a dominating 14-1 over **The Kings Academy** in a third game tie-breaker played at **Florence Christian** on May, 13.

Coach Phillips has now completed 27 seasons as the head softball coach at Carolina Academy. (Please see more detailed game story in front section of this issue)

For the season, Carolina Academy had six starters bat .292 or better. Prior to the state championship game, the top hitter was Ham at .459 with 28 RBI's. Smith was next on the hit index at .432 and 10 RBI's. Fyre was at .352 with a team leading 32 RBI's and seven home runs.

Sims came into the final game batting .328 and 15 RBI's for the Bobcats. Sophomore OF/Catcher **Paisley Coker** was batting .317 with 17 RBI's while Braveboy was at .315 with 14 RBI's. **Paisley McCutcheon** came into the final game batting .292 with six RBI's.

Other members of the Carolina Bobcat team include junior **Katherine Holliday**, left fielder **Ema Amos**, and 9th grader **Kaylee Lyerly**.

Ham had 53.1 innings with 78 strikeouts with an ERA of 3.41 coming into the final game.

In honor of her outstanding softball career at The Carolina Academy, along with her outstanding season, the HSSR has named Fyre as the HSSR-SCISA AA Softball Player of the Year. Fyre tells the HSSR that she will be attending Williamsburg Tech in the fall to pursue a nursing career.

Fyre was asked what the difference was between game one, when the team lost 5-2 to The Kings Academy, and the third game that they dominated? "In the past two games we just started playing better as a team, and we started trusting each other more," said Frye. "You can't have a team not trusting everyone and you can't play well if you are divided. This team has been together for a long time and we trust each other."

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While the Panthers were very young, they were led by veteran senior **Amari Hanna**. He was selected to AA All-State team by the **South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association**.

# Williamsburg Academy STALLIONS

## Stallions baseball reaches finals in Morris' first year

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
**Kingstree – Britton Morris** couldn't have asked for a much better first season as the head coach of the Williamsburg Academy baseball team. Well, he could have and the Stallions almost gave it to him.

Williamsburg reached the best-of-3 state championship series in the SCISA AAA state playoffs. However, they came up short, getting swept by Calhoun Academy.

The Cavaliers rolled to an easy win in the opener by a 10-2 count. However, the second game went into extra innings with Calhoun winning 6-4 in eight.

"We came so close," said Morris, who is just 22 years old. "I felt like if we could get to Thursday (and the third game) we could have done it. I think we were definitely clearly at least the second best team in AAA."

The Stallions finished the year with a 20-4 record. They swept through their 5-team, double-elimination in three games. They opened with a victory over Spartanburg Christian Academy before taking two games from defending state champion Hilton Head Prep to advance to the title series.

Williamsburg had seven players named to the All-Region 3-AAA team. They were **Sammy Tomlinson**, **Caden Morris**, **Grant Small**, **Hall Dukes**, **Jay Kellahan**, **Connor Morris** and **Ethan Jones**.

Connor Morris led the Stallion in hitting with a .427 batting average and shared the lead in on-base percentage with Caden Morris at .516. Caden was just behind him in batting average at .419. They also shared the lead in runs batted in with 26 and doubles with seven.

Connor led in home runs with four, while Caden led in triples with three.

Kellahan had a .333 batting average to go with a .495 OBP and a team high 34 runs scored and nine stolen bases. He also had three doubles, a homer and 12 RBI.

Dukes batted .307 to go with a .329 OBP, three doubles, one triple, 18 RBI and 16 runs, while Small batted .262 but with a .416 OBP, four doubles, three homers 11 RBI and 14 runs.

Jones batted .205 and owned a .304 OBP. He had a double, four RBI and nine runs. Tomlinson batted .204 but had a .461 OBP to go with two doubles, six RBI and 16 runs.

Dukes, Jones and Tomlinson were all key contributors on the mound. Dukes had a 7-0 win-loss record with a 1.71 earned run average in 49 innings pitched. He struck out 46 batters while walking just 25 and allowing 37 hits.

Jones finished with a 6-2 record in 42 innings. He struck out 39 while walking just 15 and allowing 45 hits to go with a 1.59 ERA. Tomlinson was the closer, recording five saves in five opportunities. He had a 2.39 ERA and worked 26 1/3 innings in 11 appearances,

striking out 38 while allowing just 17 hits and nine walks.

Coach Morris, who is not closely related to any Morris on the squad, I thinks all in all everything worked out fine in his first season.

"It was a weird type of year in that we only had two seniors," the head coach said in reference to Kellahan and Connor Morris. "We were not quite as experienced, but these guys knew how to win. They are very talented kids, and it took a little bit to get it out of them. It was almost as good as you could ask for."

The fact that the roster was filled with so many young players may have worked to the Stallions' favor as far as the coach/player relationship goes. While Coach Morris had coached some of his players in youth sports, he is only four years older than Kellahan and actually were members of the same church youth group.

"They trusted me," said Coach Morris, who played on Laurence Manning Academy's 2022 state championship team. "They didn't have to, but they did."

### WA SOFTBALL FINISHES 15-11

The Williamsburg softball team finished with a 15-11 record and reached the championship round of its bracket in the AAA state tournament at Patriot Park SportsPlex in Sumter.

The Stallions went 2-2 in the tournament. They lost to Colleton Prep Academy 8-7 in the opener before beating Dillon Christian School 14-12 in an elimination game. Williamsburg then beat Orangeburg Prep 8-7 to get to the championship round against Colleton Prep. CPA won that game by a 7-3 count.

Second-year head coach **Jada Cox** was proud of how her squad grew throughout the season.

"I think we started out very unsure and not confident with ourselves and how we played the game, and it definitely showed when we stepped on the field," Cos said. "As the season wen on it got better, and we became more confident as a team and as individuals."

"When the state tournament came around we played as a complete team. Everyone was giving everything they had every game, and the girls never backed down. WE were playing for each other and not just for one person. Again, it showed on the field. Looking into next season, that's how I want to start out, playing for each other and not just for one."

Williamsburg had four players selected to the All-Region 3-AAA team. They were **Preslee Cooper**, **Sophia Jacobs**, **Krisalyn Hanna** and **Abby Ward**.

Jacobs led the Stallions in hitting with a .484 average to go along with a team high 23 stolen bases. Hanna owned a .463 average, while Cooper was in the .300s.

Ward was a standout both at the plate and in the circle. She had a .367 batting average while striking out 207 batters in 102 innings to go with a 3.22 ERA.

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# SCISA Baseball Championships

## Dorchester defeats Lee Academy to win SCISA AA baseball title

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
**Manning – The Dorchester Academy** baseball team came into the SCISA AA state playoffs with a 7-13 overall record.

The Raiders' run in the playoffs came to an end on Thursday with them sporting a 13-15 record – oh, yeah – and the state championship trophy.

DA beat defending state champion Lee Academy 9-5 in the third and deciding game of the best-of-3 championship series at Laurence Manning Academy.

"These guys here we struggled all season long, but we never lost our composure," said Dorchester head coach **Brent Jackson**. "We just came out here in the playoffs and started playing baseball like we should have."

The Raiders won their second title in three years, claiming the 2024 crown. Jackson pointed out an important distinction. "We just had one guy back from that ('24) team," he said. "This was a new bunch of guys who did it."

The Cavaliers, who finished the season with an 18-6 record, jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first. However, DA broke through for four runs in the third.

LA got to the fourth only to see DA match run in the top of the fifth. Lee put up two in the bottom of the inning to cut the deficit to 5-4. That set the stage for Raider's senior third baseman **Wyatt Byrd**.

DA's **Reed Almers** reached on an infield single in the top of the sixth. He was out on a fielder's choice, and it appeared Cavaliers relief pitcher **Myles Frye** had the second out when he got **Landon Holly** to pop up in foul territory. The ball wasn't caught though, thus extending the at-bat. That would be fatal for LA.

Holly came through with a single be-

fore **Warren Judy** struck out for what would have been the third out. Instead, it was just the second and that brought the right-handed swinging Byrd to the plate. He lofted a fly ball right down the right field line. The outfield on Tucker Belangia Diamond is spacious with the exception of down the two lines, with right reaching 295 feet. Byrd's poke ended up clearing the fence for a 3-run home run that made it 8-4.

"When I hit it, I thought I had a double," said Byrd, who not only hit his first homer of the season but also hit a homer in his final high school at-bat. "I just got very excited when I saw it was a homer."

Lee head coach **Danny Price** couldn't undersell the significance of that scenario. "If we make that play, we're getting out of the inning without them scoring," Price said. "If we do that, then we really have the momentum going for us. But baseball can be a funny game."

Dorchester would add another run as **John Quattlebaum** drew a walk, went to third on an **Abe Shuler** single and stole home to make it 9-4.

Lee got a run back in the bottom of the inning, but Judy retired from the side in order in the seventh to get the complete game.

"I was just out there competing," said Judy, who finished the game with 90 pitches. "I wasn't getting a lot of strikeouts. I was just relying on my defense, and they did a great job."

Judy allowed seven hits but didn't walk a batter while striking out four.

"Warren pitched a heck of a game," Jackson said. "He just went out there and battled."

The Raiders finished with 12 hits, all of them coming over the last five innings. Shuler led the way, going 3-for-4 with an RBI.

Byrd was 2-for-4 with four RBI and

## Holly Hill Academy beats Richard Winn to earn Class A crown

**By WORTHY EVANS**  
Special Writer  
**ST MATTHEWS—The Holly Hill Academy** baseball team stayed true to what brought them to the SCISA Class A state championship series Thursday night at Calhoun Academy' with good at-bats, timely hitting, and speed on the bases.

That formula earned the Raiders a 6-2 victory over **Richard Winn** in the deciding game of the best-of-three series and the Raider's first state baseball championship since 2016.

"It's been our mojo all season, putting pressure on teams," Holly Hill Academy head coach **Andy Green** said. "We've got a lot of teams speed up and down the lineup, and our motive is always to put pressure on the defense. Tonight, we executed when it mattered. It's a big reason for our success tonight for sure."

It also helped the Raiders (14-9) to have a mound presence, especially in the last two games of the series. **Richard Winn** (16-5) won the first game 5-3 Tuesday, but Holly Hill game 2 starter **Ashton Soles** pitched 6 2/3 innings and 2-hit the Eagles in a 7-2 victory Wednesday.

On Thursday, Tyler Green worked a complete-game 3-hitter, striking out six while walking just one. Soles and Green's time on the mound stopped the hot-hitting Eagles, 2-time defending 1A champions, cold.

"We didn't hit the ball at all this series and that was frustrating to us because we've been pretty good at it all year long," Richard Winn head coach **Paul**

**Brigman** said. "You've got to give credit to their pitching; they really came through in game 2 and game 3 with strong pitching."

The Eagles managed a run on no hits in the bottom of the first inning to take a 1-0 lead. With one out, a shaky Green hit D Albert, walked **Charlie Bonds**, then hit **Johnathan Bonds** to load the bases. T Burchell's sacrifice fly scored Albert for a 1-0 lead, but Green settled in and struck out Owen Martin to end the inning.

The Raiders evened the score in the top of the second with two outs. **Jake Kirven** and **Mason McGriff** drew walks, **Parker Kizer's** single to leftfield drove in Kirven, and **Mason Connor's** single to left scored McGriff to give the Raiders a 2-1 lead.

RW loaded the bases with one out in the bottom of the third, and **Bennett Nicholson** scored on **Turner Burchell's** ground out to even the score at 2-2. With two out, **Charlie Bonds** at third and **Johnathan Bonds** at second, Martin grounded out to end the inning before the Eagles could take advantage.

Holly Hill broke the tie with two outs in the top of the fourth. McGriff reached base on an infield error, moved to second and third base as Kizer batted.

Martin, RW's starting pitcher in his last inning on the mound, walked Kizer. As Martin pitched to Connor, McGriff scored the go-ahead run on a passed ball to make it 3-2 HH.

Martin walked Connor and Boyd flied out to end the inning, but the Raiders



Dorchester Academy baseball - SCISA AA State Champions

one run scored. Holly was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI, while Judy was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run. **Austin Varn** had a hit, two runs and an RBI, **Carter Beeks** had a hit and two runs, and **Almers** had a hit, a run, and an RBI.

"We got the clutch hits when we needed them," said Jackson, whose team didn't hit a home run in the regular season but hit four over the course of the eight playoff games.

Olson had two of LA's seven hits to go with a run and an RBI. **Chance Entzinger** had a hit, two runs and an RBI, **Andrew Bowers** had a hit and an RBI, and **Cash Holloway** had a hit and a run.

**Tucker Rogers** and **Aiden Fitzgerald** each had a hit, while Frye scored a run and picked up an RBI.

"We had a great season," Price said. "We hit and pitched well most of the season, but we just didn't seem to play our best in this series. You have to tip your cap to them (Dorchester). They played well."

Lee got out to the 1-0 lead in the first when Entzinger reached on a 1-out error, stole second and scored on an Olson single.

**Tyler Gilbert** started on the mound for the Cavaliers. He walked Almers to

open the game before retiring six batters in a row. However, he walked Beeks to begin the third and wasn't as lucky this time around.

Gilbert struck out **Bryce Marchant** before getting Almers to hit a ground ball. All hands were safe on an error, and Varn and Holly followed with RBI singles to make it 2-1. Judy had a ground-rule double to drive in a run, and Byrd followed with a sacrifice fly to make it 4-1.

LA cut the lead to 4-2 in the fourth. Olson singled with one out, reached third on an **Aiden Fitzgerald** single and scored on a SAC Fly by Frye.

Dorchester got the run back in the fifth when Judy and Byrd started the inning with singles. Shuler followed with a 1-out single to score courtesy runner **Graham Varnadole**.

Holloway led Lee fifth with a single and was sacrificed to second by **Cary Privette**. Entzinger delivered Holloway with a 2-out single, and Bowers followed with an RBI single to cut the deficit to 5-4.

(Note: due to space limitations please see full version of this story for free at hssr.com).

scored one run in each of the fifth, sixth, and seventh innings in similar fashion.

On the mound in the final innings, Connor gave up two hits while he and the Raiders defense sat down the Eagles quickly to ensure the victory.

"They worked so hard this year," Green said. "We loaded our schedule with a bunch of triple-A schools this year and tried to be ready for this moment and with the pitching we've seen this year it paid off. We took our lumps playing some bigger schools with the faith that at the end of the year it would come back and matter and they just put in so much work, I'm so happy for them."

"We've got six holes to fill," Green said. "The next two years are going to be a lot of opportunities for some new kids to see some playing time and develop, and we'll just have to go from there."

In the first game Tuesday, Richard Winn starting pitcher **Charlie Bonds** worked 6 2/3 innings and 2-hit the Raiders, striking out 11. The Eagles held a 5-0 lead going into the seventh inning when Bonds lost his focus on the strike zone and walked three straight batters and gave up all three Holly Hill runs.

Martin, who took the loss Thursday, came on in relief of Bonds and got the final out.

Bonds also homered in that game. Walker Blackwelder was 2-for-3 with 2 RBI.

Holly Hill saved its ace, Ashton Soles, for game 2. Soles gave up two runs on two hits in the first inning—and held the

Eagles hitless for the rest of the way in the 7-2 win. He threw 110 pitches over 6 1/3 innings and struck out 10.

"We knew we both had really strong pitchers," Brigman said Wednesday night, noting Charlie Bonds and Soles. "They saved their guy when we threw our best guy yesterday, and they put themselves in a little bit of an advantageous spot today, and he pitched well. He came through for them."

When his pitch count reached that critical point, reliever **Brayden Mizell** came on and got the last two outs of the game.

"For a senior to walk off the mound like that condition knowing he can hold his head high and that he gave everything he had, I'm super proud of him for that," Green said Wednesday night.

The Raiders and the Eagles were tied 2-2 after the first inning, but while Richard Winn kept getting stymied at each plate appearance, the Raiders got two runs in the third inning, two more runs in the sixth, and one in the seventh for the win.

Wednesday's victory produced an energy surge for Holly Hill, Green said Wednesday night, perhaps prophetically. "Yesterday (Tuesday) we got down big but came back and fought, carried some momentum in the last inning that kind of propelled us into today," Green said Wednesday. "Our approach today was 180 degrees different than what it was yesterday."

(Note: this story was edited due to space limitations, see the full version at hssr.com for free)

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INVESTMENTS



### Dillon baseball making deep run in AAA playoffs

**By Billy G. Baker**  
**Publisher**  
Dillon—It has been since 2015 that Dillon last competed for a baseball state title, but after a 4-3 win over Waccamaw at home on April, 16 head coach **Keith Coward** was pleased to see all the hard work finally bear fruit with vast improvement over last season.

As the *HSSR* was going to press the Wildcats were preparing a road trip to **Oceanside Collegiate** in an elimination game with the Landsharks. Dillon had won their district in the AAA playoffs defeating Keenan (16-0), Swansea (4-30 and Swansea again (6-50 on May 11 to advance.

Dillon lost their first playoff game at home against **Hanahan** (11-1) before bouncing back with a 4-3 win over Waccamaw on May 16. **Oceanside Collegiate** won the lower state AAA title last year before losing to **Southside Christian** in the finals.

Coach Coward was asked what the keys to victory over Oceanside consisted of. “We have to throw strikes and not make any errors, and it can be a very competitive game if we do this,” he said.

Dillon will have ace senior righty **Hank Grider** available for the game at Oceanside on May 18. Grider, an **Anderson College** signee, is currently 8-1 with 109 K’s in 57 & ½ innings of work. He also has two saves and a sterling ERA of .977. At the plate he is batting .362 with 19 RBI’s.

Grider was recently named the AAA Pitcher of the Year in SC by the SC Baseball Coaches Association. “Grider is our bulldog,” said Coach Coward. “He can pound the strike zone.”

Going into the game with the Landsharks, the top hitters for the Wildcats included: First baseman **Jadin Williamson** (.422 with 17 RBI’s) leads the hit index. sophomore SS/pitcher **Bryson Davis** (.353 with 19 RBI’s) along with sophomore CF **JJ Campbell** (.368 & 14 RBI’s). Junior catcher **JC Bohachic** was at .250 with 12 RBI’s.

Dillon starts speedy freshman **Nibras Harrison** in RF, 8<sup>th</sup> grader **Chuck Green** starts at third base, and sophomore **DJ Greene** holds down a spot in left field. Freshman RHP **Aiden** Lancaster is the team’s number two pitcher, and he plays at second or shortstop when he is not on the mound.

Lancaster pitched all 7 innings in the win over Waccamaw. “Over the past month and a half Aiden has really come on strong for us on the mound,” said Coach Coward. “In the playoffs you need all the arms you can get, so him being able to pitch a complete game against Waccamaw saved some of our pitching for sure.

### Young Dillon softball team making deep run

**By Billy G. Baker**  
**Publisher**  
Dillon—After losing a gut-wrenching game to **Hanahan**, 7-6 on the road May, 15, after having a five-run lead after the fourth inning Dillon was up five runs, they now are headed to Aynor to try and keep alive in the AAA softball playoffs.

“We are going to Aynor on Monday and whatever we have we are going to give it all we have,” said Coach Grice from the field a few minutes after the bitter one run loss to Hanahan.

“We have been working hard all season putting in the work with our young team and the kids have responded,” said Coach Grice. “They have improved as the season has moved on an they are getting valuable experience out there on the field. We started four middle schoolers today so our future looks bright.”

Against Hanahan, Dillon collected 12 hits and they had every opportunity to win the game. Senior first baseman **Allysa Lee** paced the Wildcats with three hits against the Hawks. Starting 8<sup>th</sup> grade pitcher **Jayla Wrigh** had two hits, along with **Kayce Locklear** who also had two hits. Left fielder **Ansley Vilagomez** contributed two hits and one RBI also.

Senior center fielder **Makenna Meekins**, a four-year starter, also had a hit and made a couple nice catches in

“The Waccamaw win was probably our biggest win, in terms of it advancing us deeper in the playoffs, since we made the state championship run in 2015,” said Coach Coward.

To date, Lancaster has pitched 45 innings with 31 K’s and he has a 3.44 ERA. He is 5-2 on the season.

On a side night, Coach Coward wants to congratulate senior reserve outfielder **Heyden Drawhorn** who was recently awarded 2.3 million in academic scholarships. He will be attending USC in the fall, and he has signed a commitment letter to return to Dillon after college and become a teacher in the district.

“Heyden is a great kid, and he is our senior Salutatorian this year at Dillon High,” said Coach Coward. “He is a very deserving young man, and the entire baseball team is excited for him.”

Against Waccamaw, in the recent win, Dillon pushed across three runs in the bottom of the first inning to take early control of the game. Campbell started off the inning reaching base on an error and then Grider was hit by pitch to put runners on first and second. Williamson bats third and singles to right field to load the bases.

Two batters later, Bohachic reached a ground ball error scoring Campbell to make it 1-0 with Grider advancing to third and Williamson advancing to second. Grider came home on an RBI ground-out by Lancaster to make it 2-0. Williamson advanced to third on the throw. A ball by the pitcher scored Williamson to make it 3-0.

With the score tied after Waccamaw batted in the top of the third inning, Dillon scored the final run of the game in the bottom of the third inning to win 4-3. Williamson had a lead-off single and he advanced to second on a sac bunt by Davis. Two batters later, Lancaster hit a line drive single to center field to score Willaims and secure the win.

“I give a lot of credit to our improvement this season to our pitching coach **Austin Moody** who has done a great job working with pitchers,” said Coach Coward. “We also have a group of kids who compete in the box. We have also been lucky to avoid serious injuries to any of our players this season and this has not always been the case in recent years.”

Reserve players for Dillon include junior courtesy runner **Lee Causey**, soph **Jayden Cooper** is a reserve OF **Aerion Chavis** is a reserve catcher, **Keilan Chavis** is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade IF, while **Hayden Hiott** is a freshman back-up catcher.

Coach Coward is assisted by **Moody, Coley Bohachic, Pierce Watson, Jamie Coleman, and Nelson Green.**

center field. **Kanyla Tansley** also had a hit in the game. The top hitters going into the game with Aynor on May, 18 are Meekins at .438 with 12 RBI’s including six doubles and 33 stolen bases. Tansley is at .362 with 9 RBI’s and 17 stolen bases.

Wright is currently batting .347 with 16 RBI’s. In the circle she has 96 strikeouts in 68.1 innings of work. **Zoe Chavis** is hitting .281 with 18 RBI’s. In 55 innings in the circle, she has 82 strikeouts.

**Ashlyn Wallace** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade starting catcher doing a good job and **Wanaysia Hughes** is starting in right field. **Ansley Villagomez** starts in left field and she is batting .321 with 7 RBI’s.

Dillon softball seems to always be playing their softball once the playoffs start so hopefully, they can keep on winning all the way to the state finals.



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### Bulldogs’ Khar’Mari Eaddy wins AAA shot put title

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**  
**Bennettsville – Khar’Mari Eaddy** brought home an individual state championship for the **Marlboro County High School** boys track and field team.

The Bulldog thrower won the shot put in the AAA state meet held at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia** on May 15.

Eaddy claimed the title with a throw of 15.94 meters. He also placed third in the discus with a throw of 40.57 meters.

The only other Marlboro male athlete to place was **Royal Williams** in the 110-meter hurdles.

The Bulldogs had several athletes who earned a berth at state but didn’t place. They were **Mikyi Littles** in both the 100-meter dash and the 200 dash, **LeDarius Brown** in the 800 run, Williams in the 400 hurdles, **Troy Hailey** in the javelin and the 4x100- and 4x400-meter relay teams.

The Marlboro girls team had one athlete place. **Destiny Ford** finished seventh in the high jump.

Other females who competed were **Angela Rogers** in the 3,200 run, **Lytavia Hinkle** and **Nytavia Hinkle** in the triple jump, **Ashanti Drayton** in the discus, **Kiersten Graham** in the javelin, **Keisha Brown** and **Aarin Smith** in the shot put and the 4x8 relay team.

**Rep. Jackie E. Hayes**  
**House District #55**  
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### Hartsville spring teams contend for lower state

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**Hartsville –** The fighting spirit of the Hartsville Red Foxes was in full effect as the 2026 state AAAA playoffs began two weeks ago.

It remains to be seen if any of the Hartsville teams can finish the job but one thing is certain, the opponents knew they were getting a battle.

As of May 17, only one team is still alive and fighting for a championship. Hartsville’s baseball team, under first-year head coach Daniel Twitty, has advanced to the AAAA Lower State championship and will play Airport in a best of three series. The winner of the series moves on to the state championship series.

The Red Foxes are 26-7 heading into the Lower State series, thisafter a 13-0 record in region play. Twice during the playoffs, Hartsville has lost a game only to rally back and advance. With a victory in elimination games.

The production comes from all over the roster, which makes it difficult to focus on stopping one players. Bryce Oliver and Brandon Anderson are two primary weapons, with Ford Wallace and Jaden Atkinson also coming up big in key situations.

The softball team made a strong run in the postseason

### BHP softball back in AAA upper state tournament

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**  
**Honea Path –** The Belton-Honea Path High School softball team may have finished third in Region 1-AAA, but it was two victories away from reaching the state championship series for a third consecutive season.

The Bears won their district tournament to advance to the upper state tournament for a third straight year. They then knocked off **Mountain View Prep** 1-0 in the opening game on May 15.

BHP, which was 22-9 after that victory, was scheduled to play at **Crescent** on May 18 with the winner advancing to the championship round of the tournament and being just one win away from clinching a spot in the state championship series.

“It was a pitcher’s duel for sure,” BHP head coach **Jarad Jennings** said of the triumph over Mountain View. “We had three hits and they had four.”

Belton-Honea Path got the game’s only run in the top of the fifth inning. **Carsen Foster** led off with a

In the Region 7 meet at the **Waccamaw** track on April 29, Eaddy won the only region titles for the boys in the discus and shot put.

LeDarius Brown was second in the 800, Bryson Moore was second in the long jump, the 4x400 team finished second, **Deondre Wilson** was third in the 400 dash, and **Bobby Mumford** was third in the 3,200.

Fourth-place finishers were **Patrick Williams** in the shot put, **Deivon Coachman-Bethea** in the long jump and the 4x800 relay team.

Fifth-place finishers for the boys were **Logan Heyward** in the 400, Williams in the 110 hurdles, **Isaiah Whitner** in the 400 hurdles and Bethea in the triple jump.

The girls had two region champions with Keasia Brown winning the shot put and Smith taking the discus.

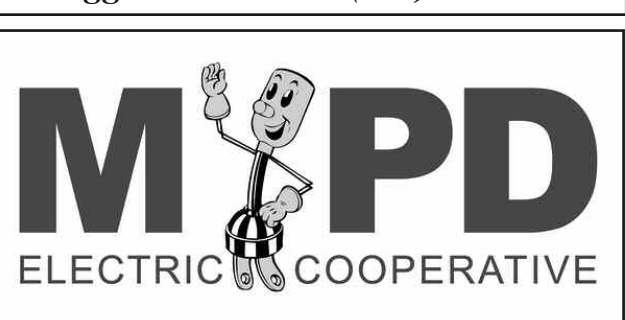
Smith ws second in the discus, while **Shonta Fox** was second in the 400 hurdles, and **Sanyia Purvis** was second in the 100 dash.

Third-place finishers Graham in the discus, Ford in the high jump and **Khylee Clark** in the 800.

The 4x800 relay team finished fourth as did the 4x100 relay team. The 4x400 relay team finished fifth as di Lytavia Hinkle in the triple jump and Drayton in the discus.

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2026 Porter Gaud Girls Soccer Seniors

## Porter-Gaud girls soccer repeats as state champion

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**Charleston** – With their best returning player out for the season, Porter-Gaud girls soccer coach Hope Walters turned to the rest of the team to take up the slack. As the defending state champions, the Cyclones knew how to win. The roster returned several other players from last year and had a good balance of veterans and newcomers.

The results were a 24-1-1 record and a SCISA AAAA state title. The Cyclones proved not only to be the best in SCISA but played a very competitive schedule of powerhouse public schools. The lone loss came to Wando with wins over James Island, West Ashley, Lucy Beckham, Philip Simmons and Academic Magnet. The senior class appeared in four state finals and won two rings.

Senior Ella Holzer was a team captain in the center back and was a five year starter and a huge part of the

## Ashley Hall completes competitive spring

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**Charleston** – As the 2026 spring sports season wraps up in the state, the student athletes at Ashley Hall are looking forward to rest and relaxation. Ashley Hall teams showed a competitive fight throughout the spring and have plenty to be proud of.

Ashley Hall competes in the top classification of the South Carolina Independent Schools Association (SCISA) and while winning region titles is difficult, the Panthers work hard to put up competitive battles against elite challengers.

One of the more successful spring teams in 2026 was the soccer team. The Panthers again played a competitive schedule but battle through some tough losses while celebrating success.

The Panthers closed out the season with a 6-9 record overall and a 4-8 record in region 3-AAAA.

Setting the offensive pace for the Panthers is a senior captain, **Catherine Clark**, who finished the season with 14 goals and four assists. Junior **Molly Mettler** added eight goals and five assists while **Hampton Kennedy** had

## Spring sports reaching critical stages at JICHS

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**James Island** - James Island's spring is going well overall and there is sure to be a team or two make a state championship run. Leading the way is the baseball team, coached by **Matt Spivey**. The Trojans have won state titles in consecutive years, winning the AAAA crown in 2024 and taking the AAAA Division I championship last spring.

Last year's team won 30 games and the 2026 Trojans are on a similar pace. The Trojans have reached the AAAA Division I Lower State championship series against Airport. Game one of the best of three series is May 19. James Island enters the series at 27-2 overall.

Several key starters returned from last year's team so this year's squad has big game experience on their side. Junior second baseman **Trip Ostergard** and senior shortstop **Taj Marchand** have a combined seven years or varsity experience between them. Both are among the top hitters in the lineup and each contribute on the mound on

success. Walters calls her strong, smart and steady. Senior Charlotte Thompson finished this season with 15 goals and 10 assists, and freshman Sydney Burke capped her season off with 20 goals and 11 assists. Walters strongly feels ger sophomore Ava Adams should be the player of the year for the season she put up.

"If player of the year is meant to recognize the most impactful, consistent and dominant player, then Ava Adams is the obvious choice."

As a sophomore midfielder at Porter-Gaud, Adams hasn't just contributed to a great team—she has driven one. Leading the defending state champions to a 21-1-1 record and the #1 ranking in Charleston and #1 overall in South Carolina, she has been the engine behind one of the most dominant seasons in the state.

"Her production alone separates her from the field. Adams leads the conference and her team in every major offensive category with 37 goals, 12 assists. But

a goal and two assists.

Goalkeeper **Bea Anderson**, a sophomore, allowed 52 goals but also had 95 saves.

The other captains on the team include seniors **Annie Morrison, Gemma Williams** and **Britton Zolweg**. The remaining senior is **Kylie Wojdyla**.

**Catherine Perkins** is the only other junior on the roster. Sophomores include **Bailey Burke, Evie Cowan, Camila Zuniga, Felice Killian, Bryn Wildstein, Lynden Taylor**.

Rounding out the roster are freshmen **Ella Yaegar, Amelia Lennon** and eighth-grader **Schuyler Malloy**.

The lacrosse team has shown improvement from last season and finished the season with a 5-9 record. Junior **Sally Rowson** led the team with 38 goals and five assists while junior **Kate Murphy** added 38 goals and seven assists. Eighth-grader **Campbell Lennon** scored 15 goals with 6 assists., and junior **Caroline Copenhagen** scored 10 goals

In track and field, top performers include sprinters **Peyton Rivers, Nyra Jenkins** and **Camilla Heyward; Charlie Silliman** in middle distance; **Na'Zyia Jenkins,**

a regular basis. Marchand was recently named the Division I AAAA player of the year for 2026. He is considered an early round draft selection and has signed with Ole Miss. He leads the state with 13 homers and has 25 homers over the last two years.

"All that matters is how we finish as a team and we're all focused on winning," Marchand says  
Junior **Cooper Jones** and senior **Colt Hernandez** are returning arms from last season while junior **Charlie Becker** is a transfer from Oceanside Collegiate where he helped win a state AAA title.

Senior **Finn Pratt** returns as the starter at first base and senior **Connor Dantzler** returns as a starting outfielder and is a key hitter in the lineup. **Brady Dantzler** has moved into the role of catcher and **Ethan Stein** has moved into a full-time starting role at third. Another key returning arm is junior **Dawson Beldner**, who saw key innings during the playoff run last.

The softball team is finished and posted 10-15 record overall. Amber Rouse hit .441 this season. And Sidney

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what truly defines her season is consistency: she scored in 22 of 23 regular season matches.

More importantly, she delivers when it matters most. Against Charleston's top-ranked competition, Adams didn't disappear—she elevated her game: Goal vs. Wando (#1 in Charleston and South Carolina) 3-1 L

Goal vs. James Island (#3 in Charleston) 1-0 W  
Goal vs. West Ashley (#4 in Charleston) 2-0 W  
2 goals vs. Lucy Beckham (#5 in Charleston) 4-0 W  
2 goals vs. Academic Magnet (#8 in Charleston) 2-0 W

The best players separate themselves in the biggest moments, and Adams has done that consistently all season. The most consistent scorer in the area. The most dangerous presence in big games."

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**Elise Simmons** and **Amelia Hamilton** in hurdles; **Madi-son Middleton** in jumps; **Izzy Scolnick** in the jumps and javelin, and **Adyson Middleton** in the discus and javelin.

**JAMES ISLAND**

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Donehue hit .364. Gabby Noonan is at .312. to end the season. The boys tennis team had a good season. Freshman **Mason Fabyanic** occupies the No.1 singles position and senior **Freddy Bruner** plays No. 2 singles. Other singles performers in various seeds include **Owen Tuohy, Reese Dupont, Connor Stratton, Hudson Fabyanic, Dean Harlos** and **Anthony Vance**.

The boys soccer team was 11-7 overall and the girls team finished at 15-5.

Members of the track and field program competed in the AAAA Division I state meet. One of the top performers was Emily Victor with a silver in the shot put and a bronze 1 in the discus. Skylar Singleton was second in the discus.

Jay Morris finished third in the discus and Luke Lasher was fourth in the pole vault.

**LAKE VIEW**  
*Wild Gators*

## Lake View baseball making deep playoff run

**By Billy G. Baker**  
**Publisher**  
**Lake View**—As the *HSSR* was going to press with this issue the **Lake View** baseball team, under the direction of **Will Celmer**, were preparing to host **Hannah-Pamplico** with the winner advancing to play **Latta** for the Class A lower state championship of Class A baseball.

Speaking with Coach Celmer the day before the big game with **Hannah-Pamplico** he sounded tired and wore down from the gut wrenching 6-5 loss to Latta the day before. The game was tied at 5-5 in the fifth inning. **Colten Moody** had reached on an error, and he made it to 2<sup>nd</sup> base on the same error. Freshman catcher **Zaiden Burroughs** gets a single RBI that scores Moody.

Then senior Chase Price doubles and Seth Deese advanced to third. Deese then scores to tie the game on a ground-out RBI by **Liam Newell**.

Latta then scores one run in the bottom of the sixth to win the game 6-5. Coach Celmer was still feeling the effects of that close loss to an arch-rival 24 hours later. He repeated a couple times to this writer, "Whoever wins between Lake View and **Hannah-Pamplico** has to go to Latta and beat them twice."

Well, the good news is that Lake View has gone to Latta and beat them twice late in the playoffs to advance to the Class A State finals. Perhaps it can happen again.

Senior Lake View shortstop Bryce King was recently selected as the Class A baseball Player of the Year by the South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association. "Bryce is very deserving of this honor," said Coach Celmer. "He is very focused on being a team player."

King is currently batting .508 with 22 RBI's including 11 doubles, a home run, and 9 stolen bases. He is also a key pitcher for Lake View. He is currently 3-2 with 78 strikeouts in 51 innings of mound duty with stellar 0.96 ERA. He has been in the program for five years now.

Bryce King is getting recruiting interest from **Coker** and **USC Salk** at this time.

Senior center fielder **Landon King** was recently named to the Coaches all-state Class A team. He is batting .465 with 22 RBI's with 13 stolen bases. "Landon has a strong arm and he covers a lot of ground of center field," said Coach Celmer. "He does a great job and works hard."

Senior Chase Price is a strong pitcher for Lake View. "Sometimes I get a feeling that Chase is not as appreciated as he should be for his hard work and dedication to the program," said Coach Celmer. "He gives us everything he has."

To date, Price has worked 45.2 innings on the mound with 61 strike-outs. He is 3-1 with an ERA of 2.76.

**Liam Newell** is a junior designated hitter batting .349 with 22 RBI's. "Liam is a workaholic who can play multiple positions for us," said Coach Celmer.

**Thad Lovette** is currently hitting .298. "Thad



The Wild Gators have a meeting on the mound

has been in-and-out of the lien=up for us this season and he is used mainly as a designated hitter," said Coach Celmer.

A player of the future, and of the moment, is 8<sup>th</sup> grader Colton Moody who plays third base. He is currently batting 250 with 10 RBI's Coach Celmer says Moody has a good arm on the mound. "Colton throws 74 to 76, but he has movement and he locates his pitches well," said Coach Celmer. "He is still young but working hard and getting better on the time."

On the mound, Moody is 4-0 with 19 strikeouts in 23 innings of work with an impressive 0.91 ERA.

"**Chase Campbell** is a four-year varsity senior who plays well at first base," said Coach Celmer. Campbell is currently hitting .333 with five RBI's.

Senior **Ian Capps** is batting .317 with 24 RBI's including 9 doubles and four triples. "Ian is a good vocal leader for us," said Coach Celmer.

Senior **Holden Lee** has developed into a solid first baseman this season. He is currently batting .400 "Holden is having a quality season," said Coach Celmer.

Freshman catcher **Zaiden Burroughs** has a bright future in the Wild Gator program. "He stepped up in the Latta game and had two big hits," said Coach Celmer.

Hayden Smith is a shortstop/infielder for Lake View and also plays left field. "He is a very good defensive player," said Coach Celmer.

**Seth Deese** is hitting .357 and he is mainly a pinch runner. **Balin Rice** is a reserve junior outfielder. **Christopher Rice** is a reserve junior outfielder. **Cooper Jackson** is a junior first baseman.

**Peyton Ford** is a reserve player for Lake View. TYTY Bethea is a reserve catcher. **Peyton Hillburn** and **Fin Miller** are key reserves for Lake View also.

Lake View is 21-6 and they won their district earlier. The focus now is to beat H-P and find a way to win twice against Latta.

From the Principal, Faculty, Staff and Students  
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# ORANGEBURG PREP INDIANS

## Orangeburg Prep girls win sixth straight track title

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

Orangeburg – The Orangeburg Preparatory School girls track and field program has now started putting state championship rings on the other hand.

The Indians won their sixth consecutive state championship on May 1, winning the SCISA Division II crown at the Orangeburg Prep Athletic Complex.

Orangeburg Prep head coach Brooks Smith said bringing home state title trophies never gets old.

“It’s always nice to win,” Smith said. “This one was a little tougher for us as coaches because we knew we had a strong team. It was hard for us to lose on paper, so that made it more stressful for us as coaches whereas we were able to use the underdog role the last couple of years.”

The Indians won with 130 points with First Presbyterian of Shannon Forest finishing second with 112. Spartanburg Day School was third with 91 while Thomas Sumter Academy finished fourth with 40 and Greenwood Christian School fifth with 28.

Orangeburg Prep used its depth to pick up the victory as 13 athletes scored points. The Indians were led by junior Mary Legare Delaney, who was the high point scorer in the state meet for the second consecutive year.

Delaney won two events and finished second in two others to score 36 points. She won the 400-meter dash in a time of 1 minute, 00.48 seconds and won the long jump with a distance of 17 feet, 1 inch. She finished second in the 200 in 26.61 seconds and second in the triple jump in 33-05.

“Mary Legare brings a lot of points to the table,” Smith said with a laugh. “She’s just such a competitor. She trains hard and expects to go out and win.”

Smith said Delaney’s victory in the 400 along with sophomore Naomi McCutchen’s fifth-place finish were pivotal in Orangeburg Prep coming away with a comfortable victory.

“When we were trying to figure out who to put where, we the 400 is where we decided she needed to be,” Smith said of Delaney, who owns the school record in the 400 but didn’t run it as much this year as in years past. “The coaches said, ‘We need you there.’ We have a vigorous 400-meter program that we do.

“Picking up 12 points (10 for Delaney and 2 for McCutchen who also had a fifth-place finish in the javelin at 88-09)) in that event was huge. It took the pressure off of when it came to the final even of the 4x4(00-meter) relay.”

Freshman Blakely Garrick had the Indians’ other first-place finish. She won the 400 hurdles in 1:09.80. She finished second in the 100 hurdles in 17.88 and fifth in the triple jump at 29.05 1/4 to finish with 20 points.

Sophomore Gee Gee Riley finished second in points with 22. She finished second in the 400 hurdles (1:10.31) and third in both the long jump (16-02 7/8) and the triple jump (31-08). She also



OP Softball Seniors Prestan Schurknight and Hannah Lambrecht with Coach Jan Stoudenmire

ran a leg on the second-place 4x100-meter relay team (52.53) along with seventh-grader Carson Cue, McCutchen and junior Emmaline Dangerfield.

“Gee Gee is like our Swiss Amry knife,” Smith said. “We’ll try her at one event this week and have her in our back pocket when we might need her for something else.”

Morgan Newsome was the lone senior to score points. She finished second in the pole vault with a height of 08-06. Eighth-grader Jordyn Baldwin was fourth at 06-11 7/8 and freshman Ella Sarvis was fifth (06-11 7/8).

Eighth-grader Kennedy Lawtson finished third in both the 100 hurdles (18.15) and the 400 hurdles (1:14.19). Cue finished fifth in the 800 run (237.22).

The 4x400 relay team of McCutchen, eighth-grader Erika Martin, Lawton and Cue finished second (4:26.16) and the 4x800 team of Cue, Laston, eighth-grader Delilah Howe and eighth-grader Hannah Bair finished third (11L01.56).

Smith said the secret to Orangeburg Prep’s success is how it works together as a unit.

“There is no doubt that this is a team that works together,” he said. “These girls all pulled for each other, believed in each other and helped each other out.” JUNI

### LIVINGSTON, WILLIAMS, JUDY BAS-DEBALL ALL-REGION

Junior Marshall Livingston, junior Maxx Judy and sophomore Cholly Williams were selected to the All-Region 1-AAA baseball team.

Livingston led the Indians in hitting with a .360 batting average. Judy finished with a .325 average and Williams finished at .320.

After losing its entire starting lineup from last year’s AAA state runner-up team, Orangeburg Prep finished the year with a 13-13 record.

The Indians went 1-2 in the state tournament. They lost to Hilton Head Prep, the team they lost to in the championship series, 5-0 in their first game. Orangeburg Prep rebounded to beat Patrick Henry Academy 5-4 in an elimination

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game. Freshman Cam Jolley hit the first pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning for a game-winning home run.

The Indians were eliminated with a 4-3 loss to Spartanburg Christian Academy.

### SCHURLKNIGHT, LAMBRECHT, HARTZOG SOFTBALL ALL-REGION PICKS

Senior shortstop Prestan Schurknight, senior catcher Hannah Lambrecht, junior second baseman Calee Hartzog and sophomore pitcher Natalie Hall were named to the All-Region softball team.

Schurknight, who will be playing collegiately at Lander, was chosen as the Co-Region Player of the Year. She finished with a .521 batting average.

Lambrecht batted .491, Hartzog hit .449 and Hall batted .421.

Orangeburg Prep finished the season with an 11-14 record. The Indians went 1-2 in the state tournament. They beat Spartanburg Christian 10-6 in the opener before falling to now 5-time state champion Pee Dee Academy 12-2 in five innings and fell to Williamsburg Academy 8-7.

## Dillon Christian softball has rough go in tourney

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

Dillon – It was a tough way to end the season for the Dillon Christian School softball team.

The Warriors went 0-2 in the SCISA AAA state tournament played at Patriot Park SportPlex in Sumter on May 8-9. They lost the two games by a combined three runs.

DCS fell to Calhoun Academy 3-2 in its opener. Its second game was at the other end of the spectrum as Williamsburg Academy came away with a 14-12 win.

Coming down the homestretch of the season, Dillon Christian was being led offensively by eighth-grader Katelyn Owens and junior Braylin Carter. Owen was batting .452 with one double, four triples, two home runs, 15 runs and 11 runs batted in. Carter was hitting .417 with three doubles, two triples, 10 RBI and 10 runs.

Senior pitcher Lilli Shooter had worked 68 2/3 innings and had a 2.96 earned run average to go with 89 strikeouts. At the plate, Shooter was batting .311 with a team high 18 runs.

DCS BASEBALL FINISHES 2-12

The Dillon Christian baseball team had its struggles, finishing the year with a 2-12 overall record and a 0-6 mark in the difficult Region 3-AAA.

Two Warriors, Jordan Blackmon and Gray Easterling, were selected to the All-Region team. Blackmon, who was also selected to play in the SCISA North-South All-Star Game, was batting over .500 late in the season.

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## Lee Academy softball comes up just short in '26

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

Bishopville — The Lee Academy baseball team had another outstanding season, but it just didn’t end in the way for which the Cavaliers and their fans hoped.,

LA finished the season with an 18-6 record but came up a game short of defending its SCISA AA state championship. Lee lost to Dorchester Academy 9-5 in the third and deciding game of the title series on May 14 at Laurence Manning Academy’s Tucker Belangia Diamond.

“We had a great season,” said Cavaliers’ second-year head coach Danny Price. “We hit and pitched well most of the season, but we just didn’t seem to play our best in this series. You have to tip your cap to them (Dorchester). They played well.”

LA, which swept Beaufort Academy and The King’s Academy in its first two series, dropped the first game of the title series on the road by a 6-2 count. It rallied at home though for a 5-3 victory to force the if game.

The final score isn’t a true indication of the closeness of the game. Lee trailed just 5-4 going into the sixth inning. The Raiders got a 2-out, 3-run home run from Wyatt Byrd to make the deficit too large with too little time to make it up.

Landon Olson had two of Lee’s seven hits to go with a run scored and a run batted in. Chance Entzminger had a hit, two runs and an RBI, Andrew Bowers had a hit and an RBI, and Cash Holloway had a hit and a run. Tucker Rogers and Aiden Fitzgerald each had a hit, while Myles Frye scored a run and picked up an RBI.

Lee got out to a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first when Entzminger reached on a 1-out error, stole second and scored on an Olson single.

After Dorchester scored four times in the third, LA cut the lead to 4-2 in the fourth. Olson singled with one out, reached third on a Fitzgerald single and scored on a sacrifice fly by Frye.

Dorchester made it 5-2 to start the fifth. However, Lee pulled within a run in the bottom of the inning.

Holloway led off with a single and was sacrificed to second by Cary Privette. Entzminger delivered Holloway with a 2-out single, and Bowers followed with an RBI single to cut the deficit to 5-4.

Tyler Gilbert, Olson, Fitzgerald, Bowers and Frye were all named to the All-Region 2-AA team.

Other members of the Cavalier roster are Luke Richardson and Zach Blackwell.

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## Camden baseball finishes season in playoffs again

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Camden – At face value, the fact that the Camden High School baseball reached the upper state finals of the AAAA state playoffs isn't that surprising. After all, it was the third straight year the Bulldogs won their district tournament to be one of the final eight teams playing in their classification.

This season, however, was just a little different than the two previous ones. Camden finished fourth in Region 3 this season and was 10-15 at the end of the regular season.

"Making it to the quarterfinals this year is very, very special," said veteran Bulldogs head coach **Denny Beckley**. "It is the third year in a row for our program to win a district and make it to the final eight (along with the four teams in the lower state finals). This year's team has persevered through a very stressful season. Our record is not very impressive at 13-15, but we are playing our best at the right time."

Beckley made that statement prior to Camden facing region foe **A.C. Flora** in a best-of-3 series to determine who played for the upper state title. The Falcons swept the series, winning 6-0 and 10-2, to win all four meetings with the Bulldogs and end their season.

Along with losing several key players to graduation from last year's team that finished second in the

region, Camden had to deal with a tragic loss just prior to the start of the 2025-26 school year. "We have dedicated this season to **Caiden McGuff**, who passed away in a car accident on July 29," Beckley said. "Our players never wavered in their effort or belief that they could turn the season around and it has been an absolute honor to be associated with such a great group of players and coaches."

Camden was the No. 11 seed in the upper state and opened the District B tournament on the road against No. 6 York. The Bulldogs rolled to a 14-2 victory to advance to another road game, this one against No. 3 seed **Seneca**. Camden picked up a double-digit win in this one as well, winning 12-2.

The Bulldogs moved into the championship round of the district and they got to play at home this time against York. Camden came away with a 7-4 triumph to move along.

There is no doubt who was leading the way for Camden in the district tournament.

"**Thomas Bishop** has been unbelievable to for us," Beckley said.

In the three district games, Bishop, a senior, was 7-for-9 with three home runs, one triple, one double, 11 runs batted in and nine runs scored. He also stole four bases, drew two walks and was hit by a pitch.

Ini the opening game against York, Bishop was 2-for-2 with a homer, four runs, two RBI, one walk,

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one HBP and two stolen bases.

Against Seneca, all Bishop did was hit two homers – one a grand slam, the other a 3-run shot – for seven RBI. He was 2-for-4, scored three times and also had a steal.

In the rematch against York, Bishop was 3-for-3 with a double, a triple, two runs, two RBI a walk and a stolen base.

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led the way in terms of hits, going 3-for-4 with one run batted in.

**Landon Holly** was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI, while **Warren Judy** was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run. **Austin Varn** had a hit, two runs and an RBI. **Carter Beeks** had a hit and two runs, and **Reed Almers** had a hit, a run and an RBI.

Judy pitched a complete game to get the win, using 90 pitches. He allowed seven hits, but didn't walk a batter while striking out four.

Other members of the Dorchester starting lineup are **John Quattlebaum** and **Bryce Marchant**. The rest of the roster is made up of **Will Quattlebaum**, **Ryan Gaillyard**, **Lane Gruber**, **Graham Varnadoe**, **Carter Proctor** and **Joe Carn**.

# Bamberg County Feature Page



Bamberg-Ehrhardt girls track

## Red Raiders have good showing at state meet

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** – After a solid showing at the class A lower state meet the Bamberg-Ehrhardt boy's track and field team headed to the state meet with

"I expected my boy's to lock in and run and throw their best today. There is some great competition out here today so it is going take their best," said head coach **Travis Wilson**.

Junior high jumper **Aaron Taylor** was the top finisher for the boy's team as he won the silver medal with a new personal best of 1.95 meter. He did battle with Hardeeville Jr-Sr high's **Daniel Briscoe**, who won the event on his final attempt at 2 meters.

Senior **Chris Washington** placed fourth in the 200 meters to put points on the board for the Red Raiders. He also scored in the long jump with a leap of 6.08 meters.

Also scoring points were sophomore **Nihavean Smoaks** and junior **Brian McMillian**. Smoaks finished sixth in the 400 meters and McMillian was sixth in the Javelin. McMillian is the reigning HSSR Class A offensive player of the year and should be on a short list for Mr. Football next season. He is the top offensive threat returning in the state.

## Hampton excited for direction of D-0 track program

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** – The Denmark-Olar Vikings track and field teams did not take a lot of athletes to the class A state meet but that still did not curb the excitement head coach **Lora Hampton** for the athletes that did qualify for the meet.

"I'm very excited for the girls and the guys that made it this far this year. We have some girls that was their first time coming out to run and to get this far is amazing. One of the highlights today will be at the high jump where we have **Sharay Housey** and **Joy Johnson**," said coach Hampton.

Coach is also excited about the direction her program is headed for both boys and girls teams. "We have about 60 kids between the two teams with some very young athletes who are just going to improve and if we can keep this group together we can take more to lower state and state which will give us the chance to bring home a championship."

Housey and Johnson both scored points in the high jump for the Vikings with Housey placing fifth and Johnson placing eighth. They also each competed in a relay with Housey running the final leg of the 4x400 and Johnson running the third leg of the 4x100.

Joining Housey on the 4x400 team were **Ad-dyson Hudson**, **Quinasia Wroten**, and **Shamyia**

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Joshua Tackett

**Washington** and running with Johnson on the 4x100 were **Kimorah Hammond**, **Zariyah McMillian**, and **Wroten**.

Sophomore **Harmony Carter** placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 400 meters.

Seniors **Joshua Tackett** and **William Ross** both scored in their events. Tackett won his heat in the

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110 meter hurdles. He posted a new personal best of 15.92.

Ross was seventh in the triple jump with a hop, skip and jump of 12.7 meters.

"I feel like our program is headed in the right direction. We want to compete for region championships, lower state, and state championships. We have newcomers that are still learning what we expect from them and we have leaders that understand what it takes to get here and what it takes to excel at a high level," said coach Hampton



Dorchester Academy baseball - SCISA AA champions!

## Raiders make improbable run to AA baseball title

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**St. George** – Seeing that none of the other schools in SCISA Region 2-AA fielded baseball teams, the one that did – Dorchester Academy – played the overwhelming majority of its regular-season schedule against AAA schools.

That didn't necessarily bode well for the Raiders. They finished the regular season with a 7-13 record. "We competed, but we should have been better," said DA head coach **Brent Jackson**.

Better came in the AA state playoffs, as in a second state championship in three seasons.

Dorchester went 6-2 in the playoffs, beating defending state champion Lee Academy 9-5 in the third and deciding game of the state championship series on May 14 at **Laurence Manning Academy's Tucker Belangia Diamond**.

"These guys here we struggled all season long, but we never lost our composure," said Jackson, whose team finished with a 13-15 overall record. "We just came out here in the playoffs and started playing baseball like we should have."

Dorchester swept its first-round series against **Carolina Academy**, winning by the scores of 7-3 and 5-4. It beat **Laurens Academy** 2-1 in the semi-

final series. The Raiders won the opener 7-1 and lost the second game 11-9 before winning the if game 6-4.

Against Lee, DA won the opener 6-2 before losing the second game 5-3.

Jackson felt playing the difficult regular-season schedule paid major dividends in the postseason. "It definitely helped with our pitching," Jackson said.

In the deciding game against the Cavaliers, Dorchester was clinging to a 5-4 lead entering the sixth inning. That set the stage for heroics by senior third baseman **Wyatt Byrd**.

The right-handed swinging Byrd, the No. 5 hitter, came to the plate with two outs and runners on first and second. He lofted a fly ball right down the right field line where it is just 295 feet. Byrd's poke ended up clearing the fence for a 3-run home run that made it 8-4.

"When I hit it I thought I had a double," said Byrd, who not only hit his first homer of the season but also hit a homer in his final high school at-bat. "I just got very excited when I saw it was a homer."

Byrd was 2-for-4 with four runs batted in and a run scored. The Raiders finished with 12 hits, all of them coming over the last five innings. Abe Shuler

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## Manning 4x100 team wins state championship

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Manning – The Manning High School boys track and field team finished fifth in the AA state meet on May 15 at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia**. And it was the Monarchs' speed that had a lot to do with their success.

Manning finished with 42.5 points and 37 of them came because they had a group of athletes who can run really fast. The other points came because there was someone who could soar through the air with great ease.

The Monarchs' 4x100-meter relay team won the state title, while the 4x400 team finished second. Junior **CJ Robinson** finished third in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes and senior **Dontavious Canty** was third in the 400 dash.

The jumper in the bunch was junior **Jordyn Thompson**, who finished third in the high jump.

The 4x100 team won in a time of 42 seconds flat. Combining to make up that team are sophomore **Amajai Dow**, twin senior brothers **Jontavious Canty** and **Dontavious Canty** and **Robinson**.

"I just want to say hats off to these young men," Manning head coach **Dontavis Miller** said. "I appreciate the hard work and dedication these young men have put into the program and just trusting the process. It was well deserved."

The 4x400 team took second in a time of 3 minutes, 21.21 seconds. **Robinson**, the **Canty** brothers and junior **Malachi Rankins** made up this relay team.

**Robinson** won both the 100 and 200 in the lower state meet. However, he finished behind two upper state runners in the 100 while two runners from lower state foe and eventual state champion **Philip Simmons** bested him in the 200. **Robinson** ran the 100 in 10.98 and the 200 in 21.92.

"What makes CJ Robinson so good is his mindset and his will to be never be intimidated by another athlete or program," said Miller. "What is scary is that he still hasn't reached his full potential."

**Robinson** accounted for 16.5 of the Monarchs' points. **Dontavious Canty** finished third in the 400 in a time of 49.81. Brother **Jontavious** picked up a point with an eighth-place finish in the 200 (22.50) and just missed another point with a ninth-place finish in the 100.

**Thompson** finished tied for third in the high jump at a height of 6 feet, 2 inches with **Omonte Taylor** of **Philip Simmons**.

While **Philip Simmons** won the meet handily with 107.5 points, the next five teams were within 6.5 points of each other. **Fairfield Central** was second with 48 points followed by **Mid-Carolina** with 46, **Timberland** with 45, **Manning** with 42.5 and **Hampton County** with 41.5.

Others who qualified for state by placing in the top eight in the lower state meet were the 4x800 relay team of sophomore **Jaden Woods**, junior **Jacobe Henry**, eighth-grader **Jayden Footman** and junior **Jorden Hilton-Kelly** (13<sup>th</sup>), **Rankins** in the 110-meter hurdles (10<sup>th</sup>), senior **Jordan Heyward** in the long jump (15<sup>th</sup>), senior **Demir Blackwell** in the triple jump (10<sup>th</sup>) and junior **Isaiah Hamilton** in the discus (11<sup>th</sup>).

Eighth-grader **Jordyn Griffin** was the lone girl from Manning to compete in the meet. She finished

14<sup>th</sup> in the 200.

In the lower state meet held at **Woodland High** on May 9, **Thompson** was the only other Monarch to win an event besides **Robinson**. The 4x100 team actually finished second.

Manning had a large contingent of male athletes who qualified based off of their performances in the Region 7



**The Monarchs 4x100 team captured the state championship this past Saturday**

meet.

The Monarchs filled 24 slots in the lower state meet. Other Manning female athletes who competed in lower state besides **Griffin** were eighth-grader **Patience Bennett** in the 100, freshman **Sha'nyiah Burgess** in the 1,600-meter run, freshman **Shamiyah Conyers** and junior **Ni'lah Brown** in both the high jump and the long jump, sophomore **Jayanna Henry** in the triple jump, and senior **Yauvani Epps** in both the discus and the shot put.

The region meet was held on May 1 at **Marion High** and the Monarch boys dominated, scoring 226 points. **Marion** finished second with 135.

**Miller** said he couldn't remember the last time the Monarchs had won a region track title. "But I can tell you it has been over a decade," he said.

**Miller** said the success doesn't come as a surprise to him though. "I wasn't surprised at all," he said. "These guys are a very talented bunch and they are dedicated to dominating at everything they do. Also, the addition of Coach **Kevin Miller** to the program was a big win for us. They also train very hard in the weight room under the guidance of Coach **Greg King**.

"We as a coaching staff just talked about changing the mindset of these young athletes and just attacking the day and making sure we aren't making the same mistakes as we did the day before. So I can honestly say it was not a surprise."

**Robinson**, **Jontavious Canty** and **Dow** finished 1-2-3 in both the 100 and 200 dashes. **Robinson** won the events in 11.09 and 22.12, respectively.

**Dontavious Canty** won the 400 in 51.86 while **Rankins** had a seventh-place finish. **Hilton-Kelly** won the 3,200-meter run in a time of 12:22.59 while finishing second in the 1,600.

**Woods** won the high jump at 6-0.75 while **Thompson** finished third. **Heyward** won the triple jump at 42-09.25 while **Blackwell**, freshman **Destin Thames** and junior **Marquarius Santiago** finished third, fifth and sixth, respectively, to qualify for lower state.

The 4x100 team won in 43.30 while the 4x400 team won in 3:35.70.

**Henry** and **Woods** finished third and fourth in both the 800 and the 1,600, while **Footman** was fifth in the 1,600. **Rankins** was second in the 110 hurdles, while senior **Keinde Woods** was fourth in both hurdle events.

**Jontavious Canty**, **Blackwell** and **Heyward** were second, fourth and fifth in the long jump, and **Hamilton** was second in both the discus and the shotput. Sophomore

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**Erion Tindal** was fifth in the discus and senior **Meltwan Smith** was seventh in the shot put.

**Conyers** was the only Manning girl to win in the region meet. She claimed the long jump at 15-09.37. She finished third in the high jump.

## Wilson Hall softball finishes with 21-7 record

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Sumter – The Wilson Hall softball team came up short of reaching the SCISA AAAA state championship series, which is a goal for everyone at the start of the season.

Only two can get there though, so while not fun to come up short, it is bearable. However, the way things went down for the Barons this season didn't help at all.

Wilson Hall just needed one victory on Day 2 of the state tournament at **Patriot Park SportPlex** in **Sumter** to punch its ticket to the title series. Instead, the Barons lost to archrival **Laurence Manning Academy** twice by the scores of 12-0 and 6-4. **LMA** advanced to the best-of-3 series instead and swept **Pinewood Prep** to win a third straight championship.

In retrospect though, Barons head coach **Teresa Alexander** finds it hard not to be proud of the season her team had.

"The season's ending didn't turn out how we had hoped, but I'm really proud of the tough schedule we played and the success we had all year," said **Alexander**, who guided Wilson Hall to a 21-7 record. "I'm excited to see this young bunch return with the experience they now have under their belts. But we will truly miss our seniors, **Addie Griffin** and **Marymae Lampron**."

The Barons had four players selected to the All-Region 3-AAAA team in **Griffin**, freshman pitcher **Marsha Kate Skey**, sophomore shortstop **Mary Paisley Geddings** and junior catcher **Caroline Moorman**.

**Griffin**, who played left field, had a .279 batting average to go with an on-base percentage of .423. She had one double, one triple, one home run, 13 runs batted in and 18 runs scored.

**Skey** was a standout in the circle as Wilson Hall's primary pitcher. **Skey** had a 1.69 earned run average to go with 115 strikeouts. At the plate, **Skey** batted .400 with an OBP of .489. She had three doubles, two triples, 17 RBI and 33 runs.

**Geddings** batted .317 with a .406 OBP to go with seven doubles, one triple, four homers, 26 RBI and 28 runs. **Moorman** had 14 RBI, 17 runs and four doubles to go with a .354 batting average and an OBP of .429.

Other returning starters are freshman second baseman **Tatiana Erichsen**, freshman outfielder **Anna Meldrim**, sophomore third baseman **Lilly Grace Przybyla**, freshman outfielder **Emmie Williamson** and eighth-grade centerfielder **Caroline Andrews**.

**Meldrim** hit .412 with three homers, 31 RBI and 24 runs. **Przybyla** hit .373 with 21 runs and 15 RBI. **Williamson** batted .263 with an OBP of .500, and **Erichsen** batted .324 with 19 RBI and 23 runs.

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Good luck to the Wilson Hall Barons

## Heathwood Hall softball closes out good year

**By WORTHY EVANS**  
Special to the HSSR  
Columbia - The Heathwood Hall softball team finished the season with a 6-1 loss Saturday to eventual state champion **Laurence Manning Academy** in the SCISA 4A playoffs, but head coach **Perri Peraza** said the Highlanders (12-5) made big strides, including going undefeated in SCISA Region 3-4A.

"Undefeated in our region which is a great accomplishment," **Peraza** said. "That was something the girls really strived for, to be region champions, and not only were we region champions, we were also undefeated, which was a really great accomplishment for our program."

Heathwood Hall closed the regular season with a 9-2 win over **Robert E. Lee Academy**, then opened the SCISA 4A state tournament with a 3-1 loss to **John Paul II**. The Highlanders stayed alive in the losers bracket with a 13-1 win over **Northwood Academy** but ended the season with a 6-1 loss to 3-time state champion **Laurence Manning Academy**.

Senior shortstop **Frances Laughlin**, a **Wofford** signee, led the team in hitting with a .638 batting average, six doubles and eight stolen bases. Catcher and sophomore **Mamie Biel** batted .526 with all five of the Highlanders' home runs, and 10 stolen bases.

**McLaughlin**, along with fellow seniors **Abby Lewis** and **Vivian Cooper** made great contributions to the team and put the Highlanders on a strong track for the future, **Peraza** said.

"Those three were instrumental in our success this season and we have some big shoes to fill once they leave," **Peraza** said.

She pivoted toward the up-and-coming play-

ers, including **Biel**, as keys to following up on this year's success.

Sophomores **Salley Humphries** and **Finley Buscher** were the top pitchers. **Humphries** posted an 8-1 record on top of a 2.24 earned-run average and 64 strikeouts over 68 2/3 innings pitched. **Buscher** was 3-1 with a 4.02 ERA with 12 strikeouts in 15/2/3 innings.

"Even though we always talk about our upper classmen, **Salley** and **Mamie** both are going to be leaders," **Peraza** said. "**Salley** is a force to be reckoned with in the circle and **Mamie** is her main catcher behind the plate. **Finley Buscher** is another sophomore who was instrumental not only at third base but also at the plate. She always gets the ball moving, and that's great as well."

The Highlanders success was due to a combination of experience and young talent, as well as a team-wide desire to play hard and smart.

"We competed hard and ended up being able to compete with those other teams in addition to the region games," **Peraza** said. "I'm really proud of these girls. They stepped up this season and competed no matter what level of softball team they played against."

The Highlanders baseball team (9-8) did not reach the postseason but did close the season April 23 with a 5-4 regular-season victory over **Cardinal Newman**, which went on to play **Hilton Head Christian** for the SCISA 4A state championship.

**Christian Nelson** went 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI and **Christian Hitchcock** went 2-for-3. **Jay Nelson** pitched 6 1/3 innings, giving up four runs—two earned—on seven hits. He struck out eight and walked two.

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Coach Michael Beasley (center) celebrates a win with his softball team

## Barnwell wins region in softball, Beasley selected for induction to Coaches Hall of Fame

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Barnwell**—The 2026 softball season has been an exciting time for Barnwell head softball coach **Michael Beasley**, with the coaching veteran recently being selected for induction into the South Carolina Coaches Hall of Fame this summer while also getting his 300<sup>th</sup> career win in the sport of softball.

“I am very humbled to have been selected for the Coaches Hall of Fame,” said Coach Beasley. “I was able to have success because we have had hard-working players who love the game of softball as much I do.”

Barnwell finished the season 23-5 over-all and 10-0 in the region. They have not lost a region game in three years.

Once in the playoffs they lost twice to **Chesterfield** (9-1 and 6-2) and they had a win over **Timberland** 10-0.

“We are going to have a strong program for the next four or five years with this young team,” said Coach Beasley. “We will keep working hard and next year we are hoping to advance deeper in the playoffs.”

Junior pitcher/utility **Laney Grubbs** made the

Coaches all-state team after the season. She hit .372 with 34 RBI’s. In the circle she was 13-4 with 126 strikeouts in 86 innings of work. She has a 1.55 ERA.

They can’t be many more 8<sup>th</sup> graders in South Carolina better than pitcher/shortstop **Shalayah Badger**. Badger hit .600 with 14 TBI’s including 32 stolen bases.

**Kensley Terrapin** is solid 9<sup>th</sup> grade prospect who plays shortstop. She batted .402 with 28 RBI’s. In the circle she was 9-1 with 73 strikeouts in 63 innings of work.

Junior center fielder **Kendall O’Berry** hit .433 with 34 RBI’s while scoring 41 runs. First baseman catcher **Genesis Walker** batted .481 with 27 RBI’s. Junior first baseman **Molly Wilson** batted .442 with 13 EBI’s.

Outfielder **Emily Vancore** hit .357 and **Brinkley Taylor** natted .288 with 13 RBI’s.

Senior **Brianna Croft** will represent Barnwell in the North South game after batting .304 with 16 RBI’s. Shortstop **Braelyn Chavis** hit .313 with 13 RBI’s.

Barnwell returns the team pretty much intact next season. It is just a matter of time before they compete for a Class AA softball title.

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### Tennis, continued from pg. 49

again to retain 4A title

A.C. Flora may have lost six seniors from last year’s state championship win, but that didn’t deter the Falcons from returning to the state final—or losing any game, for that matter.

The Falcons breezed past **Bishop England** 6-0 to repeat as 4A state champions and continued their 49-match winning streak that dates from May 1, 2024. The boys joined the A.C. Flora girls, who won their second state championship last fall, at the top of the 4A heap.

“You never discount BE or any of the schools on the coast,” said Falcons head coach **Amy Martin**, who has led the boys to five state championships and the girls team to two state titles. “Going into this state finals undefeated was a huge mark, an exclamation point to close it out with one more win. Did I expect a 6-0 sweep, no. Will I take it, absolutely.”

Three of A.C. Flora’s five wins in singles went down as shutouts. **Silas Cecchini** defeated **Dante Nava** 6-2, 7-6 at No. 1, **Jude Smyth** defeated **Roland Wier** 6-3, 6-4 at No.2, **Vijay Sinha** defeated **Ben Burnette** 6-0, 6-0 at No.3, **Will Hewitt** defeated **Ryland Shaw** 6-0, 6-0 at No.4, and **Will Bryan** defeated **Kieran Sharpe** 6-0, 6-0.

In No.2 doubles, **Sam McCormick** and **Reid Denmark** defeated **Declan Finley** and **Andrew Hamilton** 6-1, 6-1.

The path to victory for the Falcons may have seemed like a breeze Saturday, but Martin credited a challenging season that tempered her team and kept them fighting. A.C. Flora opened with the FTA Boys High School Tennis Tournament in Florence and beat 5A Division 2 champion Myrtle Beach and 2025 5A Division 2 runner-up Riverside, among others.

“When we finished up in Florence, we played really tough matches there,” Martin said. “Then in mid March

we went to the upstate and played three more really tough matches (at Riverside, **Daniel**, and **T.L. Hanna**). I think something clicked that Sunday after that weekend that they just needed to keep it going.”

Bishop England reached the 4A state final for the second straight year, the second time the boys made a final since 2019.

“We had a very good season, we have a lot to be proud of,” Bishops head coach **Kristin Arnold** said. “The boys worked hard, we had a good schedule, good matches, we won the first serve tournament this summer and beat Wando who is playing in the state championship over there. We have a lot to be great to thankful for.”

“We knew we had a couple of juniors that we knew would step up and be senior leaders,” Martin said. “We were able to get an eighth grader (Cecchini) to step in our no.1 position, which is always a tough spot as you saw today. Tennis is such a lonely sport and when you make it a team sport like we have in high school tennis, it’s so much more fun. They’re still smiling.”

The bonus of the boys and girls completing a 4A tennis sweep is not lost among Martin or the Falcon players. “That’s super sweet,” Martin said. “The girls were supporting the boys here, and with the boys supporting the girls back in November, that speaks volumes for our tennis program that we are out there for each other.”

**AAA**  
**Oceanside beats Clinton 6-0 to repeat as 3A champion**

In a rematch from last year’s 4A state final, the result was the same. Oceanside Collegiate defeated **Clinton** 6-0 to claim its sixth straight state championship.

“Six in a row for boys, It’s unbelievable,” head coach **Shawn Harris** said. “These boys train year-round like

other teams do. It’s a sport that is year-round, and they love doing high school tennis for matches, for camaraderie, and to win a state championship. It’s all due to them. We’re just trying to guide them the best we can.”

Senior No.1 player **Luke Skillman** beat **Matthew King** 6-1, No.2 senior **Jackson Nichols** beat **Edwin Orr** 6-2, 6-1, sophomore No.3 **Ollie Pfarr** defeated **Jacob Kings** 6-4, 6-2, junior No.4 **Carter Heath** defeated **Jake Meyerholtz** 6-0, 6-0, and junior No.5 **Huck Reynolds** defeated **Cooper Stinson** 6-0, 6-0. The No.2 doubles team of senior **Will Britton** and junior **Derek Olsen** defeated **Ethan Wargo** and **Malakye Brewer** 6-0, 6-0.

Oceanside loses three seniors in Skillman, Nichols, and Britton after this year, but Harris said he has a deep group of younger players who will compete for the top spots in the runup to next season.

“They’re good boys. The young ones will have to step up next year and we’ll see what we’ve got,” Harris said. “A lot of these kids play in tournaments year-round and the structure of the charter school does help, they have time for their sport and the education is great there of course, just like every other school.”

Clinton head coach **Clovis Simmons** said, as she did last year, that her 2A-class team did an amazing job of competing among 3A competition.

“We were soaking it up. We loved it,” Simmons said. “It was good competition and the boys played with a lot of heart and never gave up. That’s all you can ask. We lose three seniors, one two and three (King, Orr, and Kings) and we have a lot of shoes to fill. But that’s sports, it goes in cycles.”

## East Clarendon softball, baseball reach playoffs

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Turbeville** – The East Clarendon High School softball and baseball teams both advanced to the lower state tournament in their respective AA state playoffs, but neither was in an enviable position.

The defending AA softball state champion Wolverines lost its opening game in the lower state tournament to **Chesterfield** 5-4 on May 15. That left the Wolverines traveling to **Kershaw** to face **Andrew Jackson** on May 18. They would then have to win another elimination game against either **Chesterfield** or **Andrews** to advance to the tournament’s championship round.

The softball team went undefeated in its district tournament. It beat **Central** 12-5 in the opener before beating **Woodland** 11-5 and 11-1 to advance.

“We’re pleased with how we played in the district round,” said East Clarendon softball head coach **Jason Newsome**. “Several players stepped up and played well. We lost to **Chesterfield** in the first round of lower state on Friday. They just played better than us.

“We’ll just take one day at a time. Work hard and try to continue to extend our season.”

The baseball lower state tournament was basically the Region 7 Invitational. Three of the four teams are from that region — East Clarendon, which won the region, second place **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** and third place **Lake City**.

The Wolverines won their opener 15-2 over **Cheraw**. However, they fell to **Atlantic Collegiate** 4-1 on May 16 at **Shad Hall Field** in a winners bracket game. EC was scheduled to play host to **Lake City** on May 18 with the winner having to beat **ACA** twice in order to advance.

East Clarendon, which was 22-9 following the **ACA** loss, swept the **District 6** tournament. The Wolverines beat **Andrew Jackson** 9-6 in the opener and then beat **Philip Simmons** twice, 6-1 and 9-2.

East Clarendon has been riding the arms of sophomore **Heath Jordan**, freshman **Easton Donlon**, sophomore **Gavin White** and junior **Bleas Hardy**. **Jordan** led the team in innings pitched with 37

2/3 and had a 5-2 win-loss record with a 3.72 earned run average. **Donlon** had worked 34 1/3 innings and was 2-2 with a 1.63 ERA. **White** had 27 innings under his belt and was 4-3 with a 2.85 ERA, and **Hardy**, who was hampered by injuries at the start of the year, was at 24 innings with a 2-1 record and a 2.33 ERA.

The Wolverines were batting .369 as a team and had four players with a batting average above .400. **Braylon Hunt** had a .448 average, junior **Colten Baker** was hitting .433, senior **Wes Springs** was hitting .406 and junior **Crosby Timmons** was hitting .403.

East Clarendon had six players in double digits in stolen bases led by junior **Evan Lee** with 16. **Hunt** and **Springs** had 15 apiece, senior **Barnes McConnell** had 14, **White** had 13 and junior **Cade Mooneyham** had 12.

### EC GIRLS HAVE FOUR PLACE IN AA STATE MEET

The East Clarendon girls track and field team placed in four spots in the AA state meet on May 15 at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia**.

Both the 4x400-meter relay team and the 4x800 team finished fifth. **Kierston Woods** was sixth in the shot put, and **Cayli Harcrow** was eighth in the javelin.

“The only points for the boys came from the 4x100 relay team, which finished fifth.

The girls who qualified for state but didn’t place were **Shae Lee** in the 1,600-meter run, **Woods** in the discus and **Tymani Cooper** in the javelin.

For the boys, it was **Keshaun Porter** in the 400-meter hurdles, **Avery Lowery** in the discus and the 4s400 relay team.

In the Region 7 meet held at **Marion** on May 1, there were four region champions among the girls and one from the boys.

**Shae Lee** won both the 800- and 1,600-meter runs, **Kira Owens** won the 3,200 run and the 4x800 relay team won.

**Porter** was the boys javelin winner.

## Ford finishes second in discus to lead Eagles

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Summerton** – **Scott’s Branch High School** thrower **Jernee Ford** placed in two events in the girls portion of the Class A track and field state meet while three members of the boys team placed as well.

**Ford** finished second in the discus and seventh in the shot put in the meet held on May 16 at **Spring Valley’s Harry Parone Stadium** in **Columbia**. In the discus, **Ford** had a toss of 103 feet, 4 15/16 inches. Her throw in the shot covered 32-09 5/16.

On the boys side, **Fra’Jon Bennett** finished fourth in the 800-meter run in a time of 2 minutes, 5.02 seconds. The 4x400-meter relay team also finished fourth. **Quinten Jackson** was eighth in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.55 seconds.

**Riley York**, **Azari Taylor** and **Taraji Logan** all qualified for state but did not place. **York** competed in the 400-meter dash, **Logan** in the 400-meter hurdles and **Taylor** in the long jump.

For the boys, **Nazaiah Richardson** competed in the 400. The 4x100-meter relay team also qualified.

In the Class A lower state meet at **Carvers Bay High** in **Hemingway** on May 9, **Ford** won the discus and was fourth in the shot put. **Logan** was fourth in the 400 hurdles, **York** fifth in the 400 and **Taylor** eighth in the long jump.

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# Gaffney football visited by 50 colleges in May

**By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher**  
Gaffney-During the May off-campus football evaluation period, **Gaffney High School** is among the most visited football teams in the state by colleges at this time, and head coach **Donnie Littlejohn** reports that 56 different college have stopped by to check on his prospects, or emerging players.

Coach Littlejohn is a former al-state offensive lineman at Gaffney and he went on to a promising football career at **Furman University**. After serving as the Indians offensive coordinator for many years he took over the program after the retirement of **Dan Jones** after the 2024 season.

Gaffney has been working out between 110 and 120 junior varsity and varsity football candidates this May, according to Coach Littlejohn.

"We are very proud of the fact that our athletes recently won the Div. II AAAAA state strength meet," said Coach Littlejohn. "We are working to get bigger, stronger, and faster all the time. We have had 75 good days of conditioning and speed drills work also.

"We will give the players a couple weeks off right now, and come back in early June and start lifting again," said Coach Littlejohn. "We are excited about the upcoming season."

Coach Littlejohn said Gaffney has welcomed the transfer of former Irmo running back **Amire White** (5-11, 200) who rushed for 1,299 yards as a junior on 149 carries. "He is going to be a playmaker in our running game for sure," said Coach Littlejohn.

Coach Littlejohn also talked about the transfer of former Greer player **Artavious Gwynn**. Gwynn (5-10,165) is expected to provide depth at corner back or OLB or nickels.

With the graduation of quarterback **Banks Bouton**, the Indian shave been working out **Corey Taylor**, **TJ Person**, and **Nikese Young** and none of them have had much experience at the varsity level.

The football talent cupboard is never bare at Gaffney. The Indians went 9-4 last year in Coach Littlejohn's first season as head coach. After getting the job last year, Coach Littlejohn told the HSSR, "I played at Gaffney and I know the expectations our community has for the success of our football program," he said. "We will work hard and develop players who can help us win. We are focused on winning state championships."

Coach Littlejohn calls LB **Kendarius "Peanut" Bailey** (6-0,215) "the best football player in the state of South Carolina." Last season Peanut had 51 tackles, four sacks and 18.5 tackles for loss. He received a lot of re-

cruiting interest from the colleges who have visited Coach Littlejohn in the past few weeks, Gaffney will use Bailey a lot as a running back this season also.

Additional players with next level potential include left tackle **CJ Brooks** (6-5,320). "CJ has had a great off-season and he is much stronger and we expect great things from him this season," said Coach Littlejohn.

The HSSR feels like the best over-all currently on the Gaffney roster is rising junior DB/WR **Zion Dawkins** (5-11, 186) who has numerous major colleges offers right now. "Zion is a playmaker with a high football I-Q," said Coach Littlejohn. "He has a knack for making plays with the ball in his hands." According to Coach Littlejohn, Dawkins has firm offers from **Georgia Tech**, **Virginia Tech**, **Duke**, **Boston College**, **Syracuse** and many others right now.

**Kareem Shaw** (5-11,180) is a prospect at CB/RB while **Ayden Montgomery** (6-0,160) is getting looks as a WE/C. **Ayden Montgomery** is a DB who had 20 tackles last season., **Money Monroe** (5-11,170) is a prospect at FS. Monroe had 65 tackles and five TFL last season.

Rising junior TE **Hank Davidson** (6-5,225) just got an offer from **Cincy**. "Hank is big and fast and we feel like he is going to have a great junior season," said Coach Littlejohn.

Breaking news is that rising sophomore DE/NG **Kiante Morgan** (6-4,245) is already emerging as a national recruit. He was offered by **Georgia** and **Tennessee** last week.

Several other returning Gaffney players who will have an impact on the success of the team include sophomore WR **Christden Davis**, **Ty McGil** who will start at LB, and **Karien Good** who will in the hunt to start at LB. Coach Littlejohn said he is expecting a big year out of DE **Sidney Lattimore** and junior OL **John Burgess** is a candidate to start at RG in the offensive front.

**Corderian Dawkins** should start at center while **Derrius Littlejohn** will start at left guard. **Quantis Hines** will be back to start at WR and **Jeronte Kimbrough** should be a key player at DE this season.

Gaffney will have scrimmages involving **Hillcrest**, **Northwestern**, in early August. They will also participate in the **Clover Jamboree**. They will begin the regular season against **Spartanburg** and that game will be on regional television.

Coach Littlejohn said that former **Goose Creek** head coach **Jason Winstead** has joined the Gaffney program as the running backs. **Kevin Phillips** is the associate head coach charge of linebacker and he handles recruiting as it relates to the Gaffney players.

**Kinnett Phillips** returns as one of the best stats guys

# Tough loss to Stags in playoffs ends softball season

**By WORTHY EVANS  
Staff Writer**  
Lexington - The pain of falling out of the 5A Division 2 District 4 tournament May 11 was still fresh when longtime **White Knoll** softball head coach talked about the season the next day.

The Timberwolves (14-13, 7-3) faced **Berkeley** for the second time in the tournament. The Stags held a 6-3 lead but White Knoll rallied for two runs in the seventh.

After **Melinda Veler** drew a walk, **Reginae Porterfield** swatted a 1-out double to put runners at second and third. **Lillian Priest** lined out on the next at-bat, but Berkeley first baseman Emma Drawdy misplayed **Ade-lynn Lewis'** ground ball, enabling Veler and Porterfield to score and cut the Stags' lead to 6-5.

With Lewis on base representing the tying run, **Jaida Gray** struck out swinging to end the hopes of an upset, and close out an otherwise great Timberwolves season.

"It's hard to shake it off. In the season you go to the next game but at the end of the season you can't," said Farr, who watched her team take a 3-0 lead only to be hit with Berkeley's run in the third and a five-run fourth.

"I could see my kids kind of feeling it, you could see it in my kids eyes," she added. "We've got to fight to survive and they rallied around those seniors. They knew their time was coming and for two outs we were down 6-5. And that last pitch, it's a hard way to go out. We've got to regroup and build off of what we did this year."

White Knoll beat **Socastee** 8-7 May 4 to get into the bracket, then upset Berkeley 3-2 May 6. **West Florence**, led by phenomenal pitcher **Annie Eliason** (19-0, 0.00 ERA, 309 strikeouts; who gave up two hits and struck out 20) beat White Knoll 7-0 May 8 to set up the rematch with the Stags.

While the season ended on a sour note, there was

much to praise about a team that Farr said few people would look to as contenders. After a young Timberwolves team battled through trials and tribulations, injuries and other issues, Farr said she watched her team come together in the second half of region play.

"On senior night we really started playing for each other and giving it everything we had," Farr said. "They worked their tails off to get better every single day and it showed. We have 12 players who fought their hearts out. We got to that fourth game, and our losses were close. We were right there, and it really was just one lucky pitch and that's how the runs ended up."

White Knoll loses just two seniors in **Priest** and **Gracie Fisher**, but those seniors made a huge impact on the team. **Priest** had three home runs, 11 RBI, 34 hits and a .405 batting average. **Fisher** batted .311 with a double and 14 RBI.

"Those two seniors have left their legacy, and we'll continue with what they started on this swing upward," Farr said. "We're really excited that everyone else is returning."

Among the returners are freshmen **Veler** and **Porterfield**, and sophomores **Charity West** and **E.G. Birchmore**.

Porterfield finished with a .393 batting average and a team-leading four home runs and six triples, six doubles and 20 RBI. **Veler** had 31 hits and 17 RBI to go with a .360 batting average and a .415 on-base percentage. **West** hit .323 with 11 hits and 10 runs batted in.


"Mindy Veler started out in left field since seventh grade and she's fantastic," Farr said. "She's got speed and runs down everything in the outfield but she's really a good infielder, can play shortstop without missing a beat. An unbelievably great kid who won't talk very loud but she's a leader.

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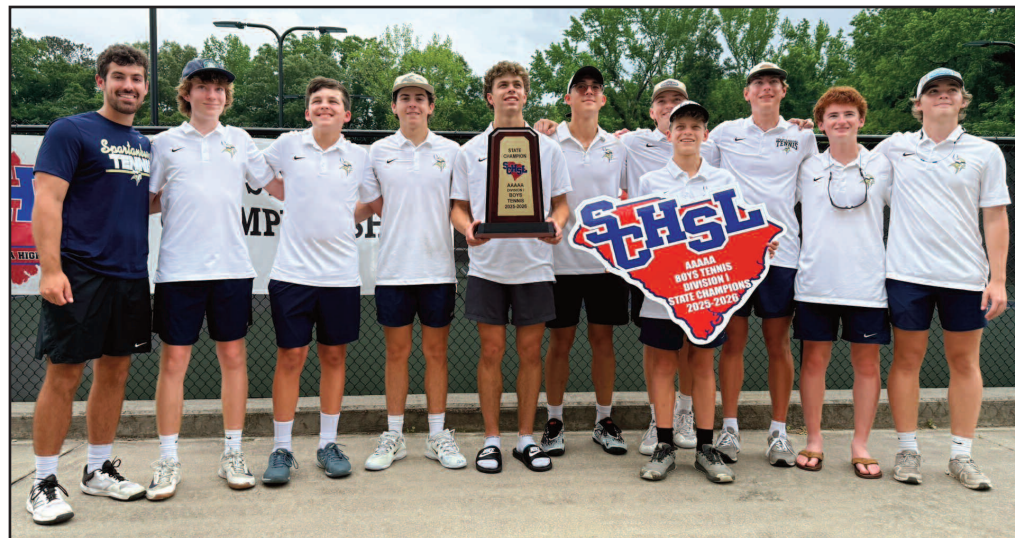
"Reginae, that kid is small but she's strong and compact. She can fly and you can't get anything past her in centerfield," Farr said. "Charity has been our DP and catcher. She puts the ball in play and has quality at-bats."

Birchmore caught fire in the circle late in the game and finished the season with a 2.23 earned-run average. She was 3-1 in five appearances.

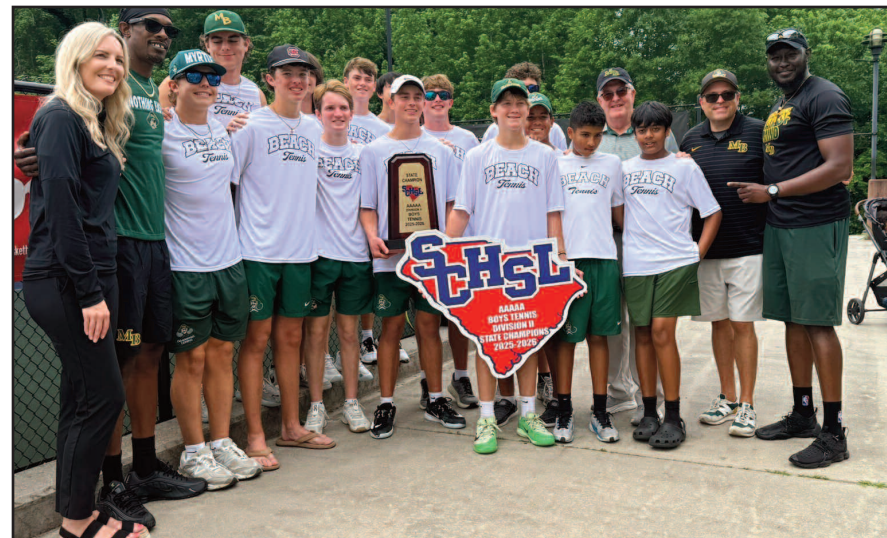
"E.G. is a pitcher and utility player, one of those kids in the past couple of years who was always there," Farr said. "We didn't expect her to be our starting pitcher but

See **White Knoll**, pg. 63

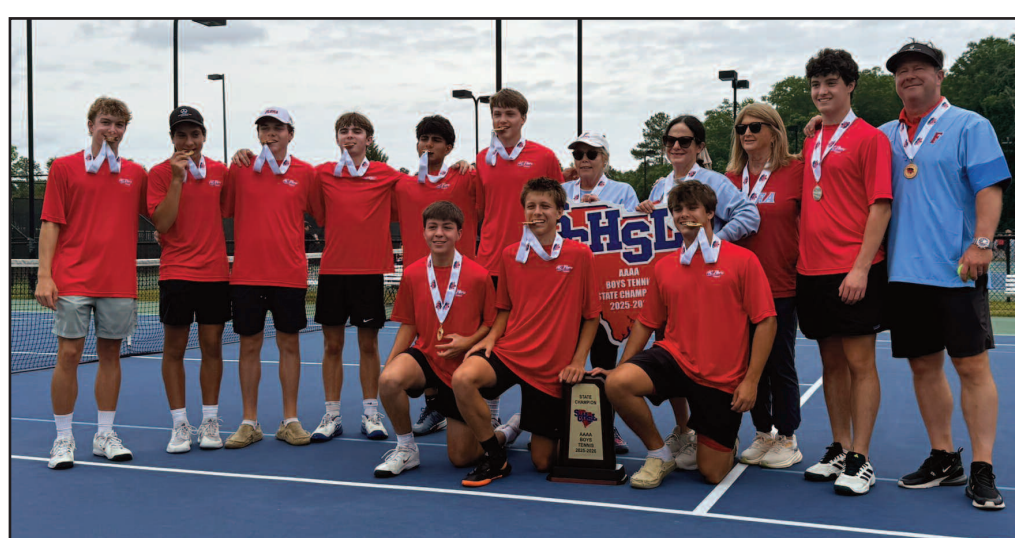
# SCHSL Tennis Championships



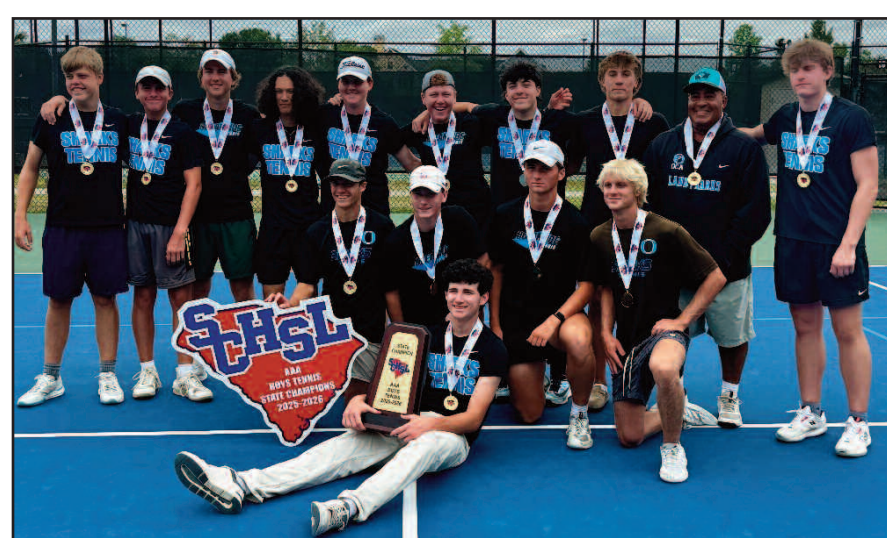
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**Oceanside Collegiate Landsharks - AAA Champs**

# 2026 Tennis state champions crowned in Cayce!

**By WORTHY EVANS  
Special to the HSSR**  
CAYCE—Eight boys tennis teams contended for four state championships Saturday morning and afternoon at the Cayce Tennis Center. **Spartanburg** (5A Division 1), **Myrtle Beach** (5A Division 2), **A.C. Flora** (4A), and **Oceanside Collegiate** (3A) emerged as state champions.

**AAAAA Division I  
Spartanburg defeats Wando 4-3 in tiebreak**  
Spartanburg's boys tennis team took on **Wando's** serious effort to finally break through with a state championship the Cayce Tennis Center Saturday, but the Vikings' top three players all chalked up victories.

With the match tied 3-3, two of those top three players, No.1 senior **Hudson Chung** and No.3 senior **Thomas Cheek**, teamed up in No.1 doubles to beat Wando's eighth-grader No. 1 player **Jacob Morillo** and senior **Vijay Pandey** 6-2, 6-1 in the tiebreak to clinch a 4-3 victory over the Warriors and claim the 5A Division 1 state championship.

We really wanted to focus on our top three, getting those three their wins, and that would give us half the match," first-year Spartanburg coach **Steve Larkin** said. "Being able to put our No.3, Thomas, our doubles specialist, with our No.1, Hudson, who's amazing with his serve, those two combined it's hard to beat that."

The Vikings got wins among their top three players. **Chung** defeated eighth-grader **Morillo** 6-4, 6-2, senior No. 2 **Wade Neely** defeated freshman **Diego Bustamante** 6-3, 6-4, and **Cheek** beat junior **Mateo Bustamante** 6-2, 6-2.

**Pandey** and senior **Nacho Oria** picked up wins for Wando to send the match into No.2 doubles. **Pandey** beat eighth-grader **Ramsey Neely** 6-2, 6-0 at No.4 and **Oria** beat sophomore **Sam Strickland** 6-1, 6-2 at No.5.

Wando's No.2 doubles team of freshman **Blake Butler** and senior **Graham Anderson** defeated juniors **Garret Jones** and **Bailey Faris** 6-0, 6-0 to tie the match 3-3 and send it to the No.1 doubles teams to determine the winner.

"We were hoping to get one victory in that one, two, and three, and we came close at No.2 with Diego, but it was just not meant to be," Wando head coach **Bob Lang** said. "It was a tall order coming into the doubles but I've got to hand it to our guys, Vijay and Jacob, Jacob's an eighth grader and Vijay is a senior and it was really their first time playing together, and they did pretty well."

Wando returned to the state final after falling 4-2 to **J.L. Mann** last year. This year marked the eighth time the Warriors reached the state final. They have yet to win a state title.

"It's tough," Lang said. "We want to win one of these. This is my fifth year as a coach but my third year coming to this, reaching the final and not winning. We're still hungry and still trying to get it to happen."

"I've got to give credit to Spartanburg, what a team," Lang added. "It's a really good team and their one-two-three are some of the top players in the state."

Larkin heaped praise on **Chung**, **Neely**, and **Cheek** as well as the rest of the Vikings hitters.

"We have a lot of confidence in our top guys and we have some good leaders on the team," he said. "I'm so proud of

them."

Those senior players move on, but Larkin said he is excited to work with the younger Vikings in getting ready for next season.

"They're a very young group. They've got good skills, have a lot of potential and good hearts, and competitive spirits," Larkin said. "There's a lot of development that could be made, so I hope for a promising future."

**AAAAA Division II  
Myrtle Beach tops Greenwood for second-straight championship**  
Myrtle Beach continued its lock on state championship matches with a 4-2 victory over Greenwood for its fourth state championship in the last five years and back-to-back 5A Division 2 crowns.

"These guys worked hard," head coach **Jeremy Howard** said. "We had some obstacles at the beginning of the season, but we needed that, especially to be prepared for this part of the season."

Myrtle Beach's wins came at No.1, No.2, and No.4 singles and No.2 doubles.

Senior **Jack Green** beat senior **DeWitt Smith** 6-3, 6-2 in No.1 singles, Eighth-grader **Wyatt Anderson** beat senior **Brooks Gantt** 7-5, 6-4 in No.2 singles, and senior **Foster Cahill** beat **Brady Lloyd** 7-6, 6-2. The No.2 doubles team of **Kenneth Gunter** and **Ian Magee** defeated seniors **Thomas Chandler** and **Fenway Mundy** 6-4, 6-3.

Greenwood's victories came at No.3 singles, where junior **Neel Kumar** defeated **Caleb Cahill** 4-6, 6-0, (11-9), and at No.5 singles, where junior **Will McMillan** defeated **Jon Kelly** 6-0, 6-0.

"We'd seen Greenwood earlier in the season at a tournament (The Seahawks

won 4-2), and they were strong, so I knew this was coming," Howard said. "(Today) they played their best and we lost some courts that I knew we should've won."

Howard credited Wyatt's victory over Gantt at No.2 singles as the championship-clinching match.

"It came down to an eighth-grader on the court too, and that's a blessing to watch him do that."

Greenwood started the season with two losses, to 2025 state runner-up **Riverside** and to Myrtle Beach. Since those defeats the Eagles won every other match on the schedule, including a 4-3 win in tiebreak to the Warriors that sent Greenwood to the state championship.

"We had a great season this year," Eagles head coach **Howard Green** said. "We started out with two losses in a preseason tournament and then went on a great run and won about 19 matches in a row, which got us to this point right here. It was a great match today. Myrtle Beach deserved the credit, they played very well on all six courts, but it was a fantastic season for us."

The Seahawks lose five seniors, including No.1 player **Green**, from this year's team but look to continue reaching the state championship match.

"We lose him and five total seniors, but we'll start getting younger," Howard said. "Our No.2 (Anderson) returns and down the line we have one junior and a bunch of sophomores, and I have a crew of eighth graders on the team, so the future looks bright."

**AAAA  
AC Flora beats Bishop England**

See **Tennis**, pg. 50

# Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page



## HSSR Top 100 Baseball Prospects

**Carson Boleman, Southside Christian, LHP**  
**Taj Marchand, James Island, SS**  
**Sterling Coaxum, P27, OF**  
**Bo Lowrance, Christ Church, IF**  
**Ethan Offing, Dutch Fork, IF**  
**Palmer Hornick, Dorman, P**  
**William Cutshall, Seneca, P**  
**Parker Davis, Fountain Inn, P/1B**  
**Banks Wickersham, Fort Dorchester, P/C**  
**AJ Jefferson, Lugoff-Elgin, IF**  
**Jarrett Wagner, Stratford, P**  
**Amare Counts, Blythewood, OF**  
**Walker Cox, Easley, P**  
**Sawyer Smith, North Myrtle Beach, IF**  
**Hudson Clark, Berkeley 2B**  
**Luke Young, Clinton, C**  
**States Farr, Dorman, IF**  
**Slaide Burd, Hilton Head Christian, OF**  
**Hudson Sprovero, Hanahan, C**  
**Parker Davis, Woodruff, LHP**  
**Ethan Cooker, Mauldin, P**  
**Titus Hutchins, Boiling Springs, SS**  
**Logan Satter, Legion Coll, P**  
**Roper Wentsky, AC Flora, IF**  
**Charlie Scott, AC Flora, OF**

**Others to Watch (no order)**  
 Alex Abreu, Cardinal Newman, P  
 Garrett Shipman, Hillcrest, LHP  
 Connor Dantzler, James Island, OF  
 Titus Hutchins, Boiling Springs  
 Ashley Siffer, Mann, 1B  
 Will Fulcher, Southside Christian, P  
 Bryce Mell, Catawba Ridge, P  
 Parker Reavis, Carolina Forest, P  
 Gabe Priest, North Myrtle Beach, P/1B  
 Braydon Hallman, Batesburg-Leesville, 2B  
 Riley Waters, Ashley Ridge, P  
 Luis Cesario, Dutch Fork, 1B  
 Charlie Johnson, Oceanside, SS  
 Landon Jones, North Augusta, P  
 Braydon Passmore, Fountain Inn, P  
 Tyler Hernandez, AC Flora P  
 Kitt McLaughlin, Gilbert, P  
 Connor Sweatt, York, P  
 Hank Grider, Dillon, P  
 CJ Aubuchon, Southside Christian, P  
 Jacob Smoak, Spring Valley, P  
 Newt Hinson, West Florence, C  
 Cayden Hawk, Seneca, C  
 Kaden Harris, CHapin, 1B  
 Ayden Beeco, Easley, IF  
 TY Simpson, Daniel, IF  
 Dalton Corley, River Bluff, P  
 Tripp Hutto, River Bluff, C  
 Finn Pratt, James Island, IF  
 Cooper Sanders, Wren, IF  
 Caine Rogers, Byrnes, SS  
 Johnny Collins, Blythewood, P  
 Mitchell Bennett, Cane Bay, IF  
 JQ Crosby, Stratford, OF  
 Cooper Sanders, Wren, 1B  
 Luke Kessler, St. James, C  
 Mason Guion, Fountain Inn, C  
 Kaden Jones, Traveler's Rest, IF  
 RJ Jefferson, Lugoff-Elgin, IF  
 Ryland Paxton, Laurens, P  
 Landon Jeffcoat, Airport, OF  
 Alex Smith, Nation Ford, OF  
 Brayden Williams, Saluda, OF  
 Cooper Price, Gilbert, OF  
 Kai Lee, Boiling Springs, IF

Colby Livingston, Mid-Carolina, IF  
 Cam Hunt, Marlboro County, IF  
 Fisher Richardson, Latta, IF  
 Henry Wood, West Ashley, P  
 Justin Sightler, Airport, C  
 Matthew Ogrzewalla, Wando, P  
 Austin Catledge, Buford, C  
 Riley Morris, Lucy Beckham, 1B  
 Anderson Hayes, Fountain Inn, LHP  
 Zack McMahon, Catawba Ridge, LHP  
 Dominic Norton, River Bluff, IF  
 Shep Cadwell, Summerville, C  
 Jake Downing, Wando, 2B  
 Sam McCutcheon, Flora, P  
 Kason Kuhn, Ashley Ridge, IF  
 Bennett Candler, Southside Christian, LHP  
 Christian Gallaso, Waccamaw, C  
 Tyler Hernandez, Flora, C  
 Keller Wofford, Berkeley, P

**Top 5 (2027)**  
**Griffin McCain, Legion Collegiate, OF**  
**Trip Ostergard, James Island, IF/P**  
**Connor Wells, Dorman, LHP**  
**Christian Spivey, Lexington, IF**  
**Cooper DeVries, Eastside, P/OF**

**Others to watch (no order)**  
 Brennan New, Mauldin, OF  
 Cooper Jones, James Island, P  
 Rome DeRenzo, St. James, 1B  
 Phifer Glenn, Hanna, IF  
 Camden Finley, Clinton, OF  
 Henry Rivers, Berkeley, OF/P  
 Carter Kelly, Fountain Inn, IF  
 Gavin Henderson, Boiling Springs, P  
 Rider Carlson, Lexington, P  
 Aiden Culler, Oceanside, P/OF  
 Cooper Delhi, Fort Mill, C  
 Caleb Anderson, Wando, C  
 Cash Epps, Airport, P  
 Denzell Posey, White Knoll, P  
 Larkin Powell, Johnsonville, IF  
 Jackson Eaddy, Johnsonville, OF  
 Zaghe Davis, Johnsonville, OF  
 Corbin King, Blue Ridge, C  
 Braden Richardson, Fort Mill, P  
 Lucas Porcelli, Berkeley, LHP/OF  
 Liam Roberson, Indian Land, LHP  
 Conrad Stabene, OCA, P/C  
 Lucas Volmer, Wren, C  
 Bryson Davis, Woodruff, C  
 Anthony Strong, Cheraw, P  
 Tristan Quick, Marlboro County, P  
 Brennan New, Mauldin, IF  
 Max Gullede, Chesterfield, LHP  
 Blease Hardy, East Clarendon, P  
 Rome Derenzo, St. James, 1B  
 Jameson Lee, Stratford, OF  
 Micah Morgan, May River, IF  
 Carter Kelly, Fountain Inn, IF  
 Cooper Penfield, Blythewood, IF  
 Henry Rivers, Berkeley, P  
 Chris Polm, Hanahan, P  
 Rome DeRenzo, St. James, IF  
 Charles Becker, James Island, P  
 Aiden Culler, OCA, LHP  
 Dawson Beldner, James Island, LHP  
 Graham Coleman, Lexington, IF  
 Charlie Todd, Chapin, OF  
 Kaden Graham, Southside Chr. OF  
 Ethan Bufford, Lancaster, LHP

Nick Bone, Summerville, C/3B  
 Zac Jimenez, Hanahan, IF/P  
 Philip Euper, Bishop England, P  
 Porter Anglin, NO. Myr.Bch, OF  
 Finn Corley, Bishop England, OF  
 Cooper Jones, James Island, LHP  
 Mac Berry, Chapin, LHP  
 Davis Kruse, Lucy Beckham, IF  
 Brady Furniss, Camden, IF  
 Graham Coleman, Lexington, SS  
 Brodie Tuthill, Ashley Ridge, IF  
 Avery Weaver, West Florence, IF  
 Hudson Porter, Blue Ridge, IF  
 Phillip Glenn, Hanna, IF  
 DJ Jones, Byrnes, IF

**Top players to watch 2028 Class**  
 Griffin Gowens, Greenville, 3B  
 Banks Alexander, River Bluff, C  
 Andrew Mundy, North Myrtle Beach, P  
 Sam Middleton, Hilton Head Prep, IF  
 Allen Hegler, Lexington IF  
 Jamison Kimbrell, Dorman, OF  
 Riggs Scott, AC Flora, P  
 Beau Hite, Emerald, SS  
 Banks Alexander, River Bluff, C  
 Colson Marino, Emerald, OF  
 Charlie Wood, Hanahan, IF  
 Brian Ebling, Philip Simmons, P  
 Michael Johnson III, Georgetown, IF  
 Brady Quick, Fort Dorchester, IF  
 Kaden Lank, North Myrtle Beach, IF  
 Bradley Alexander, River Bluff, C  
 Jordan Scott, North Augusta, P  
 Chase Collins, Bamberg-Ehrhardt, P/IF  
 Ethan Polyok, Wando, OF  
 Ford Wallace, Hartsville, P  
 Ty Allen, Cheraw, OF  
 Bradin Goodwin, Berkeley, P  
 Cole Pritchett, Lucy Beckham, P  
 Carter Heffron, Cane Bay, C  
 Colton Price, Cane Bay, IF  
 Harrison Beldner, James Island, P  
 Tyrone Abrams, Newberry, OF  
 Hunter Christensen, Berkeley, C  
 Jamie Mueller, Fort Dorchester, C  
 Bradley Edwards, Summerville, IF  
 Colt Bakich, Daniel, IF  
 Nate Bender, Summerville, IF  
 Ty Allen, Cheraw, OF  
 JJ Campbell, Dillon, OF  
 Tripp Gallus, Hanahan, OF/LHP  
 Jordan Maxwell, Stratford, OF

**2029 Players to watch**  
 Tre Lawrence, Cane Bay, OF  
 Carter Nash, Dorman, OF  
 Nolyn Nickles, Hanahan, LHP  
 Caleb Lott, Stratford, C  
 Victor Kaczanski, Lexington, LHP  
 Mason Mack, Northwestern, IF  
 Caden Morris, Williamsburg Academy, C  
 Anthony Montelone, Wando, P  
 Hudson Morris, Oceanside, LHP/OF  
 Wyatt Tanner, Summerville, OF  
 Beau Stamos, Wando, LHP/OF  
 Nathan Rowe, Aynor, IF  
 Harper Teer, Blue Ridge, IF  
 John Dahlberg, Ashley Ridge, LHP  
 Davis Owens, Cane Bay, SS  
 Owen Curry, Cane Bay, LHP 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

# NETC Student Athletes of the Month

## Saluting Dillon Christian's Lila English

Bennettsville — Lila English is a rising senior student athlete at Dillon Christian School, where she has been a cheerleader since the sixth grade. English has also been playing volleyball since the seventh grade, basketball since the grade, and plans to play again in her senior season.

Not to mention that she is a sport over achiever, when she started playing soccer as a junior. She plans to enjoy her upcoming senior year, being a multiple sport athlete, while continuing to take NETC online classes to help prepare for college.

English said her childhood dream was being a varsity cheerleader.

Being a multiple sport athlete just adds to her enjoyment of her school experience. With all the demands of sports, high school academics and the NETC online courses, English says her "time management skills" improved by having to balance preparation for multiple classes, with practices and games each week.

After high school, English plans to focus on her studies instead of playing sports at the next level. Currently, she is weighing her options of either attending **Clemson University's Agricultural Mechanization and Business Program**, but she is also considering attending the **Darla Moore Business School** at USC.

In the classroom, she carries a 4.2438 GPA and says the NETC courses, "Have opened doors to provide me college level work academic learning experiences that have given me a glimpse of what to expect in the future, when I am actually at college," she said.



Lila English

For all her athletic and academic accomplishments, English has been chosen the "NETC" Female Student Athlete of the Month."

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the *Northeastern Technical College* and "The High School Sports Report" with the publication communicating with athletic directors at high schools in the counties of Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield, where NETC serves the needs of high school students seeking to earn dual credits in various subjects that can be transferred to colleges, after a student's high school graduation.

The NETC is currently offering

See English, pg. 35

## Saluting Dillon Christian's Reese Bracey

Bennettsville — Reese Bracey is a senior three-sport athlete at the Dillon Christian School, where he participates in the sports of football, basketball and soccer.

He readily admits that football is his favorite sport among the three. He started playing football in the fifth grade, and he has played multiple positions as a receiver, tight end, running back, and also at linebacker. In the eighth grade, he started playing basketball as a small forward. In the ninth grade, he started playing soccer. During his prep school career, he twice earned All-Region honors as a running back in football with over 1,000 all-purpose yards achieved. He has also earned All-Region honors in soccer.

Bracey closes his high school athletics having played all three sports in his senior year. He says one lesson being a multi-sport athlete taught him is to be on time. "If you are late to practice, you will have some type of punishment," he said. "This translates well to schoolwork, when it comes to scheduling, doing, and turning in assignments on time."

In the classroom, he carries a 5.2 GPA, while maintaining his online course load, and participating in sports. After graduation, he plans to

attend USC and pursue a career in the medical field.

For all his athletic and academic accomplishments, Reese Bracey has been chosen the "NETC" Male Student Athlete of the Month."

This honor is bestowed through a partnership between the *Northeastern Technical College* and "The High School Sports Report" with the publication communicating with athletic directors at high schools in the counties of Dillon, Marlboro, and Chesterfield, where NETC serves the needs of high school students seeking to earn dual credits in various subjects that can be transferred to colleges after a student's high school graduation.

The NETC is currently offering over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

Bracey is currently enrolled in dual credit courses offered by NETC. He has completed classes in Psychology, Public Speaking, English 101 and 102,



Reese Bracey

See Bracey, pg. 35



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Coach Moffitt "coaches up" his Griffins football team

## Spartanburg Day prepares to play varsity football this season for first time in 42 years

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Spartanburg**—After two years of building towards restoring a varsity football program at the **Spartanburg Day School**; first with a "B" team in 2024, and then a junior varsity team in 2025, the Griffins held "varsity football drills" during the week of May, 4 to get ready for the fast-approaching season.

Patrick Moffitt was brought in two years ago to head up the Griffins football program with the goal of establishing a varsity football team by the fall of 2026. The Griffins last fielded a varsity football team 42 years ago. They will compete in the SCISA AA classification. They will kick-off the season on the road at **Asheville Christian** on August 14.

The team will have only one scrimmage prior to the season when they tune up for the season against **Blacksburg** on August 6.

Moffitt has been directly involved in winning football programs all of his life. He has direct experience in building strong and sustainable programs. Prior to being hired at the Spartanburg Day School, Coach Moffitt spent 9 years at the **St. Andrews School** in Middletown, De., where he coached the team to consecutive playoff berths in 2021 and 2022 after the program had not made the playoffs in more than 20 years. While at St. Andrews, Coach Moffitt developed six players to first team all-state status.

As a player, Coach Moffitt (6-1, 190) was a three-year starting quarterback at Williams College. Moffitt led Williams College to an undefeated 8-0 record in 2010 after setting offensive records when he completed 174-of-284 pass attempts for 2,275 yards and 25 touchdowns. In his three-year college career, he threw 45 touchdowns passes and Williams College had a 20-4 record over his career at the school.

As a senior, Coach Moffitt was named first-team All-New England. The New England Football Writers Association named him the D-2-D-3 "Player of the Year" after the 2010 season. Coach Moffitt was also the NESCAC Player of the Year and first team ALL-NESCAC after his senior year also. In his senior year, Moffitt the quarterback, directed an offense that averaged 477 yards of offense per game which remains an all-time record for the NESCAC.

During one week of Spring drills (May 4-8), Coach Moffitt said he and his staff worked with around 25 varsity candidates. "We have so many of our athletes playing multi sports, mainly on our very successful soccer team,

that it was difficult to get all of our varsity players at any one practice session," said Coach Moffitt. "We averaged around 22 players a day at our Spring drills.

"Last year we held the full 10 days of Spring drills on different days, and we spread out the practices some," said Coach Moffitt. "This year we decided to just have one full week of intense and detailed practices each day, and this probably worked out better for us."

Coach Moffitt said the Griffins will run a 4-4 defense. "On offense we are going to be balanced and focus on both running and passing," said Coach Moffitt. "Just what we are able to do offensively will also depend on who wins the job at quarterback, and we came out of Spring drills with three young men in a battle for the starting quarterback job."

Those quarterback candidates include rising freshman **Charlie Birch**, rising junior **Gibbs Montgomery**, and rising freshman **Rutledge Wall**.

"Our offense will be an evolving process," said Coach Moffitt. "Back when I played, we use to say that the passing game helped set up the running game, but you have to understand the strengths of your starting quarterback before you commit to any scheme.

"We will be a very young varsity team this first season with just a few seniors, and the majority of our players will be underclassmen moving up from our junior varsity team last season," said Coach Moffitt. "We always have additional students, new to the school every year, and we are hoping to pick up a player or two once school starts in August."

Coach Moffitt said the offensive line just might be the strength of the team coming out of Spring drills. "We are so fortunate to have **Andrew Vaught** as one of our assistant coaches and he has done a great job developing this group and teaching fundamentals," said Coach Moffitt. "Coach Vaught is a **Wofford** graduate where he was a very good offensive lineman in his own right."

Coach Moffitt's other full -time assistant **Chris Cormier**, who came to Spartanburg Day from **St. Thomas Aquinas High** in Florida where he served as the team's offensive coordinator in the highly successful program. Cormier was a four-year quarterback letterman at **West Virginia Wesleyan**, and he will and work with the defense.

The offensive tackle candidates include rising sophomore **Nicholas Querin** (6-2, 230) who has played on both the "B" team and junior varsity teams at Spartanburg Day. Rising junior **Cale Willoughby** (6-4, 250) could start at right tackle.

## Spartanburg DAY SCHOOL

*The alma mater of NBA star Zion Williamson is proud to be joined by our athletic booster club, athletic department and the Spartanburg Day School Administration in proudly recognizing the hard work of our student athletes in the High School Sports Report.*

**The Spartanburg Day Griffins athletic program is on the move with varsity football coming in 2026**

The leading candidates to start at the offensive guard slots are rising freshmen **Sammy Crain** (5-9,240) and **Lawson Robinson** (6-0,200). A new player to the program, who could play at center, is junior **Ben Brown** (6-0,215). **Adi Enuica** (5-9,210) is expected to add depth along the offensive front as well. Rising freshman **Colton Lyle** (6-2, 180) could also see playing time in the offensive line.

If the Griffins are to have an effective offense they will need to develop a solid running game. Coming out of Spring drills Coach Moffitt said that rising junior **Heath Boyd** (5-10,175) is the "clear cut favorite" to start at running back for the Griffins. "He was the top rusher on our junior varsity team last year," said Coach Moffitt. "In our final game, against **Colleton Prep** he rushed for over 150 yards, including one run of 80 yards. "He came on strong the more he played and we expect big things out of him."

Should a passing quarterback win the job the Griffins will need some talented receivers to catch his darts. Coach Moffitt is very high on rising sophomore **Camden Teel** (5-11, 160), who is a former SCISA 800-meter champion will good speed. "He is a very fast track guy, and he could be our deep threat," said Coach Moffitt.

Some other receivers in the mix contribute at the wide receiver position, include rising sophomore **Charles Wilson** (5-8,165). "To be honest, **Charles Wilson** was our best all-around athlete on the junior varsity last season," said Coach Moffitt. "He was an outstanding linebacker on defense, and for his size he packs a powerful punch. He is also a sure-handed receiver."

Rising sophomore **Tyler Fernanders** (5-10,150) and **Armin Pader** (6-2, 190) will add depth at the receiver position. "Pader was the leading goal scorer on our very successful soccer team, and I think he scored like 30 goals," said Coach Moffitt. "He is also going to be our combo kicker, and he can really boom the ball. His punts go very high in the air, and he has a very strong leg."

The team will also utilize a tight end. "Armin could also play tight end, or one of the players who do not make the starting quarterback position could play tight end," said Coach Moffitt.

Many players from offense will flip to defense until the numbers grow in the program. In the 4-4 scheme the Griffins will have two defensive ends and two defensive tackles on the interior of the line. Querin and Crain are top end candidates while Boyd and Lyle could see action at the tackles. Willoughby could play anywhere up-front.

There will be two outside linebackers and two inside linebackers on defense. plus, one hybrid linebacker type called "*The Joker*." Boyd and Montgomery will flip from offense and likely play the "*Sam*" slots. Birch and Wilson are solid candidates to hold down the ILB slots. **Caden Flannery** (5-9,155) could see action as the *Joker*.

The Griffins will employ a three deep secondary. Teel and Fernanders are the likely starters at the corners. Wall will flip from offense to start at free safety. Pader will also see action in the secondary.

Junior **Connor McGrath** is a recent addition to the team, and he will play at a skill position on offense while rising senior **Dennis Tesler** will provide depth in both lines.

Coach Moffitt said he is going to be hiring a couple more coaches over the summer. "We are focused on hiring

See **Spartanburg Day**, pg. 62

# Green Acres Turf Farm Prospects Page



## HSSR Top 100 Softball Prospects

HSSR 2026 Softball Prospects (Sr..)

Note: Please send nominations all grades 8-12 in SC to [hsreport@aol.com](mailto:hsreport@aol.com)

1. Aspen Boulware-Gray Collegiate-SS-SC
2. Katie Guillian-Summerville-SS-Mizzou
3. Preston Schurknight-Orangeburg Prep-Inf/P-Lander
4. Caroline Davis-Union County-3B-USC Union
5. Kadence Poston-Hannah Pamplico-P – Western Carolina
6. Memory Melton-Byrnes-RF-(L-R) Longwood
7. Sarah Owens-Lewisville-P-Winthrop
8. Korbyn Lydia-Gaffney-SS-USC Upstate
9. Myah Harvey-Hartsville-SS-Wofford
10. Maliyah Campbell-Woodmont-RHP-USC Aiken
11. Amelia Wilson-Westside-1B-(.414)
12. Maddie Coward-Pee Dee Academy-RHP-Wofford
13. Olivia Hess-Aynor-P-UT Martin
14. Francis Laughlin-Heathwood Hall-P
15. Mia Roseburg-Oceanside Collegiate-Fayetteville St.
16. Catie Black-Loris-OF/2b-
17. Kylie Wilson-TL Hanna-Catcher
18. Kinsley McCoy-Loris-OF-PC
19. Meredith Stone-Hannah Pamplico-C-USC Upstate
20. Maria Sialmas-Hillcrest-Catcher
21. Jadin Dandy-Travelers Rest-CF-All-State
22. Nadie Hutto-Bamberg-Ethardt-P-OF-
23. Olivia Miller- Indian Land-P24.
24. Hope Fowler-Greenville-Utility
25. Saddle Parris-C-Boiling Springs
26. Hannah Lambrecht-Orangeburg Prep - C
27. Kinley West-C-Byrnes
28. Mackenzie Bradley-White Knoll-C-
29. Kenzie McCoy-Loris-OF
30. Annie Ruth Allison-West Florence-P-USC Sumter
31. Maddox Long-Gray Collegiate-P/3rd-
32. Mia Roseburg-Oceanside- P/SS
33. Eryn Wright-Spring Valley-OF/SS-(2027)
34. Dallas LaChance-Woodland-SS-
35. Kylie Powell-Powdersville-P-(R-R)
36. Makenna Meekins - Dillon - CF
37. Lyza Prickelmyer - Laurence Manning - 1B, CF

HSSR 2027 Softball Prospects (Junior )

- Addy Waters-Byrnes-2B/SS-2 Yr. Starter**  
**Emma Williams-TL Hanna- P-OF**  
**Maddie Loftis-TL Hanna-OF**  
**Addison Trevino-Laurens-C-(.576/28 RBI)**  
**Olivia Lieb-Fountain Inn-IF-(.529/20 RBI)**  
**Val Parolin-Oceanside Collegiate-PC-**  
**Rylee Dotson-Crescent-3B-C-**  
**Bailey Ardis-Sumter-C/OF-**  
**Key-Lee Jennings-Union County-CF-(.382 15 SB)**  
**Starlyn Clardy-Westside-Westside-3B-(.448)**  
**Laney Grubbs-Barnwell-P/Of-2B-**  
**Addison Skipper-Marlboro County-3B-SS-**  
**Caisley Jackson - Latta - Jr. - UNC Wilm.**  
**Carrigan Moore - Andrew Jackson Academy - C**

HSSR 2028 Softball Prospects (Soph)

- Addison Sharp-TL Hanna-RHP-246 K's, 1.92 ERA**  
**Anna Grace Lee-Union County-RHP-17-3, 220 K's**  
**Lily Brinson-Fort Dorchester-P (.543)**  
**Hanna Davis-TL Hanna-1B-**  
**Ryann Sanders-Westside-C/OF-(.537/28 RBI's) 7<sup>th</sup>!**  
**Ainsley Minschew-Bateburg Leesville-P-67!**  
**Addison Woodward-Fox Creek-Catcher**  
**Blakely Stoddard-Fountain Inn-IF-(.440)**  
**Kason Carter-Yjomas Sumter-P-64**  
**Garrison Aiken-Byrnes-SS/C/2B-(7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**  
**Jazelyn Robinson-Westside-P-SS-(All-Region) 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wren Gaines-Byrnes-C-(8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**  
**Mindy Veler-White Knoll-OF (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**  
**Hanna Coburn-Lake View-2B-(.338/9 RBI)**  
**Mackenzie Sease-Gray Collegiate-P-**  
**Lily Brinson-Fort Dorchester-P-**  
**Lily Brinson-Carolina Forest-V-**  
**Kenya McDaniel-Spring Valley-3B-**

HSSR 2029 -30 Softball Prospects (8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>)

- Players To Watch:**  
**Maci Collins-Green Sea Floyds-P-**  
**Bailey Honeycutt-West Florence-C-3B**  
**Ava Miller-Cane Bay-P**  
**Annsiton Street-Georgetown-SS-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Carter Cox-Hanahan-P-3B-**  
**Ytovell Watts-South Florence-C-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Jayla Wright-Dillon-P-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**AJ Sanders-Emerald-P-Ath-Emerald**  
**Avery Moms-Oceanside Collegiate-Utility-9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Austyn Smith-Fountain Inn-P-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Ashton Cassidy-Chestfield-P-9<sup>th</sup>**  
**Shalayah Badger-Barnwell-3B-P-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Kensley Terrapin=Barnwell-P/SS-8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Calee Hartzog - Orangeburg Prep – 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (IF)**  
**Genesis Walker-Barnwell-1B-C-8<sup>th</sup>**

## HSSR Baseball / Softball Prospect All-State Nomination Form

Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sport: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Key Stats: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reason for Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Hurricanes have strong showing at state meet

**By Neill Kirkpatrick**  
**Special to the HSSR**  
**Columbia** – Heading into the class AA state meet the Hampton County Hurricanes boy’s and girl’s track and field teams had already had a very successful season as they won the region 5 AA titles and finished second at the AA lower state meets so heading into the state final meets head coaches **Rob and Myriah Hanna** felt their squads could finish in the top five.

The girls team finished fourth while the boys team was just outside the top five at number six. “Our expectation is always to compete for championships at HCHS. It starts with winning the region and qualifying as many athletes to the state qualifier as we can. And then get as many to the state meet as we can. We had 30 athletes competing Friday (18 boys and 12 girls) so we were excited heading into the meet,” said coach Rob Hanna. “Proud of them for the commitment and sacrifices they have made to have a great season.”

The meet was also the last event for several seniors that helped set the standard of winning championships in the three years since Wade Hampton and Estill merged. Two of the seniors (more to come) **Taryn Hanna** and **Jaylen Singletary** will be headed to Charleston Southern (Track and Field) and Wingate University (Football)

Coach Rob Hanna said of this senior class,

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“They are a talented group. They’ve won a lot of games of the years in various sports, and they are a group that started early in track and have had a lot of success individually and as a team over the year. They will be missed after this season for sure.”

The girls’ team had three girls earn medals, led by senior **Areyann Allen’s** gold in the 100 meters. She clocked a 12.29 which was a bit off her personal best of 12.06. She that in winning the region 5AA meet.

Junior **Kya McQuire** brought home two silvers in the shot put and discus with a put of 10.85 meters and throw of 33.38 meters.

Hanna won the bronze medal in the 1600 meters with a personal best of 5:21.53. She also placed fourth in the 800 meters and seventh in the 3200 meters.

Senior **Tyler Davis** won the loan medal for the boy’s team when he won gold in the 110 meter hurdles in a time of 14.39 seconds. It was bot off his personal best of 14.06 seconds. He just missed a medal in the long jump finishing fourth to go with a fifth in the triple jump.



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# Patrick Henry’s Gibron satisfied with ‘26 season

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**  
**Estill** – The **Patrick Henry Academy** baseball team closed out its season with a 9-11 overall record after going 2-2 in SCISA Region 4-AAA in its first season under head coach **Brody Gibson**.

The Patriots went 0-2 in the state playoffs, falling to **Spartanburg Christian Academy** 10-1 in the opener before losing a 5-4 heartbreaker to **Orangeburg Prep** in an elimination game. Putting everything in perspective though, Gibson had no issues with his team or its season.

“The season overall was a step in the right direction,” Gibson said. “The majority of our team was inexperienced at the varsity level. We competed well and were able to win some games against some solid ball clubs.

“We will return six starters, and we have a good group of rising freshmen.”

Three PHA players were selected to the All-Region 4-AAA team, seniors **Jacob Corley** and **Rylin Brunson** and junior **Scot Mizell**.

Corley led the team in hitting with a .436 batting average. He led the team in runs scored with 30, stolen bases with 19 and triples with three to go with four double and nine runs batted in.

Brunson batted .348 and had Patrick Henry’s only two home runs. Brunson had four doubles, two triples, 14 stolen bases, 24 runs and 14 RBI.

Mizell led in RBI with 17 and doubles with five

while batting .255.

Mizell and Brunson were the top pitchers. Mizell worked 34 innings and had a 1.85 earned run average. He had 38 strikeouts while walking only six and allowing 37 hits.

Brunson tossed 33 innings and finished with a 3.82 ERA.

The other senior starter was **Keegan Lee**. He batted .289 and had 15 stolen bases to go with 17 runs and eight RBI.

The other seniors on the roster were **Mac Gohagan** and **Daivon Glover**.

Along with Mizell, the Patriots will return two of their other top arms as well in junior **Devin Austin** and eighth-grader **Caleb Corley**.

Both of them worked 17 2/3 innings. Corley had a 3.17 ERA while Austin posted a 3.19 ERA. Austin had 25 strikeouts while Corley had 18.

Freshman Josh Evans will be back. He batted .255 and had two doubles, eight RBI and five runs. Caleb Corley batted .203 but drove in 10 runs and scored nine times.

Other returning starters in the field will be junior **Andrew Haddock**, junior **Wylder Vaughn** and Austin.

<b>A.G. Solomons, Jr.</b> Attorney at Law Solomons & Lawton, PC PO Box 969, Estill, SC 803-625-3232	<b>Saluting Patrick Henry Athletics!</b>
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**Jakira Magwood recently set a new School Record for Girls 400m Hurdles**



**Kamaurie Goodwine finished tied for 4th in the Girl’s High Jump at the state meet**

# Colleton County track in rebuild mode in 2026

**By WORTHY EVANS**  
**Staff Writer**

**Walterboro** - Colleton County’s boys and girls track teams fielded just a few athletes at the Class 4A state track and field meet at **Richland Northeast High School**. For head coach **Aubrey Lemon**, it’s a definite beginning in the rebuild of the sport in the Walterboro school after last year’s graduation

“We’re a young team but these guys fought today,” Lemon said. “One of the guys on the relay team, this is his second time running the 400. We moved them around a lot, and they’re still learning. A lot of our guys graduated last year so they’re filling in and I think they did a great job. They came out here and gave it all they got.”

The boys and girls 4x100-meter relay teams competed, as did freshman high jumper **Kamaurie Goodwine**, and 400-dash runners senior **Jakira Magwood** for the girls and sophomore **Hayvion Higgins** for the boys.

The Cougars only got four points in the girls events

# Colleton Prep softball falls to Pee Dee in finals

**By Billy G. Baker**  
**Publisher**

**Walterboro**—Despite being swept by **Pee Dee Academy** (10-0 & 8-1) in the SCISA AAA softball finals, the **Colleton Prep** Warhawks (18-10-2) enjoyed an outstanding 2026 season under head coach **Tiger Martin**.

The Warhawks had last played for a state title in 2023 when they lost to **Clarendon Hall**. In 2021, they ran 10-runned **Pee Dee Academy** in the championship game to win their last state title.

A win over **Williamsburg Academy** in the SCISA AAA softball semi-finals at Patriots Park in Sumter, on May 9 advanced the team to the state finals against the Golden Eagles.

After the win over the Stallions, Coach Martin told the *HSSR*, “We last played for a state title in 2023 against Clarendon Hall,” said Coach Martin. “It feels great to be back in the finals. In the six years I have been a head coach, this is our third time in the finals.

“We have a great group of seniors,” said Coach Martin. “**Ava Murray**, **Sydney Stivender**, and **Brayli Stanfield** are our key senior starters. Ava is one of the best hitters in this tournament, Sydney is one of the best pitchers, and Brayli is playing the best defense at second base in her career.”

Stivender pitched all but one inning in the games the Lady Warhawks played in the tournament over May 8-9.

Coach Martin said his team faced a very fast pitcher in **Abby Ward** of WA and he hoped that he would help his team get ready to face Pee Dee’s Maddie Coward in the state finals. “We faced one of the fastest pitchers in SCISA today in **Abby Ward** and that should prepare us to face Coward on Monday,” said Coach Martin.

on the night. Goodwine finished fourth in the girls high jump with an effort of 4.55 meters. Magwood finished 14<sup>th</sup> in the girls 400 hurdles with a time of 1:12.12 and Higgins finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:00.49.

Besides Goodwine, Magwood and Higgins, Colleton County brought several other athletes to the District 4 meet May 8, which qualified athletes for state.

On the girls team, Sprinters **Lillian Mitchell**, **Keynasha Manigo**, and **Khylei Doctor** competed, along with discus and shot putter **Jaleesha Jenkins**, javelin throwers **Xaria Holmes** and **Yurhidia Fuentes**, and javelin and shot putter **Khyla Drew**.

On the boys team, sprinters **Justus Jamison**, **Lorenzo Breland**, **Khamren Wiggins**, **Higgins**, and **Malachi Kirkland** tried out for state slots, as did discus and shot throwers **Ronald Robinson**, **O’Keefe Martin**, and **Shawn Bouges**, and Javelin thrower **Gabriel Idol**.

Lemon said that many of the young kids missed the

In their 8-3 win over WA on May 9 the Warhawks were led at the plate by Murray with three hits, including a solo home run. Stivender was the winning pitcher, allowing only five hits while striking out five batters.

Other key starters for CP include third baseman **Brooklyn Whitley** along with outfielder **Bre Cain**. Stanfield holds down second base, while **Hadley Harrison** is a strong defender behind the plate. **Addison Godley** does some work inside the plate, and she plays shortstop when Stivender pitches. **Addy Busch** is starting in center field.

Murray led the team at the plate batting .560 with 44 RBI’s. Harrison finished at .384 with 21 RBI’s. Godley played well with a .358 average including 29 RBI’s and she led the team with two home runs.

Stivender finished at .321 with 12 RBI’s. In the circle she pitched a team high 121.1 innings with an incredible 198 strikeouts. She had a record of 16-8 with an ERA of 3.00. Godley also contributed in the circle, working 34.1 innings with 49 strikeouts, a 2-0 record, and she had an ERA of 2.85.

The next three starters on the hit index were Brayli Stanfield at .278 with 25 RBIs, Banks Benton hit .270 with 12 RBI’s, and Brooklyn Whitley finished .253 with 17 RBI’s.

On defense the top defenders were Harrison with a .973 fielding percentage followed by Murray with a .917 fielding percentage.

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cut, but the experience of practicing and putting out their best effort will leave a mark on the team when next year rolls around.

“Now they’ve got a taste of it,” he said. “So after we get a bunch of graduates and college guys, the next year we’ll be learning, and we’ll be ready the year after that.”

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# SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

## Summerville softball wins District 3 crown

By Roger Lee

Special to the HSSR

**Summerville** – When it comes to the softball diamond, Summerville is still the team to beat in the Lower State.

Things are going as expected for the Green Wave. During the regular season, **Summer Knight**, **Daphne Frady**, **Jayden Bennett** and **Maeven Moreno** all had more than 20 hits.

**Payton Sharpe**, **Delaney Hayes** and **Frady** all had an on-base percentage of .450 or better.

**Frady**, a 2025 All-Region selection and North Greenville University signee, is having a special season in the pitching circle. She has more than 300 strikeouts this season. Entering the playoffs, the senior led the state in strikeouts and she will graduate holding the school record for most strikeouts in a season.

Summerville is getting key offensive and defensive contributions from many other players.

“With the way things stacked up in district we had to face teams in our region again so I’m proud of our kids for finding ways to win,” said Summerville coach **Heather Tucker**. “I’m proud of how they persevered. There are just a lot of good things all around.”

The Green Wave didn’t surrendered a single run during its first four games of the 5A Division 1 Lower State playoffs. Summerville (26-1) clinched the District 3 Championship with a 10-0 shutout of cross-town rival **Fort Dorchester** (17-7) May 13 at **Green Wave Park** to advance to the Lower State finals.

“It was a game against a rival with the season on the line,” Tucker said. “I was proud of how our kids came out and responded. Beating a good team a third time is hard to do. They came out and did an excellent job offensively. They were very disciplined at the plate. Our pitcher threw well and our defense was solid.”

**Frady** pitched a one-hitter, striking out nine Fort batters and walking none.

Green Wave All-State short stop **Katie Guiliam** opened the bottom of the first with a solo shot to center field. Summerville loaded the bases with two walks wrapped around a single from **Moreno**. Then catcher **Gracelyn Cantrell** drove in **Bennett** for a 2-0 Wave lead entering the second.

**Frady** finished 3 for 4 at the plate with a double and 2 RBIs. **Natalie Farlow** was 2 for 3 with 3 RBIs. **Bennett** was 2 for 4 with a home-run and scored 3 runs. **Cantrell** had a double and 3 RBIs.

On May 11, Summerville eliminated West Ashley from the playoffs with a 10-0 home win in five innings.

**Bennett** hit a single to left field in the bottom of the first inning and scored on a **Frady** home run that gave Summerville a 2-0 lead. The next inning, Summerville added three runs. **Bennett** and **Frady** opened the bottom of the frame with



Photo by Roger Lee  
Senior Jayden Bennett has had some key turns at bat for Summerville during the playoffs.

walks. Then **Moreno** drilled a ball over the fence for a 5-0 Summerville lead.

The Green Wave sent three more runs across the plate in the third. **Haylee Sexton** got things started with an infield single. **Guilliam** reached on an error and **Bennett** singled to plate **Sexton**. **Frady** then had an RBI triple. **Cantrell** doubled to plate **Sharpe** for an 8-0 score.

In the fourth, Summerville loaded the bases with walks by **Cantrell** and **Guilliam** and a single by eighth-grader **Addy Chapman**. **Frady** stepped to the plate with two outs and drove in **Chapman** and courtesy runner **Gabrielle Savage** for a 10-0 Green Wave lead.

Other members of the team are **Dakota Clark** and **Bryant** and Stratton College signee **Ryanne Harley**.

Summerville will host **Sumter** (16-13) May 18 in the Lower State finals. The best-of-three series will move to **Sumter** May 20 and, if neither team wins both of the first two games, return to Summerville May 22.

### Summerville Track

Summerville junior **A’zedah Anderson** captured a pair of state sprinting titles during the 5A Division 1 State Track and Field Championships May 14 in **Columbia**. **Anderson** won the **Girls 100-meter Dash** with an 11.70 time and the **200 Dash** with a 23.84 time. Summerville senior **Trinity Jones** placed third in the 100 with an 11.82 time and 10<sup>th</sup> in the 200 with a 24.87 finish.

Summerville junior **Addilyn Elrod** won the **Pole Vault** with a 3.35 mark. Summerville’s **Ava Williams** placed seventh in the event.

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Summerville senior **Taylor Blackwelder** placed second in the 3200 with a 10:58.69 time and fifth in the 1600.

During the boys’ meet, **Gryson Greenway** placed third in the **Javelin** with a 62.6 mark. **David Greer** placed sixth in the 3200 and 15<sup>th</sup> in the 1600.

## Montgomery sees progress in Kingstree baseball

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Kingstree** – The Kingstree High School baseball team finished the season with a 5-14 overall record. However, the Blazers were only 1-11 in Region 7-AA and missed out on the state playoffs.

All of that being said though, Kingstree head coach **Leonard Montgomery** sees a lot of good that took place.

“Overall, I would say our season was at expectations considering how young our team was,” **Montgomery** said. “We only returned three starters, had no seniors on the roster, one junior, and two sophomores. Despite the challenges, our players continued to compete and gain valuable experience throughout the season that will help us moving forward.”

The fact that Region 7 has three teams that won their district tournaments in the AA state playoffs to advance to the lower state tournament in East Clarendon, Atlantic Collegiate Academy and Lake City made for tough sledding.

Kingstree had one player selected to the All-Region 7 team, that being **Lazarus Moyd**. Late in the season, **Moyd** was batting .310 with a team high in runs batted in with 12. He also had 21 stolen

bases to go with two doubles, a triple and 14 runs scored.

**Moyd** had also been credited with three of the Blazers’ victories on the mound.

“He had an outstanding season for us and really stepped up in big moments throughout the year,” **Montgomery** said of **Moyd**.

**Chase McCrea** and **Jamaree Mitchell** had solid seasons as well. **McCrea** was batting .357 with a team high 20 runs and 25 stolen bases to go with two doubles, one triple and eight RBI.

**Mitchell** had a .346 average to go with one double, two triples, 12 runs, 16 stolen bases and 11 RBI.

With the potential to have everyone back next season and what he saw from the Blazers this year, **Montgomery** is excited about the future.

“I’m proud of the way our guys continued to compete and grow throughout the season,” he said. “We were a very young team with limited varsity ex-

perience, but the effort and commitment were there every day. The experience we gained this year will help build a strong foundation for the future of our program.”

### MCDONALD PLACES IN AA BOYS TRACK STATE MEET

Kingstree’s **Karl McDonald** placed in the 400-meter dash in the boys portion of the AA track and field state meet on May 15 at the Richland Northeast track in **Columbia**.

**McDonald** placed eighth in a time of 51.24 seconds.

**McDonald** was the only Kingstree male to compete at the state meet. Two females competed but neither placed.

**Kalee McCrea** just missed placing in the 100-meter hurdles, finishing ninth. **Zakia Jackson** competed in the discus.

Kingstree didn’t crown a region champion in the Region 7 meet held at the Marion High track on May 1. However, **McCrea** and **Jackson** both finished second in their respective

state events, and **McCrea** was also second in the 400 hurdles.

**McDonald** was second in the boys 400, while **Quentin Frazier** was second in the 400 hurdles.

### KHS SOFTBALL FINISHES 1-14

The Kingstree softball finished with a 1-14 overall record and went 0-12 in the region.

The Blazers’ lone triumph was a 20-6 victory over **Williamsburg County** foe **Hemingway**.

Seventh-grader **Denala Mosley** and seniors **Demia Mosley** and **Elisha Singletary** had solid seasons for the Blazers.

**Denala Mosley** had a .294 batting average to go with a double, a home run, six RBI, 10 stolen bases and five runs. **Demia Mosley** batted .267 with 13 steals, two doubles, a homer and eight runs.

**Singletary** batted .222 with 13 stolen bases, one double and one triple.

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## Chesterfield diamond teams look to finish strong

BY David Shelton  
Senior Writer

**Chesterfield** – Both the baseball and softball teams at **Chesterfield High** are making the most of their postseason opportunities.

With the playoffs reaching the nitty gritty, the Rams put themselves in position to challenge for the AA state championship. Both teams have been red hot since spring break and enter the week of May 15<sup>th</sup> on a roll.

At one time this season, the softball team was 6-6. As of May 17, the Rams are 15-9 and one of the final four teams remaining in the upper state. A 5-4 win over **East Clarendon** put **Chesterfield** in the drivers seat.

Juniors **Jamison Miles** and **Baylie Harpe** have led the team offensively. **Miles** is hitting .386 with two homers and 14 RBI while **Harpe** is at .425 with 242 RBI. **Miles** was the team’s offensive player of the year in 2025 while **Harpe** was the top defensive player.

Junior centerfielder **Jenna Stafford** is hitting .357 with 21 RBI and freshman shortstop **Sydney Sowell** is hitting .442 with 21 RBI. Senior **Gabi**

**Rhyn** is hitting .355 and can play third or right field defensively. Sophomore outfielder **Trinity Trexler** is hitting .325 with 14 RBI.

The No. 1 pitcher this season is freshman **Ashton Cassidy**, who has tossed nearly 90 innings this season. Sophomore **Madison Vanderpool** is working behind the plate and junior **Hayden Wood** and seventh-grader **Aisley Helms** are seeing time in the outfield. Seniors **Harley Hatcher** and **Jordan Evans** are seeing time in rightfield. Eighth-grader **Shayla Rivers** is a backup at first base.

The baseball team saw its season ended on May 11, finishing with an 18-10 overall record. **Sawyer Blevins** leads the team in hitting with a .456 batting average, driving in 19 runs to date. **Levi Sullivan** is hitting .393 with 11 RBI and **Sky Courtney** is hitting .317 with 17 RBI.

**Avery Keith** batted .323 with 18 RBI and **Bryce Adams** is hitting .4172 with 21 RBI.

**Adams** is one of the top hurlers, posting a 1.57 earned run average in 26 innings of work. **Blevins** has tossed 18 innings and **Max Gullede** has a 1.31 ERA as the workhorse of the staff.

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# WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL WOLVERINES



2026 Woodland Track seniors

## Woodland track program under the direction of two-time All-American Summer Troutman

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Dorchester**—It isn't every day that track athletes at a high school are being coached by a two-time track All-American, but that is the case at Woodland High where head track coach **Sommer Troutman** is having a great time staying involved with a sport that earned a scholarship to East Carolina University after she graduated from Woodland.

Coach Troutman competed as "Summer Knight" during her outstanding track prep career at Woodland. She steals holds the state record in Class AA in South Carolina in the pole vault with leap of 13 feet. She won gold medals in the event twice3 as a prep athlete.

While at East Carolina she earned all-conference honors three times, an all-American honors twice. In college she improved her pole vaulting to a leap of around 14 feet 9 inches and that is getting off the ground for sure.

Coach Troutman recently took the boys and girl's track teams to the annual state track meet in Columbia. The Wolverines qualified 11 girls in individual sports

plus two relays. The girls team scored 50 points good enough for third place over-all in the 3 AA classification.

The boys' team qualified six individuals, plus two relay teams. The boys scored 20 points, good enough for 16th place in the AA classification.

"My goal for the track program is to increase our numbers and get more athletes involved in distance events," said Coach Troutman. "Right now, we have twice as many girls involved in the track program than we have guys so we hope to get more guys involved as well.

"Both our teams are very young and one of our goals next seasons is to break the AA state record in the 4x400 relay," said Coach Troutman. "It will take a lot of work and commitment but I think these girls can do it."

The two stand-out performers for the girl's team were junior **Samya Sommers** who produced 15 points for the team while **Alexis Daniels** performed well also and she scored 14 points. Sommers placed 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100 meters (12.86), third in the 400 (59.33), and she

## Woodland working out 75 combined football players during spring drills

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Dorchester**—The Woodland High football team is working out around 75 junior varsity and varsity candidates for the upcoming 2026 football season during May drills, and veteran head coach **Eddie Ford** says the team will be focused on winning a region championship.

"I really feel like we will be a vastly improved team this season," said Coach Ford. "In Spring drills, we are trying to speed up things. We want to play fast and physical and our goal will be to compete for a region title."

A key returner to the team is rising 6-2 senior QB **Jeraze Salley** who will be starting for his third season with the team. "He will be one of our key senior leaders and he is a dual threat quarterback with a strong arm," said Coach Ford. "Wofford College is expressing strong interest in him right now."

Rising senior WR **Duke William** will start at WR

and **George Perry** returns to start at FS. **Chandler Fogle** (5-10,205) was an all-region ILB last year and he returns. Rising junior **Kymonte Goodwin** should see action as a slot receiver once again. Junior **Majai Wolfe** returns to start at one corner.

Senior **Javion Hall** is a rising senior who will start at FS and rising senior RB **Dorian Britt** (5-8,190) is back after rushing for 840 yards last year. Depth will also be provided by returning rising senior ILB **Laky White**, and rising sophomore **Cross Batton** (6-2, 190) will see action at OLB and TE.

The offensive line will be anchored by the return of rising sophomore **Machi Singletary** (5-9,260) who will start at center. Rising junior **Jordan Ford** will start at LG. Rising senior **Owen Messex** (6-0,275) will see action at RT. Rising junior Samuel Gadson (6-2, 240) returns at OLB and he can play in the OL. Rising senior **Jakobi Doctor** (5-10,280) returns to the NG position on defense.

**Gibson Kepley** kicked a 41-yard field goal last



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ran a leg on the first place 4X400 relay team (4:06.55) that finished seven seconds ahead of the second-place team.

Joining Sommers on the gold medal 3X400 team were **Alexis Daniels**, **Jaelyn Boyd**, and **Taniya Davis**. "This was the second year in a row that we won first place in the 4x400 relay," said Coach Troutman. "We spend a lot of time in practice running 300's and 400's and you have to be committed to be on a 4X400 relay team because you have to put in the time with this relay."

Daniels placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200 (26:09), **Destini Jackson** finished third in the shot (10.59m) while **Taylor Rinehart** was 10<sup>th</sup> in the 1600 (5:57.63).

The Woodland girls had two pole vaulters qualify for the state meet. **Alexis Martino** and **Royanna Britt** placed 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the event respectively with a clearance of 2.15m. **Kennedy Smith** had a 10<sup>th</sup> place finish in the javelin. **Shamya James** was 5<sup>th</sup> over-all in the discus.

Woodland qualified three girls in the high jump. **Taniya Davis** placed 5<sup>th</sup> in the high jump (1.55m), followed by 19<sup>th</sup> place **Starr Mosely** (1.45m) and **Jaelyn Boyd** (1.40m).

The Woodland boys were 4<sup>th</sup> in the 4X400 relay. This relay was run by **Domentai Felder**, **Kymonte Goodwin**, **Dominic Holmes** and **Jakari Colonel**.

They were led in individual events by **KY 'Monté Goodwin** who was 13<sup>th</sup> in the long jump (5.79m), while **Xavier Green** placed 11<sup>th</sup> in the pole vault (3.19m). **Jaylin Sampson** tossed the javelin (31.6m) and in the shot put **Sirlmani Grampus** placed third in the shot (14.95m).

Coach Troutman is assisted by **Kelly Bryant**, **Carlos Horne**, and **Carlene Martin**.

year and he returns to handle the kicking duties.

During the off-season Coach Ford lost the services of offensive coordinator **Brooks Burnette** who left to become the head football coach at his alma mater **Timberland High**. "We will miss Brooks and he is the third offensive coordinator I have lost since I have been the head coach at Woodland," said Coach Ford. "I am moving Kelly Bryant up as the play caller this season."

**Ty Sibert**, the school's athletic director will serve once again as the Wolverines defensive coordinator.

Woodland will participate in a five-way scrimmage with Goose Creek, Lake City, Saluda, and Hilton Head on August, 7. They will play Fort Dorchester in the Dorchester County Jamboree in mid-August. They will have a controlled game type scrimmage with Batesburg-Leesville on August, 22. They begin the regular season at Cross High on August, 29.

Coach Ford has 27 years in coaching with 15 of them being as a head coach.

## Fort Dorchester baseball falls in District 3 finals

By Roger Lee  
Special to the HSSR

**North Charleston**—Fort Dorchester finished in third place for 5A Region 8 Baseball, but had a deeper playoff run than all but one of its region opponents.

"We are going to swing the bats and we are going to try to make things happen," said Fort Dorchester coach **Jay Christmas**. "It's a little annoying that all our conference teams have to battle for the same spot, but its high school baseball and I love it. I wasn't mad at the kids when we lost because they played hard."

**College of Charleston** commit **Banks Wickersham** carried a .457 batting average into the Patriots' game May 13. He has more than 40 hits this season. **AJ Watts** was batting .435. **Daniel Schenk** was hitting .352. **Jansen Bohanan** was hitting .339 and leading in walks with more than 25. **Nathan Clark** was batting just above .300 and leading the team in home runs and RBIs.

The Patriots advanced to the championship round for **District 3** for the second consecutive season, but their run ended there.

Fort Dorchester opened the playoffs by winning a best-of-three series with **Ashley Ridge** to eliminate the **Swamp Foxes**. For the next round, the Patriots traveled to **Region 8 Champion James Island** and gave the **Trojans** all they could handle. The Fort put the potential game-tying run on in the final inning, but couldn't push the runner across and lost 8-6.

"James Island is a beast," Christmas said. "They are coached well and have a bunch of good kids. We had 11 strikeouts and left 11 runners on base. Despite that we scored six runs. It was a great game; we just have to be more efficient when we have runners on base."

That sent the Patriots to **Summerville**, the region runner-up, for an elimination game May 11. Fort



Photo by Roger Lee

**Daniel Schenk** was a key player this season

Dorchester prevailed 8-2 to end the **Green Wave's** season.

Schenk got the start on the hill and the win, throwing four-plus innings. It was his seventh pitching win of the season. **Alex Zapata** and **Lucas Grecco** also pitched.

Clark hit a two-run homerun to left field in the first inning. **Lee Lovelace** hit a bases-loaded double in the sixth that plated three runs.

The Patriots traveled to **Stratford** May 13 and defeated the **Knights** 8-3 to stay alive. It was a sweet win for the Fort because last season Stratford eliminated the Fort in the district finals.

## Swamp Foxes gaining experience this spring

By Roger Lee  
Special to the HSSR

**Summerville**—The **Ashley Ridge Boys** had to replace some key talent on the soccer pitch at the beginning of the season, but they held their own.

The **Swamp Foxes** weren't as impressive as they have been the past few seasons, but only suffered two blowouts all season. All their other matches were close ones that the team could have turned around with a break or two.

"We lost some talented seniors last year," Ashley Ridge coach **Nate Harris** said. "As the season developed others starting to find their voice, which is the great thing about high school sports."

The Swamp Foxes won their playoff opener, defeating **Carolina Forest** 3-0. Then they fell 1-0 to **Lexington** in the second round and finish the season with a 14-11 record. Lexington improved to 20-3.

The Swamp Foxes were 6-4 in **5A Region 8**, which earned them third place behind **West Ashley** and **James Island**.

Senior captain **Joshua DeSouza** led the Swamp Foxes in goals (21), shots (88), steals (29), and points (48). He was second in assists (6). The midfielder is one of only 18 players in the state selected to participate in the **2026 Clash of the Carolinas** all-star match.

Junior **Austin Fuller** led in assists (8) and was second in goals (8), points (24) and shots (51).



Photo by Roger Lee

**Ashley Ridge senior Joshua DeSouza** has been selected for the **Clash of the Carolinas all-star event**.

Senior **Nickolai Kunitsa** was third in goals (5), steals (15) and points (11). Junior **Elijah Dunkerley** was second in steals (17) and third in shots

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**Thomas Wamer** started on the hill, but it was **Zapata** who earned the pitching win to improve to 2-1 this season. **Grecco** picked up the save, his third of the season.

Clark was 2 for 5 at the plate with an RBI double and 3 runs scored. He reached base five times. **Cannon Corder** was 2 for 4 with 4 RBIs. **Wickersham** had a double, scored multiple runs and reached base four times. **Schenk** and **Watts** both had an RBI.

That sent Fort Dorchester back to **James Island** May 15 needing two wins to advance to the **Lower State** finals. The **Trojans** took an 8-1 lead in the bottom of the first inning and rolled to a 12-5 win to eliminate the Fort and the need for a second game.

Fort Dorchester finishes the season with a 17-15 record. Other members of the team are **Brady Quirk**, **Connor Baumgardner**, **Sam Romero**, **Jan Gil**, **Luke Conroy**, **Cade Ridgway**, **Zach Welch**, **Max Lloyd**, **Greg Jenkins**, **Dustin Gormon**, **Kenneth Howell**, **Ethan Scott**, **Cash Crone**, **Samuel Damanti**, **Myles Dewese** and **Kanaan Jackson**.

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(32). Junior **Kent Varnadoe** was second in assists (6).

Goal keeper **Keith McCune**, who was selected for the **2026 North-South Classic All-Star** event, anchored the defense. He made 52 saves this season and had seven shutouts. His goals against average was 0.836.

Other members of the team are **Guda Batyrebv**, **Marcus Ross**, **Luis Landaeta**, **Tomas Higueta**, **Chandler Trinidad**, **Brennan Awtry**, **Parker Williams**, **Landon Shabeldeen**, **Eric Beltran**, **Callum Evans**, **Charlie Smith**, **Brycen McCoy**, **Myles Smith** and **Bennett Zerby**.

### All-Star Coach

Ashley Ridge Baseball coach **BJ Bellush** and **Summerville** coach **Thane Maness** have been selected as the coaches for the **5A South** team for the **2026 North-South Baseball Classic**. The event features some of the top senior baseball players in the state, broken into teams based on division and geography.

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# LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY SWAMPCATS

## Hatfield stepping down as LMA baseball coach

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
**Manning** – After 17 seasons as the head coach of the **Laurence Manning Academy** baseball team, **Barry Hatfield** announced at the end of the regular season that he was stepping down.

The last regular-season home game on **Tucker Belangia Diamond** was a 6-4 loss to **Pinewood Prep**. It was questionable as if LMA would even make the SCISA AAAA state playoffs, and if it did it would be a low seed. That meant Laurence Manning likely wouldn't host a game so Hatfield's final home game would be a loss.

Fate had other plans though. The Swampcats ended up getting in the playoffs, but they were the final seed in their 5-team, double-elimination bracket.

"From what I heard, we weren't in the playoffs to begin with," Hatfield said. "But one of the teams was found to have had an illegal pitch count and had to forfeit a game and we got in."

LMA beat No. 4 seed **Hammond** 5-4 in their opening game before falling to eventual state champion **Hilton Head Christian Academy** 10-0.

Laurence Manning had to await the winner of an elimination game between Hammond and No. 3 seed **John Paul II**. When the Skyhawks beat JPII that meant Hatfield and the Swampcats would be at home one final time. They made the most of it with a 6-4 win.

Although LMA was eliminated by No. 2 seed **Augusta Christian School** 9-1, the moment's significance was not lost on Hatfield.

"It was special to walk off somewhere that meant so much to me with a win," Hatfield said. "I tried not to get emotional, but I have to admit I got a little emotional before the game."

"I was trying to fight back the tears and focus on what was in front of me. To have spent so much time and have so many wonderful memories there, it was special to win the final home game."

That brought an end to a 38-year baseball coaching career, 31 of them as a head coach. Hatfield was the head coach at **Furman High School** in its final year of existence and was the head at **Lakewood**, which replaced Furman, in the first 13 years of its existence.

Hatfield doesn't know what his final career record is, but what is known is that he led the Swampcats to back-to-back state championships in 2016 and '17 and to one more in 2022.

LMA finished with a 10-13 record, one of the few losing seasons over his 31-year head coaching career. However, Hatfield was pleased with how the season turned out.

"The kids played hard, and we went 2-2 in the playoffs, which is better than what was expected," he said. "As a coach, you want to see improvement as the year progresses. As far as what you want is to be playing your best baseball at the end of the year. You couldn't ask anything else out of them."

**Payton Brown** and **Josh Niswonger** were named to the All-Region 3-AAAA team and were selected to play in the **SCISA North-South All-Star Game** along with **Grainger Powell**.

Niswonger was the top pitcher, working 50 innings and posting a 3.36 earned run average. He had 69 strikeouts to 41 walks., Niswonger had a .294 batting

average, but owned an on-base percentage of over .490. He led the team in home runs with three and runs batted in with 17 to go with 10 runs scored.

Brown batted .303 and had an OBP of over .360 and shared the lead in runs with 19. Powell batted .343 with an OBP topping .420 to go along with 13 RBI and 15 runs. He also worked 11 innings and had a 4.46 ERA.

**Connor Carter** was the leading hitter with a .348 batting average and shared the lead in runs with 19.

**Gavyn Mathis** had a strong season on the mound, working 34 1/3 innings and posting a 3.06 ERA. He struck out 24 and walked just 10.

Hatfield said he initially planned to step down following the 2025 season. However, with the school's coaching staff going through changes along with a new headmaster coming in, he decided it was best to wait a year.

"I love Laurence Manning," he said. "There were too many transitions last year, and I felt if I quit at that time it would look bad on the school."

Hatfield said his greatest joy as a coach was having his son, **Dawson Hatfield**, start for him at second base on the back-to-back title teams. The saddest moments were saying goodbye to his senior classes.

Hatfield will still be teaching high school history but now plans to spend his after-school hours with his family, including his granddaughter.

### 5 LADY 'CATS ALL-REGION SOFTBALL SELECTIONS

A quintet of seniors who helped the Laurence Manning softball team to a third straight AAAA state title – **Lyza Prickelmyer**, **Ashley Rae Hodge**, **Marlee Black**, **Lily Wellborn** and **Caroline Welch** – were named to the All-Region team.

Prickelmyer primarily played first base and had a .581 batting average and an on-base percentage of .610, both team highs. She had 11 doubles, four triples and two home runs, including a 2-run shot in the top of the eighth inning in the Lady 'Cats 8-7 win over Pinewood Prep that gave them a sweep of the best-of-3 state championship series.

She also had 28 runs batted in and scored 38 runs to go with 13 stolen bases.

Hodge, the shortstop, had a .429 average with an OBP of .458. She had 11 doubles, one triple, one homer, 32 RBI and 26 runs.

Black, the leftfielder, batted .418 with a .446 OBP. She had three doubles, three triples and two homers to go with 15 RBI, 26 runs and seven stolen bases.

Wellborn handled third base and had a .380 average and an OBP of .397. She had seven doubles and two triples to go with 16 RBI and 19 runs.

Welch was one of Laurence Manning's pitchers. She had a 6-2 win-loss record in 58 2/3 innings pitched. She had 27 strikeouts to 27 walks while posting an earned run average of 2.88.

At the plate, Welch had a .375 average to go with an OBP of .394. She had eight doubles, two triples, 19 RBI and 18 runs.

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## Patriots fall just 5 runs short of winning season

**By: Gerald Doolittle**  
**Johnston, S.C.** – The **Wardlaw Academy Lady Patriots** coached by **Katie Yonce** fell short of their goal of winning the **SCISA Class A Softball Title** when they were defeated 13-12 by **Holly Hill Academy** in the State tournament.

The Lady Patriots final 2026 record was 6-12. However, it could have been 11-7 had they scored 10 more runs in their 5 one run defeats against **Augusta Christian (7-8)**, **Jefferson Davis (9-10)**, **Hammond (9-10)**, **Marlboro Academy (6-7)** and **Holly Hill Academy (12-13)**.

The Lady Patriots had a schedule with eight games against higher class teams that helped them to be very competitive against their Class A opponents.

Coach Yonce had strong leadership from her army of seniors. **Katherine Trotter** led the way

with a batting average of .423 and 14 RBIs. **Brianna McNeill** followed batting .418 and 24 RBIs. **Bailey Sturkie** had a .367 and 19 RBIs. **Taylor Hill** batted .362 and 16 RBIs. **Gracie Kelly** batted .250 and 13 RBIs and **Ashley Reichling** batted .150 and 5 RBIs.

The under classmen were led by **Ellie Yonce (8<sup>th</sup>)** with a .436 average and 19 RBIs. **Maddie Campbell (so)** .375, **Brilee Brazell (jr)** .345 and **Savannah McNeill (8<sup>th</sup>)** .317.

Rounding out the Lady Patriot roster were **Dorothy Kate Kemp**, **Brooklyn Proctor (fr)**, **Olyvia Wall (jr)**, **Charlotte Culver (fr)** and **Allysa Carpenter (jr)**.

Coach Yonce should have another competitive team in 2027 with a few add-on players coming up from the middle school team.

## Knights rally to win SCISA A championship

**By: Gerald Doolittle**  
**Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.** – The **W.W. King Academy Knights** coached by **Zach Matthews** finished the 2026 season with an explosive rally to pull out a 14-11 win over **Marlboro Academy** to claim the **SCISA Class A Baseball Title**.

The Knights trailed 4-11 going into the fifth inning and had a five-run rally to trail 9-11 going into the sixth inning where they scored five more runs to claim the 14-11 victory for the Championship.

"It was nice getting back on the diamond to coach this year," said Matthews. "We struggled early starting the season 1-3. The guys stayed on the course all year. The more we played the better we got. We had an 8-game winning streak and won 10 of the last 12 games to finish 14-6 for the season."

Coach Matthews was blessed with a roster of Champions that had earlier in the school year completed a 12-0 Championship in football. All except

for three seniors are expected back next school year (2026-27) to defend those titles. The three seniors leaving as Champions are **Smith Kirby**, **Zed Watkins** and **Wyatt Burbank**.

This year's five juniors **Luke Harvey**, **Elijah Hutto**, **Colton Black**, **Casen Buzhardt** and **Lan-dell Anderson** will give Coach Matthews strong senior leadership as the Knights hope for another title.

Next year the Juniors will be **Grayson Rikard** and **Joshua Oswald**. The Sophomores will be **Jackson Hutto**, **Drayton Wannamaker**, **Isaiah Doolittle**, **Tucker McGinty** and **Miles Atkins**. **Ayden Brown**, **Berton Aull** and **Walker Buzhardt** will be the freshmen coming up from the middle school roster.

Coach Matthews for baseball and Coach **Brian Kneee** for football hopes to hold this group of young men together for the 2026-27 school year

## Laurens Academy baseball reaches semi-finals

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
**Laurens** – **Darryl Halbert** wasn't quite sure, but when the **Laurens Academy** baseball team beat **Andrew Jackson Academy** in a first-round series in the SCISA AA state playoffs, he knew it had been a while since it had happened.

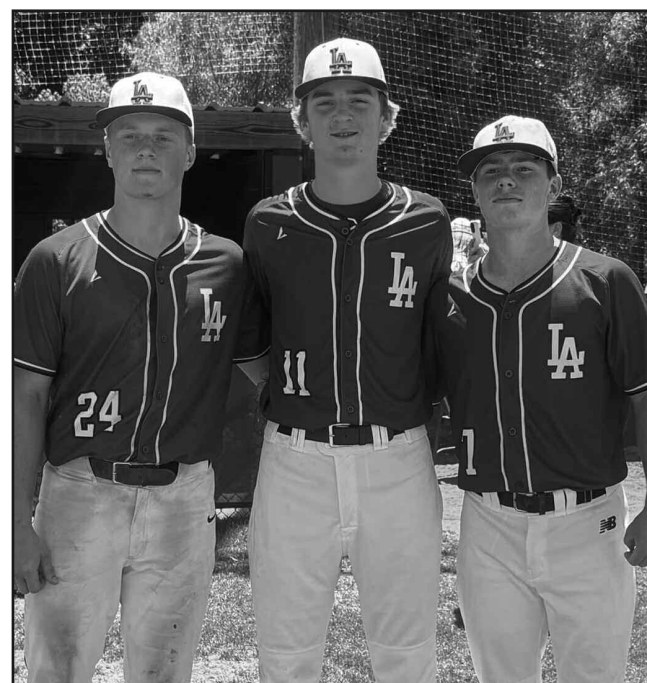
"I think it was 2015," said Halbert, LA's veteran head coach, at the time.

Whenever it was, it made for an outstanding season for the Crusaders.

"I was very impressed and really satisfied with the way our season progressed from February into May," said Halbert, whose team finished with a 13-8 record after taking eventual state champion **Dorchester Academy** to a third game in semifinal series. "We got stronger and faster over the off-season, and that began to show as we got deeper into the season."

"It was our first playoff series win in quite a while. I was happy for the young guys experiencing good playoff baseball this early in their careers, but I was especially happy for the older guys that got to experience playoff success, in particular our only senior, **Braydon Burke**. He's played his behind off for us for five years, and he was able to advance in the playoffs. We didn't get him a ring, but we got dang close."

With Burke being the only senior, that means Laurens will return everyone else. That includes three players who were selected to play in the **SCISA North-South All-Star Game**, junior catcher **Caleb Hardy**, freshman shortstop/pitcher **Riley Whittaker** and eighth-grade pitcher/third baseman **Wyatt Little**.



**Caleb Hardy, Wyatt Little, and Riley Whittaker were selected to play in the North/South All-Star game**

Little led LA with a .409 batting average. He had eight double, 17 runs batted in and 18 runs scored. Whittaker batted .361 with 14 Rbi and 28 runs. Hardy batted .266 with four doubles, two home runs and a team high 19 RBI.

Pitching-wise, Little had a 3-3 win-loss record with a 4.08 earned run average in 34 1/3 innings pitched. Whittaker worked 30 innings and had 54 strikeouts to go with a 3-2 record and a 1.87 ERA.

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# Gray softball, baseball hit strides, finish strong

**By WORTHY EVANS**  
**West Columbia**—Late May seems to be the perfect time of year for the **Gray Collegiate** softball team. Coming off a 4A state championship win in 2025 to go with the team's 2A title in 2024, the War Eagles are 29-0 and playing their best softball.

"We're playing good right now," head coach **Doug Frye** said. "Our pitching is good, we're playing good defense and we're hitting the ball the way I like to see them hit. We're gelling at the right time."

The War Eagles breezed through the 4A lower state District A tournament, outscoring the competition 39-2 in three games. They beat Region 4-4A rival **North Augusta** 5-3 in game 1 of the lower state championship tournament Thursday.

We know North Augusta and **Airport** pretty well because they're in our region," Frye said about the lower state field. We don't know a whole lot about **South Florence** but (head coach) **Bobby Jones** gets a good team every year."

Leading the War Eagles has been junior five-star shortstop and **University of South Carolina** commit **Aspen Boulware**. Boulware has drawn 23 walks—many intentionally—but she has a team-leading nine home runs, 38 runs batted in, and a .571 batting average.

"Aspen has had a great year," Frye said. "She's been walked a lot but she's such a great player that she still gets a lot of hits and is a great baserunner."

What helps is the batter behind her, the team's ace pitcher **Makenzie Sease**. Not only is Sease 10-0 in the circle with a 0.66 earned-run average and 122 strikeouts, but the junior is also batting .538 with 43 hits, three homers and 41 RBI.

"She's pitched well but she actually hits very well," Frye said. "We get a lot of people who think of her as a pitcher but she's a great hitter, and if they do walk Aspen, they have to face Mackenzie."

The team is batting a collective .396 with 283 hits and 17 home runs. The team has hit fewer home runs than last year's 51 mark, but the production—306 runs compared to last season's 329—indicate there's no drop-off on offense.

What Frye says is the real strength of the team is

pitchers who make few mistakes and a defense that makes few errors. The War Eagles have just 26 errors in 29 games.

The War Eagles pitching staff, which also includes Juniors **Peyton Hendrix** (also 10-0 with a 1.06 ERA and 71 Ks) and **Aleigha Capilos** (5-0 with a 2.37 ERA and 23Ks), has walked a total of 39 batters in 29 games.

"We're very athletic and we're solid all the way around," Frye said. "We don't beat ourselves; we don't walk that many people and we make very few errors. I think that's what gets lost when they look at our at-bats and our pitching—our defense is good."

The baseball team ended the season falling to Region 4-4A rival **North Augusta** twice in the 4A lower state District A championship game, but the War Eagles had a surprising run without a head coach at the helm.

Coached by assistants **James Adams** and **Terry Oldaker** following the departure of coach **Matt Hornsby** just before the start of the season, Gray posted a 22-5-1 record and a region championship with a 13-1 mark.

Among players with 70 or more at-bats, junior **Zak Perry** posted a .361 batting average with 26 hits and 14 runs batted in. Senior **Garrett Blankenship** batted .346 with 27 hits and 18 RBI. Junior **Chase Starkey** batted .343 with 24 hits and 21 RBI.

Perry posted a 7-0 record on the mound, a 1.63 earned-run average and 64 strikeouts. Senior **Brogan Sox** (4-1) had a 2.59 ERA and 38 Ks. Senior **MJ Hornsby** (2.72 ERA) and junior **Logan Sproles** (4.11 ERA) earned three wins apiece.

As for the head coaching position, Gray recently announced that **Richie McCullough** has accepted the job. McCullough takes over the Eagles after a stint at **Mountain View Prep**, where his team went 21-6 and 1-2 in the 3A upper state playoffs. He was head coach of **Oceanside Collegiate** for seven years, including the Landsharks' 2A state championships in 2022 and 2023. McCullough's 2023 team beat Gray Collegiate in the state title series.

Gray Collegiate moves up to the 5A classification in the fall.

# Oceanside wins titles in lacrosse and tennis

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**

**Mt. Pleasant** - As dominant as the boys tennis program at **Oceanside Collegiate Academy**, it's almost a waste of time to hold a state championship event that includes the Landsharks.

For the sixth straight year, Oceanside Collegiate is a state champion, defeating Clinton, 6-0, in the AAA state finals on May 9t. The season concluded with just one loss (to SCISA power Hilton Head Prep).

"This team was on a mission the whole season," says coach **Shawn Harris**. "Everyone on the team are friends and everyone was on the same page about our goals from the start. I always tell them to play hard and with a purpose. Everyone knows on this team what the expectations are, but first and foremost we want to have fun, enjoy the game and respect our opponents."

The Landsharks faced adversity in the playoffs, winning a close, hard-fought battle with Philip Simmons. OCA was a heavy favorite in the finals and won with ease.

"We knew we were heavily favored but we never underestimate any opponent. Clinton is a good team and well-coached by my boys were prepared."

Three seniors, **Luke Skillman**, **Jackson Nichols** and **Will Britton** led the team on and off the court.

Skillman played one and two singles, respectively, while Britton was a doubles player. **Ollie Pfarr** played three singles, **Carter Heath** played four singles, and **Huck Reynolds** played five singles.

For the third time in four years the Oceanside Collegiate girls lacrosse team came away as state champions, knocking off rival **Bishop England**, 13-8, in a rematch of last year's finals.


Coaches expect the best players to lead the way in the biggest events and OCA coach **Ashley McCullough** watched her veterans pave the way to another title. Senior **Kaitlyn Boerst** tallied three goals while senior **Scarlett Mayer** added two goals for the winners.

However, youth also showed up big for OCA as freshman **Reagan Bowers** scored three goals and fellow freshman **Reed Franklin** scored twice. OCA finished the season with a 16-4 record.

"Our balance and depth are certainly the strengths of our team," the coach said. "We feel like we have several girls who can score if you take one away from us. And our defense, it was very strong today. We just got a total team effort in every phase. The girls were definitely ready to play."

Bowers and Franklin scored early in the contest to give OCA a 2-0 lead. **Natalie Noone** scored the first of her three goals to make it 2-1 but the Landsharks opened a 5-2 lead in the second.

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Late in the second period the Bishops made it 5-4 on a goal by **Revi Hawkins** but the Landsharks closed the period strong and led 7-4 by halftime. **Bowers'** third goal of the half came with four seconds remaining.

The third quarter belonged to OCA as **Boerst** and **Mayer** added goals and the Landsharks led by 10-5 heading into the final period. Despite a late rally, the Bishops were unable to close the gap enough. **Bowers** made it 13-6 and **Greta Mayer** added a goal. **Bishop England** got late goals from **Hawkins** and **Gracie Seymour**, her second of the game.

# Florence Area Feature Page

## SoFlo, West Florence looking to advance in playoffs

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Florence** – The **West Florence High School** softball team was set to begin a best-of-3 series against **St. James** for the lower state title in the AAAAA Division II state playoffs that will result in the winner playing for a state championship.

The Knights were taking a 25-1 record into the first game scheduled for May 18 at St. James. The second game will be played in **Florence** with a third game, if needed, being played on May 22 at St. James.

West Florence head coach **Randy Locklair** couldn't have been much happier with where his team was entering the series.

"The girls are playing pretty well right now," Locklair said. "Pressure doesn't seem to bother them. Our pitching will always keep us in games. We just need to continue to hit the ball like we have throughout the season."

"With starting so many young girls I do have a little bit of a concern, but they have produced all year and I do not see why they wouldn't now. I am pleased and optimistic that we will do well. We definitely have a challenge with a very good (28-1) St. James team."

Locklair's remark about pitching keeping the Knights in the game might be the understatement of the year. Senior **Annie Eliason** has not allowed an earned run all season and only two runs total in 130 2/3 innings pitched.

Eliason has faced 443 batters and struck out 334 of them. She has given up just 26 hits and 16 walks.

Eliason is also swinging a big stick when she steps to the plate. She had a .403 batting average to go with seven doubles, five home runs, 28 runs batted in and 10 runs scored.

Four other Knights were hitting .400 or better. Eighth-grader **Bayleigh Honeycutt** and junior **Paityn Daniels** shared the highest batting average at .468. Honeycutt had seven doubles, one triple, 10 RBI and 28 runs. Daniels had two doubles, two triples, a homer, 26 runs, 14 stolen bases and 17 RBI.

Freshman **Hannah Marsik** was batting .464 with seven doubles, three triples, five homers, 24 RBI and 15 runs, and eighth-grader **Ashley Moody** was at an even .400 to go with 28 runs, 14 stolen bases and 13 RBI.

### SOUTH FLORENCE SOFTBALL IN LOWER STATE TOURNAMENT

The South Florence softball team is vying for a spot in the AAAA state championship series, but it has a little bit more work to do to get there.

See Florence Area, pg. 41



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## Keefe pleased with Florence Christian baseball

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Florence** – In completing his second season in his second go-around as the baseball head coach at **Florence Christian School**, **Scotty Keefe** knows he had a much improved squad

"We finished 13-6, were able to host a first-round game of the (SCISA AAA) state playoffs and won," Keefe said. "We had a good season, much improvement from last season's 10-10 record. The team was able to keep games close and win a few of them."

"Headed into the state playoffs we were 12-4. We lost to two better teams at the end, but I'm proud of the team and the season. We look forward to next season and building off this year's success."

The Eagles were the No. 4 seed in one of the 5-team, double-elimination brackets in the playoffs.

They knocked off No. 5 **Colleton Prep** 6-5 in the first game. They lost to eventual state champion and once-beaten **Calhoun Academy** in their next game before being eliminated by **Pee Dee Academy**.

Florence Christian had two players selected to the All-Region 3-AAA team in **Riley Minton** and **Brodie Hickson**.

Minton, a sophomore who also played in the **SCISA North-South All-Star Game**, was the top pitcher and had a 5-1 win-loss record to go with a 4.00 earned run average. At the plate, he led Florence Christian in hitting with a .404 batting average. He was also the team leader in hits with 21 and runs scored with 19.

Hickson, a junior, was the starting shortstop and had a .298 batting average.

## Lamar softball has "awesome" season on diamond

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**

**Lamar** – It's kind of hard to hide the enthusiasm **Shane Brantley** had for the just completed season of the **Lamar High School** softball team.

"Awesome season," the **Silver Foxes** head coach said. "The girls worked really hard and fought hard all year."

The results were an 18-11 overall record and a 10-2 mark in Region 2-Class A, good for second place. Lamar reached the championship round of its district tournament in the state playoffs, pushing **Ridge Spring-Monetta** to the if game before falling.

The Foxes had five players selected to the All-Region team in **Ansley Brantley**, **Cheyenne Anderson**, **Jordyn Scarborough**, **Isabella Hayes** and **Sadie McManus**.

**Ansley Brantley** was also selected to the Class A All-State team. She batted .329 with 45 runs scored and 13 runs batted in. **Anderson** batted .368, **McManus** .333 and **Hayes** .346.

**Scarborough** batted an even .400 to go with seven doubles, two triples and two home runs.

Hayes had 11 doubles, a triple and a homer.

Lamar stole an amazing 354 bases. **Ansley Brantley** led the way with 54 followed by **Scarborough** with 44, **Anderson** with 39, **McManus** with 35 and **Kynley Brantley** with 30.

"This was the fastest team I have ever had," said Coach **Brantley**.

Hayes and **Ansley Brantley** shared the pitching duties. **Brantley** worked 57 innings and had a 4.79 earned run average. Hayes had a 4.81 ERA in 54 innings.

What's the only thing that might get Coach **Brantley** more excited than the just completed season?  
"I can't wait to see what next year holds as we have everybody returning," he said.



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# Stags baseball wins region, two playoff games

**By Billy G. Baker**  
**Publisher**  
**Moncks Corner**—By the high standards set by the Berkeley baseball program, under the tutelage of head coach **Landy Cox**, the Stags would like to win a state championship every year like they did a year ago against **Catawba Ridge**.

Sometimes injuries get in the way of the goals, or sometimes you get a bad bounce at the wrong time. The Stags finished with a record of 17-11-2.

On May 15, the Stags lost to West Florence 9-2 to conclude the season. They had two highly competitive wins in the play-offs over **Lugoff-Elgin** (5-4 and 7-6).

In the thrilling walk-off win over the Demons on May, 12 junior outfielder/pitcher Henry Rivers was the m n of the hour.

Down 4-2 to **Lugoff-Elgin**, with two-out in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> inning in the Div. II AAAAA baseball play-offs, **Rivers** hit a three- run homer to deep center field on **Jim Bradley Field**, rescuing the Stags from the jaws of defeat in a dramatic 5-4 walk-off win on May, 9.

Just imagine, 10 years from now, a future child of Rivers coming home from a first- grade class, asking his father all about this historic moment he made happen back in 2026 on the Stags baseball team. “Dad, my teacher was at your game back then and she said you once did something amazing in a baseball game; please tell me all about it.”

The proud father, still remembering the moment as if it just happened, responds with a smile on his face. “Prior to this game I had never hit a three-run homer to win a baseball game, but I had often dreamed about it,” were the exact words Rivers repeated again from that historic home run of the night of May 9, 2026.

Rivers continues recalling the feat to his curious child, using the exact words he shared with the *HSSR* after the game years earlier, “The pitcher had thrown me two breaking balls, and with the count 0-2, I just knew the fast ball was coming,” said Rivers. “I knew it was gone as soon as I hit it, and I am not lying. It was a dream come true running around the bases knowing that we had just won the game with the fans going crazy.”

Hopefully, the future child of Rivers might respond, “Wow, that was really special Dad. When are you going to sign me up for a travel team so I can have dreams

come true too?”

As region champions, **Berkeley** drew a first-round bye. **Lugoff-Elgin** advanced to play the Stags after the Demons had defeated **White Knoll** in the first round. Berkeley will now host **West Florence** at 6 p.m. on Monday may, 11. L-E is on the road to **St James** on Monday.

After the game, **Berkeley** head coach **Landy Cox** shared his thoughts, “In my mind, everybody sees Henry Rivers’ three run homer, and that was great, but **Bryson Heath** worked his tail off from an 0-2 count to battled back to get on with a walk and then **Haydon Jones**, who can flat swing it, got on with a single to make the three run homer possible,” said Coach Cox. “We practice a drill called down by one all the time and would you believe that Henry hit the home run in the exact spot he hit one out in our drills the other day in practice.

“This game was hard work going 8 innings with so much on the line,” said Coach Cox. “I am very proud of the fight in our team tonight and we never gave up. We play West Florence on Monday, and we played them last year in the lower-state championship and they are a very good team. I am just proud to be 1-0 right now and not 0-1.”

The Stags responded to tie the game in the bottom of the first on a home run by senior second baseman **Hudson Clark** who has signed to play at Florence Darling-ton Tech next year.

Berkeley went up 2-1 in the fourth when **Lucas Porcelli** reached on a single and advanced to third base on a double by senior first baseman **Bryson Heath**. Porcelli scored on a sac bunt from junior **Easton Little** to give the Stags a 2-1 lead.

In the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> L-E tied the game at 2 when Crain walked, stole second and later scored on an RBI single by **Luke Ferrris**.

In the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> L-E scored two runs to go up 4-2.

Then the Stags rallied for the win with Rivers’ three run home run in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Senior **Gavin Barb** relieved Rivers on the mound in the top of the 8<sup>th</sup> and got credit for the win. The Stags, who got 9 hits during the game, were led at the plate by Rivers who went 2-of-3 with a home run and three RBI’s along with Clark who was 2-of-e with one RBI.



2026 Cane Bay Cobras girls soccer

# Cane Bay spring sports drawing to a close in ‘26

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer**  
**Summerville** – The Cane Bay spring sports season has ended with no state titles but thts not to say there weren’t some competitive moments.

The softball team, under first-year coach Traci Hutchinson rallied hard dwn the stretch with an eight-game winning streak and came away as the region 7-A AAAA champions. The Cobras aalso managed to earn a win in the state playoffs before being eliminated. They finished with a 13-14 record.

Charlet Reed got hot at the plate late in the season and finished with a .405 batting average. Candence Atkins hit .324 and Jasmine Dargan hit .312. Lila Robertson finished with a .292 batting average.

The boys soccer team finished with a 9-10 record

and made the state playoffs. Jayden Hernandez led the team with 11 goals and Bryson Clark added nine goals. Bailey Purvis contributed 10 goals.

The girls soccer team also made the playoffs and finished with a 14-8 record. Eiliyah Tomes scored 25 goals with 16 assists to set the pace. Kenley Drew added 19 goals.

Coach **Shane Todd** has a handful of seniors but also starts a bevy of underclassmen on the baseball team, which won seven games. Freshman **Tre Lawrence** is the starting centerfielder and considered a Division I prospect. He belted five homeruns this season. Freshman **Davis Owens** is the starting shortstop and has show great potential, while sophomore **Colton Price** is working in the middle infield and is hitting .296 on the season.

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Leading the team in hitting is senior **Jesse Hernandez**, who is hitting .450 while leading the team with 16 RBI. Senior catcher **Cayden Haught** has been solid defensively. Another young player, eighth-grader **Owen Curry**, has been the ace of the pitching staff. The lefty has a 0.64 earned run average with two wins in 22 innings of work.

Junior **Landon Roberts** has thrown 19 innings and has a win while seniors **Taylor Herndon** and **Kris Poe** are eating up innings as well.

In track, Mayson Samuel competed in the AAAAA Division 1 state track meet and earned a silver medal in the pole vault.

# Saluda softball after another upper state title

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**hssr.com Associate Editor**  
**Saluda** – The **Saluda High School** softball team was within two victories of getting back to the AA state championship series after winning the opening game in the upper state tournament on May 15.

The Tigers beat **Ninety Six** 9-0 to advance to the winners bracket of the 4-team, double-elimination tournament. They were scheduled to play host to **Chesnee**, a 6-5 winner over **Clinton** in their opening game, on May 18.

**Miller Martin** picked up the victory in the circle against **Ninety Six**, the team Saluda beat for the upper state title last year. She had 12 strikeouts while going the distance. At the plate Martin had a hit and a run batted in.

**Karen Alamaraz** and **Ashlynn Vereen** led the offense with two hits apiece. Vereen also had an RBI. **Aubrey Marnatti** had a hit and an RBI, and **Zoey Springs** and **Reese Shaw** each had a hit.

The Tigers were 26-4 following the win. Head coach **Hannah Towery** is looking for her team to stay the course.

“Moving forward we have to continue doing what we are doing,” said Towery, who guided Saluda to the upper state title last year before losing to **East Clarendon** in the championship series. “We have to do the little things right and go and attack what you want.”

## SALUDA BASEBALL WINS REGION 2 TITLE

For just the second time in program history, the Saluda baseball team won a region title.

The Tigers claimed the Region 2 championship with an 8-2 record, finishing 17-10 overall. “As a whole this was a great season,” said Saluda head coach **Travis Mills**. “I’m super proud of our entire team for what they accomplished. Winning the region championship for just the second time in school history is a big deal, and I’m hoping it’s something we can build on in 2027.”

The Tigers reached the championship round of the District 4 tournament in the state playoffs before falling to **Landrum**. Saluda lost the opening game to No. 4 seed **Buford** 7-6. It then beat **Pelion** 7-5 in

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## Florence Area, continued from pg. 23

The Bruins lost to defending state champion **Gray Collegiate Academy** 3-1 on May 16 in a winners bracket game in the 4-team, double-elimination lower state tournament.

The 25-6 Bruins were scheduled to play host to **North Augusta** in an elimination game on May 18. The winner of that game will take on GCA, needing to beat it twice to advance to the title series.

## WEST GIRLS 2ND IN AAAAA DII STATE MEET

The West Florence girls track and field team finished a close second to **Fort Mill** in the AAAAA Division II state meet on May 16 at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia**.

The Knights finished with 65, just eight behind **Fort Mill**. West Florence didn’t win any of the events

an elimination game before topping **Buford** 8-2 in another elimination game.

The Tigers lost to **Landrum** 8-7 in the championship round.

Saluda had three All-Region performers in pitchers **Cayden Rogers** and **Westan Rowe** and catcher **Sid Shaw**. Rogers had a 7-1 win-loss record with a 2.65 earned run average, while Rowe was 4-0 with a 2.82 ERA. Shaw had a .403 batting average with an on-base percentage of .538 to go with 22 RBI.

## CEDRIANNA SPRINGS, JAHMEER MYERS WIN TRACK TITLES

**Cedrianna Springs** won the 400-meter hurdles for the Saluda girls and **Jahmeer Myers** won the javelin toss for the boys in the AA track and field state meet on May 15 at **Richland Northeast High School** in **Columbia**.

Springs won the 400 hurdles in a time of 1 minute, 05.37 seconds. Myers won the javelin with a throw of 174 feet, 7.67 inches.

The boys finished 13<sup>th</sup> with 22 points. Also scoring points for the Tigers were **Darryl Hill** in the 100-meter dash (fourth), **Jakaile Stevens** in the 110 hurdles (sixth) and the fifth-place 4x400-meter relay team.

The girls finished 12<sup>th</sup> with 23 points. Others scoring for Saluda were **Amaya Abney** in the triple jump (fifth), **Londyn Monroe** in the 100 (sixth), the sixth-place 4x1 team, **Taliyah Linton** in the 400 dash (seventh) and **Jabria Brunson** in the 100 hurdles (eighth).

Those who qualified for state but didn’t place among the girls were **Amyhia Thomas** in the 400 hurdles, the 4x400 relay team, the 4x8 relay team, **Brunson** in both the high jump and triple jump and **McKinley Wilder** in the discus.

For the boys, **Hill** in both the 200 and long jump, **Jamauri Reynolds** and **Mekhi Linton** in the high jump and **Myers** in the shot put.

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but placed 13 times to score points.

Leading the way was **Kanya Young**, who finished second in both the 100-meter dash and the 200 dash. **Zofia Wierzbicki** finished second in the shot put and third in the javelin.

**Nadia Brooks** finished third in the shot put, while the 4x800-meter relay team finished third as well. Fourth-place finishers were **Susana Martinez** in the 800 run, and **Kaylanna Burroughs** in both the 400 hurdles and the triple jump.

The 4x400 relay team was fifth, **Cassidie Williams** was seventh in the discus, the 4x100 relay team was eighth, and **Shayonna Johnson** finished eighth in the 800.

Placing for the West Florence boys were **Clayton Folse** in third and **Jude Packard** in eighth in the javelin, **Jamie Williamson** in sixth in the discus and **Jonathan Carter** in seventh in the 800.

In the AAAAA meet on May 14 at RNE, South Florence’s **Karmen Hanks** won the 100 hurdles in the girls competition, while **Allyson Watson** was sixth.

**Adrian Singletary** won the high jump in the boys meet. **Tashawn Lewis** finished eighth in the 400 hurdles.

Wilson’s 4x100 relay team won state in the boys meet. **Tristan Howard** was fourth in the javelin, while **Evan Addison** was eighth in the discus and **Kayden Bethea** was eighth in the triple jump.

The Wilson girls 4x1 relay team finished third while the 4x4 team was fourth. **Leah Spears** was sixth in the 100, **Kamren McFadden** was sixth in the 100 hurdles, **Lafara Graham** was sixth in the long jump, and **Stary Samuel** was seventh in the high jump.

## Abbeville track and field looks to build for future

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** - It has been a learning experience for the Abbeville track and field teams during the 2026 season as head coach **Jeremiah Boyd** has a young team that has the potential to very good as they mature but this season was about preparing for next season and the season's to come.

"We have a very young team, so the number one goal is to get experience at a high level meet. We had several athletes who were in the mix to get on the podium which is always exciting but we need them to understand not only what it takes to get to the state but what you have to do to get better," said coach Boyd.

While the state meet did not go as planned the Panthers girls team did bring home two medals and it was the younger girls who brought them home. Freshmen **Jayla Paul** captured silver in the 400 hurdles with a time of 1:10.78 which was just off her personal best of 1:10.78. She also scored points in the 100 meter hurdles finishing 7<sup>th</sup>. During the year she also ran the 200, 400 and competed in the long and triple jump.

The girl's 4x400 relay team earned a bronze medal as they posted a season best of 4:25.56. Joining Paul on the team were **Tielle Killingsworth**, **Tayden Sutton**, and **Alivia Usher**.

Coach said this of his 4x400 relay team, "We also

## Emerald football going through spring drills

By Billy G. Baker  
Publisher

**Greenwood**—Last season the **Emerald Vikings** football team, under head coach **Tad Dubose**, took a step up with six wins in a highly competitive region, and they capped off the season with a first-round playoff win at **Fountain Inn** as well.

The Vikings welcomed nearly 50 varsity football candidates for their Spring drills that started on May 11, and they will conclude around May 22. Coach Dubose tells the *HSSR* that there is a lot of enthusiasm amongst his players and coaches about the 2026 season.

First of all, Emerald went from competing as one of the smallest schools in AAAA the past two years, to now competing in the AAA ranks with the realignment of schools that comes about every two years. "We will be in a region with **BHP**, **Wren**, **Powdersville**, and **Palmetto**," said Coach Dubose. "We look forward to the competition in this new region."

Coach Dubose said his players have worked hard in the weight room to become bigger, stronger, and faster one year later in the process towards excellence.

One huge bit of good news is the transfer of former **Greenwood High** rising junior wide receiver **Desiray Christian** (6-2, 190, 4.51) during the off-season and Christian is a power five talent who has been offered by every school in the ACC except **Clemson**, **FSU**, and **Miami**, according to Coach Dubose. Christian is also getting strong interest from SEC schools **South Carolina**, **Georgia**, and **Ole Miss**.

Last year he had around 1,000 yards in receptions. "The colleges talk about him having the same make-up and athleticism of a **Deebo Samuel**," said Coach Dubose. "He does everything well that involves having his hands on the football. He is not only a sure handed receiver, with great speed, but we also plan to use him on defense some as a corner."

Talented rising junior dual threat quarterback **Beau Hite** (6-1, 165) also returns after completing 135-of-241 passes for 1,845 yards and 19 TD's. He also rushed for 398 yards on 45 carries and four TD's. "Beau is one of our team leaders and he has looked sharp in Spring drills," said Coach Dubose. "We have our two receivers and one TE-HB back from last year in rising junior **Coleson Marino** (6-1, 170), senior **TE Rykevius Logan** (6-4,200), along with rising senior **Camelle Hill** (6-3, 187," said Coach Dubose. "With Christian transferring in also, we are looking forward to a great season in the passing game."

Marino caught 38 passes last year for 533 yards and

have an incredibly talented girls 4x400 team. They are coming off of a dominant win at the Upper State Championships and are just now putting together all of the pieces to a great relay. They have their work cut out for them at the State Meet with about 4 teams within 5 seconds of each other in the 1A rankings. It should be an exciting race."

110 meter hurdler junior **Khari Gray** had the best finish among the boys team when he finished fourth with a time of 15.33.

Coach felt going into the meet that senior **Isaiah McNair** had the best chance to medal in the 400 meter hurdles. He ran a good race but finished fifth.

On of the biggest surprises of the year was 9th grader **Micah Hall** qualifying in the 3200 meter run. He finished 11<sup>th</sup> but ran a personal best of 11:50.33. Coach feels he is going to be one to watch.

"I think the takeaway from this season at Abbeville is how much young talent we have. As our young kids develop I expect we will make a bigger appearance at the state level over the next couple of years. I am proud of how hard our team has worked this year and I am very excited to watch our best athletes compete at state. Obviously, we hope to come home with medal, but this is a year to learn how to perform in high stakes competitions," coach Boyd said.

six TD's while Logan caught 26 passes for 367 yards and five TD's and Hill had 26 catches for 367 yards and five TD's.

The Viking running game returns top rising senior RB **Chris Dean** (5-6, 150) from last season when he rushed for 1,418 yards on 175 carries with 12 TD's. Adding depth at RB will be transfer of **Collins Partlow** (5-10, 190).

The OL will be anchored by rising sophomore **Mesiah Simpkins** (6-4, 365) who started as a freshman at LG last season. "Messiah has great feet for his size," said Coach Dubose. "If he continues to work hard and drops 20 or 30 pounds that will make him quicker and a potential power five prospect."

Other returning lineman includes rising center **John Michael Hames** (6-0,264) who returns at center along with rising junior **Isai Delcid-Castillo** (6-0,288) who is a candidate at guard or tackle in the OL. Rising senior **Derrick Pinkney** (6-0, 250) is working hard for playing time in the OL at guard or tackle.

On the defensive front, Coach Dubose feels like you never have enough players to keep pounding on the offensive line. Rising senior DE **Marquise Anderson** (5-11, 190) is back after having 41 tackles, plus 21 TFL, before he tore his ACL after seven games last season. He is expected to be cleared to play by the end of June. Rising senior prospect **Tyrell Cloud** (6-3, 279) returns as a two-year starter at DE and he ran a 4.91 laser timed 40 recently. Cloud had 88 tackles, 9 TFL, and four sacks last year.

Rising senior **Adrian Wideman** (6-2, 219) is posed for a good senior year at DE. Rising senior **Peyton Duffie** (6-2, 298) is being moved from OG to DT to add depth. Rising junior **Jeremiah Johnson** (6-0, 270) returns along the DL after recording 72 tackles and 5.5 TFL last season. Rising junior **Mylik Wright** (6-2, 275) has been moved from DE to DT this season and he had 31 tackles and 7 TFL last year. Rising senior **Zay Harris** (5-9,260) will provide depth in the DL.

The Vikings will be looking to rebuild their LB Corp, hit hard by graduation. Rising junior **Hayden Doerfein** (5-9,205) is a candidate at one spot. Former LB, rising senior **Cam Mitchell** (5-7, 180) is currently working out as a rush package DE but he could also play LB if needed.

The secondary has a lot of depth in Spring drills. Rising senior **Zarrio Chambers** (6-3, 1890) is back at FS and he is getting recruiting interest after compiling 41 tackles a year ago. Rising junior **Demetrius Childs** (5-10,170) is working hard for playing time as a CB. Rising

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junior **Trayvion Foster** (5-10,180) is a good hitter competing for a spot on the back end.

There are numerous players in Spring drills hoping to become first time starters. Some of these players are rising junior WR **Gavin Quarles** (6-1, 160), rising senior DE **Kordero Middleton** (5-10,180), rising senior punter **Teague Meredith**, rising junior DL **Ricky Cleveland** (6-3, 295), rising junior WR **Kerion Brown** (6-2, 180), and rising junior RB **Jamorian Morgan** (5-5,130).

Coach Dubose considers rising senior LS **Landon Irvine** as a next level prospect.

Emerald will scrimmage **Abbeville** on August 6, compete in a four-way scrimmage against **B-L**, **Ninety-Six**, and **Silver Bluff** on August 10 before closing out the scrimmage schedule against **Midland Valley** in the Greenwood County Jamboree on August,14. They begin the season on August 21 at **Crescent**.

The varsity coaching staff is compiled by DC **Thomas Dubose**, OC **Garrett Jones**, DL **Cody Cockrell**, **Gary Adams** OL, and **Bradley Nickles** along with DL assistant **Carson Smith**.

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a new personal best of 25.47.

Sophomore **Milan Davis** was the Trojans lone girl participant in the discus.



2026 Timberland Wolves Girls Soccer recently won it's first ever playoff game

## Wolves' boys track finishes fourth at AA meet

By Rob Gantt  
Special to the HSSR

**ST. STEPHEN** - **Timberland High School's** boys track and field team finished fourth in the state Saturday, May 15, at Richland Northeast High School.

The Wolves, who finished with 45 points, produced state champions in multiple events. They placed three points out of a tie for second place. Hurdler **Malyk Goodman** won the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 56.63 seconds and jumper **Carter Hawkins** soared to victory in the triple jump with a mark of 14.24 meters. Goodman also placed third in the 110-meter hurdles in 14.82 and Hawkins finished second in the long jump with an effort of 6.65 meters.

Timberland's boys sent three more to the awards podium. Hurdler **Day'vian Bennett** placed third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 57.89 seconds. Jumper **Antaun Faison** finished sixth in the long jump with a mark of 6.51 meters. The boys' 4x100-meter relay team

posted a time of 43.17 seconds to place seventh.

For Timberland's boys, jumper **Robert Roberts** finished 11th in the triple jump with an effort of 12.11 meters, while the 4x800-meter relay placed 11th and 4x400-meter relay team 13th.

The Timberland girls finished 10th in the state and sent quite a few to the awards podium (top 8). **Kennahdi Murrell** placed third in the 400-meter hurdles, sixth in the 100-meter hurdles and seventh in the high jump. **Kemani Lampkin** finished fifth in the 800-meter run and **Jermance Washington** placed fifth in the 400-meter hurdles. **China Greene** recorded a sixth-place finish in the 400 hurdles and teammate **Kiana Glenn** was two spots back in eighth. **Tiana Jefferson** finished 12th in the long jump and 13th in the 400-meter dash. **Zoe Cooper** was 13th in the discus.

Timberland's girls placed eighth in the 4x400-meter relay and 10th in the 4x100 relay.

## Cavaliers end season on a positive note in '26

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

**Moneks Corner** – Head coach **Stuart Pierce's** St. John's Christian Academy Cavaliers had a season that was on life support before practice began: however, a couple of decisions allowed them to have a season and while it wasn't a typical year the Cav's did end their season on a two game winning streak.

They beat Palmetto Scholars Academy 15-0 and the beat Palmetto Christian Academy 3-1 to finish the year 6-9. They did not play a region schedule so no playoffs this season but the Cav's showed a brotherhood that exists within the athletic department.

The two decisions that impacted the year was two seniors coming back to the diamond so that their fellow seniors could have a season and the second was coach **Pierces** decision to bring up his JV team to round out the roster.

"I'm very proud of this team and the effort they gave every day. They never hung their heads and played hard. The young guys grew up a lot this year and this was rebuilding year. If we can keep this group together we have a chance to be a good ball club over the next couple of seasons," coach Pierce said.

Senior catcher **Jacob Glover** was outstanding behind the plate over his four year career and one of the corner stones of the Cav's. He had an incredible year behind the dish. In 95 fielding attempts he has zero errors. In his four-year career he had only 7 error in over 400 chances. He made his senior year at the plate one to remember as he hit a career high. 448

The other returning senior was **Aiden McCoy**. Also, a four-year starter and he played both in the infield and out-

## Cross wraps up track and field at state meet

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

**Columbia** – The Cross Trojans track and field team sent several members of their boy's track and field team to the class A state meet at Spring Valley high school where they qualified to compete in six events.

The Trojans dominated the region 5A meet but several of their runners and throwers did not compete at the lower state meet. Fortunately for head coach **Eric Murrell** he will return most of his athletes.

Sophomore pole vaulter **Keyawn Wilson** was the only Trojan to medal at the meet. He brought home a

field. He also had a banner year at the plate leading the team in hitting with a .468 average. He also led the Cav's in hits with 22, runs scored with 16, doubles with six, triples and home runs.

"Jacob and Aiden are the reason we decided to play a season. They started for me for four years and have given their all to the team. They showed the younger guys how to work and practice and we will miss them," said coach Pierce.

**Thomas Hester** and **Isaiah Antley** came back to the diamond after not playing for a few years. They both hit over .350 and played well in the field for the Cav's. Hester is headed to play basketball at the next level after leading the state in scoring the past two years with 1383 points and with over 2000 career points.

Antley was also solid on the bump for the Cav's. He finished the year with a 3-2 record while striking out 30 batters in 25.2 innings.

The cupboard is not bare for the Cav's as coach Pierce played seven freshmen this season and his top returning player is sophomore **Parker Dinkins**. He finished the year with a 2-3 record striking out 32 in 21.1 innings. struck out 20 in just 13 2/3 innings.

Freshmen **Ryan Chubb** showed promise on the hill picking up the win over Palmetto Scholars Academy.

Junior **Seth Hendrickson** hit .405 while freshman **Parker Floyd** hit near .300. Floyd also spent time on the bump logging 18.1 innings which gives the Cav's three of their top four pitchers returning next year.

Sophomore **Joshua Fahey** and freshmen **Mason Geiger** showed they are ready to step up next season. Geiger hit .375 and was second on the team in doubles and extra base hits.

bronze when he set a new personal best of 3.05 meters.

**Marquis Pringle**, another sophomore, placed seventh in the discus as he set a new personal best of 37.16 while junior **Jimmy Smith** had an off day with a throw of 31.62.

The 4x800 relay team of seniors **Micah Dukes** and **Ashton Geathers** teamed with sophomores **Emory Murrell** and **Corey Ferguson** to finish in eighth place with a time of 9:25.29.

Dukes also ran the 800 meters while Geathers ran the 400 meters.

Junior **Sherraw Spann** placed 12<sup>th</sup> in the Javelin with

# Hanahan squads sparkle on diamond this spring

By Rob Gantt  
Special to the HSSR

HANAHAN - Hanahan High School's baseball and softball teams have furthered their winning traditions this spring.

The Hawks and Hawkettes claimed postseason district titles in the Class 3A playoffs May 11 and May 13 on their home fields.

The baseball team held on for a 10-6 victory over Aynor in the nightcap after dropping the first game, 6-3. In the second game, Hanahan raced out to a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first and eventually led 10-0.

Outfielder **Tripp Gallus**, infielder **Richard Atencio**, designated hitter **William Muirheid** and outfielder **Brendan Moll** collected two hits apiece for the Hawks in the victory. Pitcher **Chris Polm** smoked a two-run homer to left field and threw three one-hit innings with seven strikeouts to earn the win on the bump.

"It's been a long day for sure," Hanahan coach **Skylar Hunter** said. "I've been out here since 8 a.m., doing field work the whole time. And we lose game one, and really lose it in a way where we gave them a bunch of free passes. They didn't find a lot of barrels. We gave them a bunch of runs from errors, passed balls and walks."

"I'm just proud of them for competing," he added. The Hawks improved to 16-14.

The HHS softball team blanked Georgetown, 10-0, in five innings to advance. The win was the Hawkettes' 11th in their past 12 games. Coach **Katrina Bezdek's** squad exploded for eight runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Infielder **Camryn Fowler** sparked the scoring with a RBI single. Hanahan pitcher **Maggie Priddy**



Hanahan softball is still alive in the playoffs

dropped a RBI single into shallow right field to make it 4-0. Outfielder **Briar Mros** and infielder **Dria Tolbert** then connected on two-run doubles to make the home team's advantage a very comfortable 8-0.

First baseman **Aubrey Cribb** singled in Hanahan's ninth run in the bottom of the fourth inning and Tolbert ended the game with a RBI triple in the fifth inning.

Mros, Tolbert and outfielder **Selena Riley** each collected two hits. Mros scored three times from the leadoff spot and Priddy hurled a one-hit shutout.

"We decided to go with Maggie because they hadn't seen her yet, and I thought she threw really, really well," Bezdek said. "She was hitting her spots. She was moving the ball, and then our defense backed her up."

Hanahan's softball team improved to 19-6.

# Northwood Academy baseball, softball showing vast improvement this spring

By Billy Baker  
Publisher

Summerville—Eric Toler enters his third season as the head softball coach at Northwood Academy very pleased with the improvement the team has made over the past two seasons.

The Lady Chargers are currently (5-3, 2-1) with wins over **Hilton Head, Charleston Math & Science, First Baptist** (twice), and **Lee Academy**.

"We are playing with more consistency this season and with every game we are getting so much better," said Coach Toler. "We are competing well against some of the top teams. We only trailed Laurence Manning 4-3, going into the 5th inning before they rallied for a big win."

"We played a very good Providence Day team from Charlotte and even though we lost the game our players were inspired that they held their own and competed," said Coach Toler. "I challenged the team this season to compete and improve and we are not playing a cupcake schedule, and the competition is making us better."

Coach Toler said the Northwood Academy jayvee team is comprised of mostly year-round players and that team defeated both the **Summerville High** and **Ashley Ridge High** junior varsity teams. Coach Toler is already looking forward to next season.

The team is led at the plate by freshman shortstop/pitcher five-hole hitter **Abby Overfield** who is batting .625 with four RBI's. The number three batter is senior captain center fielder **Grace Williams** who is batting .600 with

six RBI's including a double. Freshman right fielder **Jayden Hudson** bats 8th in the line-up and she is hitting .538 with seven RBI's.

Next on the hit index is seven-hole batter **Norah Utheim** who is hitting .438 with a triple and five RBI's holding down third base. Freshman lead-off batter, and catcher **Anslee Meyer** is hitting .429 with six RBI's. Batting second is 8th grader **Trissa Medlin** who is the team's ace pitcher. Medlin is batting at 409 with five RBI's. The clean-up batter is junior left fielder **Anna Grace Stephens** at .348 and 8 RBI's.

In the circle Medlin has worked 22 innings with 29 K's and she has a 3.50 ERA.

Freshman **Ava Fowler** is seeing time at second base. Other key reserves include soph outfielder **Khole Harder**, freshman third baseman **Avery Seals**, and **Mia Bumba** who is batting at 250, along with senior OF **Addy Kriese**. Emma Duckworth is a freshman who contributes at both first and third base.

One of the team's top players from last season is 9th grade shot stop **Sydney Cowart** who tore her ACL and will miss the season. "She is a good team leader and losing her to injury we lost a key piece of our team," said Coach Toler.

The team has seven remaining games in the regular season. They host **John Paul II** on April 14 before playing at **Holly Hill Academy** on the 17th. The Chargers are at **Pinewood Prep** on the 21st. They host **Thomas Sumter** on the 27th before closing out in the month of April at **John Paul II** on the 28th.

In early May, they close out the regular season with a game at **Thomas Sumter** on May 4

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and on the 5th, they conclude the regular season at **Lee Academy**.

Coach Toler is assisted by **Stan Utheim**. Northwood Academy Baseball Has New Head Coach

**Ashley Farr** has taken over the Northwood Academy baseball team season, and the Chargers went into Spring break with a (5-9,4-8) record.

The team's top four hitters to date are **Quinn Zautner** batting .49 while **Blake Lemay** is at .348 including 9 RBI's and one triple. **Avery Sheldon** contributed a .312 average with 8 RBI's.

**Jack Singleton** is hitting .372 with 7 RBI's and **Hayden Hawkins** has 8 RBI's, one double and triples. **Rhett Fuller** has only six at bats and he has a .500 average with one RBI.

The Charger pitching load has been handled by freshman **Wesley Bolden** who has logged 29 innings with 25 K's and soph **Nate Cross** who has pitched 18.1 innings with 19 K's.

# Thomas Heyward has strong golf season in '26

By David Shelton  
Senior Writer

Ridgeland – As they gain experience and grow their love for the game, the golf team at Thomas Heyward could be a state title contending team in the near future.

The program at the school is relatively new but interest seems to be gaining each year. Athletic director **Logan Taylor** heads up the program and is liking the progress he sees on a daily basis.

"They played really well and we finished first in every region match this season," he reports. We also consistently placed in the top three or five in tournaments. We won the region championship so we earned our way back to the state tournament for the third straight year. Most of the team is young but we're building for the future while still producing

results this season."

Leading the way at the top is junior **Fisher Thomsd**, while eighth-grader **Mason Reed** is No. 2. Junior **Luke Averkin** plays three and eighth-grader **Caden Jones** and eighth-grader **Cole Bowen** close out the top five.

"In one match this spring Thomas shot a one-under 35 at Berkeley Hall, which was his personal best. He also was low medalist and won the event, the first time we've had someone go under par in the modern era of the program."

Another big part of the future is **Reed**, who has already been a big part of the program as a third-year varsity player. He was playing as a sixth-grader and shot a persona; best 40 this spring. Taylor says he is one to watch over the next several years.

# Young Beaufort tracksters gain experience in '26

By WORTHY EVANS  
Staff Writer

Beaufort - The Beaufort High girls and boys track teams did not score high on the list of teams, but the ones who took to the running and field events did the best they could.

For girls head coach and coaching hall of famer **Herb Glaze**, who's won 10 state championships for the Eagles, it was a day of a few frustrations. He lamented long jumper and triple jumper **Ahmyna Belk's** and triple jumper **Zion Patrick's** finishing low in the jump events, and **Amir Harrison's** low placement in the javelin. **Belk** qualified second in both jumps, **Patrick** qualified third in the triple jump and **Harrison** qualified second at the District 4 qualifier May 8.

"My long jumper, triple jumpers, I don't know, they couldn't get it together, and neither one of them qualified," Glaze said. "That was a big blow for us because we couldn't get any of those points. Then my javelin, I don't know what happened over there." **Belk** finished 14th in the long jump with a 4.69 jump.

In the triple jump, **Patrick** placed 11th and **Belk** placed 12th with efforts of 10.19 meters and 10.13 meters, respectively.

**Amir Harrison** threw the javelin 29.39 meters, good for 10th place.

Glaze took responsibility for the 4x400 team's lineup, saying that the team could have run a better race had he switched up the order of sprinters **Aleeah Major, Ari Washington, Yzeult Antia**, and **Aleeyah Echols**. The team finished eighth with a time of 4:11.40, which was good for a point.

The 4x100 team's finished in sixth place with a

time of 49.11. **Washington, Echols, Lanique Simmons**, and **Lakrah Lynard** ran in the event, good for three points.

The 4x800 team of **Antia, Echols, Jamie Simmons** and **Elise Thompson** finished 11th with a time of 10:34.50.

In other individual events, **Lanique Simmons** finished ninth in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.28 and **Dejah Singleton** finished ninth in the high jump with an effort of 1.5 meters.

"They're young girls, and they're competitive," Glaze said. "And like I tell them, they're still learning. My jumper is in the eighth grade, and my 4x1 team are two eighth-graders and two juniors. But they're coming along and I think they'll do quite well next year. They're young and they see, so as time progresses they'll get better."

The boys team finished with five points. **Jacob Prayer** finished 6th in the 200 dash with a time of 22.48 seconds for three points, and The 4x400 team of **Prayer, Keandre Jenkins, Nicholas Johnson**, and **Jamarion Jackson** finished 7th with a time of 3:25.21, good for two points.

The 4x800 team of **David Barr, Johnson, Braydon Moyd-Small**, and **Jason Prayer** finished 12th with a time of 8:43.11.

**Small** finished 16th in the long jump with a 5.42-meter effort.

The 4x100 team of **Jacob Prayer, Jenkins, Johnson** and **Jackson** finished 12th with a time of 43.32.

"We lost a lot of people from last year," **Reggie Jones Sr.** said about the Eagles, who finished fifth with 42 points last year. "We have a lot of talented young kids who are new and have to learn the basics of competition, and they'll do a lot better next year."

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2026 Hilton Head Prep girls soccer

## HHP makes it four titles in a row in girls soccer

**By David Shelton**  
**Senior Writer.**  
**Hilton Head** – Down, but never out, the Hilton Head Prep girls soccer team rallied to beat Greenwood Christian, 3-2, to capture their fourth consecutive SCISA AAAA state championship.

The victory came in overtime. The Dolphins dominated possession and temp throughout the first half. Yet, the Dolphins found themselves trailing after Greenwood Christian scored on a breakaway goal.

The deficit was quickly erased on a goal by eighth-grader and leading scorer Alice Carmines, who intercepted a high ball and placed a precise shot into the corner of the net.

Carmines struck again just before halftime, finishing a well-placed pass from Marisa Mora and slipping past two defenders to give Prep a 2-1 halftime advantage.

Greenwood Christian returned to the second half with renewed intensity, leveraging a deep bench to maintain fresh legs and control possession. With limited sub-

stitutions, Prepe began to feel the physical toll and Greenwood eventually scored the equalizer to send the contest into overtime.

Under SCISA championship rules, teams play two mandatory 10-minute overtime periods, followed, if necessary, by two five minute golden goal periods before penalty kicks. Demonstrating resilience and determination the Prep defense held strong through three overtime periods.

With only 90 seconds remaining before a potential shootout, Carmines delivered a critical play on a throw in, heading the ball into position for fellow eighth-grader Adriana Palazzo, who controlled it and blasted the game-winning shot into the back of the net to secure the 3-2 victory.

“These girls won today with their hearts because they certainly did not have any legs off with no subs in the game,” said coach Risa McMillan. “That was almost 120 minutes of full out soccer against an undefeated team with fresh legs. The toughness it took truly defies the

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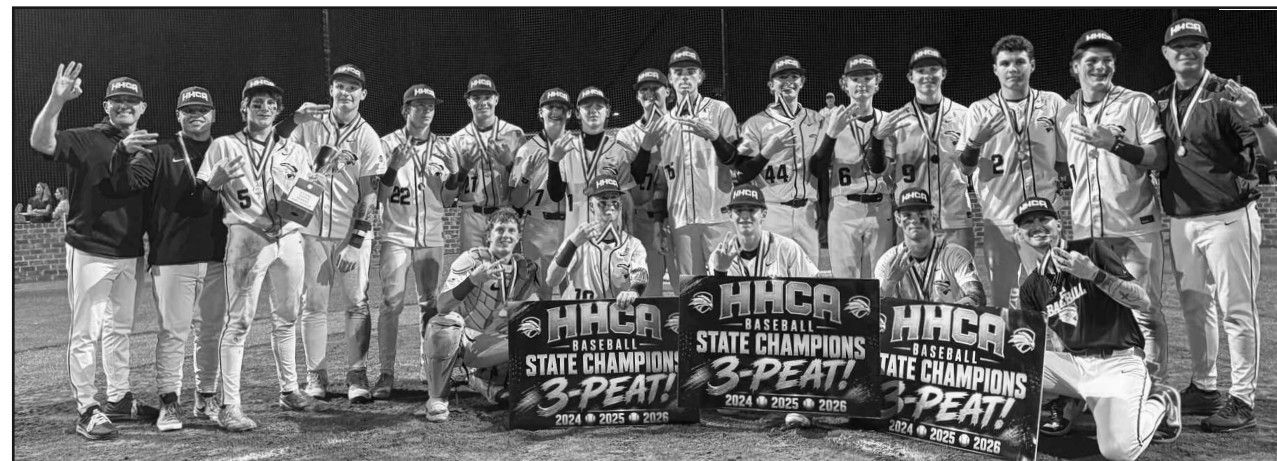
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“We knew we had to play for each other and leave every last effort on the field,” said Wilbert,

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2026 Hilton Head Christian boys baseball

## HHCA baseball wins third straight state crown

**By Dennis Brunson**  
**Hssr.com Associate Editor**  
**Bluffton** – After winning the SCISA AAAA baseball state championship in 2024, **Hilton Head Christian Academy** was bumped up to the AAAA classification beginning with the 2025 season.

All the Eagles have done since “moving on up” is add two more state championship trophies to the school’s trophy case.

HHCA beat Cardinal Newman 7-3 on May 13 to complete a sweep of the best-of-3 title series in front of the home crowd.

**Jay Scarbro**, who was an assistant coach on the AAA title team and the head coach for the two AAAA crowns, finds it hard to believe the amount of success Hilton Head Christian has enjoyed.

“I don’t know if I can put into words how to describe the success that we’ve had,” Scarbro said. “We won in AAA in ’24 and we moved up and to win it in ’25 and ’26 is a testament to our players. They knew AAAA was going to be more difficult, but they accepted that and made it work.”

“We had three seniors on this team who played as sophomores. They mean a lot to me, and they’ve just been so consistent.”

Those three seniors are centerfielder/shortstop **Slaide Burd**, catcher **Roman Colella** and shortstop/pitcher **Chip Hetzel**.

Burd is the Region 3-AAAA Player of the Year. Burd,

who will be playing collegiately at **Stetson**, had a .591 batting average and an on-base percentage of .675. He had 52 hits, 11 of which were home runs, to go with 25 stolen bases.

“Slaide is well known by everybody, and it’s hard at times to meet those expectations,” Scarbro said. “I can’t say enough good stuff about him.”

Colella had a .455 batting average to go with a .575 OBP. He had 35 hits, four of which were homers, and has been a defensive standout his entire career, according to Scarbro.

“I’ve coached high school baseball for 22 years, and Roman is the best catcher who ever played for me,” Scarbro said. “I can’t say enough for what he did behind the plate. He never asked to take a game off. What is special to me is his attitude and work ethic.”

Hetzel batted .357 with a .509 OBP and 24 stolen bases. He worked 37 innings as a pitcher, striking out 41 and posting a 2.83 earned run average.

“Chip made the transition from second base to shortstop last year and was great,” Scarbro said. “I was told he wasn’t much of a pitcher, but he’s just been outstanding for us the last two years. He’s been used as a starter, a closer, a middle reliever, a matchup guy, whatever we need at the time.”

Each of those three was an All-Region 3-AAAA selection along with junior **Jackson Richardson** and freshman **Colt Spargur**.

Richardson batted .438, had a .496 OBP and 28 stolen

bases. Spargur was a force on the mound, working 58 innings and finishing with a 0.96 ERA. He struck out 100 and walked just 13.

The other seniors on the team are first baseman **Will Mahl**, a 2-year starter, and **Tommy Gehm**, who joined the team this year mainly as a courtesy runner.

Interestingly, it was the underclassmen doing most of the damage in the deciding game against Cardinal Newman. Freshman third baseman **Stone Burd**, Slaide’s younger brother, smacked two home runs and had five RBI. It was his first two dingers of the season.

“The interesting story about Stone is that he had a serious health issue in the locker room as we were getting ready to play in the championship game last year,” Scarbro said. “He had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance, and he was a starter. This year he has the best game of the year he had. It was right at the right time.”

Richardson and sophomore **Josh Koepke** both had two hits and a double, and sophomore **Dylan Gehm** had two hits. Colella hit a 2-run homer.

Spargur got the win, working six innings and striking out 10 while scattering five hits with two walks. Hetzel came in to get the final three outs.

## Kowlok repeats as state champion in pole vault

**By Rob Gantt**  
**Special to the HSSR**  
**GOOSE CREEK** - Stratford High School’s track and field teams capped the spring on the grandest stage Thursday, May 14, in the Class 5A Div. I state championship meet at Spring Valley High School.

**Lukas Kowlok** headlined those performances by repeating as the state champion in the pole vault. Kowlok soared over the bar at 4.85 meters. The senior edged Cane Bay’s Mayson Samuel by 1.5 meters.

The next best showing for a Stratford athlete came from sprinter **Patience Grant**. Grant finished second in the girls’ 400-meter dash, crossing the line in 53.50 seconds and .18 seconds behind the winner. She added a seventh-place finish in the 200-meter dash. Also making the awards podium - top 8 - for the Knights was **Matthew Peterson** in the boys’ triple jump, finishing seventh. The boys’ 4x400-meter relay added a seventh-place finish.

**Baseball**  
The Stratford baseball team capped the season with a 19-10 record after going 1-2 in the district tournament. The Knights defeated Summerville, 5-1, on a grand slam by designated hitter **Lucas Kline** in the bottom of the seventh May 9, then fell to James Island and Fort Dorchester May 11 and May 13.

In the Fort D game, first baseman **Micah Adams** and outfielder **Jarrett Wagner** finished 2-for-3 at the plate and scored all three runs. Wagner, who is headed to The Citadel, also starred on the bump in the start against Summerville. He hurled a complete game with eight strikeouts. He surrendered just one hit.



Caleb Lott

**Softball**  
The Stratford softball team finished up 10-9 with a pair of competitive losses in the playoffs to River Bluff and Wando. Knights first baseman **Ella Bruorton** finished 2-for-4 with two RBIs versus River Bluff. Stratford pitchers **Katie Bond** and **Kyliegh Malmede** combined for 14 strikeouts in the one-run loss. Bruorton also knocked in a run during the Wando game.

**Boys soccer**  
The Stratford boys soccer team capped its first campaign under **Tyler Tekac** with a 17-5 record. The Knights finished up with a double overtime loss at Wando May 13 in the third round of the playoffs. Before falling to Wando, Stratford blanked Sumter and James Island.

**Guilherme Santos** and **Kevin Ramirez** tallied goals against James Island. In the win over Sumter, **Aiden Ferguson** and **Daniel Sales** each recorded

## Horne leads Gators during state track meet

**By Rob Gantt**  
**Special to the HSSR**  
**GOOSE CREEK** - Goose Creek High School hurdler **Kourtney Horne** ascended to the top of the awards podium for the second straight season this spring.

Horne, a 2028 graduate of GCHS, blazed a time of a 14.05 seconds in the 100-meter hurdles to win the state championship during the Class 5A Div. II state meet May 15 at Richland Northeast. Horne, who repeated as a Class 5A Div. II champion, finished ahead of runner-up Caitlin Lindo (14.27) of Fort Mill High School and Aubrey Guy (14.29) of Indian Land High School. Horne also won the event as a freshman.

Three other Goose Creek representatives made the awards podium, too. Horne added to her day at the state meet with a fifth-place finish in the 400-meter hurdles (1:04.60). Horne became the third Gators hurdler in a row to win a state championship as a freshman. **Faith Jones** finished first in 2024 and **Robert Wheatley** reached the top of the podium in 2023 for the Goose Creek boys.

Sprinter **Shelaysia Brown** placed fourth in the 100-meter dash (12.10 seconds) and the 4x100-meter relay team also crossed the line fourth with a time of 48.30 seconds. The other squad to make the awards podium was the 4x400-meter relay team. That group finished eighth with a time of 3 minutes,

31.50 seconds.  
More Gators finishing the season in the state championship meet were **Trinity Freeman** (14th, girls 400-meter hurdles, 1:12.32), **Charles Geiger** (13th, boys 800-meter run, 2:01.97), **Dalton Gillespie** (11th, boys 1600-meter run, 4:57.67) and the boys 4x100-meter relay team (11th, 44.16 seconds).

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
In 14 seasons guiding the boys’ basketball program at Goose Creek High School, coach **Blake Hall**’s teams grabbed eight region titles and played for three state championships.

But, it was always about the relationships built for Hall. That was the theme of Hall’s Twitter post May 6 when he announced he was stepping down from his post at GCHS. He thanked former players, their families and all those who served on the sidelines with him.

“Serving this program, this school and this community for the past 14 years has been one of the greatest honors of my life,” Hall’s post read. “From the very beginning, my purpose was to serve - with the hope of making a meaningful contribution and adding lasting value to the lives of the young men and families connected to Goose Creek Basketball... I’m deeply grateful for the relationships built, the lessons learned, and the countless moments that

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two goals. **Angel Castillo**, **Luiz Moura** and **Maddox Pompey** chipped in goals.  
Tekac and the Knights return a strong squad for 2027.

### GOOSE CREEK

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have shaped me.”  
This past season, the Gators went 26-3, captured the Region 7-5A title and fell to eventual state champion Westwood High School in the Class 5A Div. II Lower State championship game.

The high school careers for six Gators seniors ended that night in Florence, including all-state guard **Ja’Quell Brown** and all-state wing **Terrell Johnson, Jr.**

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## Owens steps down as JDA softball head coach

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Blackville** — The 2026 softball season for the **Jefferson Davis Academy** softball team didn't come close to anything like **Bart Owens** would have liked. The Raiders went just 4-15, including going 0-2 in the SCISA Class A state tournament.

That, however, has nothing to do with Owens deciding to step down as the head coach.

"It's time. I've been coaching for 22 years,"

Owens said. "I've been the head coach for six years, but I have been on the staff for 22 years."

"I will be coaching varsity volleyball this year (for the 2026-27 school year) then I will be totally retired."

During his six years as softball head coach, Owens led Jefferson Davis to the 2024 Class A state title and to a runner-up finish in another year.

Owens said there were a couple of factors that led to the Raiders' struggles this year.

"As far as the season we didn't play as good as I think we could have, but we played the best with the players we had," Owens said. "We had lost a lot the last two years and had several key injuries this season."

Leading the way throughout the season were **Kinlee Ray**, **Harper Still**, **Rynn Fickling** and **Abby Deering**.

Ray had far and away the best batting average with a .404 mark. She had team highs in on-base percentage at .509, in hits with 19 and runs scored with 17 while sharing the lead in doubles with three. She also had a triple, 10 runs batted in and 11 stolen bases.

Fickling led in triples with three and RBI with 13 while hitting the Raiders' only home run. She also had two doubles and 13 runs while batting .286 with a .400 OBP. Fickling worked 42 1/3 innings and had 47 strikeouts.

Still had a .282 batting average to go with a .420 OBP. She shared the lead in doubles with three to go with six RBI and 12 runs.

## Fox Creek softball has "very good" season in '26

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**North Augusta** — **Derrick Quinn's** quote about the season his **Fox Creek High School** softball team had was succinct and to the point.

"We had a very good season," said the Predators veteran head coach.

Fox Creek finished the season with an 18-7 record and reached the championship game of its district tournament in the AAA state playoffs before getting knocked off by **Loris**.

The Predators were led by **Ava Lindsay**, who was named to the **South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association AAA All-State team**. She was also chosen to play in the North-South All-Star Game and was an All-Region 4-AAA selection as well.

Lindsay batted .469 with 10 doubles, a triple, 29 runs batted in and 22 runs scored.

Joining Lindsay on the All-Region team were **Adison Woodward**, **Jordyn Grant**, **Jada Jennings**, **Addie Goff** and **Emma Widener**.

Woodward batted .364 with eight doubles, one triple, 13 runs and 13 RBI. Grant led the team in hitting with a .574 average. She had seven doubles, a triple, 21 runs and 13 RBI.

Jennings batted .397 with five doubles, two triples, one homer, 23 RBI and 13 runs. Widener batted .350 with 28 runs and 16 RBI. Goff was the pri-

Deering had a .234 batting average while posting a .308 OBP. She had a double, nine runs and 11 RBI.

**Esme Montejamo** led the team in stolen bases with 12 and had a .413 OBP with nine RBI and 12 runs. **Natalie Black** only had a .208 batting average but had a .472 OBP.

### JDA BASEBALL GOES 11-12

After rolling to a 14-3 victory over **Wardlaw** in the opening game of its best-of-3 first-round series in the Class A baseball playoffs, Jefferson Davis found itself on the short end of the stick in the next two. The Raiders lost 7-5 and 4-2 to see their season come to an end.

Even though it's been two weeks since that, Jefferson Davis head coach **Mannie Wright** is still struggling with what happened.

"It's still hard to believe," said Wright, whose team finished with an 11-12 record. "Long story short, Wardlaw was just the better team in those two games. I think they were hungrier than we were, and we may have been looking past them."

"I feel like I let my guys down, my coaching staff down and let myself down. I felt like we had a great shot (at winning state). I told them this is on me."

**Harrison Ray** led the Raiders with a .417 batting average and a .553 OBP. He also led in triples with two and runs with 27 while sharing the RBI lead at 22. Ray also had seven doubles.

**Corbin Perry** also had 22 RBI while batting .288 and posting a .466 OBP. He had a team high eight doubles, to go with a triple and 26 runs.

**Reece Still** batted .359 and had a .518 OBP to go with six doubles, 26 runs and 18 RBI. **Landon Williams** had a .254 batting average, a .307 OBP, two doubles 11 RBI and 21 runs.

Perry was the top pitcher, working 44 innings with a 3.18 ERA. Still worked 35 innings and had a 4.00 ERA.

### FOX CREEK BASEBALL FALLS IN IF GAME

The fox Creek baseball team reached the championship round of its district tournament and even took **Waccamaw** to an if game before finally falling.

Fox Creek beat **Marlboro County** 4-1 in its opener before losing to Waccamaw 8-7. The Predators then had to face Marlboro County again and came away with a 7-2 triumph.

Fox Creek pounded Waccamaw 15-4 in the first game. The second game took on a totally different look though as the Warriors came away with a 2-1 triumph. The Predators finished 20-8-1.

The Predators hit .359 as a team

**Lawson Lewis** led the way with a .468 batting average, six doubles, four triples, four home runs, 24 runs batted in and 36 runs scored.

**Manny Abro** ended up at .435 with 28 runs and 25 RBI. **Quentin Cribbs** hit .403 with three doubles, 26 runs and 19 RBI. **Hayden James** finished at .388 with five doubles, one home run, 28 runs and eight RBI.

**Will Frischmann** hit .473 with eight doubles, two triples, one home run, 33 RBI and 20 runs.

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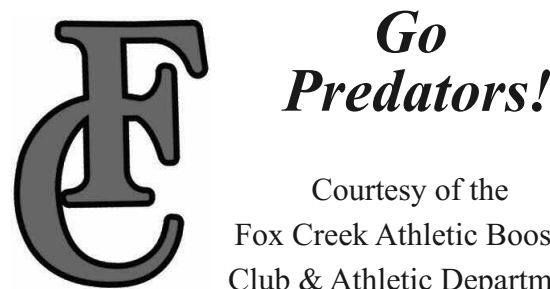
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**Will Fountain** and **Frischmann** got the majority of the innings at pitcher, but the Predators had three others in **Cameron Porter**, **Andrew Dorries**, **Jamar're Peeples** and **Kale Williford** who were in the teens in innigs pitched.

Fountain worked 46 1/3 innings and had a 1.21 earned run average. Frischmann had a 2.3i ERA in 30 2/3 innings. Porter worked 18 2/3 (2.62), Dorries had a 3.98 ERA in 19 1/3 innings, Williford worked 14 innings with a 4.50 ERA, and Peeples had a 4.59 ERA in 10 2/3 innings.

## Hannah-Pamplico diamond teams doing well

### From Staff Reports

**Pamplico** — As the *HSSR* was going to press on May, 18 the **Hannah Pamplico** Raiders baseball team, head coached by **Trey Wiidberry**, were preparing for away game at **Lake View**, with the winner advancing to play **Latta** in the Class A baseball playoffs needing to beat the Vikings twice.

On May, 16 DH **Daniel Chandler** hit a walk-off home run in the bottom of the 8<sup>th</sup> to lift the Raiders over **Carvers Bay** 5-4 keeping them alive in the playoffs.

Against the Bears, Coach Woodberry used three pitchers in the game. **Mason Smith** went three innings, followed by **Matthew Richardson** who worked one inning on the hill, and then **Jackson Fitch** pitched the final four innings. The trio combined for 11 strikeouts and only allowed two earned runs. Shortstop **Dewey Kimbrough** led the team with two hits and two RBI's.

Pitcher outfielder **Mason Smith** leads the team in batting coming into the game with Lake View with a 482 average. On the mound he is 2-2 and has

worked 28 innings with 41 K's with an ERA of 3.75.

Other top hitters include **Chandler** (.341 & 13 RBI's), **Shane Morris** (.333 & 9 RBI's), and **Fitch** is at .304 with 8 RBI's. **Fitch** also has 24 K's in 17.32 innings of work.

Center fielder **Jonah Poston** is hitting .370 with 19 RBI's and three home runs. On the mound he is 4-2 and in 39.2 innings he has 54 K's and an ERA of 1.59. Shortstop **Dewey Kimbrough** is batting .289 and leads the team in fielding percentage at .993. **Zack Rhames** is hitting .283 with six RBI's.

The **Hannah-Pamplico** softball team stayed allowed in the playoffs with a 5-4 win over **Johnsontonville** on May, 16.

Senior all-state pitcher **Kadence Poston** had 11 strikeouts in the circle to key the win. **Poston** also had two hits and three RBI's in the win.

**Maddie Stone** is doing an excellent behind the plate and **Savannah Owens** and **Chole Cooper** each had a hit in the big win.

The win advance HP to play **Green Sea Floyds** on May, 18.

## Panthers' Frye wins shot, discus in AA girls meet

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor

**Batesburg-Leesville** — **Keira Frye** can say she is a 2-time track and field state champion.

The **Batesburg-Leesville High School** thrower won both the discus and shot put events in the AA state meet on May 15 at the **Richland Northeast track in Columbia**.

Frye won the discus with a throw of 151 feet, 6.11 inches. Frye's teammate, **Raya Etheredge**, finished third in the event.

Frye won the shot put with a throw of 43-04.08. On the boys side, **Batesburg-Leesville** placed in four events, including two seconds.

**Ja'Quan Corley** was second in the discus with a toss of 166-04.06. **Braylen Davis** was second in the high jump at 06-04.77.

**Bishop Sims** placed fifth in the shot put, and **Ta'Maj Gilliam** was sixth in the triple jump.

Those girls who competed in the state meet but did not place were **Kiya Wootoon** in the 100-meter hurdles and **Jayda Hinson** in the shot put.

For the boys, it was **Cameron Martin** in the high jump, **KD Whitt** and **Gilliam** in the long jump, **Corley** in the shot put and the 4x100-meter relay team.

In the Region 2 meet held on April 28 in **Pelion**, Frye was the only region champ, winning the same two events. **Malaun Henley** was second in the 100-meter dash, **Callie McDougal** was second in the 100-meter hurdles, **Ariana Stroman** was second in the long jump and the triple jump, and **Etheredge** was second in the discus.

There were four region champions in the boys meet. **Corley** won the discus and **Sims** claimed the

### AAAAA Div. 1 Track, from pg. 4

ley)

#### 110 METER HURDLES

1. Grayson Crowe (Boiling Springs), 2. Quency Grant (Ridge View), 3. Elijah White (Ridge View), 4. Justin Elliott (Mauldin)

#### 400 METER HURDLES

1. Elijah White (Ridge View), 2. Quency White (Ridge View), 3. Justin Elliott (Mauldin), 4. Andy Metz (Spartanburg), 5. Grayson Crowe (Boiling Springs)

#### 4x100 METER RELAY

1. J.F. Byrnes, 2. Spartanburg, 3. Ridge View, 4. Carolina Forest, 5. Ashley Ridge

#### 4x400 METER RELAY

1. Ridge View, 2. Blythewood, 3. Wando, 4. Carolina Forest, 5. Spring Valley

#### 4x800 METER RELAY

1. Lexington, 2. Wando, 3. Spring Valley, 4. Clover, 5. Summerville

#### HIGH JUMP

1. Cameron Hughes (Spring Valley), 2. Evan McCullough-Bryant (Dorman), 3. Jamarius Brown (Dorman), 4. Jonathan Wilson (Carolina Forest), 5. Isiah Kennedy (Ridge View)

#### LONG JUMP

1. Torrean Davis (Spartanburg), 2. Gage Stewart (Dutch Fork), 3. Jahmari Malone (Wando), 4. Jamier Gaston (Dorman), 5. Miles Williams (Carolina Forest)

#### TRIPLE JUMP

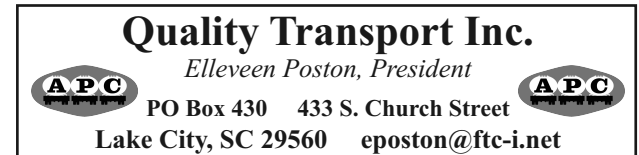
1. Jamarius Brown (Dorman), 2. Jahmari Malone (Wando), 3. Torrean Davis (Spartanburg), 4. Amari Stevenson (Ridge View), 5. Jamier Gaston (Dorman)

#### DISCUS THROW

1. Aidan Graham (Rock Hill), 2. Jaden Roberson (Dorman), 3. Jay Morris (James Island), 4. Collin Ash (River Bluff), 5. Preston Iagulli (Carolina Forest)

#### POLE VAULT

### HANNAH-PAMPLICO



### BATESBURG-LEESVILLE



still hoping to defend their title, head coach **Rob Bouknight** had a mixed response.

"Yes and no," Bouknight said. "No because I know the type of players we had coming back from last year and the way they go about things. Yes, I am surprised because of the way our season went early, but we have gotten some breaks of late and some things have gone our way"

"I am super proud of our players and coaches for the job they have done this year."

1. Lukas Kowlok (Stratford), 2. Mayson Samuel (Cane Bay), 3. Caleb Berry (Mauldin), 4. Luke Lasher (James Island), 5. Walker Ferguson (Mauldin)

#### JAVELIN THROW

1. Walker Ferguson (Mauldin), 2. Ben Eikenberry (Wando), 3. Gryson Greenberry (Summerville), 4. Zach Teachman (Wando), 5. Nate Dixon (Lexington)

#### SHOT PUT

1. Aidan Graham (Rock Hill), 2. Henry Camps (Wando), 3. Collin Ash (River Bluff), 4. James Porter (Dorman), 5. Jimmy Jones (James Island)

#### TEAM SCORES (Top 10)

1. Wando (84), 2. Ridge View (78), Dorman (52), 4. Lexington (50), 5 (tie). Spring Valley (48), 7. Mauldin (41), 8. J.F. Byrnes (40), 9. Blythewood (38), 10. Spartanburg (35.50)



Jamere Ross



Tahkari Ross

## Johnsonville track and field looks toward future

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

Columbia – The Flashes of Johnsonville had a good track and field season with a young squad which has head coach **Casey Geter** excited and looking forward to the future for his team.

The Flashes boys team finished second in region 6 A and third at lower state while the girls team finished fourth in the region and 10<sup>th</sup> at lower state. Heading into the state meet the Flashes boys' team qualified in 13 events and the girls team qualified in 7 events.

The day started off well for the Flashes as the finished second in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 42.57. The quartet was lead-off by senior **Zyron Cokely** followed by juniors **Rondrell Livingston**, **Sklar Montgomery**, and **Jamere Ross**. That would not be the last medal for Jamere on the day.

Jamere would bring home another silver medal in the long jump with a leap of 6.48 meters and he won bronze in the 200 with a personal best of 22.15. He also won his hit in the 100 breaking 11 seconds with a time of 10.90. He totaled 18 individual points on the day.

Senior **Tahkari Ross** earned a silver medal in the triple jump with a hop, skip and jump of 13.34. He also scored points in the long jump finishing in

fourth place. He ran the 200 as well.

Coach Geter said, "Tahkari Ross has been a big surprise in his first and only year in track. He advanced to state in all 4 of his events and was one of our leaders.

Junior **Skylar Montgomery** made the state meet in the long jump and triple jump along with **Livingston**. **Livingston** also ran the 400 meters.

Seventh grader **Caron Geter** qualified in the 800 and 1600 meters. He posted a new personal best in the 1600 with a time of 5:17.78. This should be the first of many state finals appearances for the youngster

"A good meet today will propel us to a great off-season which will lead to be one of the favorites to win the Team State Title next season. We will return all relays, distance runners, and our top jumpers next year so a state championship is the goal for the next year. Also, we have young throwers so a strong off-season for them will propel us to a state championship next year," said coach Geter

For the girls team **Zykerra Skinner** qualified in the 400 meters, 4x800 relay team of **Alissa Carter**, **Sara Goins**, **Janiyah Deleon** and **Olivia Marlowe**, **Abigail Lambert** in the triple jump and **Michelya Doctor** in the Javelin.

## Latta's Crawford places 2nd in Girls' 100 yd. dash

By Dennis Brunson  
Hssr.com Associate Editor

Latta – **Erianna Crawford** finished second in the 100-meter dash and placed in the 200-meter dash to lead the **Latta High School** girls track and field team in the Class A state meet on May 16 at **Spring Valley High's Harry Parone Stadium** in **Columbia**.

Crawford ran the 100 in 12.28 seconds. She finished fifth in the 200 in 26.49. The other Viking girl to place was **Ahliyah Smiling** with a seventh-place finish in the discus.

Latta girls who qualified for state but didn't place were **Harmony Hiines** in the 100-meter hurdles, **Kaylani Spivey** in the javelin and the 4x100- and 4x400-meter relay teams.

On the boys side, sprinter **Malik Grace** led the way. He placed in both the 100 and 200, finishing fourth and sixth, respectively.

The 4x1 relay team also finished fourth while **Henry Miller** was fifth in the javelin.

**Cooper Grainger** qualified for the 1,600-meter run but did not place.

In the Class A lower state meet held at **Carvers Bay** in **Hemingway** on May 9, **Miller** was the lower state champion in the javelin.

The Region 6 meet was also held at **Carvers Bay**, and **Latta** had three girls win region titles and two boys.

Crawford won the region in both the 100 and 200 while **Hines** was the region champion in the 100 hurdles. **Miller** claimed the region title in the javelin, while **Anthony Williams** won the high jump title.

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Andrew Jackson's softball All-Star selections



AJA's baseball All-Star selections

## Andrew Jackson baseball, softball teams in process of rebuilding during 2026 season

From Staff Reports

Ehrhardt-The Andrew Jackson Academy (10-10) baseball program continues to make progress under coaching veteran **Jason Mathys** but an early exit in the SCISA AA playoffs with a loss to **Laurens Academy** put a damper on the season.

The team was led at the plate by third baseman **Walker Terry** who batted .419 with 9 RBI's from his third base position. On the mound **Terry** had 35 strikeouts in w6 innings of mound duty.

Shortstop **Evan Mathys** hit .387 with 12 RBI's. **Landon Johnson** hit .484 with 7 RBI serving as a pitcher/catcher for the team. On the mound **Johnson** had 57 strikeouts, Left fielder **Eli Mathys** is .480 for the season with four RBI's.

In a 7-5 win over **Laurens Academy** on April, 28 **Evan Mathys** had a hit while **Terry** was 2-of-4 with one RBI. **Johnson** had two hits against the **Cru-saders**.

Against **Laurens Academy** **Johnson** was the starting pitcher and she had 8 strikeouts in 3.2 innings of work. **Mathys** came in to pitch for the final 4.2 innings and he had four strikeouts.

Other members of the baseball team included first baseman **Tanner Chasew** aong with second

baseman **Jaxon Brandt**, along with starting center fielder **Gage Risher**. **Brad Hightower** started in right while **Grayson Hay** played first base.

Other members of the baseball team were **Carter Pernel**, **Nathan King** and **Hunter Tucker**.

**AJA Softball Team Still Rebuilding**  
AJA head football coach and athletic director **Andy Palmer** took over coaching the AJA softball program and the team had a five-win rebuilding season but played well at times.

Her team was led by softball prospect catching prospect **Carrigan Moore** who batted .365 with 9 RBI's from the lead-off position. **Moore** also had 9 stolen baes.

Other top hitters were **Braelyn Hall** at .318. Center fielder **Mic Beard** batted .269 and shortstop **Harlo Sease** was at .235 with five RBI's.

Coach **Hall** was assisted by **Denise Duncan**, **Chad Johnson**, **Jessica Mathys**, and **Carmen Mixon**.

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# Marion's Baccus wins discus in AA boys meet

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Marion – Marion High School thrower **Darrin Baccus** won the discus in the AA boys track and field state meet held on May 15 at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia**.

Baccus won the discus with a throw of 184 feet, 0.66 inches.

Baccus was also a good enough jumper to score points as well, finishing fifth in the long jump. **Ka-marie Reddick** scored points in the high jump with a sixth-place finish.

**Alex Williamson** qualified for state in the 100-meter dash but did not place. Neither did the 4x100-meter relay team nor the 4x,400 relay team.

On the girls side, **Ashanti Gause** just missed winning a championship, finishin second in the 400 dash. Also scoring points for the Swamp Foxes was **Shamyah McKelvey**. She was fifth in the discus.

Both the 4x1 and 4x4 relay teams qualified but did not place.

In the boys lower state meet held on May 9 at the **Woodland High** track, Baccus was the only boys individual winner, taking the discus.

Gause did win the 400 hurdles in the girls meet. Marion played host to the Region 7 meet on May 1. Baccus had a tremendous performance, winning the shot put, the discus and the long jump while finishing second in the triple jump.

He had a throw of 172-11 in the discus, a throw of 40-07 in the shot put and a jump of 22-00 in the long jump.

Other second-place finishes for the Marion boys were **Michael Anderson** in the 800-meter run and Reddick in the high jump. Anderson finished third in the javelin toss, while **Benjamin Watford** was third in the shot put, Reddick was third in the long jump, **William Self** was third in the discus, and **Ka-**

# Peracki finishes third in 800m at AA meet

**By Dennis Brunson**  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Mullins – As the “postseason” for high school track and field progressed for **Mullins High School's Nathan Peracki** progressed this spring, so did his performance.

From the Region 7-AA boys meet to the AA lower state meet to the AA state meet, Peracki shaved precious seconds off of his time in the 800-meter run. It didn't end in a state championship for Peracki, but it did conclude with a third-place finish in the state meet held at the **Richland Northeast** track in **Columbia** on May 15.

The junior came in under the 2-minute mark in the state meet in a time of 1 minute, 59.80 seconds. He was less than two seconds behind winner **Reid Finley** of **Liberty** (1:57.84) and 6/10ths of a second behind second place **Liam Granger** of **Greenville Tech Charter** (1:59.20).

Interestingly, when Peracki began his quest at the region meet in **Marion** on May 1, he won the event but in a time of 2:04.91, a full five seconds more than what he posted in the state meet.

In the lower state competition at **Woodland High**, Peracki managed to shave over two seconds off of his finish time. He ran the two laps in 2:02.38. However, he only finished fourth.

Peracki obviously bested those three runners at the state meet.

Mullins finished with eight points. The 4x400-meter relay team got the other two points with a seventh-place finish.

The 4x800 team qualified for the state meet but did not place.

**Angela Ford** qualified for two events in the girls portion of the meet, the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes. She didn't place in either though.

**REAVES HAPPY WITH SOFTBALL AFTER FIRST YEAR**

**mari Israel** was third in the 110-meter hurdles. Also finishing third was the 4x400-meter relay team.

Reddick was fourth in the triple, while Watford was fourth in the javelin. Fifth-place finishers were **Kameron Davis** in the 200 dash, Israel in the 400 hurdles, and the 4x800 relay team.

On the girls side, Gause and McKelvey picked up victories. Gause won the 400 in 1:00. 02 while McKelvey won the discus with a throw of 90-02.

**Dileyah Phillips** was third in the triple jump, and the 4x1 relay team finished third. Fourth-place finishers were **Nevaeh Gurley** in the high jump and the 4x4 relay team, McKelvey in the javelin and **Jade Legette** in the 1,600 run.

Fifth-place finishers were **Aaliyah Crawford** in the javelin, Phillips in the long jump, **Aasyia Johnson Hyman** in the 400 hurdles, **Tianna Wilson** in both the 200 and the 400 and **Lana Gause** in the 100 hurdles.

## MARION BASEBALL FINISHES FOURTH IN REGION

The Marion baseball team finished fourth in Region 7 with a 6-6 record, all behind teams that won their district tournaments and advanced to the 4-team lower state tournament.

Region champion **East Clarendon**, No. 2 **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** and third place **Lake City** each won their respective district tournaments. Marion did not, going 0-2 in the District 7 tournament.

The Swamp Foxes were 6-17 overall. Late in the season they were being led by **Malachi Graham** with a .385 batting average and **Andre Stanley** with a .368 mark.

The Mullins softball team will carry a 2-game winning streak into the 2027 season. That's because the Auctioneers concluded this season with a sweep of **Kingstree** to finish the year with a 2-12 record.

Considering she didn't become the head coach until just prior to the start of the season, **Cierra Reaves** is extremely happy with how her first year went.

"I feel like this season was a "tremendous" improvement compared to the past," Reaves said. "I've had unwavering support from the staff, community and the parents the entire time as well. Many young ladies that had previously taken time away from softball found their way back to enjoying it.

"I can hardly wait to get started for next season considering how far we have come in such a short time. I'm simply thankful they trusted me enough to come find some love for the game again."

Victories of 21-8 and 19-4 over Kingstree put Mullins over the century mark in runs scored.

" Scoring 100 runs to finish the season has been unheard of in Mullins softball recently," Reaves said. Some key players for Mullins were **Ariyah Staley**, **Kei'hauna Lacy** and **Arreyianna Carter**.

"I have a great group coming back due to having only two seniors so I'm excited," Reaves said.


## MULLINS BASEBALL FINISHES 5-14

The Mullins baseball team finished 5-14 on the season and 3-11 in region play. That was good enough for a fifth-place finish which was good enough to get the Auctioneers in the state playoffs. They went 0-2, however.

**Andre Littlejohn** led Mullins in hitting with a .484 average. He had 10 runs, 10 RBI, three double and a triple.

**Layne Gerrald** battled .400 with 12 runs and three

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doubles. **Jadae McGill** battled .324 with 15 runs.

# Spring sports coming to an end at N. Myrtle Beach

**By David Shelton**  
Senior Writer

**Little River** – Folks around the North Myrtle Beach athletic facilities kept pretty busy in the first few weeks of May as a bevy of the school's spring sports athletic teams competed at home and aaway in the AAAAA Division II state playoffs.

Athletic director Anthony Heilbronn has kept busy this last few weeks as several of the spring sports teams are having solid success and competing well in and out of region 6-AAAAA. Several teams were in the hunt for a region title with sights set on even bigger things.

One of those teams hoping to contend for a state title was the baseball team, coached by Brian Alderson. As has been the case for the last several years, the baseball team fought to put themselves in position to do big things but came up a little short. The Chiefs ended their season with a playoff loss to Chapin on May15.

The final record was 23-7, certainly nothing to be ashamed about. By the end of the season several players had seen increased production in all phases. One of the highlights was a two-hit shutout by sophomore Andrew Mundy in an elimination game.

Senior shortstop Sawyer Smith finished at .352 with 22 RBImd Gabe Priest batted .317 with 16 RBI. Trevor Mitchetti hit .348 with 24 RBI and Kaden Lank jhit .281 with 21 RBI.

Smith, Priest and Fisher Nichols were the mainstays of the pitching staff.

The softball team continues to build a solid foundation in **Krystal Mante's** second season at the helm. The program produced a 17-13 record last season and went 16-14 overall this spring. The season ended in the playoffs with a 1-0 defeat to St. James.

With eight players back from a year ago, the Chiefs were able to compete hard against a tough schedule.

Senior pitcher **Sierra Bendik** is a key returner to the program. As the primary hurler, Bendik had 14 pitching victories with a 3.52 earned run average. Offensively, she hit .301 with 12 RBI.

Senior **Sadie Olson** is back as the starting catcher. Olson was an all-state selection last year and was voted the region's defensive player of the year. She hit .452 with 26 RBI this spring, Senior **Isabella Brun** hit 405 with 18 RBI



**Sadie Olson was recently selected as a North/South All-Star**

while senior first baseman **Lilly Carney** hit .330 with 25 RBI.

Another returning starter at third base was senior **Hadley Leonhardt**, who hit .312 with 25 RBI. Sophomore **Katherine Currie** was starting at second base and senior **Chloe Buttler** is a utility player and designated hitter. Sophomore **Mairead Olson** starts in centerfield.

Also providing depth are sophomores **Izzy Fitzgerald** and **Capri Laughlin**, junior **Faithlyn Lewis**, sophomores **Sophie Lewis**, **Carolina Porter**, **Kiera Baird**, and freshman **Ravyn Kiser**.

The boys soccer team lost to Lucy Beckham in the playoffs and finished with a 14-5. Two of the leading players this season were **Jen Carlo Hernandez** and sophomore **Christian Vasquez**.

The girls soccer team posted a 9-9-1 record. **Raphaella Nunes** scored seven goals this season and **Chloe Schmidt** had nine goals.

The track and field program has a state champion as sophomore **Dylan Kempf** won gold in the pole vault at the AAAAA Division II state meet on May 16. Ny'Ray Hannah was third in the triple jumpand third in the 400 meter hurdles. **Fenno Hollo** took a bronze in the girls 1600 meter run.

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## English, from pg. 17

over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

Currently, English is enrolled in dual credit on-line courses offered by NETC. She started taking classes during her junior year and she completing classes that will fulfill basic requirements for her freshman year at college. She has taken US History, World History, and Medical Terminology to date. English looks forward to going to college and preparing for a career.

When asked about the NETC experience, English said "NETC has been great," she said. "I was worried about starting these courses because I had never done anything like it, but the layout is easy to understand, and my professors were always flexible,

## Bracey, from pg. 17

plus History 101 and 102.

By taking the online courses through the NETC, Bracey says, this, "Helps prepare me for the workload and schedule I can expect with college work once I get to college," he said. It has taught me al-

and willing to help when I needed it."

Considering she only has two semesters of classes completed, English commented "I haven't taken many classes yet, that could reduce my course load in college, but plan on taking some online courses this summer and again during my senior year."

As a high school student, playing sports year-round, and taking NETC online classes, English had this to say about that challenge. "I have to plan, so there is a balance in everything between school, sports, and life," she said. "I put together a schedule that enables me to get all the course work completed, so I don't have to give up on doing other things.

When asked if all this can be stressful, English

ways to use any free time to complete assignments. I apply this lesson, whether that be at home, or at school."

When asked about a memorable moment in his sports career, Bracey said, "That was involved a

summed it up this way: "Time management can be hard with multiple games, or assignments due, but pacing myself has always helped," she said. "I try not to load myself down, and I try to space my work out throughout the week to avoid stressing myself out."

English reflected on favorite memories as a student athlete, "Some of my favorite sports memories happened at practices," she said. "The hard work behind the scenes with all the fun, smiles, and laughs can't be beat. A different type of bond is formed within a team where you are pushing others, and yourself to be better while also having fun doing it."

play that I will never forget," he said. "We made the football playoffs and with our first snap of the game, we scored a touchdown!"



2026 Central Eagles baseball

# Central baseball wins region championship

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associated Press  
Pageland – Trent Strickland just completed his fifth season as the Central High School baseball head coach. It has been a sometimes painfully slow climb, but the Eagles just had their best season under his tutelage.

Central finished the season with a 17-11 overall record, won the Region 4-AA championship and reached the championship round of the District 2 tournament in the state playoffs.

“It just says a lot about the work we have put in,” Strickland said. “The guys have really bought in to what we are trying to do. They believe in each other and the program.”

The Eagles won their opening game in the district tournament by an 18-4 count over Blacksburg. They struggled in the second game though, falling to Clinton 14-1.

Central rebounded to beat Liberty 9-0 in an elimination game to get back to Clinton. The Eagles made a much better showing this time although it was still a season-ending loss, falling 5-3 on the road.

Strickland believes his players have developed a bond that has led to the success they enjoyed.

“I would say our strength is our brotherhood,” he said. “The guys believe and trust each other. They have each other’s backs, and I always say great teams are player-led and that’s what we had this year.”

Cody Branham was the offensive leader of the team. He led the team in hitting with a .492 batting average, in home runs with six, in stolen bases with 16 and in runs batted in with 25 to go with 23 runs scored and four doubles.

Logan Olney led in hits with 32 while picking up seven doubles, one triple and two homers and hitting .356. He scored 22 times and had 15 RBI.

# Myrtle Beach track enjoys time at state meet

By WORTHY EVANS  
Staff Writer

Columbia-Myrtle Beach athletes were few at the 5A Division 2 state track and field meet at Richland Northeast High School Saturday, but the ones who qualified for state made a mark.

The boys’ team finished in third place with 42 points, behind Fort Mill’s champion’s 95 points and runner-up Westwood’s 94.

Junior Julian Brown won gold in the boy’s high jump with an effort of 2.1 meters and another gold in the long jump with a 7-meter attempt.

“It was a great afternoon. The second to last jump in the long jump, I think I was seeded like last, but out of nowhere I got a pretty good jump,” he said. “We didn’t have many people with us, and Aaliyah won the long jump and Myrtle the 4x1 placed. We came in here and handled business.”

Aaliyah Livingston, the Seahawks’ only girl athlete at the meet, won gold in the high jump with a 1.75-meter try. She took fifth in the long jump with a 5.14-meter effort.

Dylan Tomberlin led in doubles with nine and runs with 25 while batting .296, stealing 15 bases and driving in 15.

Strickland spread the pitching out among five arms. Senior Landon Crawford worked 38 1/3 innings, Colton Threatt 36, Aidan Welch 22 2/3, senior Lawson Hicks 18 1/3 and Olney, another senior, 17 2/3.

Crawford had a 2.56 earned run average while striking out 35, walking 18 and allowing 33 hits. Threatt had a 2.33 ERA and 53 strikeouts while allowing 24 hits and walking 25, Welch had a 2.16 ERA and 27 strikeouts while walking just six and giving up 21 hits, Hicks had a 1.15 ERA and 21 strikeouts while walking nine and allowing just six hits, and Olney had a 5.15 ERA with 25 whiffs.

“We have six starters returning,” Strickland said. “We have three seniors this year that are going to be hard to replace, two of them being pitchers. We are returning two arms we relied heavily on this year.”

## JOURNEY HOUGH WINS 400 IN AA STATE MEET

Central’s Journey Hough won the 400-meter dash in the girls portion of the AA track and field state meet held on May 15 at the Richland Northeast track in Columbia.

Hough won the event in 57.12 seconds. She also placed in the 100 dash, finishing seventh.

The 4x800-meter relay team qualified but did not place.

On the boys side, Jordan Caldwell placed seventh in the discus. He had a throw of 145 feet, 2.91 inches.

Other Eagles who competed in the meet but didn’t place were Angel Martinez in the 1,600-meter run, Treyveon Clyburn and Martel Ruben in the 110-meter hurdles and Ruben in the javelin.

Because of those events the girls’ team finished with Eastside for 20<sup>th</sup> place.

“I knew my goal and it was to reach 5-9 (1.75 meters). It’s my PR (personal record) now,” she said. “I was very nervous, but you just have to breathe.”

Girls head coach Leandra Walcott, who also coaches’ boys in the jumps and spoke for head boys coach John Sedeska, who was on the other side of the stadium, said the Seahawks had a great day.

“That’s two years in a row of first place for high jump, so it’s amazing to have Aaliyah and J.J. win again,” she said. “I’m so excited for them because both are going to the Nike Nationals, super excited to get them a trip to Eugene, Oregon. It’s so great.”

Senior Tyree Cauthen took third place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.71 seconds and second in the 200 with a time of 21.72.

The 4x100 team of Cauthen, Sean Carson, Ajay Mullins, and Anton Bryant took second with a time of 42.23.

“All of our boys, especially Tyree, did great,” Walcott said. “Tyree was seeded in the slower heats

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for all three events and managed to get second in two of them. Our boys had the best year until we had a not-so-great lower state meet. I’m beside myself with these boys, they’ve done an amazing job this year.”

# Pee Dee softball makes it five titles in a row

By Dennis Brunson  
hssr.com Associate Editor  
Mullins – Will Eskridge and any of his assistant coaches who’ve been with the Pee Dee Academy softball team can now say it. For that matter, seniors Mad-die Coward and Leah Nettles can as well.

What is it? They now have one for the thumb. The Golden Eagles have now won five consecutive SCISA state championships. The latest came with a sweep of Colleton Prep Academy in the best-of-3 AAA championship series.

“It is still a little surreal,” said Eskridge, the PDA head coach. “Any time you win a championship you’re excited to win the championship. Winning five in a row, it’s hard to comprehend. It doesn’t seem real that you can do that.”

Pee Dee finished the year with a 28-2 record, beating Colleton Prep 10-0 in the opening game and following it with an 8-1 victory to complete the sweep.

In the opening game, Coward tossed a 1-hit shutout. Coward, who has started in the circle for each of those five title teams, struck out nine, walked one and hit a batter. She threw 52 pitches, 43 for strikes.

Pee Dee scored two runs in the first inning, one in the second, three in both the third and fourth and closed it out with a run with one out in the fifth.

Dinah Johnson had a 2-run single in the first inning, while Lilly Grace Rowell had a sacrifice fly that scored Carly Carroll in the second.

The Eagles scored three runs in the third before Addison Hasty had a 2-run double in the fourth followed by an RBI double by Azeleigh Arnette to make it 9-0. The game-ending run came on a triple by Carroll

Hasty and Arnette both had two hits to lead PDA’s 8-hit attack. Coward added a double, and Rowell had a single to go with her sac fly. Carroll and Johnson had the other hits.

Coward wasn’t nearly as effective in the second game. She again allowed just one hit, but she missed out on getting a shutout again.

PDA had 11 hits in the clinching game. Hasty had two of them, including a solo home run. Arnette had two hits as well, one of them a 2-run homer.

Coward, who will be playing collegiately at Wof-ford, went out in style at the plate. She was 4-for-4 and scored four runs.

Carroll had two hits while Rowell had a hit. Not only have the Eagles won five straight titles, they have played in nine consecutive championship series. Eskridge said he doesn’t know exactly why PDA has been so successful.

“I don’t have a magic answer,” he said. “The Lord blesses me every day, more than deserve. I think we have fun, but I don’t know what the magic formula is.

Don’t know what formula. Whatever it is it’s working really well.”

# Andrews diamond teams go undefeated in regions

By Neill Kirkpatrick  
Special to the HSSR

Andrews – For the second straight season the Andrews Softball team captured the region 6 AA championship and for the third time in four years the Andrews baseball team captured the region 6 AA championship which earned them the opportunity to host the district 8 lower state championship bracket.

The softball Yellowjackets swept through their bracket hardly breaking a sweat as they outscored their opponents 31-2 to reach the lower state finals. They Yellowjackets are looking for their sixth state championship which would tie them with Lexington for fourth all-time. They are currently in fifth all alone. They last captured the AA crown in 2018.

The Yellowjackets have been led all year by their core of seniors in Addison McCants, Addyson Davis, Sarah Jennings, Emmalee Lambert, and Briana Walker. This group has been together for the past four-years. This group has a combined batting average of .391 with 67 RBI’s and they have scored 103 runs. Jennings leads the group with a .500 batting average while Davis leads the team in innings pitched and wins.

Juniors Chloe Skipper and Karaline Gainey have driven in 31 runs between them. Skipper has been outstanding behind the dish committing one error in 81 chances while Gainey has a fielding % of .902 at first

base. \*As of this writing, the Yellowjackets advanced to the winners bracket of the lower state finals beating Andrew Jackson 5-4 in game one. They will battle Chesterfield on Monday.\*

The baseball Yellowjackets went 1-2 in the district 8 bracket. They won their opener 16-1 over Hampton County before dropping their next two games: one to District 8 champion Atlantic Collegiate (8-7) and the second to region rival Woodland (7-5). They had beaten twice during the regular season.

The loss ended the career of seniors Jaxon Baker and Riley Jordan. Baker finished his career with .329 batting average, 57 RBI’s, and scored 70 runs. On the bump he went 10-7 with a 3.01 era. He struck out 198 batters in 163 innings and held opposing teams to .222 batting average. In the field he finished with over a .900 fielding percentage.

Jordan also had an outstanding career as he finished his career with a .335 batting average. He drove in 58 runs while scoring 55. He also hit four round trippers during his career. As a pitcher, he finished his career with a 3-2 record.

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# Seawell's Midlands Feature Page

## Five baseball, two softball teams remain alive in postseason play

By WORTHY EVANS  
Staff Writer

**Columbia** - Midlands baseball and softball teams have been battling it out in the postseason for more than two weeks. While SCISA's **Cardinal Newman** baseball team (17-12) was the final Columbia-area independent school standing last week, the Cardinals fell to 4A state champion Hilton Head Christian in two straight games in the best-of-three state championship series. As for the South Carolina High School League teams, five baseball teams—**A.C. Flora**, **Airport**, **River Bluff**, **Chapin**, and **Batesburg-Leesville** remain. Only two softball teams—defending 4A champion **Gray Collegiate Academy** and **A.C. Flora**—are left.

### Baseball

**A.C. Flora** (25-5) has won seven state championships under head coach **Andy Hallett**, the last one in 2021. The Falcons have come on strong in the last half of the season and in the 4A playoffs. As of Friday Flora has won 14 straight games and went undefeated at 12-0 to capture the Region 3-4A championship.

The Falcons breezed through the 4A upper state District D and swept **Camden** (12-18) in their best-of-three upper state series May 13 and Saturday.

In game one **Roper Wentzky** went 2-for-3 and **Dylan Hernandez** hit a 2-run double in the sixth inning as the Falcons shut out the Bulldogs 6-0.

"It's a lot of fun, the guys I'm in the dugout with are tremendous. The senior class of 2026 is awesome to be around every day," Hallett said of his team as they dig deeper into the playoffs. "Ever since I told them about how they perform, how they do everything before spring break, they haven't flinched. We're playing at a high level, we're executing inside the game, we're playing good defense. It's a lot of fun right now. I don't know if it's less pressure, but it's enjoyable knowing that we're in this thing together."

**Tyler Hernandez** as the starting pitcher hurled six innings of 3-hit ball, struck out nine and walked just one for the win. **Riggs Scott** came on in the seventh inning to close out the win.

"Tyler was really good," Hallett said. "Tremendous fastball command, good velocity, warm night, pounding the zone. We're going to pitch to our strength and Tyler's a fastball guy who changes speeds enough to keep people honest."

In game two at Camden, the Falcons wasted no time jumping on the Bulldogs, scoring five runs in the first inning, three more in the second, and one in the third en route to a 10-2 victory.

A.C. Flora hit a dozen singles on the afternoon. Wentzky was 4-for-4 and Hernandez and **Monty Laffitte** had two hits apiece. The Falcons put five pitchers on the mound after starter **Sam McCutcheon** pitched 3 1/3 innings. He eventually got the win.

The Falcons play Wren (19-11) in another best-of-three series for the upper state championship beginning Tuesday.

**Airport** (25-5, 11-3 Region 4-4A) beat **Wilson** 11-1, **Bishop England** 10-0, and **South Aiken** 10-5 to win the 4A lower state District B, then beat **North Augusta** twice in the best-of-three lower state championship series.

In the first game against the Yellow Jackets May 13, the Eagles scored three runs in bottom of the sixth inning, then stopped a late rally at two runs in the top of the seventh for the 3-2 win.

**Ryan Bullis** pitched a 2-hitter over 6 2/3 innings and gave up both North Augusta Runs, but stopper **Daniel Butts** got the final two outs of the game for the save.

In game 2 the Yellow Jackets held a 2-1 lead going into the fifth inning, when Airport scored four runs on **Gabe Ingram's** double, singles from **Landon Jeffcoat**, **Bullis**, and **Justin Sightler**, and two walks. Jeffcoat was 3-for-4 and Ingram was 2-for-3.

Starting pitcher **Cash Epps** threw 4 full innings for the win, and reliever **Austin Rhodus** pitched three full innings for the save.

Airport played **Hartsville** (26-7) in a second best-of-three series that began Tuesday for the lower state championship.

**River Bluff** (22-11) beat **Wando** 2-0 in the best-of-3 5A Division 1 lower state District 4 tournament play-in series, but fell 3-0 to **Carolina Forest** in the first round May 9. From the losers bracket the Gators beat Lexington 12-11 and the Panthers 3-2 to reach the championship game against **Sumter**.

River Bluff needed to beat the Gamecocks twice to win the district, and that's exactly what the Gators did.

They traveled to Sumter Friday and won the first game 10-0. **Ray Kastner** pitched a complete-game 2-hitter, striking out 11.

River Bluff held a 5-0 lead after **Dominick Norton's** 3-run home run in the second inning. The Gators picked up another run in the fifth, and a 4-run seventh inning closed out the win.

Norton hit a 3-run home run in the second inning. **Banks Alexander**, **Walker Goodwin** and **Mac Raines** had two hits apiece.

The next day at River Bluff, the Gators snuffed out the drama with a 5-run first inning and held on to an 8-1 win. Alexander went 3-for-4 and Mason Iser had two hits and drove in two runs. **Jeremiah North** and **Godwin** both doubled.

Four pitchers, Goodwin, Cooper Calhoun, **Dalton Corley** and winner **Peyton Hewitt**, combined for a 5-hitter. Gamecocks batters struck out 13.

"I'm so proud of our guys," Gators head coach **Mark Bonnette** said. After falling to Carolina Forest and pitcher Parker Reavis, who 4-hit River Bluff and struck out 9 May 9, Bonnette said "I told our guys that we have some depth, some pitching depth, and if we can just kind of hang in there, we can win this thing in the end. Our guys kept battling, we pitched our tails off, we had big hits when it mattered, and we were able to piece it together and keep guys under pitch counts. It's tough to come through that way, but I'm proud of the guys."

River Bluff played defending 5A Division 1 champion **James Island** (27-2) in another best-of-three series beginning Tuesday for the lower state championship.

"When you get to the final four in 5A Division 1, you expect nothing less than playing a great team," Bonnette said. "Our guys will show up, we've got some great grit to us, and we'll battle our tails off."

**Chapin** (19-9) Got a No.3 seed in the 5A Division 2 lower state District 4 tournament, but stayed in the winners bracket and reached the lower state championship series against District 3 winner **West Florence** (21-6) beginning Tuesday.

The Eagles beat **Conway** 11-3 May 9, **North Myrtle Beach** 9-1 May

11, and the Chiefs again 5-3 for the district championship.

Against the Tigers, the Eagles banded out 14 hits with **Caden Guy** going 3-for-3 with a double and three RBI, and **Felix Flecha Ruiz** going 2-for-4 with a double. Four pitchers combined to 6-hit Conway.

In the first game with North Myrtle Beach, Chapin's **Mac Berry** 2-hit the Chiefs through 4 1/3 innings and **Cooper Derrick** pitched 2 2/3 innings of no-hit ball. **Luke Cromer** hit two solo home runs, **Charlie Todd** went 3-for-4 with a double, **Weston Plotner** had two hits, and **Kaedyn Harris** drove in three runs.

In the second game **Griff Harper** gave up seven hits and three runs but still picked up the win. **Brewer Haggard** came on the mound in the fifth inning and pitched one-hit ball the rest of the way for the save.

In the fifth inning, Plotner doubled and drove in two runs in Chapin's three-run rally from a 3-2 deficit.

**Batesburg-Leesville** (19-9) won the 2A upper state District 3 championship by beating **Fairfield Central** 15-0 May 5, **Mid-Carolina** 2-1 May 7, and beating the Rebels again 3-1 May 11.

In the upper state tournament May 14, the Panthers beat **Landrum** 4-1. Winning pitcher **Tyler Kneee** combined with **Landon Soper** to 3-hit the Cardinals. Kneee struck out nine. **Braydon Hallman** went 3-for-4 with a double and **Caleb Schaefer** had two hits.

Batesburg-Leesville took its first loss of the postseason with an 11-0 defeat to **Clinton**. The Panthers looked to salvage the series with a home game Monday against **Chesnee**. The winner plays Clinton for the upper state championship. The winners-bracket Red Devils (28-3) only have to win once.

### Softball

Late May seems to be the perfect time of year for the **Gray Collegiate** softball. Coming off a 4A state championship win in 2025 to go with the team's 2A title in 2024, the War Eagles are 31-0 and playing their best softball.

"We're playing good right now," head coach **Doug Frye** said. "Our pitching is good, we're playing good defense and we're hitting the ball the way I like to see them hit. We're gelling at the right time."

The War Eagles breezed through the 4A lower state District A tournament, outscoring the competition 39-2 in three games. They beat Region 4-4A rival **North Augusta** 5-3 in game 1 of the lower state championship tournament Thursday

and beat **South Florence** 3-1 Saturday to reach the championship game set for Wednesday. The War Eagles will play the **South Florence-York** winner, with Gray only needing to win once.

Leading the War Eagles has been junior five-star shortstop and **University of South Carolina** commit **Aspen Boulware**. Boulware has drawn 23 walks—many intentionally—but she has a team-leading nine home runs, 38 runs batted in, and a .571 batting average.

"Aspen has had a great year," Frye said. "She's been walked a lot but she's such a great player that she still gets a lot of hits and is a great baserunner."

What helps is the batter behind her—the team's ace pitcher **Makenzie Sease**. Not only is Sease 10-0 in the circle with a 0.66 earned-run average and 122 strikeouts, the junior is batting .538 with 43 hits, three homers and 41 RBI.

"She's pitched well but she actually hits very well," Frye said. "We get a lot of people who think of her as a pitcher but she's a great hitter, and if they do walk Aspen, they have to face Makenzie."

The team is batting a collective .396 with 283 hits and 17 home runs.

**A.C. Flora** (22-6-3, 5-0), is the only other softball team besides Gray to be alive in the postseason.

The Falcons started the season 2-2 but went on an 11-game winning streak before falling 7-0 to Gray April 1.

Thus far into the upper state championship tournament with 2025 4A runner-up York, **Seneca** and **Fountain Inn**, A.C. Flora beat the Fury 8-4 Thursday and the Bobcats 6-1 Saturday to reach the upper state championship set for Wednesday. The Falcons await the York-Seneca winner.

Against Fountain Inn, **Annie Storm**, **Pressli Reynolds**, **Cameron Crook**, and **Abby Brown** had two hits apiece. Brown, Reynolds, **Carson Crook**, and **Garner Lanford** doubled. Reynolds pitched a complete game, striking out seven.

Against Seneca, Storm went 3-for-3, Lanford went 2-for-3 with a double, Cameron Crook went 2-for-3, and Reynolds hit a 2-run home run and pitched another complete game, striking out six.

Reynolds, a sophomore leads the team with a .5-6 batting average, a .554 on-base percentage, and 12 home runs. Brown has 10 home runs and 36 RBI on top of a .465 batting average.

Reynolds also has a 1.60 earned-run average with 99 strikeouts in 16 appearances and 83 innings pitched.

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# Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

## Recruiting, continued from Cover

HSSR SC 2027-29 Prospects  
(Nominate A Player: [hsreport@aol.com](mailto:hsreport@aol.com))

1. Joshua Dobson-Catawba Ridge-DB-6-1,174
2. Jaiden Kelly-Murray-Summerville-WR-5-10,170
3. Jaiden Bryant-Irmo-DE-6-3,245-
4. Aiden Manavian-Oceanside Collegiate-QB/SS-6-0,185
5. Jayven Williams-Summerville-RB-5-8,165
6. Trenton Lynch-Spartanburg-RB-5-9,185
7. Chanin Harris-Byrnes-WR-6-1, 165
8. Franklin Richards-Rock Hill-CB-5-10,172
9. Seth Tillman-South Pointe-DL-6-3,260
10. Kendarius "P-nut" Bailey-Gaffney-LB-6-0,215
11. David Seaggarra III-Byrnes-RB/FS-5-10,202
12. C.J. Brooks-Gaffney-OL-6-4,320
13. Amare Patterson-Bluffton-WR-6-1,190
14. Israel "Shank" Harris-James Island-OL-6-3,330
15. Michael Strickler-Oceanside Collegiate-FS-6-1,210
16. Christian Chancellor-Daniel-DB-5-9,162-Clemson
17. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-OL-6-2, 275
18. Kaiden Richards-Rock Hill-CB-5-10,172
19. Khsistain Jackson-Ridge-View-WR-5-11, 180
20. Nate Carson-Irmo-OL-6-4,271 -
21. Jaden Wuerth-Dutch Fork-DL-6-3,270
22. Maleek Miller-Irmo-WR-5-11,175
23. Dwayne Louallen-Central-QB-6-1,205
24. Simeon Jones-North Augusta-DL-6-1,305
25. Tajaj Watson-Martin-BHP-DB-5-10-162
26. Dennis Glenn-Boiling Springs-OL-DT-NG- 6-2, 290
27. Kelvion Manning-Dillon-DB-6-3,190
28. Jayton Watson-TL-Hanna-DB
29. Kelyn Durham-Eastside-RB-FS-5-9,180
30. Dai'Shion Watkins-Hynes-Dorman-WR-/FS-6-1,190
31. Jordan Logan-Orangeburg-Wilkinson-SS-6-1,190
32. Aiden Gibson-Woodruff-RB-6-2,200
33. Malik Robinson-South Florence-WR-6-2, 190
34. William Geddis-Swansea-MLB-6-0,215
35. JaQuan Samuel-Hartsville-OL-6-2,275
36. Sam Holiday-Fountain Inn-QB-6-0,195-
37. Jack Armstrong-Gray Collegiate-OL/DL-6-2,235
38. Josiah Mosely-Wren-RB-5-10,165
39. Marquise Androsen-DL-Emerald-5-10,210
40. Calvin McCoy-Greer-RB-5-10,180
41. Torian Henry-James Island-DL-6-2,210
42. Mari Moody-Demark-Olar-OL-6-4,235-
43. Karrem Shaw-Gaffney-B-RB-5-10,180
44. Henry Rivers-Berkeley-QB-DB-5-10,170
45. Ayden Montgomery-Gaffney-DB-WR-5-10,162
46. Karamion Glenn-BHP-DT-5-10,240
47. Jerimiah Good-Seneca-OL-6-1, 248
48. Johnquis Johnson-South Florence-DB-6-0,180
49. Fredrick Cooper-South Florence-FS-5-11,171
50. Dennis Glenn-Boiling Springs-DT-NG-6-3, 290
51. Markel Stephens-Loris-RB-5-7, 190
52. Bryson Bowers-James Island-LB-6-0,200
53. Caleb Sharo-Ashley Ridge-TE-6-3,215
54. Jeffrey Williams-Atlantic Collegiate-DL-6-4,290
55. Xavier Huggins-Powdersville-WR
56. Xavier Means-Northwestern-QB-6-0,165
57. Micah Adams-Stratford-TE-DE-6-2,265
58. Anthony Williams-Bamberg-Ehrhardt-DB-5-11,175
59. Luke Penland-JL Mann-OL-DL-6-3,265
60. William Donato-Bishop England-WR
61. Malcolm Gordon-Bluffton-LB-6-2,210
62. Caleb Feaster-Chester-RB-DB
63. Payton Vining-Northwestern-WR-5-10,160
64. Hayes Lyman-Christ Church-RB-5-10,170
65. Judd Windham-Christ Church-QB-6-4,210
66. Nasir Waldrop-Powdersville-WR
67. Shaun Carvalho-JL Mann-LB-6-2,205
68. Than Portee-Broadwater-Spring Valley-Wr-DB-6-0,170
69. Mehki Quiller-Fox Creek-LB
70. Chandler Guthrie-Gilbert-WR
71. Jonny Chong-Greenville-OL-6-3,300
72. Calvin McCoy-Greer-RB
73. Joshua Simpkins-North Augusta-DL-6-2,250
74. Marquise Anderson-Emerald-DE-5-10,210
75. Charles Williams-Hampton County-DE-6-0,215
76. Dre Brown-Silver Bluff-RB-5-7,160
77. Brandon Streater-Central-OL-6-4,260
78. Cooper Webb-Oceanside Collegiate-WR-5-10,165
79. Myjac McCoy-Marlboro County-LB-6-0,200
80. Keshawn Ray-Dillon-TE-LB-6-0,200

HSSR 2028 Class  
1. Zion Dawkins-Gaffney-CB/WR-5-11,181-7 D-1 Offers  
2. Beau Hite-Emerald-QB-ATH-6-0,165

HSSR 2029 Class  
1. Emarl Jones-Seneca-DL-6-6,325  
2. Khayei Sam Fong Talia-Dillon-QB-6-2,205  
3. Rasean Brown-South Pointe-RB-5-11,170  
4. Taddrick Gibson-Dutch Fork-DB-5-11,160  
5. Malachi Watson-Irmo-OL-5-11,290  
6. Bishop Allen-WR-5-11, 160 (moved to Arizona?)



Christ Church's Bo Lowrance



James Island's Taj Marchand

draft pick. We recently had 30-minute conversation with Lowrance, and we are very impressed with him, just like we are Boleman.

The ever popular and highly respected web site "*The Athletic*" released a first- round mock draft on May 14 that will certainly get the attention of those who follow the draft in the state of South Carolina.

**Keith Law** is a respected follower of baseball who comprised a list of potential mock first round draft picks for the Athletic web site that was published on May, 14. In no way do we always agree at HSSR with what any scout might say or report, about any professional prospect from the state of South Carolina. However, because our business has been covering high school sports in South Carolina, for the past 40 years, we will present our own opinions as well. On Law's list Boleman drops to number 29 in the first round, (we strongly disagree with his evaluation) while Lawrence elevates to the number 20 pick of the first round and we are certainly excited to now find out the state could have two first round draft picks this year.

We still maintain that Boleman will be a top 10 pick in the first round, and we are delighted that Lowrance is moving into the first round with the highly respected Law, and other scouts.

This is what Mr. Law wrote about Boleman for *The Athletic*: "Boleman was a little slow to ramp up this spring, so he's no longer the top high school lefty on my board, but he's still close and should get paid like a first rounder. He's up to 96 with a four-pitch mix, with the velocity a tick lower this spring, and he gets good depth on his breaking pitches from a three-quarters slot. He already had an internal brace procedure when he was about 15. He's committed to **Wake Forest**."

Boleman is in no way injured, and the internal brace procedure has only had a positive impact on his performance, not a negative one. He is perfectly healthy according to his high school coach **Scott Freeman**. After his outstanding pitching performance on the big stage with *Team USA* last summer, he left that international competition considered the best pitching prospect, in either high school or college for the 2026 major league draft, which takes place this July. Nothing he has shown in recent mound duty, with his high school, suggests any downturn at all.

Perhaps on the advice of an advisory agent, and we do not know this for sure, Boleman (and his loving family) decided to rest his arm for most of the regular high

school season, and he had not pitched but 10.1 innings this season at the time this reporter interviewed him in early April. He does play on a team with two other talented pitchers.

We hope that scouts, major league teams, and even baseball writers, do not hold his lack of time on the mound, earlier in the season, against him. On April,30 versus AAAAA **River Bluff**, Boleman pitched all seven innings, with 18 strikeouts, and only one walk in his team's 1-0 win. Boleman has now pitched 30 innings this season with 68 strikeouts, an ERA of 0.23 and he has walked just seven of the 107 batters he has faced.

Boleman and Lawrence should both be invited to a traditional Top 60 to 80 high school and college skills camp, reserved for top 2026 prospects, with live games, held a few weeks before the draft down at a site in Florida. The HSSR predicts that both Boleman and Lawrence will leave that comparison skills camp as solid first round draft prospects.

Now let's talk about Bo Lawrence, first through the eyes of his high school coach **Brian Simpson**.

"I came to Christ Church three seasons ago from **JL Mann**, and Bo was already a solid player in the program," said Coach Simpson. "He really came on strong, with the scouts last summer, as a player on a highly respected elite travel team out of Charlotte.

"Bo has tremendous range as a short stop, and I have been amazed at some of balls he is able to get to," said Coach Simpson. "The scouts love the fact he has equal dexterity from both the right and left side. He is 6-4, 200 pounds and runs a 6.6 sixty which is awesome

See Recruiting, pg. 62

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