

Natural Grass. Extraordinary Durability.



- ★ #1 For Wear Tolerance
- ★ #1 For Drought Resistance and Recovery
- ★ Preferred Surface to Reduce Player injury
- ★ Requires Less Nitrogen

Green Acres Offers a Wide
Variety of Turfgrasses For
Any Application.

HOME • SPORTS
COMMERCIAL • GOLF

Also suppliers of
Tifway
419 BERMUDA



GreenAcresTurfSC.com



www.HSSR.com

High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

XXXVIX No. 8 - March 31, 2026

(843) 553-0264

64 Pages

Boulware, Boleman bring pride and recognition to SC as highly regarded National level athletes

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Moncks Corner—Never in the 40 years that the “High School Sports Report” has existed in the Palmetto State, focused on covering prep sports across the state, have we seen the sports of baseball and softball been honored to have the best senior baseball player ever and best senior softball player ever in the same senior class in the same year!

Before we move on with this rare recruiting insight article, saluting two outstanding senior athletes in baseball from Southside Christian and Aspen Boulware, a Gray Collegiate shortstop, ranked among the top seven players in the 2026 class nationally, we would like to once again thank Mark Grainger and the fine folks at Modern Turf from Irmo and Rembert for their sponsorship of this recruiting feature each month.

We will first take a deep dive into the prep softball career of Boulware, who has signed to play at South Carolina, after receiving more than 50 offers to play college softball. In the end, Boulware chose the Gamecocks over Oklahoma and Florida State, among others. This rare situation of having perhaps the best baseball player, and the best softball player in the same graduating in South Carolina came about when Boulware reclassified to the senior class earlier this year.

Boulware earned Gatorade Player of the Year honors in South Carolina as a sophomore last season at Gray Collegiate, when she led her team to a state title after batting .545 with 19 RBI's and six home runs. In her prep career, she has a career batting average of .581 with 145 RBI's and 58 home runs. She has also stolen 111 bases over the past five seasons.

On the U-18 National team last summer, Boul-

See Recruiting, pg. 33

On the Inside...

Modern Turf Stats.....	3
AAAAA Baseball & Softball.....	4
AAAA Baseball & Softball.....	5
AAA Baseball & Softball.....	6
AA Baseball & Softball.....	7
Class A Baseball & Softball.....	8
SCISA Baseball & Softball.....	9
NETC Student Athletes of the Month....	17
Seawell's Midlands Feature.....	32
Modern Turf Recruiting.....	33
Green Acres Softball Prospects.....	47
Green Acres Baseball Prospects.....	48

The GOATS Of The



Southside Christian's
Carson Boleman



Aspen Boulware
Gray Collegiate

SC Prep Diamonds

Boulware & Boleman -
The best ever to play
in South Carolina!

CMYK

CMYK

27" WEB-100

A Message From The
 Publisher
Billy G. Baker
 email: bilrecruit@aol.com



High School Sports Report

Our Goal: Recognizing The Achievements Of Young Athletes

Baseball, Softball playoffs should be highly competitive as we debate “winning strategy” of Southside Christian

Moncks Corner—As the 2026 regular season winds down for baseball and softball teams across the Palmetto State, the second season known as the play-offs will soon begin with teams competing at high levels for state championships.

We all know that the performance of the person on the rubber, or the girl in the circle, is very crucial to the success of teams who hope to win state titles. In baseball, it is difficult for just one great arm to beat you. Baseball teams need pitching depth, in most cases to win state titles. However, a power-dominant pitcher in softball can take her team to a state title as softball pitchers are not subject to a pitch count.

We must note the unique strategy of **Southside Christian** head baseball coach **Scott Freeman** as his team approaches the playoffs as the defending AAA champions in South Carolina. The Sabres were 10-6-1 as of April 9 but 6-0 in their region.

No doubt, Southside Christian could have a better record if they had pitched high school all-American **Carson Boleman** (6-4, 210) more this season. However, protecting Boleman’s 94-95 mph lefty arm, for full use in the playoffs, is the objective, and trust me, with Boleman on the bump his team is not likely to lose a baseball game.

Boleman has only pitched in 10 innings this season as of April 9. He does not have any arm issues. He is batting .423 with seven doubles, one triple and two home runs serving mainly as a designated hitter.

In fact, six other pitchers on his team have pitched 11 innings or more this season. In losses to **James Island, AC Flora,** and **Chapin** this season one has to ponder how Boleman felt knowing that if

he had been on the mound these three games might have had different outcomes.

“We feel blessed to have a special talent in Carson,” said Coach Freeman. “We have had 40 major league scouts at some of our games this season, whether he was pitching or not. When he went 2-0 for Team USA last summer with a 0.00 ERA with 17 strikeouts and only two walks in 11 innings of work, that pretty much elevated him to first round draft status in my opinion.”

In one mock major league draft, Boleman is projected as the number six pick to the Royals. He should be the first pitcher drafted and he is considered the best pitcher from either high school or college this year. He has total command of four different pitches and being 6-4, 210 he is an imposing figure to batters no doubt.

“Carson will pitch as much as possible in the playoffs,” said Coach Freeman. “This was our strategy coming into the season. Sure, the scouts would have liked to have seen him pitch more this season, but they know what he can do. He is a totally dominating pitcher for sure. Off the field he is even a better person.”

Boleman is a **Wake Forest** commitment, but the Deacons will likely never see him on their campus, unless a group of their rich donor’s desire to contribute \$2 to \$3 million for his estimated NIL/draft value. This is not likely to happen, but you never know.

Last year in the state finals, Boleman recorded 20 strikeouts against **Oceanside Collegiate** in the final game of his junior season. It was an error that prevented him from tossing a perfect game.

As a junior, Boleman pitched a team leading 55.1 innings with an incredible 135 strikeouts. He was 11-0 with a perfect 0.00 ERA.

So, all of you high school baseball coaches in South Carolina. Do you agree, or disagree, with the strategy surrounding the mound time issued Boleman by Coach Freeman this season?

It is certainly not a strategy embraced by most baseball coaches who rightfully adopt a “best available” mantra from game to game. However, Coach Freeman has a well-rested ace for the playoffs, and his team will likely defend their state title with Boleman pounding the strike zone.

As we enter the final two weeks of the regular season the most dominating SCHSL baseball teams in South Carolina this season have been AAAAA Div I **James Island** (16-1), **Dorman** (16-2), and **Fountain Inn** (19-2). From the SCISA ranks, **Pinewood Prep** (15-1) has been the most dominating baseball team.

In softball, **Gray Collegiate** (18-0), **St James** (18-0), and **West Florence** (12-0) are the only undefeated teams from the SCHSL as of April 9. Gray is led by junior all-American shortstop **Aspen Boulware** who has committed to **South Carolina**. Three other teams are favored to compete for softball state titles in **Summerville** (15-1), **Crescent** (17-2), and **Saluda** (15-2).

From the S. softball ranks **Pinewood Prep** has bene dominant at 16-0 and tradition rich **Pee Dee Academy** (15-1) is having another outstanding season.

As the playoffs begin the **HSSR** extends best wishes to all competing teams!

Clarendon Hall, continued from pg. 63

starting on April 13. Pitching has been the strength for Clarendon Hall. The Saints owned a 2.67 earned run average. Sophomore **Joey Hatchell** was leading the staff with a 1.79 earned run average and 52 strikeouts. Junior **Cole Richburg** had a 2.59 ERA and 35 strike outs. Junior **Zander White** had a 3.36 ERA, sophomore **Cayden Richburg** had a 3.15 ERA, Freshman **Waylon Geddings** had a 4.08 ERA, junior **Jake Roberson** had a 2.21 ERA and eighth-grader **Jack Wyatt Reynolds** had not allowed an earned run. Hatchell, Cole Richburg and Reynolds combined on a

no-hitter in an 11-3 win over **Orangeburg Prep**. Hatchell worked four innings, Richburg two and Reynolds one. Offensively, CH had a .264 batting average but owned a .375 on-base percentage. Eighth-grader **Grayson Holliday** had a .375 batting average, senior **Thomas Shorter** was hitting .357, Reynolds was batting .333, sophomore **Josh White** .398 and Hatchell .302. Zander White was at .275, and sophomore **Talan Dymond** was at .256. Holliday had an OBP of .480, Shorter .460, Reynolds .451, Josh White .387, Hatchell .377, Zander White .356. Dymond .356, senior **Tommy Lei Atkinson** .348, Ged-

dings .333 and Cole Richburg .312. Reynolds was leading in RBI with nine followed by Hatchell with seven. Dymond, Josh White and Holliday each had six. Hatchell led in runs scored with 14, Reynolds had 13 and Holliday had 10. McIntosh said the Saints’ biggest improvement from last season is on defense. “The biggest problem last year was unearned runs, most of them coming on walks and errors,” he said. “They’ve corrected that substantially. We’ve been able to throw strikes, make them put it in play and clean up the errors.”

WW King, continued from pg. 43

rens Academy. There will also be a Region tournament played on April 21 & 22.

The Knights roster includes seniors **Smith Kirby, Zed Watkins** and **Wyatt Burbank**. The five juniors are **Luke Harvey, Elijah Hutto, Emerald**, continued from pg. 40

against **Westside** this week (April 6-8), but we didn’t catch many breaks. We need to find a way to beat them in our game tomorrow (April 10).”

The team is being led at the plate by sophomore shortstop **Beau Hite** who is hitting .500 with two doubles, one home run, and four RBI’s. The next best hitter is catcher **Eli Swancey** who is batting .318 with 9 RBI’s including a double and one home run.

Hite and Swancey are the only two players over .318 at this time.

“The bright spot of the team has been the play of

White Knoll, continued from pg. 16

digits. Freshman **Melinda Veler** leads the team at the plate with 12 RBI, 24 hits and a .469 batting average and a .519 on-base percentage. Senior **Lillian Priest** has 13

Colten Black, Casen Buzhardt and **Landell Anderson**. The sophomores are **Grayson Rikard** and **Joshua Oswald**. The freshmen are **Jackson Hutto, Drayton Wannamaker, Isaiah Doolittle, Tucker McGinty** and **Miles Atkins**.

Beau who has done a great job getting on base and leading at the plate,” said Coach Hite. “We have been struggling getting timely hits with runners in scoring position.

“Eli Swancey has been phenomenal behind the plate, and he has been a good contributor at the plate also,” said Coach Hite. “Finn Howard gives us a chance to win every time he pitches, and he has done a great job on the mound. (Howard has pitched 21.1 innings with 15 K’s to date).

“We are working hard to get our players to relax more and not play oppressed as a young team,” said Coach

It would appear the Knights could be preparing for a very competitive force for the 2027 season. Most of this Knight baseball roster played on the 2025 undefeated football team.

Hite. “Every game is an opportunity for us to improve and play better. We are trying to stay positive and continue to work harder to get better.”

Coleman Marino is a junior pitcher/center fielder. Senior **Matthew Ritter** is a first-year starter in the OF. **Luke Mathis** is an 8th starter at second and **Colton Knight** is a DH for Mathis. **Thomas Hodges** is a first-year starter at first while **Holden Styron** is an 8th grader starting in RF.

Junior **Bradley Cobb** and **Jacobe Cade** do a good job as courtesy runners and **Rylan Johnson** is a reserve

RBI, 22 hits and a .440 batting average and sophomore **Charity West** is hitting .379 with 11 hits and 10 runs batted in. Sophomore **E.G. Birchmore** has a 1.19 earned-run

average and is 1-0 in five appearances in the circle.

Manning, continued from pg. 14

17. Watts, Miles, Stevenson and Baxter had eight apiece.

Jacob Broadway, David and **Chris Caples** had worked the most innings. Broadway had 19 innings pitched, David had 15 2/3 and Caples 13 1/3.

MANNING TO HOST REGION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Manning boys golf team will be playing host to the Region 7 tournament at **Shannon Greens Golf Club** in Manning.

The Monarch golfers will be competing with golfers from Atlantic Collegiate, East Clarendon and Marion. The Monarchs will be competing individually to earn a spot in the Lower State tournament since Manning doesn’t have enough golfers to field a complete team.

Arush Patel has been having a good year for the Monarchs. He had a stroke average of 35 per nine holes. In a match against East Clarendon earlier this season, Patel shot a personal best 31.

Lawrence Johnson had an average score of 44 for Manning while **Landon Bishop** had a 49. **Amon Conyers** is in hirst year of playing golf.

Start Your Subscription Today!

The Leader In S.C. Prep Coverage Since 1987
 High School Sports Report
 1-800-489-0649
 Our goal: to recognize the achievements of young athletes

Send Subscription To:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 MC or Visa # _____ Exp. Date _____

One Year For Only \$25! (12 Issues)

Mail Check To:
HSSR
P.O. Box 1607
Goose Creek, SC 29445
 Or Call:
1-800-489-0649
 We Accept MC or Visa

The Leader In S.C. Prep Coverage Since 1987
 High School Sports Report
 1-800-489-0649
 Our goal: to recognize the achievements of young athletes

FOR ADVERTISING RATES CALL 800-489-0649

PUBLISHER AND FOUNDER: Billy G. Baker
 HSSR.com Associate Editor: Dennis Brunson
 GRAPHIC DESIGN / PAGE LAYOUT: Andy Cumber
 SENIOR WRITER: David Shelton
 MARKETING REPS: Swift Bethea

WRITERS: Rob Gantt, Gerald Dolittle, Roger Lee, Worthy Evans, Neil Kirkpatrick

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER: Larry Gamble

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS: Daisy Bostick, Roger Lee, Donna Miley, Joel Beachum

EXECUTIVE ADMIN ASSISTANT: Berna Noll
WEB MASTER CONSULTANT: Steve Shelton

HS Sports Report (ISSN 0899-90-58) (USPS 002-536) is published monthly for \$25 per year by High School Sports Report, Inc., 345 Brandywine Extension, Goose Creek, SC 29445-1607. Periodicals postage paid at Goose Creek and other postal locations. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Sports Report, P.O. Box 1607, Goose Creek, SC 29445-1607.

SPONSORED HIGH SCHOOL INDEX

Abbeville	40	Cross	25	Holly Hill Academy.	59	Patrick Henry	46
Andrew Jackson Academy	29	Denmark-Olar	13	James Island	54	Pee Dee Academy.	31
Andrews	31	Dillon	10	Jefferson Davis.	28	Pinewood Prep	58
Ashley Hall	54	Dillon Christian	53	Johnsonville	36	Porter-Gaud.	54
Ashley Ridge	21	Dorchester Academy	45	Kingstree	50	Saluda	41
Bamberg-Ehrhardt	13	Dutch Fork	56	Lake City	57	Scott’s Branch.	15
Barnwell	60	East Clarendon	15	Lake View	11	Spartanburg Day.	18
Batesburg-Leesville	37	Emerald	40	Lamar.	23	St. John’s Christian	25
Belton-Honea Path	55	First Baptist	58	Latta.	36	Stratford	27
Berkeley	24	Florence Christian	23	Laurence Manning	22	Summerville	20
Beaufort	39	Fort Dorchester	21	Laurens Academy	45	Thomas Heyward	39
Camden	52	Fox Creek	28	Lee Academy	53	Timberland	25
Cane Bay	24	Gaffney	16	Manning	14	Wardlaw	43
Carolina Academy	57	Goose Creek	27	Marion	30	White Knoll	16
Carvers Bay	52	Gray Collegiate	42	Marlboro County	55	Williamsburg Academy	56
Central	34	Hampton County	46	Mullins	30	Wilson Hall	51
Chapin	36	Hanahan	26	Myrtle Beach	34	Woodland.	44
Cheraw	39	Hannah-Pamplico	37	North Myrtle Beach	35	WW King.	43
Chesterfield	50	Hartsville	55	Northwood Academy	26		
Clarendon Hall	59	Heathwood Hall	51	Oceanside Collegiate	42		
Colleton County	19	Hilton Head Christian	38	Orangeburg Prep	12		
Colleton Prep	19	Hilton Head Prep	38	Palmetto Christian	45		

WANT TO GET YOUR SCHOOL INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT? CALL US AT 843-553-0264
 The High School Sports Report is read by over 200 Colleges across the nation. The publication also receives 600,000 annual hits on its website, www.hssr.com. In addition, the Sports Report sponsors statewide banquets for every sport in South Carolina. The HSSR is recognized by the National Federation of High Schools for distinguished service in 2021. Can your athletic program afford NOT to be a part of this 36-year-old publication?

CAN’T FIND YOUR FAVORITE SCHOOL IN THE INDEX? CALL PUBLISHER BILLY BAKER FOR DETAILS. 843-553-0264 OR 843-200-9555
 The High School Sports Report is read by over 200 Colleges across the nation. The publication also receives 600,000 annual hits on its website, www.hssr.com. In addition, the Sports Report sponsors statewide banquets for every sport in South Carolina. The HSSR is recognized by the National Federation of High Schools for distinguished service in 2021. Can your athletic program afford NOT to be a part of this 36-year-old publication?

Midlands, continued from pg. 32

able in the team statistics, the War Eagles (18-0, 8-0 Region 4-4A) are still very much a formidable team.

“We’re just a solid team. We’re more athletic than we’ve ever been,” head coach **Doug Frye** said. I’ve got athletes everywhere.”

At the top of that list of athletes is **University of South Carolina** signee **Aspen Boulware**. She leads the team with a .545 batting average with six home runs and 24 hits. She also leads the team in on base percentage with .692, and has 33 stolen bases.

Sophomore **Mackenzie Sease** returns as the team’s ace, compiling an 8-0 record with a .66 earned-run average and 84 strikeouts in 42 1/3 innings.

Behind those two is a young team that has filled all the gaps on defense, and averaging .375 at the plate.

“We’re getting better every week,” Frye said. “We have good pitching, returning both pitchers from last year (Sease and junior **Peyton Hendrix**, 5-0, 1.17 ERA, 44ks). We have depth, and we haven’t hit the ball with power, but we get a lot of doubles and triples. We’ve played very good defense.”

Hartsvogel, continued from pg. 55

ball program. **Daniel Twitty** is the new head coach, coming over from the successful program at West Florence. The new coach inherits a solid core that went 20-6 overall and 12-0 in region play last season.

The Red Foxes are 14-4 overall and 6-0 in re-

Dillon, continued from pg. 10

and Chavis are like 1-2 in our pitching rotation right now. **Emorie Wilimason** is our 8th grade third pitcher.”

Wright has worked 34.2 innings in the circle with 50 K’s and she is 2-0. Wright is also hitting .282 with 8 RBI’s. Chavis pitched 29 innings with 39 K’s. Williamson has worked 13.1 innings with 11 K’s.

Kharli Deese is a 7th grade catcher/shortstop while **Bristol Deese** is a 7th grade third baseman. **Ashelyn**

AJA Baseball, continued from pg. 29

real good defense at second base for us,” said Coach Mathys. “Jaxson hit really well at the start of the season in the two-hole but he has been in a little slump lately, but I have confidence he will regain his hitting soon.”

Coach Mathys feels like this team can compete for a SCISA baseball title this season. “We have great potential with this team,” said Coach Mathys. “We just need to start getting more timely hits when we get runners on base.

“The strength of this team is that when we are playing good defense behind Landon Johnson on the mound, we are a hard team to beat,” said Coach Mathys. “We

James Island, continued from pg. 54

Wharton is hitting .308 with 23 RBI, and junior **Caroline Jaruzel** is hitting .385 with 15 RBI while posting a 2.87 earned run average in 46 innings of work inside the circle.

The boys tennis team will challenge for the top spot

Carolina Academy, continued from pg. 57

Coker and **Kayla Lyerly** are vying for time in the outfield. zMcCutcheon is hitting .333 while Coker has hit .474 with nine RBI through 11 games.**Hannah Grace Matthews, Jennifer Vargas, Savannah McCutcheon** and **Katherine Holliday** round out the squad this spring.

“Offensively we are a work in progress but we have potential,” Phillips said. “I think we will be a pretty good defensive team as we move forward.”

Speaking of track and field, the Carolina Academy

AAAAA Baseball, continued from pg. 4

break,” Poole said. “Then, all of a sudden you’re playing for something and the atmosphere gets better. I think they get a little jacked up and a little excited in the game. It was fun. I tell them go have fun because you only get to do this once. When you’re here, enjoy it.”

Second baseman Chance Johnson and outfielder **Navy Strickland** tallied two hits apiece for the Bengals and leadoff hitter Sergio Melendez, the shortstop, doubled in a run. Outfielder **Amare Counts** and catcher **Brandon Bolton** chipped in RBIs.

Another 4A team, **A.C. Flora** (13-3, 5-0), continues to have success after last year’s 23-6 record. The Falcons started the season 2-2 but went on an 11-game winning streak before falling 7-0 to Gray April 1.

Lexington (13-3, 6-0) and **River Bluff** (11-7, 5-1) are first and second in Region 4-5A, but the Wildcats are pounding region competition. The Wildcats most recently took out the Gators 15-2 in four innings March 31. In that game Payton Gonce had two doubles and three RBI and pitcher Haley Manz scattered five hits and struck out two in four innings of work. The teams meet again in the region finale April 23.

One of the up and coming teams in 5A is **Blythewood** (8-4, 6-2 Region 5-5A). The Bengals have had success for several years under head coach **Jordan Atkinson**, and this season is no exception. **West Florence** (12-0, 6-0) has a wrap on the region title with ace **Annie Eliasson**, who is 11-0 with a 0.00 ERA and 174 strikeouts over 76 innings. Blythewood, which won the region championship last year, is heavy on experience and timely hitting.

region play entering the break. Among the top returners is senior **Brandon Anderson**, who went 9-1 on the mound last season while hitting.431 at the plate.

Senior **Jaden Atkinson** hit .473 with 19 RBI last year and was 6-1 on the bump. Junior **Bryce Oliver** batted .526 and was 4-1 on the mound while return-

Wallace is an 8th grade catcher/shortstop who has hit a home run with 7 RBI’s **Addison Villagomez** is contributing at first and 7th grader **Kayce Locklear** is starting at second base. Sophomore **Wanaysia Hughes** plays in right field, and she has a double, two triples, and one home run.

Alyssa Lee came back to the team for her senior season after last playing as a sophomore and she is contributing at first base. **Tristen Dove** is a key junior

have a strong defensive outfield also with Eli, Risher, **Jackson Tucker** and **Nathan King**.

“Also, when **Walker Terry** is on the mound, he is going to throw strikes and opposing players can put his ball in play so all we have to do when he is pitching is to make the routine plays behind him, on defense,” said Coach Mathys. “We have two solid pitchers on this team.”

Coach Mathys has recently moved catcher **Hunter Tucker** into the two-hole. “Hunter has been doing a good job behind the plate, and it would be great if he could deliver some RBI’s also.”

in region eight and is 6-2 on the 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**

boys and girls teams are working hard to qualify for the state meet in early May.

Braveboy, like Smith, is taking on track this spring and competes in the sprints. **Harper Richardson** and **Peyton Prosser** also work in the sprints while **Ava Johnson** runs the 800 and 1600 while also throwing the javelin. **Madelyn Matthews** also is working in the 800.

Macey Gamble and **Powers Lane** are working in the high jump and **Carter Altman** competes in the long

Johnson also made an impact on the mound, closing the door on Hanahan’s comeback in the seventh. After being greeted with a double that put the potential winning run at second base, Johnson fielded a bunt back to the mound and flipped it home to cut down a runner for the first out. He finished it off with back-to-back strikeouts. “When you’ve got a team down, you’ve got to be able to bury them,” Poole said. “We didn’t do that, but that shows the character of their kids for continuing to fight. They came back and stayed in it.”

“We’ve got 13 seniors, a lot of experience and we’ve got a lot of options, a lot of people to plug in and out,” Atkinson said. “So far it’s been a good year. Our two losses (Before 5-0 and 4-0 defeats to West Florence) were both by one run, both games were like if the ball falls here, better pitch there, get a bunt down, we win. We’ve got a good, experienced group.”

One example is Blythewood’s 8-7 comeback victory over region rival **Lugoff-Elgin** March 24. **Molly Wolf’s** 3-run home run in the fifth inning lifting the Bengals to victory. Wolf’s homer saved the Bengals, who had a 5-0 lead before falling behind 7-5.

“We’ve had good bunts, had runners moved around, we put the ball in play and we didn’t have any strikeouts,” Atkinson said. “but little things are making the difference in games. Not putting teams away, letting teams hang around and stay in it. Defense let us down at times, but our pitchers kept us in it and our bats definitely saved us tonight.”

ing senior outfielder **Dorian Mason** hit .439 with 22 RBI last season.

Senior **Luke Holloway** and sophomore **Ford Wallace** will be key players, along with juniors **Wells Bannister, Myles McCoy, Bryce Segars** and **Jalen Lewis**.

reserve at third base while **Marsiah Bethea** is a courtesy runner and reserve outfielder.

“Our team is holding their own this season and learning on the fly,” said Coach Grice. “We are improving with every practice and every game. Our goal is to always be playing our best softball once the play-offs begin.”

Coach Grice is assisted by **Jacob Shumante** and **Will Clark**.

After the CP game April 13, the Warriors play have five regular season games left. They are at **Orangeburg-Wilkinson** on April 15 before hosting **Patrick Henry** on April 15. They host **Colleton Prep** on April, 20 before a region game at **Cross School** on April 21. They conclude the regular season at **Thomas Heyward** on April, 23.

Additional key players include third baseman **Brad Hightower, Grayson Hay, Colton Chavis, and Carter Parnell**.

Coach Mathys is assisted by **Austin Risher, Kip Terry, Kenan Wilcox, and Robbie Williams**.

Harlos and **Anthony Vance**.

The boys soccer team is 6-5 overall and 3-2 in region play. The girls soccer team is 8-2 overall and 4-1 in region play.

jump.

ON the boys side, **John Easton Cumbie** and **Matthew Scott** lead the way in sprints while **Ryan Cox** competes in the shot and discus, as well as the 400. **Manning Cox** runs the 800 and the 400 hurdles while **Wyatt Cox** runs the 1600 meter run. **Kyle Cox** throws the discus and javelin.

In Div. II AAAAA, never count out Berkeley, the defending state champions who defeated **Catawba Ridge** last season in the finals. **Landy Cox** is one of the hardest working head baseball coaches in South Carolina. Do not be surprised if the Stags, led by Florence Darlington signee second baseman **Hudson Clark** make a deep run in the upcoming playoffs.



Baseball

BATTING AVERAGE	AT LEAST .405	AVERAGE	RUNS SCORED	AT LEAST 15	RUNS	STOLEN BASES	AT LEAST 10	SB
SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	0.588	SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	38	KADEN SMITH	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	26
LANDEN KIRKBRIDE	HORSE CREEK ACADEMY	0.586	JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	32	KYLE SMITH	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	24
BRYCE KING	LAKE VIEW	0.581	SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	30	ASHRY ROBINSON	RIDGE VIEW	23
ANDRE STANLEY	MARION	0.579	CALEB PEEPLES	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	28	KELBY BRANTLEY	GREAT FALLS	23
BRYCEN MOORE	GREENWOOD CHRISTIAN	0.577	DRAKE MARTIN	GREENVILLE	26	CHARLIE DAVIS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	22
CEDRIC O'NEIL	RIDGE VIEW	0.571	CHIP HETZEL	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	25	RHYS WILLIAMS	TIMBERLAND	20
HUNTER RAWLS	CHESTER	0.556	KYLE LARSON	HILTON HEAD	24	OWEN SHAFFER	HAMPTON COUNTY	20
FINN KUCABA	OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE	0.552	LAWSON LEWIS	FOX CREEK	24	TRISTAN STROUD	YORK PREP	19
TYLER TOLSON	MARLBORO COUNTY	0.552	ELI TUCKER	AMERICAN LEADERSHIP	24	JACKSON RICHARDSON	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	19
DAVIAN HURST	MOUNTAIN VIEW PREP	0.545	LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	24	LAWSON LEWIS	FOX CREEK	19
DYLAN SIMONSEN	BRIDGES PREP	0.543	RALEIGH SALTERS	DUTCH FORK	23	CEDRIC O'NEIL	RIDGE VIEW	19
BRUCE THOMPSON	SOUTH FLORENCE	0.538	CHARLIE DAVIS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	23	SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	19
LANDON KING	LAKE VIEW	0.537	SAWYER GREENAWALT	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	23	JAXON SPENCER	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	18
MASON SMITH	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	0.533	JENSEN BORETTI	HILTON HEAD	23	DARIAN MILLER	CRESTWOOD	18
AIDAN ALSTON	CAROLINA	0.526				SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	18
COLT LAYTON	CALHOUN ACADEMY	0.524						

RUNS BATTED IN	AT LEAST 12	RBIs	HOME RUNS	AT LEAST 2	HRS	PITCHERS ERA	AT LEAST 15 INNINGS	ERA
RICHARD JACOBS III	GREENVILLE	28	SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	8	PARKER DAVIS	FOUNTAIN INN	0
ROMAN COLELLA	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	26	LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	7	SAWYER SMITH	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	0
SLAIDE BURD	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	25	RICHARD JACOBS III	GREENVILLE	5	ELI CHOWNING	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	0
PARKER DAVIS	FOUNTAIN INN	21	AMARE COUNTS	BLYTHEWOOD	5	LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	0
ZACK SZYPCZAK	HILTON HEAD	20	PARKER DAVIS	FOUNTAIN INN	4	BRAYDEN PASSMORE	FOUNTAIN INN	0.22
CARSON HAYNES	WEST FLORENCE	20	COLLIN PHILLIPS	WALHALLA	4	ZAK PERRY	GRAY COLLEGIATE	0.24
MAX STAFFORD	PHILIP SIMMONS	20	CARTER KELLY	FOUNTAIN INN	4	TRISTAN HECKMAN	PEE DEE ACADEMY	0.29
A J KIPYBIDA	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	20	JACKSON RISER	CAROLINA FOREST	4	SPENCER JOHNSON	AIKEN	0.3
LOGAN NEWCOMB	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	20	LAWSON LEWIS	FOX CREEK	4	SCOOT MIZZELL	PATRICK HENRY ACADEMY	0.4
KALEB SEPKO	GREENVILLE	19	NEWT HINSON	WEST FLORENCE	4	CULLEN SIGHTLER	CALHOUN ACADEMY	0.42
FISHER RICHARDSON	LATTA	19	COLEMAN STRICKLAND	ATLANTIC COLLEGIATE	4	BENJAMIN CLARY	PROVIDENCE HOME	0.46
LAWSON LEWIS	FOX CREEK	19	LUCIANO CESARIO	DUTCH FORK	3	BRYCE KING	LAKE VIEW	0.54
CHASE STARKEY	GRAY COLLEGIATE	19	CALEB PEEPLES	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	3	OWEN CURRY	CANE BAY	0.64
JOHNATHAN BONDS	RICHARD WINN ACADEMY	19	ROMAN COLELLA	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	3	DALTON DIAL	WALHALLA	0.66
KELBY BRANTLEY	GREAT FALLS	19	SEABROOK GREENE	LOW COUNTRY WILDCATS	3	PARKER REAVI	CAROLINA FOREST	0.68
CHARLIE QUIN	MOUNTAIN VIEW CHRISTIAN	19	DAVID DERRICK	DUTCH FORK	3	SAYLOR KITTRELL	ORANGEBURG PREP	0.68
			C J AUBUCHON	SOUTHSIDE CHRISTIAN	3	COLT SPARGUR	HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN	0.72
			PHIFER GLENN	T L HANNA	3	JUDE JANSSEN	ST. JOHNS	0.72
						DANIEL ZELEZNIK	MAULDIN	0.84

Softball

BATTING AVERAGE	AT LEAST 20 AT BATS	AVG.	RUNS SCORED	AT LEAST 16	RUNS	STOLEN BASES	AT LEAST 9	SB
LEXI LUBBEHUSEN	PHILIP SIMMONS	0.727	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	41	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	33
ZOEY MILLER	WILSON	0.69	MADISON GRAY	WESTSIDE	31	TRINITY JOLLY	BRIDGES PREP	25
ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	0.667	TRINITY JOLLY	BRIDGES PREP	31	KENDALL COAKLEY	T L HANNA	21
KENSLEY VICARS	POWDERSVILLE	0.667	KENZIE MCCOY	LORIS	30	LAYLA MCMILLAN	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	21
LILA KATE STINES	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	0.667	ARIANA FELICIANO	AIRPORT	29	ANSLEY BRANTLEY	LAMAR	20
KASON CARTER	THOMAS SUMTER ACADEMY	0.667	CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	29	SADIE OLSON	NORTH MYRTLE BEACH	20
KATE MCELFRESH	PHILIP SIMMONS	0.65	BAILEY BROWN	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	27	BROOKE ROSARIO	FORT MILL	20
LAYLA MCMILLAN	FAIRFIELD CENTRAL	0.64	ABYGAIL WHITE	AIRPORT	26			
CADENCE ROBERTS	NEWBERRY	0.636	GRAELYN ADAMS	PALMETTO	25	PITCHING ERA	UNDER 6 RUNS	ERA
KENZIE MCCOY	LORIS	0.633	OLIVIA LIEB	FOUNTAIN INN	25	ANNIE ELIASON	WEST FLORENCE	0
MILLY KATE PRESCOTT	HOLLY HILL ACADEMY	0.625	PAYTON HERRING	FOUNTAIN INN	25	MACKENZIE MELTON	NORTH CENTRAL	0.37
FRANCES LAUGHLIN	HEATHWOOD HALL	0.615	SHERIDYN MICKLES	LANCASTER	25	KILEE GRANT	BLUE RIDGE	0.52
GENESIS WALKER	BARNWELL	0.611	SHALAYAH BADGERS	BARNWELL	25	MALYAH CAMPBELL	WOODMONT	0.58
CARLY GAINAY	DARLINGTON	0.605	CARLY GAINAY	DARLINGTON	25	KADENCE POSTON	HANNAH-PAMPLICO	0.65
TENLEIGH DAVIS	POWDERSVILLE	0.6	SKYLA BENTON	HILLCREST	24	MAKENZIE SEASE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	0.66

RUNS BATTED IN	AT LEAST 13	RBIs	HOME RUNS	AT LEAST 2	HR			
JAMESON COLLINS	LEE ACADEMY	37	ATALIE GAUNTT	PROVIDENCE	8	LANEY GRUBBS	BARNWELL	1.14
CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	28	ASHLEIGH FRONDEN	ALA-LEXINGTON	7	PEYTON HENDRIX	GRAY COLLEGIATE	1.17
GRAELYN ADAMS	PALMETTO	27	CAMERYN CAUTHEN	LANCASTER	7	JESSIE CARTRETTE	LORIS	1.18
ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	27	JAMESON COLLINS	LEE ACADEMY	7	KAYSEN WAREHIME	CAROLINA FOREST	1.23
KASYAH STOVER	LANCASTER	26	BRENNAN WILSON	ALA-LEXINGTON	6	OLIVIA MILLER	INDIAN LAND	1.26
MCKENZIE KREBS	AUGUSTA CHRISTIAN	26	OLIVIA LIEB	FOUNTAIN INN	6	BAILEY BLACKMON	DARLINGTON	1.3
EMILY JOHNSON	DARLINGTON	25	ASPEN BOULWARE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	6	JOCELYN COLEMAN	NINETY-SIX	1.35
MAKENZIE SEASE	GRAY COLLEGIATE	24	ADDIE MAYNOR	AIRPORT	6	ELAINA HILDEBRAND	FORT MILL	1.49
AMELIA WILSON	WESTSIDE	24	TENLEIGH DAVIS	POWDERSVILLE	6	TEVI MULLEN	JOHN PAUL II	1.57
TENLEIGH DAVIS	POWDERSVILLE	24	HANNAH TILLEY	WOODMONT	5	ADDISON MCCANTS	ANDREWS	1.58
CASSIE STOLTZFUS	WEST-OAK	23	HALEY SPENCE	LORIS	5	CALLIE LENNES	ASHLEY RIDGE	1.67
ASHLEIGH FRONDEN	ALA-LEXINGTON	22	ABBEY BYRD	HARTSVILLE	5	ADDYSON DAVIS	ANDREWS	1.69
BRENNAN WILSON	ALA-LEXINGTON	22	REESE DAVIS	WOODMONT	5	RAEGAN TIBBITTS	ST. JAMES	1.71
HALLE TOMPKINS	PALMETTO	22	KYLIE SENN	MID-CAROLINA	5	ADDISON SHARP	T L HANNA	1.71
AYLA HOLMES	NORTH AUGUSTA	22	CASSIE STOLTZFUS	WEST-OAK	5	MALAYA HOLT	DARLINGTON	1.71

AAAAA Baseball Feature

James Island favored to go back-to-back in AAAAA Division I, North Myrtle Beach the favorite in Division II baseball

From Staff Reports
Moncks Corner—Ride by the baseball field on the campus of **James Island High School** in the fall and you are likely seeing on most afternoons a bunch of kids playing baseball and working on their baseball skills.

No wonder the Trojans, under the coaching direction of **Matt Spivey** on the SCHSL Class AAAA baseball title two years ago and then with realignment followed that up with winning the Div. I AAAAA baseball title when they beat Lexington for the gold medal.

James Island finished 30-4 and last year and this year’s team is on track to repeat that accomplishment.

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 a regular basis.

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 season.

James Island is in control of the region with three weeks to play. They close out the league slate with three-game series against Stall, Fort Dorchester and Summerville.

In Div. II AAAAA the top ranked team right now by the HSSR are the North Myrtle Beach Chiefs head coached by

Brian Alderson.

Entering action on April 13, after spring break, the Chiefs had an overall record of 13-3 and a 6-2 record in region six. Both region losses came in close games against Carolina Forest. The Chiefs return from spring break with a huge three-game region series against another contender, St. James with games on April 13, April 15 and April 16. They also have a third region game against Carolina Forest on April 27.

The Chiefs are showing a good balance between pitching and hitting with pitching being the overall strength of the team. North Myrtle Beach pitchers have a combined 2.71 staff earned run average with solid depth.

Senior **Sawyer Smith** has three early wins and a 0.83 earned run average in 25 innings of work. Junior **Gabe Priest** has a 2.07 earned run average and two wins while **Fisher Nichols** has three wins and a 2.63 ERA.

Smith is among the top hitters as well with a .327 batting average and 13 RBI while **Priest** is hitting .316 with nine RBI. **Evan Steuhl** is hitting .279 with eight

RBI and **Trevor Mitchetti** is hitting .306 with 14 RBI.

Andrew Moody (.286), **Kaden Lank** (.270), and **Porter Anglin** (.286) also contribute offensively. **Moody** and **Lank** also see action on the mound.

Dorman, Blythewood, and Boiling Spring are strong contenders in Div. I AAAAA also.

In fact, Blythewood just earned a 7-6 win over Hanahan in the Steadman Division of the HIT finals.

Blythewood coach **Travis Poole** told his team it could have had a cleaner finish. “A win is a win and we’re happy when we win,” Poole said. “You always use the 12-hour rule whether you win or lose. You reflect and then, after that, you wash it.” The Bengals (17-2) extended their win streak to 15 games by going 4-0 in the HIT, also beating Georgetown (9-3), Wando (6-4) and Greenbrier Christian (6-0) in the 56th annual event.

Tournament most valuable player **Johnny Collins**, a senior first baseman/pitcher for the Bengals, highlighted a five-run top of the third inning with a three-run blast over the left field fence. Class 5A Div. I Blythewood added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings to take a seemingly comfortable 7-0 lead over the Class AAA Hawks.

“Any time you get into a tournament, the first game or two you’re just on spring

See AAAAA Baseball, pg. 62

Recruiting, continued from pg. 33

competitive people and sometimes even our private practices turn into a competition. I have always looked up to my Mom.”

Boulware recalled at one Reco Field practice a few years ago her mother placed a friendly bet with her that she could pitch an entire bucket of balls at full speed without her knocking one over the fence. “I fouled off the first two pitches,” said Boulware. “Then I got a good level swing a few pitches later and the ball went out the park. As my memory serves me, we were pretty much done with that competition.”

How complicated did Boulware’s recruiting get before he opted to stay home and sign with South Carolina? “Well, FSU was my last official visit, and my parents went to the FSU football game versus Miami,” said Boulware. “Honestly, it was a great visit and the whole atmosphere of the game, and all the friends my parents were talking to at the game kind of let me know where their hearts were.

“They told it is was my decision and that they would support me 100 per cent whatever I decided to do,” said Boulware. “I just fell in love with the coaches at South Carolina, especially head coach **Ashley Chastain Woodard**.

“I like the fact USC is in the SEC, I can get early playing time, and my family can come to my home games without a lot of travel,” said Boulware. “I do not care what position I play. I will play wherever the coaches need me. My goal is to help elevate the program to competing for SEC championships and beyond.”

Boulware’s ultimate goal in softball is to earn a spot on the 2028 USA Olympic team and her play on feeder teams has shot her name to the top of the list. “It would be a dream come true to make the 2028 Olympic team,” she said. “What an honor it would be to represent my county on the world stage. I get pumped just thinking about it.”

Boulware will be reporting to the national U-18 team training site in Oklahoma in June. After a brief training period she and the team will head to Mexico for competition this summer.

Boulware said that she is touched, and humbled, when little girls ask her for her autograph after her games. “One time, this one little girl said she needed to talk to me because she was writing a book report on me for a school assignment,” said Boulware. “That touched me deeply. I always take time for the fan base I am thankful to have.”

Boulware has only one main goal as a high school player. “I really love my teammates on the Gray Collegiate team and we are very close, like sisters really,” said Boulware. “We are all focused on defending out state title and we all want to go out winners in that final game of the season.”

Gray Collegiate is currently 18-0 and ranked number one by the HSSR in the latest SCHSL AAAA ranking. The team has beat 8 of their opponents this season by 10 runs or more. They are heavy favorites to defend their title for sure.

On her decision to reclassify, and graduate a year early, Boulware said, “I am truly thankful that the school administration at Gray approved me to reclassify, and that was the first step,” said Boulware. “I really couldn’t see how staying one more year in high school would have helped me aspire to my life-long dream of playing on the 2028 Olympic team. My family helped me with the decision.”

Why does Boulware love the sport of softball so much? “God gave me the gift to play the sport, and it is my goal to honor his grace with my play on the field,”

BHP, continued from pg. 55

Junior **Kinsley Martin** a 2-year starter and All-region choice at second, bats sixth.

The final third of the batting order has freshman rightfielder/pitcher **Mayce Godfrey** hitting seventh, sophomore designated player/first baseman **Angelica Giles** hitting eighth and either eighth-grade first baseman/outfielder **Brynna Brinkerhoff** or junior leftfielder **Molly Cowan** batting ninth.

Seeing time in the circle with Vaughan are Godfrey and Wilbanks.

BHP BASEBALL JUST 1-5 IN REGION PLAY

said Boulware. “I am thankful for the talent He gave me. I will always do my very best to honor his blessings.”

And now an inside look at “Boley” Boleman:

After Southside Christian LHP **Carson Boleman** (6-4, 210) dominated play for Team USA last summer, he quickly became referenced as the top pitcher, high school, or college, available for the upcoming major leaguer draft this summer. In most mock drafts he is shown being selected by the Royals at the number six pick. The Royals have slot money available of \$7,327,200 for this pick. (Wow!)

To have a conversation with Boleman is like talking to a 40-year-old person. He is mature beyond his age, and he told the HSSR on April 12 that he has already had direct conversations with five General Managers. From the perspective of this writer, Boleman could become a top three draft pick as he helps lead his high school team to their 5th straight baseball title in just over a month from now.

“I love to pitch and I love the game of baseball with all my heart,” said Boleman in a recent conversation. “I grew up with a brother (Tyler) one year older, and he was my catcher for the past four years of high school. We have a special relationship.

“He and I grew up long tossing all the time in the back yard,” said Boleman. “We had so much fun playing baseball together.”

Boleman began playing baseball when he was around five years old. His father “Britt” coached him through his middle school years at the rec level. Coleman played on the **Southside Christian** junior varsity as a 7th grader. He made the varsity baseball team under head coach **Scott Freeman** as an 8th grader.

“The process of developing as a pitcher takes a lot of work,” said Boleman. “My goal has always been to be a pitch-master, and you have to keep working at it. I am not one of those guys who can just show up and go out on the mound and make things look easy.

“I have to constantly work on my mechanics, and my focus and pitching is as much mental as it is physical,” said Boleman. “I never take baseball for granted. Baseball is my focus and I have so much respect for this sport.

“I consider myself a grinder,” he said. “I truly like grinding and never being satisfied with so much to improve on. I feel like by working hard all the time, by being a grinder, you end up getting your just reward most all the time.

Boleman was asked what pitch he might throw to strike me out with the count 3-2 and the bases loaded. “Are you left-handed or right-handed,” he asked. With a “right-handed” response he has a rapid-fire response.

“Well, you are getting an inside slider, coming in against your wrists, and breaking towards your back foot,” said Boleman. (Just the thought of facing him in the batter’s box brought chills to my reaction process.)

Boleman said perfecting all the mechanics of mastering the circle change delivery was his most challenging pitch to learn. “I take off 8 weeks in-between the fall and spring baseball seasons, to rest my body, and it takes me a little while longer to get my circle change back the way I like to throw it,” said Boleman. “I feel like my curve ball and slider are my bread-and-butter pitches.”

Boleman has total command of four pitches, and his fastball was clocked at 95 mph during his stellar performance as a member of Team USA last summer when he went 2-0 with an ERA of 0.00 with 17 strikeouts and just two walks in his two-game outing.

Boleman pitched the first five innings of a combined no-hitter against **Chinese-Taipei** on September, 6 of last

The BHP baseball team lost six starters from last year’s squad that was 16-8 overall and finished second in region play. That fact, however, offers no consolation to head coach **Chad Roper** in the Bears’ struggles this year.

“I’m definitely not happy with where we are at the moment,” said Roper, whose team opened 6-12 overall and 1-5 in region play. “We have been in a position to win a lot of games that we have dropped. Finishing games and doing the little things has been a strong point to the team.

“I am optimistic that something clicks and truthfully this team could be a force to reckon with.

year. He had 11 strikeouts in the game as the U.S. tossed their first no-hitter in World Cup competition in 30 years.

Boleman is committed to playing college baseball at **Wake Forest** but with his first-round draft status a foregone conclusion, which is not likely to happen. “I love the coaches at Wake Forest, and it is an excellent college baseball program,” said Boleman.

Thus far, during his senior season at Southside Christian, Boleman has only pitched 10 innings. His arm is just fine, but he is saving himself for the playoffs where he will pitch as often as he is available. He is currently 1-0 with 21 strikeouts and an ERA of 0.118.

He has started at first base this season where he is batting .423 with 8 RBIs.

“I have been working hard at getting into a pitching rhythm and I am very excited about pitching more in the upcoming playoffs,” said Boleman. “Helping my team win a 5th straight state title is my total focus right now and it would be a great way for myself and my four senior teammates to finish our high school careers.”

At several games this season, Boleman has played before 40 major league scouts watching his every move. “I am humbled by the attention, but I would play the same with maximum effort and focus if there were no scouts at my games. My job is to be a good teammate and help my team win games.”

Off the field, Boleman is an avid golfer, and he carries around a four handicap. He also enjoys playing pickle ball. If he were going to college, he said he would major in business or finance. “I also love Math and I have always been good with numbers,” he said.

However, at his core, he is a devoted Christian with a love for **Jesus Christ**. He and his family (mother is **Brittany**) are very active at their local church, and Boleman is also involved in charity work. “Lord willing, it would be a blessing to be able to play professional baseball one day,” he said. “I am a huge Braves fan, and it would be great to play for them.”

Boleman has been a huge fan of former Dodger LHP **Clayton Kershaw** who retired last year with 222 wins over 18 seasons, all with the Dodgers. “Clayton Kershaw is the player I look up to because he does things the right way on and off the field,” said Boleman. “I hope to become the great example that he has been to the sport, and to also help others through charity work like he has.”

Boleman’s high school coach is **Scott Freeman**, a 15-year coaching veteran who has won five titles and shares some thoughts on his star player. “Carson focuses on the details, and he never veers off his routine,” said Coach Freeman. “He strives to share the attention brought on himself with his teammates and that is a rare trait.

“I have help coached him in baseball since the 7th grade, and he is a rare and very special athlete, but he is just as special a person off the field,” said Coach Freeman. “It will not shock me if he ends up being the number one player selected in the draft.

“He is the ultimate definition of leadership on a baseball field,” said Coach Freeman. “He is very unselfish and he works hard to make the players around him better. There is no doubt in my mind that he is working hard to get ready for the playoffs.

“He is going to be the best version of himself ever in the playoffs,” said Coach Freeman. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to coach him.”

Boleman, whose nick name is “*Boley*,” has a high bar goal in the sport of baseball. “I want to be a leader for a world series franchise team,” concluded Boleman. “That would be a dream come true.”

Hopefully it comes sooner rather than later. So to say they are playing below expectations would be a major understatement.”

Manning the positions are sophomore catcher **Jensen McCoy**, senior third baseman **Aidan Jenkins**, junior shortstop **Landon Davis**, senior second baseman **Rhett Turner**, sophomore first baseman **Nick Sargent**, senior leftfielder **Christian Jones**, senior **Preston Dixon** is the centerfielder and senior **Noah LeCroy** starts in right.

Jud Lowie, Jenkins and Sargent are the top three pitchers.

AAAAA Div. 1 Baseball Polls

1. James Island	6. Spartanburg
2. Dorman	7. River Bluff
3. Blythewood	8. Summerville
4. Boiling Springs	9. Stratford
5. Carolina Forest	10. Byrnes

AAAAA Div. 2 Baseball Polls

1. N Myrtle Beach	6. St. James
2. Nation Ford	7. Indian Land
3. Hillcrest	8. Berkeley
4. West Florence	9. Conway
5. Riverside	10. Nation Ford

AAAAA Softball Feature

Can Byrnes, Catawba Ridge defend AAAAA crowns?

By **Dennis Brunson**
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter — The obvious goal for any high school athletic team entering its season is to win a state championship. However, that is only going to happen to one team each season.

The more realistic goal — and one that is literally within every team’s grasp at the start of the year — is winning a region championship. And when you’re playing in a classification that crowns two state champions like the **South Carolina High School League’s AAAAA**, winning the region title takes on a bit more significance.

With the class split in two between the larger schools and the smaller schools but still sharing regions, the opportunity exists for a region to have two state champions. However, there is only going to be one region champion.

So let’s examine the AAAAA regions and see which eight teams are likely to get those region title trophies.

REGION 1

AAAAA Div. 1 Softball Polls

1. Summerville	6. Boiling Springs
2. Lexington	7. Blythewood
3. TL Hanna	8. Carolina Forest
4. Byrnes	9. Fort Dorchester
5. Clover	10. Ashley Ridge

Seven of the eight teams in Region 1 are in Division II, the smaller schools. The lone interloper is **J.L. Mann**.

Woodmont had control of the region with an 8-0 mark. However, T.L. Hanna, ranked fifth in the *High School Sports Report Division II Top 10 poll*, was 6-1. **Hillcrest** was 6-2 and DII No. 10 **Greenville** was 5-2.

REGION 2

Five of the teams in Region 2 are Division 1 while three are DII. At the top of the region is defending DI state champion and perennial power **Byrnes**.

The Rebels, ranked second in the DI poll to the team it beat for the state title in **Summerville**, was 8-0. DI No. 3 **Boiling Springs** was 7-1, while DII No. 9 **Riverside** was 6-3.

REGION 3

Clover and **Rock Hill** are the only DI schools in this 7-team region which houses the defending DII state champion in **Catawba Ridge**. This region title is up

for grabs with four teams legitimately in the hunt.

Clover, ranked fifth in DI, is in first place at 7-1. However, Catawba Ridge, **Nation Ford** and **Indian Land** are all just one game back in the loss column.

All three of those teams are ranked in the DII poll, Indian Land at No. 2, Catawba Ridge at No. 4 and Nation Ford at No. 6.

REGION 4

This 6-team region is evenly split with three DI teams and three DII teams. Division 1 schools **Lexington** and **River Bluff** have set themselves apart from the rest of the region.

The sixth-ranked Wildcats were 6-0 while unranked River Bluff was 5-1. **White Knoll** and **Chapin** were the closest to them at 3-3.

REGION 5

With **Annie Ruth Eliason** taking to the circle each game for **West Florence**, the Knights likely have the region crown already wrapped up. They are 12-0 overall and 6-0 in region play as Eliason had yet to allow an earned run coming out of spring

AAAAA Div. 2 Softball Polls

1. St. James	6. Catawba Ridge
2. West Florence	7. TL Hanna
3. Indian Land	8. Riverside
4. TL Hanna	9. Berkeley
5. Nation Ford	10. Hillcrest

Barnwell baseball looks to win third straight region

**By Billy G. Baker
Publisher**
Barnwell-Coming out of Spring break the **Barnwell** Warhorse baseball team was 7-1 in region play and hoping to win their third straight region title under the tutelage of head coach **Cody McCollum**, who once played in the program himself.

The team is tied for the region lead with **Bridges Prep** and after the two teams split their two games during the season they will play a one game tie breaker at the end of the season. “We are still trying to figure out a date to play each other,” said Coach McCollum.

Barnwell is 9-9 overall (April 9) and being led by sophomore shortstop/pitching captain prospect **Case Davis**. “Case is our second leading hitter (.377), and he is a sophomore who has been starting at short since the 8th grade,” said Coach McCollum. “He has a lot of baseball in front of him, and he is our team captain as a sophomore.” Davis is leading the team in stolen bases with 15 as of April 8.

Coming out of the break, junior first baseman/pitcher **Carl Hines** was the top hitter at .409 with 15 RBI’s. Freshman outfielder/pitcher **John Huggins** was at .361 with 11 RBI’s. Junior infielder **Jaiden Zissett** is batting .354 and 9th grade LF **Cooper Boleman** is hitting .324. Eighth grade shortstop **Logan Proctor** is at .302 with 11 RBI’s. Senior **Jackson Beddingfield** holds down first base and he is the only senior on the team. Junior **Joe Huggins** handles catching duties. Junior infielder **Jax Mead** is batting .288 while sophomore RF **Colton Smith** is currently hitting .286. Against

Woodland, junior **Vincent Gibson** started in center. Mid-way through Spring break week Barnwell (9-9, 7-1) visited Woodland for a non-region game and they fell 7-0 on the road. Barnwell has wins over **St. Johns, Branchville, Lake Marion** (twice), **Bridges Prep, Hampton County** (twice), and **Edisto** (twice).

“We are in the middle of Spring break, and we just lost our focus today,” said Coach McCollum. “We have to clean up things on defense. We are making a lot of errors. We are swinging it okay but we did not hit very well today.

“Our pitching has been alright,” said Coach McCollum. “If we are going to make a run we have to cut out mistakes and play more consistently.”

Against Woodland, the team was led at the plate by Davis and junior catcher **Joe Huggins**, each with singles. Davis was the Warhorse starting pitcher and he worked 3.1 innings, giving up five hits, three runs, while striking out four batters.

Davis succeeded on the mound by junior third baseman **Jaiden Zissett** and later soph **Colton Smith**, who closed out the game.

Barnwell has seven regular season games left but only two of them are region games versus **Whale Branch** in a double header at home on April 21. The Warhorses will host Bamberg-Ehrhardt on April 17. The team plays at Silver Bluff on April, 23 and they travel to South Aiken on the 27th. Host Aiken on the 29th before closing out the regular season at home against **Saluda** on April 30.

Coach McCollum is assisted by **Britt Pender, Lonnie Boleman, and Jeremy Roland**.

Talented Barnwell softball focused on playoff run

From Staff Reports
Barnwell—When a core group of 11- and 12-year-old softball players from Barnwell won a national championship in the Dixie Bells competition in Louisiana two summers ago head Warhorse softball coach **Mike Beasley** was very excited to see how many of these dedicated players might earn a spot on his team last season.

Coming out of Spring break Barnwell is ranked number two in the latest HSSR ranking as they are 11-2, 7-0 at the moment (April 9).

Among the best players in that group of talent was **Kensley Terrapin** who was a key 7th grade performer on the team last year. All Terrapin did was earn all-region honors last season while batting .415 as a short-stop. She was the team’s number two pitcher also.

So far this season, Terrapin is batting .357 with 12 RBI’s. As a pitcher she has worked 28 innings in the circle with 43 strikeouts with an ERA of 1.00.

Former Dixie Belle performer **Shalayah Badger** is an 8th grader batting .595 with 14 RBI’s and one home run and she is holding down third base. Former Dixie Belle player Brinkley Taylor is currently batting .500 with five RBI’s and she can catch and play third base.

Wait! Two more current 8th grade Dixie Belle standouts are contributing in a big way for Barnwell this season. Outfielder Emily Vanacore is batting .455

with five RBI’s along with Genesis Walker who is leading the team in batting at .611 with 13 RBI’s.

(Coach Beasley is certainly blessed to have these five next level 8th graders on his team for four more seasons after the 2026 season concludes).

The old lady of the team is only senior **Abigail Corley** who is batting .257 with 9 RBI’s and she can play third or the outfield.

Junior **Laney** Grubbs has been a crowd favorite since she became a starter three years ago. Grubbs earned all-state honors after batting .341 with 15 RBI’s last year. She is currently hitting .353 with 12 RBI’s including five doubles.

Grubbs has also taken over ace pitching duties in the circle with the graduation of **Jaidyn Devore** who is now playing softball at **Howard University** after setting school strike-out records with the Warhorses. In the circle Grubbs has pitched 37 innings with 59 strikeouts, and she has an ERA of 1.14.

Junior first baseman **Molly Wilson** is batting .455 with 13 RBI’s playing first and sophomore **Braelyn Chavis** is currently batting .519 with 8 RBI’s. Senior catcher/outfielder **Brianna Croft** is hitting .400 with seven RBI’s. Junior center fielder **Kendall O’Berry** is contributing to the team’s success with her .444 average including 17 RBI’s.

Rounding out this team with a .448 team batting

“We’re getting better every week,” Frye said. “We have good pitching, returning both pitchers from last year (Sease and junior **Peyton Hendrix**, 5-0, 1.17 ERA, 44ks). We have depth, and we haven’t hit the ball with power, but we get a lot of doubles and triples. We’ve played very good defense.”

Stats aside, Frye said he is most pleased about his team’s togetherness on and off the field.

“The girls love each other. Our 17 kids on the varsity team get along great,” he said. “They care for each other.”

That togetherness has helped them throughout this year’s schedule, with region wins over solid teams

BARNWELL

*Randy Reece - Class of '98 Salutes the Warhorses!
Pressing Club Cleaners (803) 259-0708
R.I.P Tim Moore, You Are Missed
The Will Davis family salutes Barnwell!*

P.O. Box 8
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
803.267.3191
“Saluting All Area Schools!”
“We want you to be part of our family.”

WRS
WHEEL TIRE SERVICE
803-259-1749

WADE'S REPAIR SERVICE
13534 Highway 64
Barnwell, SC 29812

FACTORY AUTHORIZED DEALER
Carrier
turn to the experts

Gary Brantley
President

TCP
Est. 1989
Tri-County Pallet Co., Inc.
Hornbeam Palmetto, Blakes & Coates

P.O. Box 624
Flyer #3 South
Barnwell, SC 29812

Office: (803) 259-7616
Cell: (803) 300-3046
tcpallet@mindspring.com

PDS Specialist in Solid Waste Disposal
Go Warhorses!
Pender Disposal Service
803-259-5636

William Keel - State Farm
505 Reynolds Rd
Barnwell, SC 29612
(803) 259-3595
Go Warhorses!

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
AGENT **BLAKE AUSTIN**
1855 Jackson St., Barnwell, SC 29812
Ph: (803) 259-5008
Good Luck All Area Schools!

average is senior first or third baseman **Shaelyn Badger** who is batting with 8 RBI’s.

Starting on April 13 Barnwell will play 13 games before the regular season ends for them on May 1 when they host Bamberg Ehrhardt. They resume play after the break on April 15 with an away game against Branchville.

They will play at Wagener Salley on April 16, host South Aiken on the 17th, and host RSM on the 20th. They host Whale Branch on the 21st, travel to Silver Bluff on the 22nd, and host Woodland and Williston Elko in back-to-back games on the 23rd and 27th. They are at South Aiken on the 29th, host Wagener-Salley on the 30th before playing B-E to conclude the regular season.

Coach Beasley is assisted by **Rick and Rose Arnold, Jenny Raines** has rejoined the program this season also.

from North Augusta, Midland Valley, and Brookland-Cayce.

For the team’s efforts over the past year, Frye purposely did not schedule any tournaments over Spring Break.

“I’ve told the girls to take the week off and go do life,” he said. “We’ve been going hard since back in August, and we packed our schedule with tough opponents. It’s what I’ve always done. “Go be a kid, do what you want to do. It helps us.”

AAAA Baseball Feature

When we say everybody is chasing Fountain Inn, we mean it

**By Billy G. Baker
Publisher**
Moncks Corner-Fountain Inn (20-2) head baseball coach **Blake Roland** is surely smiling every time he fills out his line-up card, before his team plays a game, knowing that he has a quality group of players all committed to the game of baseball.

In baseball we all know the pitcher on the mound can control the game. Well, Fountain Inn has three quality pitchers led by senior RHP **Paul Passmore**. Passmore has worked 39.1 innings on the hill with 50 strikeouts and he has a sterling ERA of 0.18.

The next two pitchers are senior **Parker Davis** who has worked 27.1 innings with an unreal 56 strikeouts and he has an ERA of 0.26. Then for good measure throw in senior RHP **Collin Wilson** who has pitched 28/1 innings with 36 strikeouts and an ERA of 0.74.

Is there a better all-around pitching staff on any other team in South Carolina?

Then you have seven players batting .280 or better led by Davis at .396 with an eye turning 24 RBI’s. Senior catcher **Mason Guion** is hitting .365 with 12 RBI’s and sophomore outfielder/pitcher **Colby Keller** is swinging it at .353 and 17 RBI’s.

Other top Fountain Inn hitters include senior LHP first baseman **Anderson Hayes** at .327 and sophomore third baseman/pitcher **Cole Dawkins** is at .294 while senior utility performer **Daniel Rentz** is at .286.

Who have to believe that Fountain Inn is going to gas-up on high octane once the playoffs start in a few weeks.

Gray Collegiate(14-3-1, 9-0) is a strong number two in our *HSSR* ranking head under the co-coach’s set-up of assistants **James Adams** and **Terry Oldaker**, who are acting as co-coaches this spring.

With the change at the top came a challenge for the seniors as well as the assistant coaches, in that they had to bear a larger responsibility to keep the team going in the right direction.

AAAA Baseball Polls

1. Fountian Inn	6. Hartsville
2. Gray Collegiate	7. York
3. Airport	8. Gilbert
4. Wren	9. Hilton Head
5. AC Flora	10. South Florence

AAAA Softball Feature

AAAA supremacy appears to be Grey Collegiate’s to lose

**By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor**
Sumter – The Gray Collegiate Academy softball team made a championship debut in AAAA last season. The War Eagles went 32-3 in claiming the state title after moving up from AA.

It was a little more difficult than anticipated for lower state champion GCA though. That’s because upper state champion **York** pushed it to the limit. The Cougars won the first game of the best-of-3 championship series before Gray rebounded with wins of 4-0 and 5-2.

The Eagles are odds-on favorites to repeat this season. Led by the top player in the country in shortstop **Aspen Boulware**, GCA was undefeated through its first 18 games and was ranked No. 1 in the *High School Sports Report* AAAA Top 10 poll.

AAAA Softball Polls

1. Gray Collegiate	6. North Augusta
2. Blue Ridge	7. AC Flora
3. South Florence	8. Darlington
4. Fountain Inn	9. York
5. Westside	10. Midland Valley

Let us peer at the classification’s six regions and see who might be in the way of Gray Collegiate winning it again.

REGION 1
This region has two ranked teams in No. 2 **Westside** and No. 6 **Fountain Inn**. However it is Fountain Inn that is leading the region with a 5-0 record while the Rams are 4-1. Fountain, which was 13-5 overall, won the meeting between the teams in a 9-inning slugfest, 13-11. The teams are scheduled to meet again on April 16.

REGION 2
It would take a significant collapse by seventh-ranked **Blue Ridge** to let the Region 2 crown get away from it. The Tigers were 7-0 in the region while second place and fifth-ranked **Seneca** was 5-2. Blue Ridge owns a 3-2 victory over the Bobcats in the first meeting. Seneca’s other region loss came to **Berea**,

“The team was challenged. It’s their season, not ours,” Adams said. “We put some captains in place; that’s never been done before. We’ve leaned on our seniors. We have given them some direction. They have done a phenomenal job with it.”

After a 3-3 start, Gray won 11 straight games, including a 5-4 win over region rival and defending 4A champion **Airport** April 3. The War Eagles got off to a 4-0 lead by the fourth inning, but Airport scored one run in the bottom of the fourth and, after Gray got a run in the sixth, scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Relief pitcher **Brogan Sox**, who came on to start the sixth, retired three of four Eagles batters to earn the save to starter **Zak Perry**’s win.

“This is No.1 and No. 2 in the region,” Adams said. “It came down to the wire. We had our guys on the bump tonight. We dealt with adversity; we got it done. I’m proud of them, they grinded it out slowly but surely.”

Perry is 5-0 on the season with a 0.24 earned-run average in his five appearances and 38 strikeouts. Sox is 2-0 with a 2.48 ERA in six appearances.

At the plate **Kaleb Holmes** leads War Eagle batters with 40 or more at-

bats with a .356 average. **Chase Starkey** is batting .354 with 17 hits and a team-high 19 RBI, and **Garrett Blankenship** isn’t far behind with a .346 batting average, 18 hits. **Noah Styron** (.346), **M.J. Hornsby** (.245), and **Perry** (.319) all have a home run.

After a strong stint in the **Gilbert Invitational** over Spring Break, the War Eagles’ season goes into its final stretch. Gray faced **Brookland-Cayce** twice this week and takes on second-place Gilbert next week. How those two series play out will determine how good a seeding the War Eagles get in the postseason.

Beyond the push for the playoffs, Adams said he and Oldaker want to make sure the team stays loose and ready for anything that comes along.

“If it’s not broke, don’t fix it. We’re going to keep doing what we are doing,” Adams said. “We’re going to let the boys have fun. We’re going to practice hard and be wise with our time. We want to take the same approach to every game no matter who the opponent is that we are playing.”

Look for **AC Flora** and **Hartsville** to make strong runs in the AAAA baseball playoffs as well.

which was just one game behind in the region at 4-3. **Greer** was also 4-3.

REGION 3
Fourth-ranked **A.C. Flora** is undefeated in Region 3, but it has two pretty good teams just behind it in **York** and **Lancaster**.

The Falcons were 13-3 overall and 5-0 in region contests. York, 12-8 overall, was 5-1 and 10-7 Lancaster was 6-2.

Flora has yet to play its 2-game region series against either York or Lancaster, so the opportunity for chaos to ensue is there. The Cougars and the Bruins split their two games.

REGION 4
While it had just a 1-game lead in Region 6, May River has to be considered the favorite to claim the region crown.

The Sharks were 5-0 in region play with **Colleton County** one game behind at 4-1. May River handed the Gators that loss with a 10-3 triumph.

The teams are scheduled to meet again on April 24 in **Walterboro**. Gray Collegiate actually only has a 1-game lead in Region 4. Third-ranked **North Augusta** was 7-1 in region play. The 13-4 Yellow Jackets lost to GCA 9-0.

Gray has outscored its opponents 178-25 this season. **Midland Valley** and **Gilbert** are also ranked, the Mustangs at No. 8 and the Indians at No. 10.

AAA Baseball Feature

Everyone looks to be chasing Southside Christian in AAA

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Moncks Corner—Despite being 10-6-1 at the start of Spring break the HSSR still ranks **Southside Christian** number one in the SCHSL AAA and the Sabres are favored to defend their AAA title they earned season over **Oceanside Collegiate** in the state finals.

Southside Christian head coach **Scott Freeman** will be going for his team's 5th straight title in May. His team has won state titles at his current school in 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025. He has won five total, over his career, when you add in his 2004 title won at **Mauldin**.

Freeman's career coaching record is 317-116-2 and he has also coached teams to seven upper state championships.

"I definitely feel good about where we are now," said Coach Freeman coming out of Spring break. "We have played a much tougher schedule this year, which has challenged us.

We've had to come from behind a few times. We have played in 8 games decided by one run.

"We've played two 10 inning games and several more extra innings games," said Coach Freeman. "We've got the right pieces, and we are starting to figure out how they all fit together to make us the best possible team we can be in the playoffs. I think we're right where we want to be with the playoffs around the corner," said Coach Freeman.

Everyone knows that Sabres senior left-handed pitcher **Carson Boleman** (6-4, 210) opted not to pitch much during the regular season. "Carson had a great showing for Team USA last summer when he went 2-0 and stood-out to all the scouts," said Coach Freeman. "We have only used him for 10 innings on the mound this season but that will change in the playoffs when he will be our ace and pitch at every opportunity."

Boleman is considered the top pitching prospect, high school or college, in the upcoming major league draft this summer and he is expected to be the first pitcher taken. Mock drafts, thus far, show him going to the Royals as the over-all number six

pick. Slot money for this pick is over \$7 million.

Over his career at Southside Christian, Boleman is 29-0. He has pitched a total of 158 innings with 375 strikeouts, allowed only 9 earned runs, and he has a career ERA of 0.39 with six no hitters. His fast ball was clocked at 95 mph doing Team USA competition last summer. In game two of the AAA state finals versus Oceanside Collegiate last season he recorded 20 strikeouts in the game.

Six pitchers at Southside Christian have logged 11 innings or more on the mound this season. "**Bennett Chandler, Jacob Wiggs, and Erskine Fousek** have all pitched well," said Coach Freeman. "**Reeves Israel** is the anchor of our defense at shortstop. **CJ Aubuchon** and **Eman Benitez** have got hot at the plate recently."

Boleman has been used mainly as a designated hitter this season. He has a .423 batting average with 8 RBI's and two home runs. Wiggs is at .333, Aubuchon is at .327 with three home runs and 14 RBI's while Israel is at .288 with 8 RBI's.

In the 10 innings Boleman has pitched this season he has 21 strikeouts and a 0.70 ERA. Wiggs has logged 21.1 innings with 23 strikeouts.

Last year Southside Christian lost

early in the playoffs and they had to win two games at **Chapman** to advance to the state finals. "Trust me, we hope to avoid what happened last year by getting fine-tuned for the playoffs this year and Carson will be at his very best also," said Coach Freeman.

Aynor is (11-2, 5-1) on the season and they are ranked number two and among the best teams in the Lower State AAA.

One of the most improved teams in AAA baseball is **Dillon**, (10-3) head coached by **Keith Coward**.

"If there is someone in the state of South Carolina pitching any better than **Hank Grider** (signed **Anderson College**) is right now I would love to go watch them pitch," said Coach Coward who is also the school's athletic director. "Hank has been voted our team captain by the players for the past four seasons, and he is finally completely healthy after dealing with nagging injuries as a junior".

In 34 innings of mound duty thus far this season, Grider has had an incredible 72 strikeouts. He has an ERA of .060 also. At the plate, from the two-slot, he is batting at 415 with 15 RBIs. Grider only issued seven walks on the season.

AAA Baseball Polls

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Southside Chr. | 6. Oceanside Coll. |
| 2. Aynor | 7. Dillon |
| 3. Mtn View Prep | 8. Fox Creek |
| 4. Swansea | 9. Broome |
| 5. Crescent | 10. Hanahan |

AAA Softball Feature

Will BHP, Aynor meet for the AAA softball crown once again?

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Sumter – Aynor and **Belton-Honea Path** high schools have played for the last two AAA softball state championships. BHP took home the title trophy in 2024 by winning the best-of-3 series 2-1, while the Blue Jackets won in a sweep last season.

Both teams are off to good starts again, but the path to a state championship can be a treacherous one. While the possibility of Aynor claiming the lower state title and the Bears the upper state title once again definitely exists, it won't be an easy row to hoe for either.

Let's take a gander at the six AAA regions and see how things are lining up with the start of the playoffs drawing near.

ing near.

REGION 1

BHP was ranked second in the **High School Sports Report AAA Top 10 poll**, but it was actually third in the Region 1 standings.

The Bears were 2-2 in region play while **Crescent** was undefeated at 4-0 and **West-Oak** was unbeaten at 3-0. The 13-4 Bears lost to Crescent 5-2 and to West-Oak 5-4.

Crescent was 18-2 on the season and was sitting atop the HSSR poll, while West-Oak was 13-3 and ranked 10th. They were scheduled to play each other on April 14 and again on April 28.

REGION 2

Palmetto had put itself in position to bring home the Region 2 championship trophy. The fifth-ranked Mustangs were 5-0 in region play and 14-6 overall.

The real battle in this

region will be seeing who claims second place. **Southside Christian School** was 3-2 while **Powdersville**, which was ranked fourth, was 2-2. **St. Joseph's** was 2-3.

REGION 3

It appears this region title will come down to a showdown between seventh-ranked **Union County** and No. 9 **Mountain View Prep**.

Mountain View was undefeated in the region at 4-0 while the Yellow Jackets were 3-1. The Stars won the first meeting between the teams 3-2 in 11 innings.

MVP is 9-5 overall while Union County is 7-3. The rematch was scheduled for April 14 in Union.

REGION 4

This region title is going to come down to **Aiken County** schools **Fox Creek** and **Silver Bluff**. The Predators were 12-2-1 and 7-0 in region play while Silver Bluff was 9-7 and 6-1.

The teams were scheduled to face off against each other right after re-

turning from spring break.

REGION 5

Like Region 1, Region 5 has three ranked teams as well. The aforementioned Aynor is ranked third, while **Loris** is sixth and **Georgetown** is eighth.

Aynor was leading the way with a 6-0 region mark. Loris was 5-1 and Georgetown was 4-2. Aynor beat Loris 10-0 and Georgetown 3-1 in the first meetings. Loris handed Georgetown its other region loss with a 9-8 victory.

REGION 6

The Region 6 championship will in all likelihood be decided on April 21 and April 24. That's when **Hanahan** and **Oceanside Collegiate Academy** will face off against each other.

Hanahan was 5-0 in region play with a 12-6 overall record coming out of spring break. OCA was 11-9-1 overall and also undefeated in the region at 4-0.

Pinewood Prep baseball on a roll this season

By Roger Lee
 Special to the HSSR
Summerville – **Pinewood Prep** has clinched its sixth consecutive region baseball championship and only has one loss this season.

The **Panthers** are 17-1 with a 9-0 mark in their region.

"We are swinging it well top to bottom and our pitching is still good," said Pinewood Prep coach **Jay Buddin**. "There really aren't any holes in our lineup. **Sam Spickard** and **Max Poulakis** have been the arms we are relying on. **Brian Shelton** is our No. 3 and he is doing a good job. A lot of our younger guys are also throwing well. We are doing a lot of little things and fundamental things right. There is great chemistry on this team and everyone is having a lot of fun."

Pinewood went 2-1 during the **2026 Hanahan Invitational Tournament**. The Panthers opened the tournament with a 6-2 loss to a very good **Starr's Mill** team out of **Georgia**. The next day, the Panthers bounced back with a 5-4 win over **Laurens**. Spickard had the pitching win but the Panthers used several relief pitchers as well. Pinewood kept its momentum going on Day 3, earning a 6-4 win over fellow SCISA team **Ben Lippen**. Shelton had the start on the hill and **Andrew Leister** threw the final three innings.

"To come out of the HIT 2-1, I'm happy," Buddin said. "We even played well against Starr's Mill. They gave us our first loss of the season, but now that isn't on our back."

This week the Panthers will begin their final region series of the season against **Palmetto Christian Academy**, which has yet to beat a region opponent this season. Pinewood hosts PCA at 6 p.m. April 13, travels to the **Eagles** April 15 and hosts the third game of the series at 6 p.m. April 16. The Panthers also host **Hilton Head Christian Academy** (18-2, 8-0 in SCISA 4A Region 2) at 6 p.m. April 14.

"Our pitching has been good and our base running has been really good," Buddin said. "Our bats are really starting to find their rhythm and groove. Some nights we start three freshmen and they are all doing extremely well. Our seniors are doing a good job leading the way."



Photo by Roger Lee
Max Poulakis is one of five seniors Pinewood Prep relies on for leadership on and off the field.

The last three seasons the Panthers made it to the state semifinals and were eliminated in Game 3 of a best of three series. Pinewood returned several varsity lettermen, including five seniors who are returning starters.

"Seniors **Will Watson, Grady Fuller, Carson Good, Max Poulakis, and AJ Marte** all have juice in their bats and lead our offensive attack," Buddin said. "They set the table."

All but Marte, who transferred to Pinewood as a junior, have started for the Panthers since they were freshmen. Watson is committed to **Wofford College**. The other seniors are all college prospects, though they haven't all decided whether or not they want to play collegiately.

Poulakis and Fuller man the middle of the infield. The corners are being held down by freshmen **Nathan Good** and **Santiago Rodriquez** and junior **David Harper**.

Marte catches most games. Junior **Sam Chisolm**, sophomore **Mason Curti** and freshman

Spring sports season wrapping up at First Baptist

By David Shelton
 Senior Writer

Charleston – With spring break in the books, the spring sports athletes at **First Baptist School** are back in action with the end of the regular season in sight.

First Baptist's athletic teams turn their focus to the back end of their 2026 schedule and begin to hone their skills for the SCISA state playoffs, which begin in full force at the end of April.

The boys golf team will be the first team to test themselves against statewide competition with the SCISA state tournament on April 27-28 at the Hackler course in Conway. This year's team is fairly young overall with leadership coming from junior **Griffin Huckabee**, sophomore **Davis Dunn** and eighth-grader **Robert Welch**.

The First Baptist boys soccer team is the defending state champion in class AAA and set their goal to repeat this May. Coming out of spring break, the Hurricanes are 6-3 overall and 2-2 in region play. First Baptist finished 15-4 last season, winning their last five contests to claim the top

prize,

The three players who scored goals in last year's championship game win over Pinewood Prep, seniors **Josh Laney, Watts Tisdale**, and junior **Lars Weiss** all return this season. Tisdale has netted 20 goals with seven assists so far this season while Weiss has two goals. Laney has found the back of the net 12 times so far this season.

Senior **Jordan Aremu** has scored three goals and sophomore **Cal Oliver** has three goals and five assists. Eighth-grader **Jesse Lempesis** has tallied 10 assists and two goals.

The team's only other senior this season is **Benji Dixon**. Sophomores on the team include **Liam Shealy, Barron Bishop, Jack Tipton** and keeper **Thomas VonKolnitz**; and freshmen include **Tate Kaplanis, Dinovo Thomas, Athan Litchfield, Wyatt Brown** and **Waitus Avant, Gunner Brown** is an eighth-grader.

The boys team has eight contests remaining in the regular season.

The girls soccer team entered spring break with a 2-8 record. The softball team enters mid-April at

PINEWOOD PREP

"Proudly Supporting The Panthers!"

PROGRESSIVE FAMILY DENTISTRY
 John M. Corella, D.M.D.
 843-873-7326
 100 Hearth Place, Summerville, SC

MURRAY MINES Salutes Pinewood Prep Athletics! Go Panthers!

Michael Hess
 Agency Owner
 The Michael Hess Agency
Allstate
State by state leader

Allstate Insurance Company
 1203 Old Trolley Rd
 Suite C
 Summerville, SC 29485

Phone (843) 873-8970
 Fax (843) 873-6647
 michaelhess@allstate.com

Your trusted Allstate advisor www.allstateagencies.com/michaelhess

Pinewood Prep Athletic Booster Club Salutes Our Student Athletes!

Brady Truncale also have catching experience.

Junior **Camden Abernathy** is the starting center fielder. Watson, Carson Good and Truncale are also seeing a lot of action in the grass.

Pinewood has a number of pitchers so it has some flexibility. Abernathy is dealing with some shoulder issues, but he may be able to work into the rotation eventually. Others available to throw are sophomore **Reeves Downing**, southpaw freshman **Jhett Dungan** and Curti. Dungan and Curti transferred from Northwood Academy.

Fuller is leading the way at the plate with a .520 on-base percentage and .419 batting average. Truncale, Marte, Harper, Watson, Poulakis, Abernathy, Rodriquez and both of the Good brothers all have an on-base percentage of .415 or higher.

Poulakis is 5-1 on the mound while Shelton is 4-0. Both Spickard and Curti are 3-0.

FIRST BAPTIST

MARCHANT RAVENEL
 (843) 722-8208
 Car Buying Without the Nonsense.
 15 Min. South of Charleston - Ravenel, SC

5-3-2 overall while the baseball team sits at 11-4 overall and 6-3 on region play.

The track and field program is busy wrapping up its regular season as athletes look to qualify for the state meet in early May.

A few of the top athletes on the boys team include sprinter **Derrick Porter**, sprinter **Emery Bentley**, **Thomas Doyle** in the 400 **Demarcus Vinson** in the shot put, **Bates Walpole** in the javelin and **Miles Jackson** in the 800.

Top female athletes include sprinters **Ava Walker** and **Natalie Carter**, and **Ellie Blich** in the distance events.

AAA Softball Polls

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Crescent | 6. Palmetto |
| 2. Loris | 7. Union County |
| 3. BHP | 8. Georgetown |
| 4. Fox Creek | 9. Mtn View Prep |
| 5. Aynor | 10. West Oak |



2026 Holly Hill Academy softball

Holly Hill Academy softball on track to repeat

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Holly Hill – Even with their best player unavailable, the Holly Hill Academy softball team has not missed a beat in their quest to repeat as the SCISA class A state champion this spring.

The Raiders have won six straight games since losing their season opener to Dorchester Academy and remain on track to make another state title run. Junior pitcher Taylor Wright, who also is one of the top offensive threats, has managed just one at bat and three innings of work inside the circle as she deals with injury. Coach Kally Knight has been 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.

“They have handled everything very well so far,” 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 adversity. We’d love to get Taylor back by the playoffs 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 h is fortunate to have quality senior leadership and a team that has a competitive fight in them.

Clarendon Hall softball gaining experience

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Summerton – The Clarendon Hall softball team was off to a 6-5 overall start heading into spring break. That’s a good start for most programs, but Clarendon Hall isn’t most programs.

The Saints had won three straight state titles before falling to Pee Dee Academy in the AAA state championship series last year. With such a young team this year, head coach Jeffrey Bays is taking things in stride.

“We’re not exactly where we want to be or expected to be,” Bays said. “We are pretty young but have lots of talent. We just need to get the experience.”

“We have had some really good games, but we have struggled in quite a few. Our goal is to get them where they need to be come May (for the state tournament).” The four returning starters from last season occupy the first four spots in the batting order. They are shortstop/pitcher Sunshine Brown, second baseman AC Martens, pitcher/shortstop Brynli Brewer and center-fielder Aubree Richardson.

The rest of the lineup has catcher Devyn Atkinson batting fifth followed by leftfielder Ellie Horton, first baseman Lily Grace Harris, third baseman Liza Barwick and either Ella Stukes or AJ Clark, who share right field.

J. Daulton Dubose, DMB & Family are Proud to Salute the Clarendon Hall Saints!

Among those seniors are outfielders Kaley Bell and Peyton Strickland, second baseman Abby Burleson and pitcher/shortstop Shelby Hinson. Burleson is one of the top offensive threats, sporting a .480 batting average with eight RBI in the first seven games.

Hinson has stepped up as a pitcher with two wins, joining junior Kaylee Cuttino as the primary workers inside the circle in Wright’s absence. Hinson is hitting .333 with nine RBI while Cuttino is hitting .385 with six RBI while posting four wins inside the circle.

Eighth-grader Milly Kate Prescott is having another great year, hitting .625 with 13 RBI through seven games, Sophomore first baseman Mackenzie Futch is hitting .476 with six RBI and seventh-grade outfielder Tinsley Kern is hitting .556 with five RBI.

Another eighth-grader, Kinlee Steigler, is getting work on the corner infield positions and is hitting .500 with a team-high 15 RBI. Working behind the plate is Chloe Mizzell.

The Raiders have scored 99 runs in their first seven games and have been solid defensively overall. Good hitting and defense helps overcome the inexperience inside the circle.

“We have a good lineup and can pretty much get what we need offensively,” Knight said. “The defense, except for one game or so, has been good. We feel like we can score runs and that takes some pressure off.”

Brewer was leading the team in hitting with a .537 batting average. Martens was batting .475, Atkinson .429, Richardson .359, Clark .333 and Brown .325. Martens had four home runs and 16 runs batted in, while Brewer had eight doubles.

Brewer had 36 innings pitched in the circle and owned a 4-2 win-loss record. She had a 2.53 earned run average with 36 strikeouts and just four walks. Brown had worked 18 innings.

BASEBALL TEAM OFF TO 7-8 START

After going winless last season, the Clarendon Hall baseball team is hovering around .500 in its first year under head coach Jackie McIntosh. A longtime CH baseball and softball coach who has been in charge of baseball before, McIntosh isn’t surprised.

“I think we’re right on course,” McIntosh said. “In my mind, the goal was to get above .500 and hopefully make the playoffs. We have a chance to make the playoffs and go as far as we can. We can get the young guys some extra games and experience.”

The Saints were 7-8 overall and 2-4 in region play coming out of spring break. They played their final 3-game region series against Thomas Sumter Academy

See Clarendon Hall, pg. 63

Carolina Eastern - Corbett, Inc.
PO Box 190, 229 Snider St
Elloree, SC 29407
(803) 897-3130
Proudly Saluting Clarendon Hall Athletics!

HOLLY HILL ACADEMY
Strickland One Stop (803) 492-3189
Santee Quick Lube (803) 707-0684

Strickland's Heating and Air
843-514-7834 - Proudly Saluting HHA!

Serving YOU for over 100 Years!
Farmers Merchants Bank
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
You Know Us - We Know You
www.fmb.sc.com

FNB First National Bank OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Member FDIC
Locations: Holly Hill, Summerville, Harleyville, Eutawville, Ridgeville, Goose Creek

The Holly Hill Academy Booster Club Salutes the Raiders!

OPAL Opportunity for Passive Asset Legacy
(843) 729-5093 | www.liveopal.com
Proudly Saluting the HHA Raiders!

Dantzer Farms
2344 Bonner Avenue Santee, SC 29142
Phone: 803-496-3395

CLARENDON HALL
L.A. Robinson DMD 803-485-8521
B&B Construction - 803-600-6109

Summerton Drugs Hospital Equipment
Summerton, SC 485-8725 or 485-2555
Compliments of Gene & Cindy Phillips
Good Luck Saints!

Oak III Farms
Summerton, SC 29148
803-478-6163

Santee Quick Lube-Wash & Tire
808 Bass Drive Santee, SC 29142
(803) 854-5823
Fax: (803) 854-0304

WALKER TIRE CO., INC.
New Tire Sales & Service
Passenger, Truck, Farm, Industrial
Brakes, Alignment, Balancing, Tire Repairs
KEN WELLS 803-518-1285
WALKER WELLS 803-518-1335
803-433-4444
114 Mill St. • Box 98 • Manning, S.C. 29102

AA Baseball Feature

Can Atlantic Collegiate take AA baseball in just second year?

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Moncks Corner—If baseball teams won state titles on paper, just off the strength of their college prospects, the Atlantic Collegiate Academy (15-2, 5-0), based in Conway, would have standing to go ahead and accept the AA championship trophy.

As a brand-new school playing baseball a year ago ACA went 11-1 in the region under head coach Larry Prange. The team currently boasts 9 players hitting .300 or better.

Junior AJ Kipybida utility/pitcher is hitting .468 with 22 RBI’s and a home run. On the mound he has logged 19.2 innings with 32 strikeouts.

Senior Cam Craft is a senior pitcher/outfielder headed to Wofford College. He is batting .364 with five RBI’s. Senior pitcher/outfielder Logan Newcomb is headed to Coastal Carolina and he is currently hitting .423 with 8 homes runs. Newcomb has also seen 18.1 innings of

mound work with 38 strikeouts
Junior utility pitcher AJ Kipybida is batting .468 with 22 RBI’s including six doubles and one home run. On the mound he has worked 12.23 innings with 9 strikeouts. Junor infielder Chase Foxworth (421), and junior pitcher/infielder Eli Chowning is batting .389 with 11 RBI’s. Chowning is committed to The College of Charleston.

You have to have the horses to pull state championship wagons and ACA is ranked number one ion AA for a reason.

Saluda High School baseball coach Travis Mills was more than pleased with how his team had performed heading into spring break. The Tigers owned an 11-5 overall record and a 5-1 mark in Region 2-AA.

Mills is hoping that strong start has laid the groundwork to what comes over the final few weeks of the season.

“I’m super proud of how we have played to this point in the season so far,” Mills said. “We have played a really tough schedule that we hope prepares us for a run at a region title and also a run in the AA playoffs.”

Saluda was tied with defending AA state champion Batesburg-

Leesville for first place. The teams have yet to meet this season. They face off on April 21 and April 24.

The Tigers also have two region games left against Strom Thurmond.

Mills credits a 7-man senior class for helping set the stage for this season. They are Brayden Williams, Cooper Gantt, Lane Ashley, Jeremy Matthews, Sid Shaw, Zac Costain and Ethan Graham.

“We have a great group of seniors who have been here a long time and those guys are leading the way,” Mills said.

Three of them are in the starting lineup in Shaw, Williams and Matthews. Shaw is a returning South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association All-State selection and was the runner-up for Region Player of the Year. He’s the catcher and the leadoff hitter. Williams is the centerfielder and bats cleanup. Matthews is the right fielder and hits seventh.

Shaw was leading the team in both hitting and on-base percentage. He had a .431 batting average and a .554 OBP. Williams was batting .372 with a .518 OBP, and Matthews had a .250 average and a .352 OBP.

Sophomore shortstop Eduardo Dominguez bats second behind Shaw while sophomore designated hitter Bryson Burnett bats third. In the 5 hole after Williams is freshman first

baseman Abraham Del Valle followed by junior leftfielder Tristan Daniels, Matthew’s sophomore second baseman Cash Martin and freshman third baseman Javier Sorcia.

Daniells was batting .429 with a .520 OBP, Del Valle was hitting .370 with a .393 OBP, Burnett was at .308 and .410, Dominguez was at .275 and .383, and Martin was at .235 and .386.

Mills has a pair of freshmen as his region starting pitchers in right-hander Cayden Rogers and left-hander Westan Rowe. They have been highly effective so far with Rogers possessing a 1.45 earned run average and Rowe a 1.50 ERA.

Dominguez has a 1.67 ERA, while Costain was at 1.70, Burnett at 1.11 and Will Wideman at 2.63.

What is Mills’ one wish as the playoffs draw near?

“As we head into the back half of the season, one thing I’d like to see us improve on is our defense at times,” he said.

Watch out for teams like Clinton and Philip Simons in the playoffs also.

Batesburg-Leesville won their first baseball title since 1948 last year when they beat Philip Simmons in a third game tie-breaker at Founders Park in Columbia. The panthers are currently (12-4, 5-1) and well coached under veteran Rob Bouknight.

AA Baseball Polls
1. Atlantic Coll. 6. Landrum
2. Clinton 7. Saluda
3. Philip Simmons 8. East Clarendon
4. Bridges Prep 9. Andrews
5. Batesburg-Lees 10. Lake City

AA Softball Feature

Parity abounds all across AA softball; anybody’s race

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter – East Clarendon High School had always been a power in Class A softball, winning a couple of state championships along the way.

Last season the Wolverines turned themselves into a AA power. After being in the state’s lowest classification for the overwhelming majority of the school’s existence, the softball team gave the Turbeville school its first ever state title in any sport last season.

East Clarendon won the lower state title and beat upper state champion Saluda in the best-of-3 title series.

The Wolverines are having to replace their pitcher, Laiklyn Gaskins, from last season, but they have everyone else back.

Saluda has a lot of talent back, including AA All-State pitcher Miller Martin. The Tigers are ranked first in the High School Sports Report AA Top 10 poll.

EC is ranked seventh.
Are they on a course to meet for the title again? That remains to be seen, but let’s take a look at how each of the seven regions are shaping up.

REGION 1
Chesnee is in the driver’s seat to win the region title. The Eagles are 10-6 overall and 5-0 in the region with the second half awaiting it.

Blacksburg and Landrum are Chesnee’s top challengers. The Eagles beat Blacksburg 4-1 and beat Landrum 13-0. However, Landrum is 5-2 in region play.

REGION 2
This has to be the most competitive AA region in the state. Saluda may be ranked first in the poll, but it is in a 3-way tie for first place with Ninety Six and Batesburg-Leesville.

Each team has one loss with unranked and 11-1 B-L at 5-1 and Saluda and third-ranked Ninety Six at 4-1. The Panthers lost to Ninety Six 11-5 but rebounded with a 6-0 victory over Saluda. The Tigers rolled over Saluda 15-0.

B-L was to visit Ninety Six on April 14 Saluda plays host to Ninety Six on April 17 and visits Batesburg-Leesville on April 24.

REGION 3
Year in and year out, Mid-Carolina is one of the top AA teams in the state. This year is no different. The Rebels are 10-6 overall, but 4-0 in region play and ranked 10th.

Clinton is a solid second at 10-4 overall and 4-2 in region play. The Red Devils lost to Mid-Carolina by one run twice, 2-1 and 10-9.

REGION 4
OK. Maybe Region 2 isn’t the toughest AA region in the state. Maybe it’s Region 4. Buford is ranked fourth, Chesterfield fifth, Andrew Jackson sixth and North Central eighth.

Buford is undefeated in region play at 5-0 with a 6-7 overall record. Andrew Jackson is second at 4-1 with a 7-4 record, Chesterfield is third at 3-2 and is 6-6 overall, and North Central is 12-3 overall but with a 2-3 region record.
The teams all face each other again as they all have five region contests remaining.

The other region teams are Cheraw and Central. The Eagles are 1-4 and Cheraw is winless.

REGION 5
Second-ranked Barnwell is in full control of Region 5. The Warhorses are 11-2 overall and 7-0 in region play.
The real battle in this region will be for second place. Bridges Prep is 5-3 in the region while Hampton County is 3-3.

REGION 6
Andrews has walked away with this region. The Yellow Jackets are undefeated in six region contests and are 11-1 overall. Andrews won one of its region contests by forfeit but it has outsourced the opposition 74-12 in the five games that were played.

REGION 7
East Clarendon is undefeated in region play at 6-0 with an 11-5 overall record. Atlantic Collegiate Academy is also 6-0 in the region but with a 6-11 overall mark.
It is more than likely the region title will be decided when the teams face off on April 21 and April 24.

AA Softball Polls
1. Batesburg-Lees. 6. East Clarendon
2. Barnwell 7. Andrew Jackson
3. Andrews 8. Chesterfield
4. Saluda 9. Mid-Carolina
5. Ninety-Six 10. North Central

Class A Baseball Feature

Tradition rich Lake View team to beat in Class A baseball

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Moncks Corner— The Class A baseball race for the gold is a bit wider open this year, and the *HSSR* was on hand at **Francis Marion College** last May when **McBee** defeated **Lake View** 8-1, to win the state title, spoiling the final game of **Kip Herlong's** 32-year coaching tenure at **Lake View**.

The Wild Gators (13-3, -1) are now coached by former Dillon stand-out **Will Celmer** who came home from **Lancaster High** after last season to follow in the footsteps of a coaching legend.

Coach Celmer says senior leadership has been the strength of this year's Wild Gator team. He inherited a handful of returning seniors who have been key players in previous seasons and the group, as a whole, has great leadership skills.

"Those guys are the backbone and we rely on them a lot," the coach said. "We have some young guys out there with those seniors and the seniors have taken them under their wing, showed them the way. The young guys have responded like I would hope they would. There's really

good chemistry on this team."

Our of the key returning senior leaders include **Bryce King**, **Chase Price**, **Landon King** and **Ian Capps**. Bryce King and Chase Price are the top two pitchers this season and both have been dominant early. Each has an earned run average under two and both have logged more than 20 innings on the mound so far this season.

King and Landon King not only lead the team in hitting but also are among the top hitters, average-wise, in the state. Both are hitting over .500 and have combined for more than 30 RBI through 16 games. Price adds nearly a .300 batting average while Capps, the starting second baseman, is hitting .391 with 17 RBI.

Another senior is centerfielder **Seth Deese**, who is hitting .385. Newcomer **Liam Newell** has adjusted well offensively, sporting a .368 batting average, while **Thad Lovette** is hitting .324 with 12 RBI.

Senior **Holden Lee** has stepped up this spring as well while freshman **Zaiden Burroughs** has stepped in as the starting catcher and played well. Freshmen **Drew Cox** and **Hayden Smith** have made solid contributions, as have senior **Kiwi Jackson** and eighth-grader **Colton Moody**. **Chase Campbell**, who did not play last season, is hitting .375 in his limited at bats, adding depth to the lineup.

"This group works hard,

which is not surprising because Lake View kids have a great work ethic," Celmer said. "I think they are confident about their abilities and they love to compete. We are not where we want to be just yet but this team shows improvement every day. As long as they keep that mindset, we're going to be in every game."

At press time, Lake View was focusing in on two huge games against fellow region contender Latta. The Wild Gators play Latta on April 14 and April 17 and those games will go a long way in deciding the region champion.

"We have to be able to back up our pitching, just make the routine plays and execute the fundamentals defensively," Celmer said. "We've been pretty solid so far but we have to stay focused and be prepared to make the plays."

"We also talk a lot about battling at the plate, particularly with two strikes. We want to put the ball in play and pressure the other team to play defense as well. Pitching and defense is what wins when the game counts the most."

Number two ranked Latta is off to a great start. The Vikings won 14 of their first 17 games and were 5-1 in region play.

JJ Welch had the highest batting average at .520. **Fischer Richardson** led in runs batted in with 19 and was tied for the lead in runs scored with 22 to go with a .391 average. **Zach Lane** was hitting .310 with 22 runs, while **Caden Hyatt** was at .367. **BW Berry** was at .405, and **Mason Weatherford** was at .424.

On the mound, Berry had a 4-0 win-loss record with a 0.97 ERA in 21 2/2 innings.

The best Class A baseball team in the upper state is Abbeville coached by **Daniel Little**.

The Panthers are hoping for a strong run in the Class A playoffs. The Panthers carried an 8-3 record into spring break.

"Much younger group with a lot of new faces, but it's a fun team to coach," Little said. "They are a scrappy bunch. They play hard and they practice well. We have a lot who have been in the program for a few years waiting on their chance. They know the expectations of the program and they understand what it takes to compete."

"This is my fifth year here so these kids have been with me since I took over and we have grown together. We have good team chemistry and it is a tight group."

The two most experienced players on the roster are shortstop **Easton Townsend** and pitcher **Trey Deason**. Deason is hitting .391 through 11 games while Townsend is hitting .333. Sophomore second baseman **Thomas Nickles** is hitting .381 and sophomore **Logan Overholt** is hitting .333.

Sophomore **Brayden Randall** leads the team with 15 innings pitched through March.

"We don't have the big power guys so we have to work hard to get guys on base, play small ball and use our speed to create scoring opportunities," says Little.



2026 Carolina Academy softball

Carolina Academy softball on pace to repeat in '26

BY David Shelton
Senior Writer

Lake City – There are times when **Carolina Academy** softball coach **Scotty Phillips** wonders why he keeps coming back to coach the Bobcats.

Phillips has spent more than two dozen years in the dugout but admits it get tougher each year in dealing with teenagers. Phillips is old-school and demands things be done in a certain way. Today's players don't always walk in line.

But winning a state title is enough to keep the coach coming back. Carolina Academy won the state championship last spring and with most of that team returning, the Bobcats are sure to be a contender once again. But not without bumps along the way.

"They're a good group of girls but they are teenagers and it's not as easy as it looks sometimes," Phillips said. "We're up and down in terms of intensity. Some days they show up and really aren't into playing. I guess what we try to do is focus on when it matters most but I would prefer we come to the field ready to work every day. Last year we ended strong but it took a half a year to get to where we needed to be."

The Bobcats came out of spring break at 7-4 overall but with a solid 5-0 record in region play. Barring a major collapse over the final three weeks of the regular season, the Bobcats will enter the class A state tournament as the favorite once again.

"They know what to do, how to play. We just have

find a way to get them to play to their potential more consistently," he said.

Pitching and catching are two critical positions in softball and Carolina Academy has two of the best players in SCISA. Senior **Raeley Frye** is a fifth-year pitcher who is capable of dominating a game. Senior catcher **Carlie Ann Smith** also rates as one of the best in the state.

Frye has been as advertised, sporting a 2.17 earned run average, striking out 49 hitters in 29 innings of work. Frye also gets it done at the plate, hitting .419 with 15 RBI through the first 11 games.

Smith remains as consistent a player as any in the state with a .417 average at the plate and 10 RBI. Smith also uses her athletic ability with the girls track and field team this spring. She competes in the shot put, discus and javelin and will likely be a state meet qualifier. "As long as have those two, we have a chance," Phillips said.

Sophomore **Lauren Sims** is back as the starter at third base while freshman **Paisley McCutcheon** is a returning starter at shortstop. Freshman **Natalie Braveboy** returns at second base and is hitting .350. Sophomore **Ella Ham** shares first base duties with sophomore **Lexi McCutcheon**. Ham also will pitch some. Ham is hitting .320 so far while McCutcheon is hitting .300.

Savannah McCutcheon, **Emma Amos**, **Paisley**

See **Carolina Academy**, pg. 62

Lake City baseball has mix of youth & experience

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Lake City – After a strong 3-1 performance in its annual trip to **Myrtle Beach** for the **South Atlantic Bank Invitational** spring break tournament, the **Lake City High School** baseball team is ready to get back to the grind of Region 7-AA.

The Panthers, who were 11-6 overall, were 4-3 in region contests. That was good for fourth in the 7-team region. While catching **East Clarendon** or **Atlantic Collegiate Academy**, both of which were undefeated at 5-0, wasn't feasible, **Marion** was in third place at 4-2.

LC was going to be able to take care of that business out of the gate. It was set to play at Marion on April 14 and play host to the Swamp Foxes on April 16.

Lake City will close out its region schedule with games against **Manning** on April 28 and May 1.

The Panthers have a serious mix of experience and youth in their starting lineup. Head coach **Matt Apicella** has four seniors starting with three freshmen with a couple of juniors mixed in.

Apicella said on a preseason form that an area of improvement for the Panthers was getting the younger players experience.

Junior outfielder **Mason Sims**, an All-Region performer last season, bats leadoff, while senior in-

fielder **Rylan McKenzie** bats second.

Infielder **Jayce Edwards** is one of those freshmen, but he is back for his third year as a starter. The All-Region selection is batting third. Two-time All-Region pick **Amari Hanna**, who is closing out his storied career as an All-Region pick for football, baseball and basketball, bats cleanup.

Senior catcher **Grainger Barrineau** bats fifth, junior 3-year starter **DJ Singletary** bats sixth, freshman **Reece Morris** bats seventh, freshman outfielder **Ziyre McFadden** hits eighth, and either freshman outfielder **Tyler Fulton** or senior infielder **Luke Strickland** will bat ninth.

McKenzie, Edwards, Hanna and Sims are getting the bulk of the innings on the pitching mound.

"Pitching depth is our strength," said Apicella, who came into the season with a career record of 325-150 in his 25 seasons at Lake City.

SOFTBALL IS 4-4 IN REGION PLAY

The Lake City softball team was struggling with a 5-9 overall record and a 4-4 mark in Region 7.

The Panthers had 2-game series left against both Marion and Manning.

Through the season's early going, **Amiya Lewis** was leading in hitting with a .462 batting average. **Kami Leonard** was hitting .400, **Piper Beard** .357,

CAROLINA ACADEMY

Senator Ronnie A. Sabb Salutes the Bobcats!
Sheriff T.J. Joye Salutes the Bobcats!

The Carolina Academy Athletic Booster Club Salutes Our Bobcats!

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119

THE CITIZENS BANK
Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.
 www.tcbcs.bank

Sparrow & Kennedy Tractor Company, Inc.
 2712 N. Hwy 52 - Scranton, SC - 843-389-2727

The TCA School Board Salutes Bobcats Academics & Athletics!

SPARROW ACCOUNTING SERVICES

843-374-8417

Salutes The Bobcats!

FTC ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050
Proud Supporter of Bobcat Athletics!

Eddie's Pecans
 843-373-8179

The Best Around! Shelling Services Available!

LAKE CITY

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119

THE CITIZENS BANK
Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.
 www.tcbcs.bank

Alexis D. Smith, Agent
 136 S. Church St. #B Lake City, SC 29560 (843) 374-2165
 www.alexissmith.net

Ronnie A. Sabb
 SC State Senator
Proud to be Representing District 32!
 RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926

CAROLINA TIRE
 843-374-2880
 324 W. Main St - Lake City, SC
 Proudly Saluting the Panthers!

Layla Matthews and Kierstyn Hannah were both at .333 and Tara Lee was at .308.

Cannlyn Matthews and Layla Matthews were sharing innings pitching in the circle.

Class A Baseball Polls

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lake View | 6. Green Sea-Floyds |
| 2. Latta | 7. McBee |
| 3. Abbeville | 8. Hannah-Pamplico |
| 4. Great Falls | 9. Johnsonville |
| 5. Dixie | 10. Lewisville |

Class A Softball Feature

Race for Class A softball appears to be wide open at this point

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter – After coming oh so close in previous seasons but not being able to break through, **Latta High School** won the 2025 Class A softball state title under the most tenuous of circumstances.

While a very talented team with a now NCAA Division I pitcher in **Maddie Berry**, the Vikings had **Anna Rogers** take over as head coach one week before the start of the state playoffs. That didn't affect them in the least as they won the lower state title and beat **Lewisville** in two games in the best-of-3 championship series.

Can Latta repeat without Berry? It was only 6-8 prior to spring break, but it had played a difficult non-region schedule.

Let's take a look at the different regions and see who is faring well and

has a chance to make some noise come playoff time.

REGION 1

Any region that **Dixie** is in normally belongs to Dixie. While the Hornets were ranked third in the *High School Sports Report Class A Top 10*, they were in a dogfight for the Region 1 crown.

Dixie had two region losses and were 9-4 overall. Fifth-ranked and 9-6 **Abbeville** also had just two losses. Unranked **Whitmire** was 11-3 and 8-1 to lead the region.

REGION 2

Like Dixie, **Lewisville** has been a dominant force in Class A for several years, and this season is no different. The Lions are the top-ranked team in the state and with good reason. They are 16-4 overall and 10-0 in region play, and there is no reason to think they aren't the upper state favorites again.

Lamar is ranked 10th and is having a fine sea-

son in the region. The Silver Foxes are 8-2 with both of the losses coming to Lewisville. They own a pair of victories over fifth-ranked **McBee**, which gives them a solid hold on second place.

REGION 3

After struggling to a 6-14 record last season, **Ridge Spring-Monetta** has established itself as the class of this region. The eighth-ranked Trojans are 12-5 overall but, more importantly, 6-0 in the region.

RSM has victories over its closest competitors, **Horse Creek Academy** and **Wagener-Salley**. With two losses apiece, they appear to be battling for second place.

REGION 4

Region 4 has been dominated by **Bamberg-Ehrhardt**, and this season is no different. The Red Raiders, who are ranked fourth, appear as though they will be in the running for another playoff push. They are 13-3.

REGION 5

Class A Softball Polls

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Lewisville | 6. Whitmire |
| 2. Hannah-Pamplico | 7. RSM |
| 3. Bamberg-Ehr. | 8. Lamar |
| 4. Dixie | 9. Chas. Math & Sci |
| 5. Abbeville | 10. Latta |

Williamsburg Academy STALLIONS

Williamsburg baseball has smooth transition

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Kingstree – The Williamsburg Academy baseball team is in its first season with **Britton Morris** as head coach. It doesn't appear the Stallions have skipped a beat in the transition to the new head coach from **Tyler Boyd**, who left after eight seasons to become the football head coach at his alma mater, **Lamar High School**.

Williamsburg owned a 12-2 overall record and was 2-0 in SCISA Region 3-AAA coming out of spring break. The only losses came to **South Carolina High School League** AA school **Lake City** and Class A **Hannah-Pamplico**.

Williamsburg returns five starters from last year's team that had a 19-5 overall record and reached the semi-finals of the state playoffs. They are senior **Jay Kellahan**, junior **Charlie Caulder**, freshman **Caden Morris**, senior **Connor Morris** and junior **Hall Dukes**.

Kellahan is the everyday shortstop and bats leadoff. Caulder, an All-Region selection last season, starts in center field and bats second. Caden Morris is the catcher and hits in the 3 hole, while Connor Morris hits cleanup and plays first base. He was an All-Region selection and also played in the **SCISA North-South All-Star Games**.

The left-handed swinging Dukes bats fifth and plays second when not on the mound as a starting pitcher. Another Morris – **Marlin Morris** – bats sixth and is the designated hitter. Junior leftfielder **Grant Small** hits seventh, and junior **Ethan Jones** bats eighth and plays right and is a starting pitcher.

The ninth spot is held down by either junior **Sammy Tomlinson** or sophomore **Lane Patrick**, depending upon who is pitching. Tomlinson plays third and is a starting pitcher, while Patrick is a utility player being used at catcher, second and in left.

Caden Morris was team's litting hitter as an eighth-grader with a .488 batting average to go with six doubles, two triples and 21 runs batted in. He also threw out seven baserunners.

Connor Morris had a .429 average with two home runs and 17 RBI, Dukes had a .381 average and 14 RBI, Kellahan batted .333, Caulder batted .333 and Small hit at a .323 clip with three homers, and Marlin Morris hit two homers and drove in 16 runs.

Dukes, Tomlinson and Jones worked mostly in relief last season, but they are being called upon as starters this year.

These are this year's starters who we count on to give us a majority of the innings," Coach Morris said.

Williamsburg has Patrick, Small, Caulder, Wheeler and Caden Morris available for relief work. They are all right-handers.

The Stallions lost their No. 2 and No. 3 hitters in the batting order and their top two pitchers in **Bryce Blackburn** and **Layton Morris** to graduation.

Coach Morris told his team to just worry about what each teammate could do in their absences.

"The hole left by these two is an impossible one to fill, but I told our guys that we didn't need them to be Bryce and Layton, we needed our guys to be the best versions of themselves and not let a massive shadow be cast on this team by the losses," Coach Morris said.

The rest of the roster includes junior outfielder **Tyler Prosser** and junior outfielder **Seth Cherinko**.

The Stallions are part of a region with longtime foe **Pee Dee Academy**, **Dillon Christian School** and **Florence Christian School**. Williamsburg swept its 2-game series with Dillon Christian.

The region championship will be decided coming out of spring break. Williamsburg plays Florence Christian on April 14 and April 16 and faces Pee Dee on April 21 and April 23.

Pee Dee and Florence Christian split their two games and still have to face Dillon Christian.

COX IN FIRST YEAR AS SOFTBALL COACH

While she helped with the junior varsity team last season, **Jada Cox** is in her first season as the Williamsburg varsity softball head coach. She admits it hasn't gone quite like she had hoped. However, as players and coaches continue to learn more about each other, Cox expects things to get better.

"I'm looking to build this program and build these girls as players and as people," said Cox, who took over for veteran retired head coach **Pat Wildes**. "These girls and this team have come such a long way in a short amount of time. It has been fun to watch them grow and work."

"I think coming into this season I had some unrealistic expectations because I didn't know what it was like coming in new to a program. But as the season has progressed, I always set new expectations. I don't think we are ever content with how we are playing and performing, I know as a coaching staff and as a team, we always want more and always expect more."

The Stallions return six starters from last season with the most significant being pitcher **Abby Ward**. Other key performers are **Sophia Jacobs**, **Preslee Cooper** and **Krisalyn Hanna**.

Cox said finding a stable starting lineup and batting order is still a work in progress.

"My lineup changes from day to day giving different kids different opportunities but also keeping the team competitive," she said.

Other members of the team are **Audrey Wadford**, **Perry Wise**, **Maggie Jones**, **Riley McCrea**, **Alexis Worrell**, **Ann Hadley Sutton**, **Elci Kate Nesbitt**, **Corrine Kellahan** and **Madison Forsythe**.

Dillon Christian, Williamsburg and Pee Dee have the only softball teams in Region 3. The Stallions lost both of their games to Dillon Christian and still have to face 4-time defending state champion Pee Dee.

Greeleyville Pharmacy - (843) 426-2170
Feagin Photography Salutes the Stallions!

THE AREA'S BEST AND ONLY FULL-SERVICE PROVIDER

Find us on Facebook | ftc-i.net | 888-218-5050

Williamsburg Chiropractic and Wellness Center
DR. KEVIN A. MORRIS

Phone: 843-355-5131 303 East Main St.
Fax: 843-355-5137 Kingstree, S.C. 29556

Ronnie A. Sabb
SC State Senator
Proud to be Representing District 32!
RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926

209 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Kingstree, SC 29556

Bank of Greeleyville
Saluting the Stallions! Member FDIC

M MORRIS INSURANCE LLC

LEE MORRIS
MPCI & P&C

431 Country Club Road Cell: 843.325.4700
Andrews, SC 29510 Office: 843.389.2459
lee.morris53@yahoo.com Fax: 843.221.4588

Go Stallions!

Palmetto Pump Systems, LLC

Myron Kellahan Managing Principal Office: 843-382-9896
5711 Thurgood Marshall Hwy Cell: 843-372-2884
Kingstree, SC 29556 Fax: 843-355-5209
mkellahan@palmettopumps.com

Law Offices of Ronnie A. Sabb
Ronnie A. Sabb
215 West Thomas St. - Lake City
(843) 374-1628

WILDER BROTHERS WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
EST. 1938

"The Best Furniture Prices in the State!"

(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK Saluting All Area Schools!

500 E. Main St. Kingstree, SC - (843) 354-2250

BROWN'S BBQ

Hwy. 52 N Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 382-2753

We Cater BBQ and Other Meals Anywhere in the Southeast

Winners of the Southeast U.S. BBQ Championship 1988 & 1990

Saluting All Area Schools!

SCISA Baseball Feature

SCISA baseball heading towards stretch runs, playoffs

By: Gerald Doolittle
Goose Creek, S.C. - With spring break over for most schools the SCISA Baseball schools are heading into the stretch run for playoff seeding.

Hilton Head Christian (20-2) will be back to defend their 4-A Title. **Hilton Head Prep** (19-1) will be back to defend their 3-A Title. **Lee Academy** hopes to defend their 2-A Title and **Holly Hill Academy** hopes to defend their 1-A Title.

The top contenders in 4-A are **Hilton Head Christian** (20-2),

Pinewood Prep (17-1), **First Baptist** (11-4), **Augusta Christian** (11-6) and **Porter-Gaud** (8-7)

The top contenders in 3-A are **Hilton Head Prep** (19-1), **Spartanburg Christian** (12-0), **Calhoun Academy** (8-0), **Pee Dee Academy** (9-3-1) and **Colleton Prep** (10-7).

The top contenders in 2-A are **Laurens Academy** (6-3), **Andrew Jackson Academy** (4-3), **Thomas Heyward Academy** (6-7), **Dorchester Academy** (3-6), **King's Academy** (2-2) and **Lee Academy**.

The contenders in Class 1-A are **Richard Winn Academy** (8-6), **W.W. King Academy** (7-4), **Holly Hill Academy** (2-2), **Jefferson Davis Academy** (2-4) and **Wardlaw Academy** (2-7).

Hilton Head Christian has four hitters in the top 150. They are **Slaide Burd** (.588), **Roman Colella** (.457), **Stone Burd** (.432) and **Jackson Richardson** (.426).

Calhoun Academy has three hitters in the top 150. They are **Colt Layton** (.524), **Crews Felder** (.500) and **Joseph Lyons** (.450). **Spartanburg Christian** has six

hitters in the top 150. They are **Aidan Marshall** (.486), **Sawyer Hazeres** (.483), **Brady Cox** (.455), **Andrew Hambridge** (.444), **Luke Davis** (.444) and **Paxton Hazeres** (.419)

Andrew Jackson Academy has three hitters in the top 150. They are **Walker Terry** (.476), **Eli Mathys** (.467) and **Landon Johnson** (.421).

St. Johns Christian has three hitters in the top 150. They are **Jacob Glover** (.467), **Aiden McCoy** (.448) and **Thomas Hester** (.435).

AAAA Baseball Polls

1. Hilton Head Christian
2. Pinewood Prep
3. Augusta Christian
4. First Baptist
5. Porter Gaud
6. Laurence Manning

AAA Baseball Polls

1. Spartanburg Christian
2. Calhoun Academy
3. Pee Dee Academy
4. Colleton Prep
5. Orangeburg Prep
6. Williamsburg Academy

AA Baseball Polls

1. Laurens Academy
2. Andrew Jackson
3. WW King
4. Thomas Heyward
5. Dorchester Academy
6. Kings Academy

A Baseball Polls

1. WW King
2. Richard Winn
3. Holly Hill Academy
4. Jefferson Davis Academy
5. Marlboro Academy

SCISA Softball Feature

SCISA softball season nearing playoffs, stretch runs

By: Gerald Doolittle
Goose Creek, S.C. -With three weeks left in regular season SCISA softball teams are working hard to get good playoff seeding.

Laurence Manning Academy hopes to defend their **Class 4A** title. **Pee Dee Academy** (15-1) hopes to defend their **Class 3A** title. **Carolina Academy** (7-4) hopes to defend their **Class 2A** title and **Holly Hill Academy** (6-1) hopes to defend their **Class 1A** title.

The top contenders in Class 4A are **Pinewood Prep** (16-0), **Augusta Christian** (10-1), **John Paul II** (10-2), **Heathwood Hall** (6-2) and **Wilson Hall** (6-4).

Lurking to make a run in 4A are **First Baptist** (4-3-2) and **Northwood Academy** (5-5).

The top contenders in Class 3A are **Pee Dee Academy** (15-1), **Calhoun Academy** (9-3), **Colleton Prep Academy** (4-1), **Clarendon**

Hall Academy (5-4) and **Orangeburg Prep** (3-4).

The top contenders in Class 2A are **Dorchester Academy** (8-5), **Carolina Academy** (7-4), **Cross Schools** (6-4), **Lee Academy** (6-6) and **Andrew Jackson Academy** (4-2).

The top contenders in Class 1A are **Holly Hill Academy** (6-1), **W W King Academy** (7-2), **Richard Winn Academy** (3-3), **Wardlaw Academy** (3-4) and **Jefferson Davis Academy** (2-8).

Thomas Sumter Academy has three hitters in the top 150. They are **Lila Kate Stines** (.667), **Kason Carter** (.667) and **Aleigha Nelson** (.440).

Heathwood Hall has two hitters in the top 150. They are **Frances Laughlin** (.615) and **Mamie Biel** (.591).

Holly Hill Academy has two hitters in the top 150. They are **Milly Kate Prescott** (.625) and



2026 Carolina Academy softball

Kinlee Steigler (.500).

Lee Academy has three hitters in the top 150. They are **Jame-son Collins** (.550), **Ansley King** (.489) and **Karagan Melton** (.462).

Augusta Christian has two hitters in the top 150. They are

Bailey Brown (.500) and **McKen-zie Kreber** (.457)

Cross Schools has two hitters in the top 150. They are **Sydney Hollings** (.548) and **Savannah Hollings** (.464).

AAAA Softball Polls

1. Pinewood Prep
2. Laurence Manning
3. Augusta Christian
4. John Paul II
5. Heathwood Hall
6. Wilson Hall

AAA Softball Polls

1. Pee Dee Academy
2. Calhoun Academy
3. Colleton Prep
4. Clarendon Hall
5. Orangeburg Prep
6. Williamsburg Academy

AA Softball Polls

1. Dorchester Academy
2. Carolina Academy
3. Andrew Jackson Academy
4. Cross Schools
5. Lee Academy

A Softball Polls

1. Holly Hill Academy
2. WW King
3. Richard Winn Academy
4. War4dlaw
5. Jefferson Davis Academy

CAROLINA TIRE
843-374-2880
324 W. Main St - Lake City, SC
Proudly Saluting the Stallions!

Santee Grocery
21 Mackey Road Salters, SC 29590
(843) 426-2478 "Best Hot Dogs in SCI"
Saluting All Area Schools

The Byrd's Nest Children's Boutique
110 N. Academy Street
Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-2236 www.thebyrdsnestchild.com
Proudly Saluting the Stallions!

McKenzie TRUCKING CO 800-601-1184
124 County Camp Road
Kingstree, SC 29556

SEC Santee Electric Cooperative Inc.
A Touchstone Energy*Cooperative
424 Sumter Hwy, Kingstree, SC 29556
(843) 355-6187 Go Stallions!

125 South Academy Street
Kingstree, SC
(843) 354-2372
Go Stallions!

Edward Jones
INVESTMENTS

DILLON HIGH SCHOOL

Dillon baseball ranked in AAA Top 10 after years

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dillon—With Dillon High senior captain **Hank Grider** having a dominating season on the mound for the number 8 ranked Wildcats (10-3, 4-2), and a strong group of younger players all hitting well behind him, head coach **Keith Coward** is fielding his best team in quite some time.

“If there is someone in the state of South Carolina pitching any better than Hank Grider is right now I would love to go watch them pitch,” said Coach Coward who is also the school’s athletic director. “Hank has been voted our team captain by the players for the past four seasons, and he is finally completely healthy after dealing with nagging injuries as a junior.

“I will be the first one to say that **Anderson Colledge** is getting a steal by signing him,” said Coach Coward. “His fastball is moving in the upper 80’s this season. He has good command of his breaking ball and change-up also.”

In 34 innings of mound duty thus far this season, Grider has had an incredible 72 strikeouts. He has an ERA of .0.60 also. At the plate, from the two-slot, he is batting at 415 with 15 RBIs. Grider only issued seven walks on the season.

“We seem to play much better with Grider on the mound and even the defense plays better with him pitching,” said Coach Coward. “When he is on the mound we feel like we can compete with any team in the state.”

The lead-off batter for Dillon is sophomore center fielder **JJ Campbell** who is hitting .356 with 11 RBI’s including three doubles, two triples, and a home run. “JJ is a solid defensive outfielder with good speed,” said Coach Coward.

In the three-hole is senior first baseman/pitcher **Jaden Williamson**. “Talk about a team player, Jaden has been 8 times while batting this season,” said Coach Coward. Williamson is batting .368 with two doubles and 9 RBI’s.

The clean-up batter is sophomore **Bryson Davis** who mainly plays at second base. Davis is batting .372 with 11 RBI’s and four doubles.

Junior catcher **JC Bohachic** leads the team with a .465 on base percentage. He has contributed 7 RBI’s. “JC has a strong arm behind the plate with a 2.1 pop time,” said Coach Coward. “He is doing a tremen-

dous job behind the plate.”
 Sophomore left fielder **DJ Greene** is batting .262 with five RBI’s while freshman shortstop/pitcher **Aiden Lancaster** is batting in the 7th position. The 8-hole hitter is freshman right fielder **Nibras Harrison**, and he is coming along very well. The 9-hole batter is 8th grade third baseman **Chuck Greene** who has worked his way into the starting line-up, and he is hitting .278 with six RBI’s.

“It seems like on every team I have coached at Dillon we always seem to start at least one 7th or 8 graders, and this keeps me young for sure,” joked Coach Coward.

The team’s number two pitcher is Davis. In 21.3 innings of work, he has 13 strikeouts with an ERA of 2.95. Lancaster is Dillon’s number three pitcher and in 18 2/3 innings of mound duty he has 21 strikeouts and an ERA of 3.75.

Dillon returned six starters from a team that finished 8-15 a year ago.

Several key reserves include junior outfielder **Lee Causey**, senior outfielder **Antwan Drawhorn**, and sophomore outfielder **Jayden Cooper**.

“I think our improvement is that all our guys are a year older and we had some very young teams the past few seasons,” said Coach Coward. “A lot of players we have had on the varsity since they were 8 graders.

“I will say that we are fortunate to have a lot of team speed,” said Coach Coward. “We tend to create base runners by hit batters, walks, or getting hits, and when we get on base we usually advance quickly.”

Aynor is currently tops in the region with Dillon with a 5-1 record. Dillon and **Georgetown** are tied for second place with 4-2 region records. “We play Aynor two games at the end of the season (April 21 & 24), and we have an upcoming region game with a very good **Marlboro County** team (April 14 & 17th) so we need to keep improving and working hard,” said Coach Coward.

Dillon’s 10 wins thus far have come over **Green Sea Floyds** (three), **Carvers Bay**, **Darlington** (twice), **Georgetown**, **Loris** (twice), **Waccamaw**, their three losses were to **Conway**, **Georgetown**, and **Waccamaw**.

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

Dillon softball young but getting better every day

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Dillon—Dillon softball coach **Stevie Grice** is in his 6th season as the head softball coach with the Wildcats with 11 years of total experience in the program, and without a doubt this is the youngest team he has put on the field over this span.

The team went into Spring break (7-8, 2-4) on the season.

“We are starting five middle schoolers,” said Coach Grice. “They are all hard-working and improving with every game. We feel good about the future of the team as the young players get more varsity game experience.”

The main senior veteran on the team is all-region performer **McKenna Meekins**, a center fielder who has been a starter since the 7th grade. Meekins is currently batting .325 with four RBI’s and a home run.

The top hitter on the team is junior right fielder **Anselly Villagomez** at .385. Freshman left fielder **Kanyla Tanksley** is hitting .364. Junior DP/first baseman **Zoe Chavis** is a junior currently batting .333 with 11 RBI’s.

Jayla Wright is an 8th grade pitcher who also serves as a DP. “Jayla was the winning pitcher in our 9-2 win over **Latta** recently,” said Coach Grice. “She

See Dillon, pg. 62

Family Sports Center, 843-774-3162
Miller Plumbing & Electric – Doug Miller
Dillon Chamber of Commerce 774-8551
In Memory of Earl L. Gleason, Sr.
Cooper Funeral Home 774-4473
County Councilman Brad Coward
Councilman Stevie Grice
Councilman Dennis Townsend
Councilman Robbie Coward
Councilman Kenny Cook Jr.
Councilman James “Bobbie” Washington
Council Woman Detrice Dawkins
Lloyd Meekins & Sons Auction Co.
Tim Harper, County Administrator
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 506-8801

Physician’s Healthcare of Dillon
Dr. John K. Stanton, Jr., DC
Chiropractic and Medical Care
 1639 Hwy. 301 N, Dillon (843) 774-5182

Lil’ Bill’s Convenience Stores
 2204 Hwy. 9 East
 Dillon, SC 774-3876

First Citizens Bank 406 Hwy. 301 North
Go Wildcats!
 Member FDIC

Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, P.A.
 705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A
 (843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011
 James P. Wallace M.D. Caren C. Arnette, FNP
 James J. Kelly, M.D. Kelly Jacobs, DNP
 Nicholas Wallace, M.D. Morgan Hayes, FNP
 Alto B. Odin, D.O. Victoria Davis, FNP

HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS
 800-922-3535
 www.hosnet.net

DILLON South Carolina
 401 W Main St, Dillon, SC 29536
 843-774- 0040
Proudly Saluting the Wildcats!

Trinity Behavioral Care
 1719 Commerce Drive - Dillon, SC 29536
Proudly Saluting Dillon Athletics!

AMS TREE SERVICES
 24 Hour Service:
 (843) 610-9780
 Kennykennycook@aol.com

Rep. Jackie E. Hayes
House District #55
Dillon, SC 843-229-3661

COWARD TOWING
Ask for Brad!
843-774-4331
If You Are In An Accident Request Us & Receive \$100 CASH

Bulldogs baseball, softball looking to finish strong

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Bennettsville – After a tough season in 2025, expectations were high for the 2026 Marlboro County softball team.

The Bulldog finished last season with a 5-19 overall record and was winless in region 6-AAA play. Coach Kevin Inglis returned several key starters but pitching was a concern just as it was a year ago.. In the previous three seasons, Marlboro County had solid pitching and a solid offensive lineup enabling them to contend for or win region titles and made a splash in the state playoffs.

Inglis was hopeful for a bounce back season but after a 2-0 start to the season, things have gone downhill. Marlboro County entered spring break with a 3-13 record overall and winless (0-6) in region play.

The roster has several players returning with significant varsity playing experience, led by junior all-state shortstop **Addison Skipper**, who hit .569 with 25 runs batted in last season. Skipper is hitting .484 with 10 RBI at the break,

Senior centerfielder **Amir Bridges** anchors the outfield defensively and is a consistent hitter as well with a .375 batting average and nine runs scored. Those are the only two hitters over .300 at the break.

Freshman **Kaylee Sweat** returns at first base

after hitting .283 last season, and sophomore **Autum Sheppard** pitches and plays third and is showing solid potential at the plate. The hope is both can catch fire down the stretch.

Looking to bring more consistency inside the circle is freshman **Ava Grooms** who leads the team with 53 innings pitched. Sheppard also has worked inside the circle.

Senior **Tessa Chavis** is a solid worker defensively at second base and **Ruthie Grooms** hit nearly .300 as a catcher/third baseman last season.

Freshmen **Kara Robinson**, **Kayleigh Polson** and **Zi’eira O’Neal** are seeing time in the outfield. Eighth-grader **Maelee James** is pushing for time at third base.

The baseball team reached spring break with a 6-5 overall record and a 2-4 slate in region play.

Tristpn Quick is among the top performers this spring, hitting .417 while posting a 2.35 earned run average as the number one pitcher.

Jamison Bradshaw has a 3.44 ERA in his 20 innings of work on the mound,

Tyler Tolson is leading the team in hitting with a robust .552 batting average, which includes seven doubles and 13 RBI. **Grier Norris** is hitting .300 and **Cam Hunt** is hitting .270.

The Bulldogs return from spring break with two games against Dillon on April 14 and April 17.

Rep. Jackie E. Hayes
House District #55
Dillon, SC
843-229-3661

A Friend of the Bulldogs Salutes Marlboro County Athletics!

Hartsville softball setting the pace in region play

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Hartsville – Entering spring break, the softball team at Hartsville IHigh is setting the pace in region 6-AAAA.

The Red Foxes are well on their way to repeating as the region champions and wrap up the title with a strong finish down the stretch. Entering the break, the Red Foxes sit at 9-7 overall and 5-1 against region competition.

Coach Amber Harvey entered this season with some holes to fill but also with some experienced veterans to provide the necessary leadership. With the talent and experience, expectations are high..

A big hole to fill was inside the pitchers circle where Harvey has turned over the bulk of the work to a pair of eighth-graders, **Kymer Gainey** and **Hannah Amerson**. Gainey has worked 64 innings with a 3.48 earned run average while Amerson has a 4.39 earned run average in 18 imings of work.

Anchoring the offensive attack is senior infielder **Myah Harvey**, who hit .522 with eight homers and 25 stolen base last season/ She is hitting **Mary Ellyn Hickey**, a senior catcher, hit .395 with three

homers last season but is hovering around .200 so far this season while junior second baseman **Emmakate Hudson** hit .342 as a sophomore but has raised her average to .457 with 12 RBI this spring.

Returning as the anchor in the outfield is junior **Terriney Thompson**, who hit .311 a season ago and is sitting at .350 with 11 RBI this season. Senior **Abby Byrd** also returns, as a utility player and is hitting .370 with 15 RBI. Senior **Emma Floyd** and senior **Riley Stephens** will serve key roles defensively. Arianna Gainey has posted a .378 batting average with 11 RBI.

Sophomore **Zoe Gray** is a utility player and sophomore **Raven Schaff** sees action on the corners.

Hartsville was 23-6 overall last season, finishing 11-1 in region play. They were eliminated by South Florence in the Lower State playoffs.

There is new leadership at the helm of the base-
 See Hartsville, pg. 62

Pinpoint Embroidery
 912-A W. Carolina Ave. Hartsville, SC

BHP softball seeking out consistency in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Honea Path – The **Belton-Honea Path High School** softball team has won the AAA Upper State championship the past two seasons, bringing home the state title in 2024.

If the Bears want to make a similar run this year, head coach **Jarad Jennings** said his team needs to undergo some changes.

We have played really well at times and not so great at others” said Jennings, whose team was 13-3 overall coming out of spring break. “We have to find a way to be more consistent if we want to have a chance to make a run in the playoffs.”

BHP plays in a doozy of a region. It is third in Region 2 behind **Crescent** and **White-Oak** with a 2-2 record.

The lineup has sophomore 3-year starter **Madi Boggs** leading off and playing center field. **Carsen Foster**, a junior 4-year starter and 2-time All-Region pick, plays third baseman and bats second.

Senior catcher **Rhiley Bannister** was an All-Region selection and bats third. Junior All-Region pick **Addi Vaughn** is the cleanup hitter and has been the starting pitcher the past two years. Eighth-grade newcomer **Ari Wilbanks** plays shortstop and bats

See BHP, pg. 61

MARLBORO COUNTY
Dennis Miller Jamboree of Champions
Meggs Automotive (843) 439-3438

First Citizens Bank **Bennettsville**
Clio McColl
 Member FDIC

Oak River Mill Saluting Marlboro County High School!
MOHAWK INDUSTRIES, INC.

Marlboro County HS Athletic Department Proudly Salutes Their Coaches & Athletes! Let’s Go Bulldogs! Good Luck This Season!

HARTSVILLE
Mutual Savings Bank – Hartsville 383-3050
Heritage Community Bank Salutes #9 Matt Lynch
Carolina Bank says “Go Foxes!” 843-332-1351
First Citizens Bank 843.332.1121
Carolina Printing Sports & Trophy Salute the Red Foxes!
Ruth’s Drive-In 843-332-6771

Wishing All Athletes & Coaches Great Success in 2025-26!
GO RED FOXES!
 Courtesy Hartsville High School & Athletic Dept. & the Hartsville Community

BELTON-HONEA PATH
The BHP Athletic Booster Club
 Salutes our student athletes!
 Once a BEAR, Always a BEAR!

El Paso Mexican Restaurant & Bar - Go Bears!
The Town of Honea Path Salutes the Bears!
Select Insurance LLC - Proudly Saluting BHP
The Little Biscuit Barn (864) 369-6882
Lou & Perry’s Proudly Salutes the BHP Bears!
Maynard’s Home Furnishings (864) 338-7751
Senator Michael “Mike” Gambrell Salutes BHP
TIMKEN Proudly Salutes BHP Student Athletes
The Commercial Bank Salutes the Bears!
Rep. Lee Gilreath says “Go Bears!”
Sam Gilmer Photography Proudly Salutes BHP
Jacklind Buffington Sheppard Atty at Law (864) 338-7168
Amanda’s Diner (864) 369-6920
American Door Masters (864) 990-3075
Amanda Thompson State Farm (864) 338-8331
 fifth.



2026 Porter Gaud Cyclones boys soccer

Porter-Gaud spring athletes focusing on the finish

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Charleston – With less than a month remaining in the regular season, the **Porter-Gaud** spring sports teams are focusing on finishing strong and hoping to make an extended run in the upcoming SCISA state playoffs.

Porter-Gaud is no stranger to competing for and winning state championships in their spring season and 2026 looks to be another banner year.

The team with perhaps the best chance of winning a state title is the girls soccer team, coached by **Hope Walters**. The program is the defending SCISA class AAAA state champion, completing their 24-2 season with a title win over rival Pinewood Prep.

Even the loss of two key offensive players, **Zoe Molten** and **Gracie McCabe**, the Cyclones remain the team to beat. A strong defense has yielded only 10 goals in the first 16 contests of this season. Porter-Gaud entered

play on April 14 with a 14-1-1 record. The lone loss came to public school AAAAA state power Wando and the tie also was against a AAAAA public school, Lucy Beckham.

The Cyclones are led offensively by freshman **Ava Adams**, who has scored a team-high 21 goals with nine assists. Junior **Maya Belliveau** has added seven goals and three assists while senior **Spencer Hostetter** has tallied five goals. Another freshman, **Sasha Stuart**, has contributed four goals and five assists. **Harris Kern** has been a stalwart in goal for the Cyclones.

The remaining schedule will provide at least three tests down the stretch as the Cyclones have Academic Magnet, James Island and Pinewood Prep over the final three weeks.

Meanwhile, the boys soccer team also will contend for a state championship in May. The Cyclones reached spring break with a 9-3 overall record.

Ashley Hall spring sports competing well in '26

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Charleston – As the 2026 spring sports season turns the corner and heads into the state playoffs, the teams at **Ashley Hall** are showing a competitive spirit against a quality schedule of opponents.

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.

Then spring season reached spring break last week, leaving less than a month before the state playoffs begin at the end of April. Entering the break, the Ashley Hall soccer team sits with a 4-6 record overall, including a pair of wins over area rival First Baptist.

Setting the offensive pace for the Panthers is a senior captain, **Catherine Clark**, who has scored eight goals with four assists. Junior **Molly Mettler**

has added five goals and four assists while **Hamp-ton Kennedy** has a goal and assist.

Goalkeeper **Bea Anderson**, a sophomore, has allowed 24 goals but also has 65 saves.

The other captains on the team include seniors **Annie Morrison**, **Gemma Williams** and **Britton Zollweg**. 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 Yae-gar**, **Amelia Lennon** and eighth-grader **Schuyler Malloy**.

The lacrosse team has shown improvement from last season and entered the break with a 5-5 record after posting three wins last season. Junior **Sally Rowson** leads the team with 30 goals and five assists while junior **Kate Murphy** has added 26 goals and six assists. Eighth-grader **Campbell Lennon** has

Spring sports reaching critical stages at JICHS

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

James Island – Spring break often allows high school athletic teams to take a deep breath, rest up, and turn the focus to the stretch drive of the spring sports season.

This year's break came over the first two weeks of April and when play resumes, there will be only two or three weeks left in the regular season. The postseason hopes will be decided by May 1 so turning up the intensity will be crucial for those teams hoping to contend for a state title in their respective sports.

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 AAAAA Division I championship last spring.

Last year's team won 30 games and the 2026 Trojans are on a similar pace. James Island enters play on April 13 at 16-1 overall and 6-0 in region 8-AAAAA play.

James Island lost the season opening game to A.C. Flora but has been dominant since with a balanced display of timely hitting and strong pitching.

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 a regular basis.

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 season.

PORTER GAUD

V.P.M. Inc.
Charles H. Wendell CPA
Chairman - CEO
23 N. Court St. - Fayetteville, WV
Tel: 304-574-3096 - Fax 304-574-3157

PIERCE | SLOAN
KENNEDY & EARLY LLC
843-722-7733
321 East Bay St. Charleston, SC 29401

Both the boys and girls lacrosse teams are state title threats. The girls team has won nine SCISA state titles in a row and sit at 8-4 overall. Leading the team in scoring is sophomore **Ragan Stryker** with 41 goals and 14 assists. Senior **Haley Taylor** with 38 goals with 18 assists, Eighth-grader **Pope Cooper** has scored 13 goals.

The boys team has several state championships as well and entered spring break at 8-3.

Porter-Gaud also has a very successful track and field program. This year's athletes to watch include sprinter/jumper **Amir Chisolm**, hurdler **Kyson Brown-Cobb**, high jumper **Rucker Smith** and pole vaulter **Liam Jones** from the boys team.

Top female athletes include middle distance runner **Morgan Howell**, sprinter **Erin Jamison**, hurdler **Elise Adams**, sprinter **Hunter Dawson**, and thrower **Gigi Schmidt**.

ASHLEY HALL

ashley hall
ashleyhall.org
GO PANTHERS!
Girls with the will have the ability

13 goals and eight assists, and junior **Caroline Copenhaver** has scored eight goals.

In track and field, top performers include sprinters **Peyton Rivers**, **Nyra Jenkins** and **Camilla Heyward**; **Charlie Silliman** in middle distance; **Na'Zyia Jenkins**, **Elise Simmons** and **Amelia Hamilton** in hurdles; **Madison Middleton** in jumps; **Izzy Scolnick** in the jumps and javelin, and **Adyson Middleton** in the discus and javelin.

JAMES ISLAND

James Island Charter High School Athletic Department and Booster Club
Proudly Salutes the Trojans!

James Island is in control of the region with three weeks to play. They close out the league slate with three-game series against Stall, Fort Dorchester and Summerville.

The softball team is off to an 0-2 start in region play but will have plenty of opportunity to make their chase down the stretch. The Lady Trojans are 9-6 overall coming out of spring break.

Junior **Haylee Holsenberg** has been a key hitter and pitcher this season. She is hitting .355 with 10 RBI and has logged 27 innings inside the circle. Junior **Kendall**

See James Island, pg. 62

LAKE VIEW
Wild Gators

Lake View baseball back on track after slow start

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Lake View – The beginning of his career as the first-year head coach of the **Lake View High** baseball program did not go as **Will Celmer** had hoped. But after opening the season with losses to Conway and Aynor, the Wild Gators have righted the ship.

Lake View entered play on April 14 with a 13-3 overall record and a 7-1 slate in region 6-A play. The Wild Gators are back in contention for the region title, right where they belong.

Celmer replaced a legend as head coach, taking over for **Kip Herlong**, who retired after last season with more than 600 wins and eight state championships. But Celmer understands what it takes to succeed and he has welcomed the challenge of replacing a Lake View legend. The 0-2 start did not shake his confidence or his belief in his 2026 team.

"You know, we were still figuring a lot of things out when we started and we ran into two good baseball teams right off the bat," said Celmer, who grew up in nearby Dillon. "We needed to be challenged early. I think we learned a lot about who we are and what type of character we have. The kids were not fazed at all. They came right back to work and our leadership took over. It's better to lose the first two games of a season than the last two so we hope we have learned what we needed to do to become the type of baseball team that we had hope to be."

Celmer says senior leadership has been the strength of this year's team. He inherited a handful of returning seniors who have been key players in previous seasons and the group, as a whole, has great leadership skills.

"Those guys are the backbone and we rely on them a lot," the coach said. "We have some young guys out there with those seniors and the seniors have taken them under their wing, showed them the way. The young guys have responded like I would hope they would. There's really good chemistry on this team."

Our of the key returning senior leaders include **Bryce King**, **Chase Price**, **Landon King** and **Ian Capps**. Bryce King and Chase Price are the top two pitchers this season and both have been dominant early. Each has an earned run average under two and both have logged more than 20 innings on the mound so far this season.

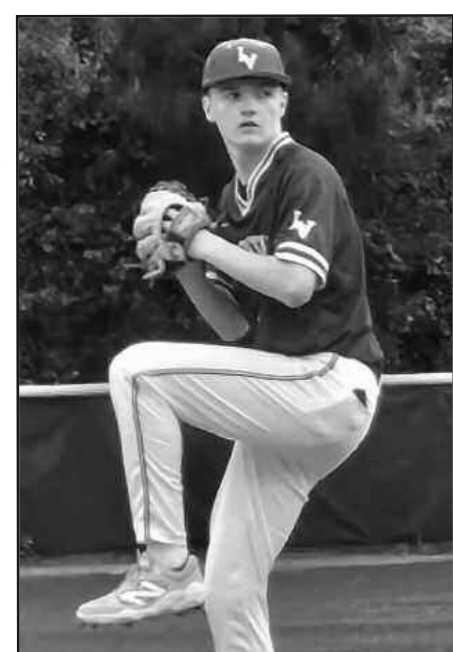
King and Landon King not only lead the team in hitting but also are among the top hitters, average-wise, in the state. Both are hitting over .500 and have combined for more than 30 RBI through 16 games. Price adds nearly a .300 batting average while Capps, the starting second baseman, is hitting .391 with 17 RBI.

Another senior is centerfielder **Seth Deese**, who is hitting .385. Newcomer **Liam Newell** has adjusted well offensively, sporting a .368 batting average, while **Thad Lovette** is hitting .324 with 12 RBI.

Senior **Holden Lee** has stepped up this spring as well while freshman **Zaiden Burroughs** has stepped in as the starting catcher and played well. Freshmen **Drew Cox** and **Hayden Smith** have made solid contributions, as have senior **Kiwi Jackson** and eighth-grader **Colton Moody**. **Chase Campbell**, who did not play last season, is hitting .375 in his limited at bats, adding depth to the lineup.

"This group works hard, which is not surprising because Lake View kids have a great work ethic," Celmer said. "I think they are confident about their abilities and they love to compete. We are not where we want to be just yet but this team shows improvement every day. As long as they keep that mindset, we're going to be in every game."

At presstime, Lake View was focusing in on two huge games against fellow region contender Latta. The Wild Gators play Latta on April 14 and April 17 and those games will go a long way in deciding the region champion.



Pitcher Justin Newell

As they prepare for the final stretch of the regular season, the coach says his team must continue to focus on doing the little things well. That includes improving the consistency on defense.

"We have to be able to back up our pitching, just make the routine plays and execute the fundamentals defensively," Celmer said. "We've been pretty solid so far but we have to stay focused and be prepared to make the plays."

"We also talk a lot about battling at the plate, particularly with two strikes. We want to put the ball in play and pressure the other team to play defense as well. Pitching and defense is what wins when the game counts the most."

The softball team is coached by **Brandy Huggins**, who enters her 15th season with 225 career wins against 100 losses. The Wild Gators were 13-10 last season.

Already the team has faced adversity as senior pitcher **Haley Miller** is lost for the season with a torn ACL. Though a setback, Huggins will turn to junior **Chloe Cox**, sophomore **Hanna Coburn**, sophomore **Sarah Price** and seventh-grader **Addie Elvington** to take on increased innings inside the circle.

Senior **Kayleigh Blackmon** is a returning starter at third base while Cox returns in centerfield. Coburn starts at second base and junior **Maddison Strickland** is working at first base.

Price is the starter in centerfield and sophomore **Carleigh Matthews** starts in right. Freshman **Sophia Rogers** will get a look behind the plate and eighth-grader **Paisley Alford** is getting a look at shortstop.

Eighth-grader **Callie Smith** will work at second and in leftfield. Eighth-grader **Emalee Miller** will see time at second and eighth-grader **Lilly Hatcher** will see time first base. Eighth-grader **Summer Hilburn** will play some in right and freshman **Brilee Schirra** is a returning outfielder. Junior **Katina Genwright** is also a returning outfielder.

Newcomers to watch include senior outfielder **Ally Joye**, seventh-grade outfielders **Kylie Turner** and **Lexie Suggs**; and seventh-grade catcher **Savannah Olmos**.

From the Principal, Faculty, Staff and Students
Good Luck! Go Wild Gators!
"JUST SAY NO"

The Lake View High Athletic Department Salutes the Wild Gators!
Good Luck This Year!

LMS, Inc. Mechanical Contraction 845-2183

HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS
800-922-3535
www.hosnet.net

Representative Jackie "Coach" Hayes
SC House of Representatives Seat #55
Salutes
Dillon, Lake View, Latta, and Dillon Christian

Tim Harper, County Administrator
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 506-8801

First Citizens Bank 406 Hwy 301 North
Go Wild Gators! Member FDIC

Dillon/Marion County Commission
on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
Locations in Marion and Dillon
774-6591

ELLIOTT RICK ELLIOTT - Broker
Sales • Rentals • Development • 1-800-525-0225
PO Box 3200 • N. Myrtle Beach SC 29582
Bus: (843) 249-1406 • Res: (843) 249-1520

Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, P.A.
705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A
(843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011
James P. Wallace, M.D. Caren C. Arnette, FNP
Tim J. Kelly, M.D. Kelly Jacobs, DNP
Nicholas Wallace, M.D. Morgan Hayes, FNP
Alto B. Odin, D.O. Victoria Davis, FNP

Trinity Behavioral Care
1719 Commerce Drive - Dillon, SC 29536
Proudly Saluting Lake View Athletics!

Brad's AUTO REPAIR
OIL CHANGES • TUNE-UPS • MINOR ENGINE REPAIR
2029 Hwy 9 East
Dillon, SC
843-774-3022
(24-HR Towing)

AMS TREE SERVICES
24 Hour Service:
(843) 610-9780
Kennykennycook@aol.com

Strickland Brothers Construction Co. LLC
General & Mechanical Contractors
843-845-1247
Good Luck Wild Gators!

Good Luck Wild Gators!

PARKER'S USED CARS
Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com
Specializing in Clean Used Cars Since 1983
3802 Hwy 38 S Off: 843-528-3100
Blenheim, SC 29516 Fax: 843-528-3106

ORANGEBURG PREP INDIANS



2026 Orangeburg Prep softball

Orangeburg Prep softball looking for improvement

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Orangeburg – After the Orangeburg Preparatory School softball team completed a 3-game sweep of Thomas Sumter Academy with a 23-5, 4-inning victory on March 27, head coach Jan Stoudenmire was pleased with the result.

“The girls are playing better,” said Stoudenmire, who is back in the OP dugout after being away from it the past three seasons. “We started off with not too much practice (because the girls basketball team played for the SCISA AAA state championship), but they are coming on strong. It doesn’t matter how you start, it’s how you finish. They’ll come on strong.”

The Indians have struggled since that sweep though, losing four straight prior to spring break. They were swept by defending AA runner-up Dorchester Academy in a 3-game non-region series and also lost to defending Class A state champion Holly Hill Academy.

The Indians lost two of three games to defending AAA state runner-up Clarendon Hall in their first Region 1 series. That, coupled with the sweep of Thomas Sumter, left them with a 4-2 region record and a 5-6 overall mark.

“We’re just trying to figure ourselves out right now,” Stoudenmire said. “I’m really proud of them. They did a good job and have come on strong. They didn’t give up when they got behind in some games in the beginning.”

Orangeburg Prep had just four returning starters in the batting order. The Indians are led by senior shortstop Prestan Schurlknight and senior catcher Hannah Lambrecht, both of whom are 4-year starters.

Schurlknight owned a .536 batting average in the early going of the season. Lambrecht was batting .444.

“We’ve got two really good leaders in Prestan Schurlknight and Hannah Lambrecht behind the plate,” Stoudenmire said. “Prestan is signed and going to Lander to play with her sister (Payton Schurlknight), and Hannah is probably the best catcher in the region. They both can just crush the ball.”

“They’re just two good players, two good leaders, and the rest of them just follow behind them. We’ve got some good, little, young ones.”

The other two returning starters are junior Calee Hartzog and sophomore Natalie Hall. Hartzog, who is playing second base, was batting .419, while Hall

was leading the team with a .593 average.

Hall is in her first year as a pitcher after starting in the outfield as a freshman. She’s had some ups and downs, but Stoudenmire believes Hall is going to end up being a standout in the circle.

“She’s really come on strong, and she’s just going to get better and better because she’s only a sophomore,” Stoudenmire said of Hall, who allowed just three earned runs in the final game against Thomas Sumter. “She enjoys it, and she’s a competitor, so you’ve got to have that person in the circle.”

“This is her first time pitching. She worked hard this summer. She just decided this summer that she wanted to get better. She got some pitching lessons, and she did really, really well, and we’ve been very, very pleased with what she’s done.”

The newcomers to the lineup are senior Emma Grace Burleson, sophomore Addison Nivens, freshman Marisa Griffith, eighth-grader Haley Williams and eighth-grader Allie Reese Tolbert.

Other members of the team are senior Audrey O’Neal, sophomore June Smith and eighth-grader Alyssa Williams.

Stoudenmire is being assisted by her daughter, Barkley McNair, Angie Patterson and Alan Ulmer.

The focus for the Indians over the rest of the month is to be playing their best when the state tournament at Sumter’s Patriot Park SportsPlex rolls around in early May.

“We’re going to get better,” Stoudenmire said. “We just want to get ready for the state tournament. We want to be playing good in May.”

BASEBALL TEAM HAS STARTED OVER

After going 27-5 last season and playing in the AAA state championship series, the Orangeburg Prep baseball team had to start this season anew. With the loss of 10 players to graduation, the Indians have basically a new roster this year with just one returning player. They won nine of their first 16 contests.

The Indians were 4-2 in region play with a 3-game series remaining with Calhoun Academy after spring break. Like the softball team, they went 1-2 against Clarendon Hall before sweeping Thomas Sumter.

Junior Marshall Livingston was leading the way offensively with a .410 average. Sophomore Cholly Williams as batting .375, Junior Parker Gray was

Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!



1807 Columbia Rd. Orangeburg, SC 29115
(803) 747-2308

SAMUEL L. LAMBRECHT DMD LLC

GENERAL, COSMETIC, AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY

SAMUEL L. LAMBRECHT DMD
DANIEL R. WEST DMD

695 SUMMERS AVENUE
ORANGEBURG, SC 29115
(803) 534-1020
OFFICE@ORANGEBURGDENTAL.COM

Edisto HEATING & COOLING

Providing Seasonal Comfort
2105 LeGrand Smoak St. - Cordova, SC
803-536-1908

The OPS Athletic Booster Club Supports All Orangeburg Prep Athletic Teams During the 2025-26 School Year!

LANIER & BURROUGHS
TRIAL ATTORNEYS

SHANE M. BURROUGHS
ATTORNEY

1325 ST. MATTHEWS ROAD
PO DRAWER 2789
ORANGEBURG, SC 29116

OFFICE: (803) 268-9800
FAX: (803) 531-3465
WWW.LANIERLAWFIRM.COM

batting .346, and junior Maxx Judy was batting .326.

Other regular members of the lineup are freshman Grayson Smith, sophomore Council Burroughs, junior Blake Inabinet, senior Saylor Kittrell, the lone returning player to the team, junior Chris Jackson and sophomore Tillman Zeigler.

Kittrell, Williams, freshman Cam Jolley and Livingston have been getting most of the innings on the mound.

Other members of the team are junior George Albergoti, junior Walker Garrick and junior Conner Temples.

GIRLS TRACK HAS 4 NEW SCHOOL RECORDS

The Orangeburg Prep girls track and field team, which is in search of a sixth straight state championship, has already set four new school records this season.

Two came in individual events while records have been set in two of the three relay events.

Freshman Blakely Garrick now holds the record in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1 minute, 9.08 seconds. Sophomore Naomi McCutchen is the new record holder in the javelin

See Orangeburg Prep, pg. 38

Dillon Christian softball mixes youth, experience

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Dillon – The Dillon Christian School softball team has a mix of veterans and youth under first-year head coach Kevin McKenzie. The formula served the Warriors well through spring break as they had an 8-4 overall record and were undefeated in SCISA Region 3-AAA.

“I didn’t know what to expect to start the season,” McKenzie said. “We have experience but also a lot of youth.”

The experience comes up the middle on defense. Senior catcher Presley McKenzie is a 5-year starter, senior Lillie Shooter is one of two pitchers, and senior Kara Hunt is the shortstop.

Freshman Fraley Britt plays third base and bats leadoff, while eighth-grader Caitlyn Owens starts in center field and bats second. Hunt is in the 3 hole while Shooter, who has signed to play with Barton College, bats cleanup.

McKenzie is batting fifth, junior rightfielder Braylon Carter sixth, freshman second baseman Madelyn Willis seventh, senior first baseman Story Lane eighth, and eighth-grade leftfielder Kennedy Hunt ninth.

Sophomore Kaden Richardson shares pitching duties with Shooter.

“We do our best to split time with both pitchers game for game, no matter who we play,” said Coach McKenzie. “We have confidence in both,”

Dillon Christian was getting a major test coming out of spring break. The Warriors were taking on 4-time defending state champion Pee Dee Academy on both April 14 and April 16.

DCS BASEBALL STARTS 2-6

The Dillon Christian baseball team got off to a slow start, winning just two of its first eight games. It was 2-4 in region play.

The most consistent batting order has shortstop Gray Easterling leading off, pitcher/infielder Jordan Blackmon hitting second, leftfielder Hayden Moody hitting third and centerfielder Ethan Moody batting cleanup.

Third baseman Rylee Martin is in the 5 hole, second baseman Braylon Parker is sixth, first baseman Keaton Bailey is seventh, catcher Bryce Bailey is eighth, and rightfielder Jackson Shooter is ninth.

Blackmon was hitting over .400 with five home runs and is the primary starting pitcher. He had four starts and worked 17 innings with 17 strikeouts.

Easterling had worked 10 1/3 innings

“We’re still working to find consistency, but we’ve seen improvement and growth

from our group compared to last season,” said head coach Tony Blackmon. “We’ve

competed well in our region games, and if we continue to develop on the mound

and clean things up defensively, we feel like we can make a push late in the season.”

PARKER'S USED CARS

Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com

Specializing in Clean Used Cars Since 1983

3802 Hwy 38 S. Blenheim, SC 29516
Off: 843-528-3100 Fax: 843-528-3106

Anderson Brothers Bank
1006 Hwy 301 N. - Dillon, SC
(843) 506-8801

Lee Academy softball looking for strong finish

By Dennis Brunson
Hssr.com Associate Editor

Bishopville – The Lee Academy softball team was an even .500 at spring break with a 6-6 overall record. Head coach Craig Nesbit would obviously like to be sporting a better record, but he is optimistic about the remainder of the season.

“Our last nine games are all winnable games, Nesbit said. “I feel confident that we will work things out before the playoffs and will be a contender when that time comes.

“This is a young group. They just have to learn how to put a team away when they get up on them. That knockout punch is what we lack right now.”

The Cavaliers have just two seniors and one junior on the roster but still have eight returning starters from last season.

Leadoff hitter Ansley King is the only senior in the batting order. Freshman Presleigh Greene bats second, sophomore Ansley Nesbit hits third, and sophomore Jameson Collins is the cleanup hitter.

Sophomore Karagan Melton bats fifth followed by eighth-grader Beth Whiteside in the 6 hole. Rounding out the batting order are freshman Bristol Baker, freshman Kaisley Melton and freshman Riley Iseman, the newcomer to the lineup.

Nesbit was an All-State selection last season and was joined on the All-Region team by Collins, King, Karagan Melton and Whiteside.

Collins is ripping the cover off the ball so far. Not only did she have a .550 batting average, but 16 of her 22 hits were for extra bases. She had eight doubles, one triple and seven home runs to go with 37 runs batted in. She had hit three grand slams.

King was batting .489 with an on-base percentage of .540. She’d scored 23 runs and had 13 stolen bases. Nesbit was batting .436 with three homers, 24 runs and 11 RBI, while Greene was hitting .366 with 20 runs and 13 RBI.

Whiteside was batting .394 with 16 runs, while Karagan Melton was batting .462 with 17 runs in nine games.

Iseman .was hitting .308 with 12 RBI, Baker was at .278 with 12 RBI, and Kaisley Melton was at .231.

The Meltons handled most of the pitching duties last season, but Coach Nesbit is spreading the wealth in the circle this year. Senior Sara Bell had the most innings pitched with 18. Kaisley Melton had worked 10 2/3 innings, Karagan Melton 9 2/3, Ansley Nesbit 9, Greene 7 and King 4 2/3.

Junior Addie Grace Wilkes and eighth-grader Rhumer Brown round out the roster.

“We can hit with anyone and can score runs,” Coach Nesbit said. “We just need to clean up our defense and work on limiting our walks from within the circle and we will be fine. We made a run and good showing in the playoffs last year and this is the same team from last year but with a lot more experience.”

DILLON CHRISTIAN

Dillon County Council
Family Sports Center (843)774-3162

FIRST BANK Member FDIC
201 Hwy. 301 North
Dillon, SC 29536
Go Warriors!

First Citizens Bank Member FDIC
406 Hwy. 301 North
Dillon, SC
Go Warriors!

Mike Reaves Livestock, Inc.
P.O. Box 1117
Rowland, NC 28383
Dealer of Hogs and Cattle
Mike Reaves
Owner

HERALD OFFICE SOLUTIONS
800-922-3535
www.hosnet.net

DILLON INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES, PA
(843) 774-2478
1-800-476-3011
WWW.DILLONINTERNALMEDICINE.COM
Go Warriors!

DILLON South Carolina
401 W Main St, Dillon, SC 29536
843-774- 0040
Proudly Saluting the Warriors!

LEE ACADEMY

Bay Park Trucking Salutes the Cavs!
Jared's Ace Hardware (803) 484-5716

The Lee Academy Athletic Booster Club Salutes the Cavaliers!
Good Luck to All Athletes!

FTC ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050
Proud Supporter of Cavaliers Athletics!

JIA
Jeffords Insurance Agency
Auto • Home • Farm • Business • Life
(803)484-5462
Bishopville, SC 29010
(843)326-1487 (803)433-0060
Lamar, SC 29069 Manning, SC 29102
Go Cavaliers!

Danny Price
Owner
803-484-6932
price.donny51@yahoo.com

Bishopville Parts & Tire

204 Gregg Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
Full Auto & Tire Service

Proudly Saluting the Cavs!

The HSSR is looking for full-time marketing reps!
Call Publisher Billy Baker at
843-553-0264 or 843-200-9555



2026 Camden Bulldogs baseball

Camden baseball looking for strong finish in '26

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Camden – Denny Beckley just started his second quarter of a century as the baseball head coach at Camden High School. He is hoping things get better for the Bulldogs as they come out of spring break with the second half of the Region 3-AAAA schedule on the agenda.

Camden only won four of its first 15 games. On the bright side though, it was 3-3 in region play. “We have gotten off to a very rough start and are anxious to get back from our spring break this past week to finish the second half of our season strong,” said Beckley, whose first year as head coach was the 1999-2000 school year. He had a 355-334-3 record through his first 25 seasons.

“We have played a very tough schedule and have taken our lumps. Hopefully, our players and staff have learned from the difficulties we have experienced in the first half of this season and we can make the proper corrections to be peaking at the right time of the year going into the playoffs.”

The Bulldogs lost six seniors from last season’s 19-13 team that won a district tournament for the second consecutive season, which led to them playing in the upper state tournament.

Camden lost its top two pitchers to graduation in

Zechariah Haney and Cade Marturano. Also, rising junior Caiden McGriff died in an automobile accident on July 29, 2025. He was 7-3 last season as the trio combined for 17 of the Bulldogs’ 19 victories.

Camden returns four starters from last year, three of them 2-year starters in senior Thomas Bishop, senior catcher Mac Mellichamp and junior Brady Furniss. The other returning starter is junior starter and pitcher Clay Ridgeway.

Bishop was an All-Region selection last season and plays first base and third base along with pitching. He batted .376 with 33 runs batted in. Furniss was also All-Region pick last season. He batted .348 and scored 30 runs.

Senior Dalton Sharpe is back with the program after a 2-year absence. He pitches, catches and plays the outfield.

Sophomore Thorn Tucker is starting in center field, junior Maddux Dixon plays first and pitches, sophomore Cason Newman handles third and shortstop, senior Dustin Bixby is an outfielder, sophomore Maddox Freeman plays second and in the outfield, junior Edwards Graham is an outfielder and pitcher as is junior Matthew Small, and Matthew Lounsbury is a junior outfielder.

Senior third baseman/outfielder Hunter

Carvers Bay baseball looking to finish strong

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Hemingway – It has been one of those years for the Carvers Bay baseball team where anything that can go wrong has gone wrong then throw in the fact that five of their region opponents make up five of the ten spots in the HSSR Class A baseball poll and you have a recipe for a tough season.

Their ranked region opponents are number two Lake View, number 4 Latta, number 5 Green Sea Floyds, number 8 Hannah Pamlico, and number nine Johnsonville. Lake View, Latta and Johnsonville were all in the lower state championship finals last season.

The Bears dropped their first 16-games on the year but as they headed to spring break they picked up some momentum when they won their first game of the year beating Lamar 15-4. They have 8 games left after the break with several winnable games and the opportunity to build momentum for next season.

The Bears are led by junior Joe Waterman. The shortstop/ third baseman leads the hitting with a .375 average, hits with 15, runs score with 16, walks with 10, steals with 17 and he has the only round tripper for the Bears. He has been just as good de-

fensively as he has committed only five errors in 80 chances for a .938 fielding percentage.

Senior Clark Jones has been the team’s top pitcher and has thrown the ball well when he is on the bump. He has a 3.05 earned run average and has 49 K’s in 43 innings of work. For his career, he has 167 strikeouts in just 123 innings. He has had tough time at the plate but has scored 10 runs and driven in 7. He plays up the middle for the Bears and has been solid.

Myles Mathews, a junior, is second on the team in hitting at .289. He leads the team in RBI’s with 10, doubles with three and is second in hits with 10.

The Carvers Bay softball team is fighting for one of region 6A’s playoff spots. They are currently 3-7/2-6. They have a big region series with Johnsonville (3-11,2-2) that will go along to determining if they make the playoffs.

The Bears are led by Sydney Matthews. She is hitting .400 which leads the team. She also lead the team in hits with 12, runs with 11, and home runs with three.

Scottie Port is the only other Bear hitting .300 or better. She is second on the team in hits with 9 and runs scored with 8.

CAMDEN

The Chuck Nash Family Salutes the Bulldogs!

StateFarm (803) 432-9001

Camden Bulldog Club

Wishes All Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!

One Team, One Town, One Goal Proudly Saluting the Bulldogs Baseball & Track Teams

Zabransky fills out the roster.

CAMDEN SOFTBALL OPENS 3-3 IN REGION

Camden softball team was only 4-8 to start the season. However, the Bulldogs opened 3-3 in region play, which puts them firmly in position to garner a berth in the state playoffs.

Camden is fourth in the 7-team region. It has 2-game series remaining against second-place York and South Pointe and Richland Northeast, both of which are below it in the standings.

‘KK Washington was the team’s leading hitter with a .333 average and a team high 10 RBI. Dylana Pena was batting .310 with a team 10 high runs to go with three doubles, and one triple.

Emmie Oddie was batting .259 with eight RBI, Audri Phillips was hitting .241 and Rachel Martin was batting .222 with eight RBI.

Other members of the team are Haydin Williams, Kylie Brown, Lexi Peters, Kaitlyn Anderson, Emiri Haymore, Maddie Stokes, Mimi Byrum, Nia Brockington, Alyssa Faulkenberry, Maci Burris, Brylee Watkins, Jayden Kennedy and Emerson Johnson.

CARVERS BAY

Black Mingo Produce salutes Bears Athletics!

The Jimmy Jones Family Salutes Carvers Bay

Morris Crop Insurance salutes the Bears Athletics

WT Owens & Sons Grocery Salutes the Bears!

Carvers Bay High School

Wishes All Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!

Priority One Home Healthcare, Inc

655 Cheraw Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-479-2597

Payton Owens leads the team in RBI’s with 10 and doubles with three.

Ada Brooke Davis and Baylee Owens split time in the circle for the Bears. Owens is 1-5 and leads the team with 2.44 era. She has only given up 13 earned runs all year but has given up 23 walks while Davis is 2-2 with a 3.79 era. She also has given up only 13 earned runs all season.

Bamberg County Feature Page

Red Raiders baseball eyeing deep playoff run

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Bamberg – Baseball season is always a great time of year to be in Bamberg taking in a Red Raider baseball at legendary Dave Horton field and this season is no exception as head coach Gene Schwarting has a veteran squad returning with a solid pitching staff and a team that is hungry to make a deeper run in the playoffs.

The Red Raiders lost in the district 8 finals to Johnsonville.

The Red Raiders saw their 9-game winning streak end when they dropped back-to-back games to Class AA Saluda (11-5). The Red Raiders were averaging over 8 runs a game until they ran into the Tigers pitching staff.

After Spring Break, the Red Raiders will use several games against good competition to get ready for the playoffs.

The pitching staff are Dakota Black, Cooper Sandifer, Tripp Brewer, Chase Collins, Nasir Singleton, and Davis Ehrhardt.

“Our pitching should be our strength again this year with most of our pitchers returning from last year, so we will be still very young but they will have that experience and familiarity with each other,” coach Schwarting said.

The infield has Collins at first base, Black at second, Singleton at shortstop, Wade at third and behind the dish. Collins and Singleton are ninth graders.

Freshman catchers Asiel Graham and Ehrhardt. Graham will also see time a third for the Red Raiders.

Sandifer and Brewer our joined in the starting outfield by BJ Ayer. Each player will also play in the infield when needed.

Chaz Breland, Riley Caddell, Reese Caddell and Josh Jennings will help anchor the outfield.

The Red Raider softball team is off to a good start at 13-3. They are currently ranked 4th in the HSSR class A softball poll. The team has shown the ability to win low scoring games as well as games where they need to score more runs. They are on a six-game winning streak and look to be one of the favorites in the lower state. Their season ended in the district 8 finals last season.

The boys soccer team is currently 10-2 and are third in the region at 2-2. They should earn one of the regions playoffs spots.

NEELEY APPLIANCE COMPANY

4787 Carolina Hwy. - Denmark, SC 29042
803-793-3367 - 803-793-1628 (fax)
Website: www.NeeleyApplianceCompany.com

Denmark-Olar tracksters getting ready for region

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Denmark – The Denmark-Olar track and field has been getting ready for the upcoming region schedule, region meet and the lower state meet by competing in the Aiken meet 1 and the Marwin Kline Invitational with several Vikings made good showing.

The girls team is led by several seniors in Aveyanna Bryant, Kimorah Hammond, Addyson Hudson, Kelajjah Lovett, Malaysia Shuler, Shanya Washington and Quinasia Wroten.

Wroten and Hammond run the 100 meters as well as the 4x100 relay. Hammond also runs the 100 meter hurdles and had a top ten finish at the Marwin Kline invitational.

Shuler and Lovett head up the field events with Shuler in the long jump and Lovett in the disc’s.

Juniors Promise Haigler, Joy Johnson, Adele Hudson, MaKenzie English, and ReGinae Youmans had solid meets. Johnson had the top finish at the Marwin Kline with a third place in the high jump. She had a jump of 1.42 meters.

Also competing in the track events were Hudson (LJ), English (LJ), and Youmans (D) while Haigler ran the 400 meters.

The sophomore class is led by Leah Brown, Jasmine Cook, Sharay Housey, and Makhia Jones.

Brown and Cook put the shot while Housey is a high jumper and runs the 400 meters and Jones runs the 100 meters. Housey had a top ten finish in the 400.

The freshman class is led Londyn James, who runs the 400 meters.

The boys track and field is very young with only three seniors Joshua Tackett, William Ross, and Kenu Moody. Tackett runs the 110 and 400 hurdles and had a top ten finish in the 110 hurdles.

Ross is a high and triple jumper. He finished in the top five on the triple jump with a hop, skip and jump of 12.74 meters.

Juniors Armani McMillian, Charles Sanford, and Dilan Hammond participate in the field events with McMillian a long jumper and Javelin while Hammond’s also throw the Javelin and puts the shot. Hammond had a top 15 finish at the Marwin Kline Invitational.

Sanford runs the 800 meters. Leading the sophomore class are Christian Rivera, Jameri McMillian, Toddrick Funches, and Markel Rivera. Jameri runs the 100 and the 4x100 relay while Christian Rivera runs the 400 and the 4x400 relay. Rivera had a top 15 finish in the 400 at the Marwin Kline.

Markel and Funches are in the field events with Markel throwing the javelin and Funches throws the discus.

Cayden Exum and Ken Vontay Strong run the

BAMBERG-EHRHARDT

P.O. Box 8
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
803.267.3191

“Saluting All Area Schools!”

“We want you to be part of our family.”

Water • Wastewater • Electric • Natural Gas

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

2340 Main Highway
803.245.7397

BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

All Hands Supporting Education

3830 Faust St., Bamberg, SC (803) 245-3053
Dottie Brown, Superintendent

Go Red Raiders!

PALMETTO CARE CONNECTIONS™

technology. broadband. telehealth.

Improving access to health care in rural/underserved communities in SC

www.palmettocareconnections.org

The Bamberg-Ehrhardt High School Athletic Booster Club Salutes All Red Raiders Athletes!

Courtesy: BEHS Athletic Booster Club

DENMARK-OLAR

BAMBERG SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

All Hands Supporting Education

3830 Faust St., Bamberg, SC (803) 245-3053
Dottie Brown, Superintendent

Good Luck Vikings!

LSG

Lower State Gas Company

Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!

803-793-3558

138 City Hall St. Denmark, SC 29042
www.lowerstategas.com

COOLER

REAL ESTATE APPRAISALS, LLC

(803) 664-6520
www.coolerappraisals.com
Land, Residential & Commercial

Marie Lyn's

Greenleaf Design, LLC

(803) 245-4326
Florist
Flowers for all of your needs!

101 Calhoun St
Bamberg, SC 29003

hurdles for the Vikings with Strong also competing in the triple jump. He had a top ten finish at the Marwin Kline.

The HSSR is looking for full-time marketing reps!

Call Publisher Billy Baker

at 843-553-0264 or 843-200-9555



2026 Manning Monarchs softball

Manning softball opens with a 7-2 record

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – The Manning High School softball team is off to one of its best starts in years. The Monarchs took a 7-2 overall record and a 4-2 mark in Region 7-AA into spring break.

Manning head coach **Catherine Mahoney** is still looking for marked improvement from her team though.

“We aren’t where we need to be, but we’re getting there,” Mahoney said. “We are young. We only have 11 girls on varsity, and out of those only two are seniors. The rest are eighth- through 10th-graders.”

Manning owns a win over **Lakewood** and two wins over **Lake Marion** in non-region contests. The Monarchs faced defending AA state champion **East Clarendon** in its first two region contests and took it on the chin. They lost by the scores of 12-0 and 20-2. Manning followed that up with sweeps of **Kingstree** and **Mullins** in region series. It beat Kingstree 14-1 and 15-1 and blasted Mullins 25-5 in the first game.

The Monarchs scored the 25 runs on just eight hits, drawing 16 walks while being hit by pitches six times. **Tara Billups** homered and had six runs batted in while scoring three times. **Shayden Epps** added two hits and four RBI. **Unique Calhoun** had three RBI while **Anna Barrett** and **Ja’Nya Canty** each drove in two.

Epps scored four runs, while Billups Barrett and **Summer York** each scored three times. **Dakota Lambert**, **Madisyn Schraeder**, **Reese Jenkinson** and **Calhoun** all scored twice, and **Ma’Kayla Fordham** and **Canty** both scored a run.

Epps earned the win in the circle, allowing five runs on nine hits and two walks while striking out eight.

“We are playing as expected most games, but as we enter the heart of our season they are going to have to pick it up as we facing some very talented teams,” Mahoney said. “We have to get the small things correct, like hitting the cuts and making the play.”

MANNING BASEBALL 5-10, 2-4

The Manning baseball team had itself in a position to earn a berth in the state playoffs coming out of spring break. However, the Monarchs have to make sure they take care of some business the rest of the way.

Manning was 5-10 overall and 2-4 in region play with six region contests remaining. The top five teams from the 7-team Region 7 are assured of berths in the playoffs.

Manning was in fifth with the 2-4 record, ahead of both Kingstree and Mullins with 1-7 records. That might look good except for one thing: the Monarchs split both of their 2-game series with Kingstree and Mullins.

With Kingstree and Mullins still having to play one another, if one of them sweeps the two games and Manning is unable to win any of its final six region contests, it would find itself on the outside looking in when it comes to the playoffs.

The Monarchs opened their region schedule with losses to East Clarendon by the count of 15-0 and 20-0. They then lost their next game to Kingstree 17-4 before rebounding with a 6-5 triumph to earn the split.

Manning took an 11-1 defeat at the hands of Mullins in the first game of that series. The Monarchs eked out another 1-run victory in the second contest, this one by a 15-14 score.

Manning’s final three region series are against teams ahead of it in the standings. They were to open with 5=0 Atlantic Collegiate after the break, traveling to **Conway** on April 14 and playing host to the **Armada** on April 17.

The following week the Monarchs take on fourth-place Marion, which was 4-2. They are scheduled to play host to the **Swamp Foxes** on April 21 and visit on April 24.

The final series comes against **Lake City**. Manning is at home on April 28 before making the trek to Lake City on May 1.

Kingstree and Mullins are scheduled to play their two games on consecutive days, April 21 in Mullins and April 22 in Kingstree.

Manning has two wins against Scott’s Branch by the scores of 15-0 and 17-11, respectively. Its fifth win was a 9-8 triumph over **Lee Central**.

CJ Robinson was the Monarchs’ leading hitter with a .448 batting average. He had a triple and a home runs and led the team in runs batted in with eight and was tied for the lead in runs scored with 12.

Isaiah Baxter was batting .364 and had also scored 12 times. He had a double and two triples. **Lovell Stevenson** was the biggest power source with five of his nine hits going for extra bases with two doubles, two triples and a homer. He had seven RBI.

MAC
Manning Athletic Club, LLC
Supporting All Manning Athletics!

Dwight Stewart & Associates
26 E. Boyce Street (803) 435-2301
Manning, SC 29102 Go Monarchs!

Anderson Pharmacy
419 S. Mill St., Manning SC 29102
803-433-2212

Clarendon School District II
Joins The Manning High Athletic Department
In Saluting All Our Hard Working
Student Athletes & Coaches
In All Of Their Pursuits Towards
Excellence During the 2022-23 School Year!

Courtesy Dr. Shawn Johnson,
Supt. Clarendon Schools District II &
Reggie Kennedy,
Head Football Coach & Athletic Director
Manning High School

JIA (803)484-5462
Bishopville, SC 29010
Jeffords Insurance Agency (843)326-1487 (803)433-0060
Auto - Home - Farm - Business - Life Lamar, SC 29069 Manning, SC 29102
Go Monarchs!

CLARENDON COUNTY
The Clarendon County Council
Proudly Salutes The Hard Work of
All Our Student Athletes During
the 2024-2025 School Year at
Clarendon Hall, Scott's Branch,
East Clarendon, Laurence Manning
and Manning High Schools!

John E. Johnson, III CHAIRMAN
Billy G. Richardson District 1
William J. Frierson, Sr District 2

Kurtis W. Rodine District 2
John P. Coker VICE-CHAIRMAN - District 3

Lynden Anthony
County Administrator

Will Miles was batting .250 with eight runs,
Amarion Watts had scored nine runs and **Layton David** had also homered.

Robinson also led Manning in stolen bases with
See Manning, pg. 63

Wilson Hall softball out to strong start in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Sumter – The Wilson Hall softball team was 13-4 on the season and 2-0 in SCISA Region 3-AAAA after playing in the **Ripken Experience** in Myrtle Beach over spring break. One of those region victories came against 2-time defending state champion and archrival **Laurence Manning Academy** by an 11-5 count.

The Barons have played a strong schedule and head coach **Teresa Alexander** thinks that will benefit her young squad come time for the AAAA state tournament in the middle of May.

“We have played a very difficult schedule and faced in at least five games a future (NCAA) Division I pitcher, which I believe is a direct reflection of our batting averages being a little under what many of our girls generally have,” Alexander said. “I am really proud of how our team accepted this challenge and grew from these games, even the losses.”

Freshman **Marsha Kate Skey** has been a stand-out in the circle. She had 78 strikeouts and a 1.55 earned run average after Wilson Hall went 4-0 in the Ripken Experience.

Freshman rightfielder **Anna Meldrim** was the leading hitter with a .413 batting average. Sophomore third baseman **Lilly Grace Przybyla** was also over .400 at .405.

Junior catcher **Caroline Moorman** and Skey aren’t far behind with averages of .395 and .391, respectively. Senior leftfielder **Addie Griffin** was hitting .368, and freshman second baseman **Tatiana Erichsen** was at .341.

Alexander offered nothing but praise for Griffin, one of two seniors on the roster
“I’ve gotten excellent leadership, defense, and batting from returning senior **Addie Griffin**,” she said.

Sophomore shortstop **Mary Paisley Geddings** was at .277, freshman outfielder **Emmie Williamson** was at .273 and eighth-grader centerfielder **Caroline Andrews** was at .262.

Sharing time at first base at senior **Marymae Lampron** and junior **Jenna Green**. Junior **Madelynn Davis** also sees time in the outfield.

BASEBALL TEAM STARTS 5-6

The Wilson Hall baseball team had a 5-6 overall record prior to spring break and was 4-4 in region play. Head coach **Adam Jarecki** has no issues with the Barons’ performance.

“I’ve been pretty pleased so far because we are competing each game,” he said.

In region play, Wilson Hall swept Laurence Manning and **Trinity Collegiate** in the 2-game series but were swept by defending state champion **Hilton Head Christian Academy** and **John Paul II**.

Benson Elmore and **Owen Barkley** have been the top pitchers, according to Jarecki. Barkley and **Cameron Wilsey** are the leading hitters.

“**Henry Giles**, **Michael Hunter**, **Cooper Hill** and **Peyton Gilley** have done well for us both at the plate and defensively,” Jarecki said.

The Barons close out region play with a 2-game series against **Camden Military** on April 14 and April 16.

WILSON HALL
Brown's Furniture & Bedding (803) 774-2100
Leo's Chicken Wings (803) 847-6456
Sambino's European Bistro - 803-607-9320
Ard's Appliance Sales & Service - 773-2737

**The Wilson Hall
Booster Club
Salutes the Barons!**

**ONE
STOP.
FIVE
STARS.**

ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050

**Wilder Brothers
Williamsburg House**
EST. 1938
(843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

*“The Best
Furniture
Prices in the
State!”*

HEATHWOOD HALL
HABC congratulates our
Heathwood Hall Varsity Football players
and coaches on an outstanding season.

*Go Hill #55! Go Heyward #7! The Belsers
Proudly Saluting Nicholson Deese - Your Parents
Proudly Saluting Patrick Belk! Love, Mom!
Go Highlanders! From the Morris Family
Proudly Saluting Jackson Noble #4*

**Proudly Saluting
Chip Ravenell #0
#HHES Lifer**

*Congratulations Jack Willcox
and your outstanding running
accomplishments!
5-Time SCISA Individual State Champ*

**You win when you
choose our team**
**PRISMA
HEALTH.**

Simpson
HARDWARE & SPORTS
ShopSimpsons.com

Proudly
Saluting
the Barons!

AssuredPartners
803-469-3030

Good luck to the
Wilson Hall Barons

Heathwood Hall baseball and softball building

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer

Columbia - The **Heathwood Hall** baseball team had its share of struggles last season, finishing 1-9 and 0-5 in SCISA Region 1-4A.

This spring the Highlanders (5-5, 1-3) look more mature, principally from the efforts of three seniors, **Charles Morrow**, **Cooper Ziegler** and **Jay Nelson**. “We’re a little bit better than we have been in the past,” head coach and former **University of South Carolina** baseball standout and MLB alum **Brian Buscher** said. “They’ve been in the program for the past three years and have gained a lot of experience on the mound. They’ve just been there and done that.”

Buscher credits the three players’ development as pitchers as the biggest improvement of the team.

“They’re throwing more strikes and trust more in their defenses, and we’ve been playing good defense behind them,” Buscher said.

Morrow leads the team in hitting, with **Hampton DuBose** having a high average as well as leading the team in stolen bases, which helps put pressure on opposing defenses, Buscher said. Ziegler and Nelson have also had good plate appearances as well.

One notable game was the Highlander’s 5-4 walk-off win over **Ben Lippen** March 31. Down 2-0 after the top of the fifth inning, Heathwood Hall scored three runs in the bottom of that frame to take a 3-2 lead.

Nelson led off the inning getting hit by a pitch and **Peyton Souter** drove a walk. Later with two outs, **Walker Grove** singled in Nelson and Morrow’s double scored Souter and Grove.

Ben Lippen took a 4-3 lead in the top of the sev-

enth, but in dramatic fashion, Grove and Morrow started the rally with 2-out, back-to-back singles for Nelson. Nelson reached base on an error that scored Grove for the tying run, and **Coles Brown**’s single drove in Morrow to clinch the win.

The Falcons beat the Highlanders 7-5 two days later, but with the conclusion of Spring Break Heathwood Hall finds itself in a position to play for a postseason run.

The Highlanders played **Augusta Christian** in a doubleheader this week, and take on **Cardinal Newman** twice next week.

“I think we’re a game or two out for now,” Buscher said. “But hopefully we can make a move.”

The Highlanders softball team (6-2, 2-0) has already improved over last year’s 1-7 effort. Heathwood Hall’s only two losses on the year came at the hands of 5A power **Blythewood** in back-to-back games before Spring Break.

Heathwood, atop the region standings with back-to-back wins over Hammond, faces a big test beginning this week. The Highlanders take on region rival **Cardinal Newman** twice next week, followed by **Augusta Christian** the week after.

Frances Laughlin leads the team in batting average with a .615 mark. **Mamie Biel** is batting .591 with three home runs—the team’s only home runs—and 12 RBI. She also has six stolen bases and a .677 on-base percentage.

Salley Humphries and **Finley Buscher** have owned the circle for the Highlanders. Humphries, 3-1, has a 3.99 ERA with 32 strikeouts in eight appearances. Buscher, also 3-1, has a 4.02 ERA with 12 strikeouts in five appearances.

Montgomery sees progress in Kingstree baseball

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Kingstree – The Kingstree High School baseball team was 3-9 on the season and 1-7 in Region 7-AA. While not outstanding numbers, Blazers head coach **Leonard Montgomery** believes his team is making improvement.

“So far this season, we are continuing to develop and improve,” said Montgomery, who is in his second year as head coach. “We basically have a new team that we are continuing to teach. We’re not at the coaching level just yet. We will show up and compete in most games.”

Kingstree is batting just .172 as a team. **Jamaree Mitchell** was leading the way with a .400 batting average. He had a double and a triple, eight runs scored and six runs batted in.

Chase McCrea also had six Rbi while leading the team with 14 runs. Ha e was batting .278. **Lazarus Moyd** was leading in RBI with 10 and had nine runs while batting .200.

Dylan McKnight was batting .214 with a triple and seven runs.

When Kingstree has gotten on base, it has had success on the basepaths. They had 118 with McKnight leading the way with 17. McCrea had 16, Mitchell 13, Moyd 11 and Paul McKnight 10.

Jermere Green and Moyd have pitched the most innings. Green had worked 10 2/3 innings and had 22 strikeouts to go with a 7.87 earned run average. Moyd had worked 10 1/3 innings and had two of the victories.

Seventh-grader **Conner Darden** had a 5.25 ERA in 6 2/3 innings.

“Overall, I feel the team is progressing well and working toward being good,” Montgomery said.

“We are still growing in certain areas, but the effort and attitude have been strong mostly, and we expect to continue improving as the season goes on.”

The Blazers were set to play Mullins, which was also 1-7 in the region, in a 2-game series coming out o spring break. A sweep is likely needed to afford them an opportunity at a berth in the AA state play-offs. Their final series is against regon unbeaten **Atlantic Collegiate Academy**.

KINGSTREE SOFTBALL WINLESS IN REGION

The Kingstree softball team has faced its struggles as well. The Blazers were 1-10 overall and 0-8 in region contests.

Kingstree’s lone win came against fellow **Williamsburg County** school **Hemingway** by a 20-6 count. The Blazers were scheduled to play Hemingway again on April 15.

Kingstree had 2-game series left with **Mullins** and **Atlantic Collegiate**.

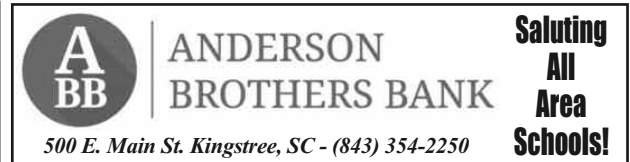
Senior **Demia Mosley** was leading the team in hitting with a .250 average and was tied for the lead in runs with seven. Senior **Elisha Singletary** and seventh-grader **Denaia Mosley** were both hitting .231. Singletary had a double and Mosley had a team high five RBI.

Eighth-grader **Narajai Brown** led the way in stolen bases with 12 while Demaia Moseley had 11. Singletary and Denaia Mosley had nine steals apiece.

Singletary had worked the most innings at pitcher with 14 1/3. Sophomore **Isabel Chandler** had six, junior **Riley McClam** 4 1/3 and freshman **Chloe Pressley** three.



Nutrien
Ag Solutions



ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
Saluting All Area Schools!
500 E. Main St. Kingstree, SC - (843) 354-2250

Chesterfield diamond teams look to finish strong

BY David Shelton
Senior Writer

Chesterfield – With spring break out of the way, the focus of the baseball and softball teams at **Chesterfield High** turns to the remainder of the 2026 season.

Both teams hit mid-April with a goal to win the region 4-A championship and earn a berth in the Class AA state playoffs. Both teams have several remaining region games on the end of season schedule and those outcomes will decide playoff positioning.

Coming out of spring break, the softball team sits at 6-6 overall and is 1-1 in region play. Coach **Graham Harpe** sees the potential in his team to make a good run at the end, He feels the Rams are solid defensively and inside the circle but is hoping for better results offensively.

Juniors **Jamison Miles** and **Baylie Harpe** have led the team offensively in the early going. Miles is hitting .455 with two homers and 14 RBI while Harpe is at .452 with 12 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 .400 with 13 RBI and freshman shortstop **Sydney Sowell** is hitting .333 with 10 RBI.

Senior **Gabi Rhyne** is hitting .308 and can play third or right field defensively. Sophomore outfielder **Trinity Trexler** is hitting .407 and also has seen work as a pitcher.

The No. 1 pitcher this season is freshman **Ashton Cassidy**, who has tossed nearly 50 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 is 11-7 overall and 4-2 in region play as of April 12. **Sawyer Blevins** leads the team in hitting with a .480 batting average, driving in 11 runs to date. **Levi Sullivan** is hitting .333 with 11 RBI and **Sky Courtney** is hitting .310 with 11 RBI.

Avery Keith batted .333 with 11 RBI prior to spring break and **Bryce Adams** is hitting .281.

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 1.91 ERA in 25 innings of work on the bump.

KINGSTREE

Big G Hardware (843) 426-5355

Williamsburg Chiropractic and Wellness Center
 DR. KEVIN A. MORRIS

Phone: 843-355-5131 303 East Main St.
 Fax: 843-355-5137 Kingstree, S.C. 29556

TOWN OF GREELEYVILLE
MAYOR

Jesse Parker
 Office 843.426.2111 | Cell 843.372.0382
 Office: jparkertog@tog.sc.gov
 P.O. Box 212
 3 Toby Place
 Greeleyville, SC 29056

MISHOE OIL & PROPANE CO., INC.
 K-1 Kerosene • Diesel • Gasoline • Propane 843-426-2600
 PO Box 296
 Greeleyville
 SC 29056

Ronnie A. Sabb
 SC State Senator
 Proud to be Representing District 32!
 RonnieSabb@schouse.gov (803) 212-6926

209 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave, Kingstree, SC 29556
Bank of Greeleyville
 Saluting the Stallions! Member FDIC

Santee Grocery
 21 Mackey Road Salters, SC 29590
 (843) 426-2478 “Best Hot Dogs in SC!”
 Saluting All Area Schools

Randy's Diesel Performance
 158 N. Main Street
 Greeleyville, SC 29056
 843-426-4455

WILDER BROTHERS WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
 EST. 1938
 “The Best Furniture Prices in the State!”
 (843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

CHESTERFIELD

Saluting all Area Schools!
First Citizens Bank
 403 W Main Street, Chesterfield, SC (803) 623-2127
 Financial Sales Manager: Mike Caskey (843) 623-9277
 David Durham, SVP Manager of Retail Banking, Pee Dee Market

Spencer Law Firm William O. Spencer, Jr.
 Attorney at Law
 301 W. Main St. Ph: 843-623-2144
 Post Office Box 190 Real Estate: 843-623-3879
 Chesterfield, SC 29709 Fax: 843-623-6928
 spencerlaw@shtc.net

The Chesterfield High School Athletic Dept. Salutes All Players and Coaches During the 2023-24 School Year!

COCKRELL LAW FIRM, P.C.
 Olde Towne Centre Barrister Building
 159 Main Street
 Chesterfield, SC 29709
 Phone: (843) 623-5911
 Email: mwc@cockrelllawfirm.com

East Clarendon softball facing tough schedule

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Turbeville – To say the **East Clarendon High School** softball team has played a brutal non-region schedule might be the slightest bit of an understatement.

The defending AA state champion has taken on undefeated AAAAA power **West Florence** and its dominating pitcher **Annie Ruth Eliason**, AAAAA **Berkeley**, defending SCISA AAAAA state champion **Laurence Manning Academy**, defending SCISA AAA champion **Pee Dee Academy** and perennial Class A powers **Hannah-Pamplico** and **Latta**.

That, however, is the way Wolverines head coach **Jason Newsome** likes it.

“Those teams all have strong pitching, which is why we play them,” said Newsome, whose team was 11-6 on the season and 6-0 in Region 7 coming out of spring break. “We’ve been a little inconsistent so far, playing very well at times and poorly at other times. We were playing better heading into spring break. Hopefully that gives us something to build on moving forward.”

“The inconsistency resulted from a list of nagging injuries that we hope will heal up as the season winds down and the quality of our opponents. When we haven’t played well, as good teams do, they’ve taken advantage of our mistakes. We lost a game or two earlier in the season that we’d like to have back; but we believe the quality of our schedule will ultimately have us well prepared for the playoffs.”

East Clarendon returns eight starters from last season. The one that was lost though was pitcher **Laiklyn Gaskins**.

Rylee Atkinson has been the primary pitcher this season, even though **Layke Jeffords** and **Braelynn Locklear** have seen their fair share of time in the circle.

The Wolverines have a pretty steady lineup and batting order. **Bailey Hicks** is the shortstop and bats leadoff followed by centerfielder **Karleigh Miller** in

Eagles have first baseball team since 2019

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Summerton – The **Scott’s Branch High School** baseball team was winless in eight games coming out of spring break. The Eagles were outscored 143-16, but you know what? That’s OK.

Why, you ask? Because **Scott’s Branch** is fielding its first baseball team since 2019. That has head coach **Randy Bass** keeping things in perspective.

“As far as the season, we have played just a little below where I was hoping we would be, but par for the course since we have the first baseball team since 2019,” Bass said. “We have a team bursting with talent. Our problem is we have to play catch-up as a coaching staff teaching fundamentals, as youth baseball in **Summerton** stops around the age of 10.

“We have a young team that is progressing greatly, and I am proud to be at Scott’s Branch with great kids and a great coaching staff!”
 The Eagles’ best performance came in a 16-11 loss to **Clarendon County** rival **Manning**. Bass is already focused on the 2027 season, as one might expect. Scott’s Branch is set to have the entire roster returning except for **Zymire Coard**.

Bass said sophomore shortstop/starting pitcher **Ramon Cruz**, sophomore first baseman and closer **Sa’Nye Hilton** and freshman catcher **Kaleb Minger** have been the top performers.

“All of these guys have the potential to be Power

the 2 hole and first baseman **Zoey Culick** at No. 3. Catcher **Payton Hanniford** is the cleanup hitter with Jeffords, who plays third base, batting fifth and leftfielder **Addison Fleming** hitting sixth. The order is rounded out by designated player **Megan Brown** hitting seventh, second baseman **Caylen McKenzie** eighth and rightfielder **Chloe Goff** ninth.

East Clarendon was hitting .372 as a team with 69 stolen bases and an on-base/slugging percentage of .984. It had a team earned run average of 2.97.

Those numbers are comparable to where the Wolverines were at this point last season, according to Newsome. The caveat?

“That said, we’ve faced much stronger pitching and competition at this point this year than at this point last year,” he said.

EC BASEBALL UNDEFEATED IN REGION

The East Clarendon baseball was off to a 12-5 overall start and was 6-0 in region play. The Wolverines were setting up for a likely showdown with **Atlantic Collegiate Academy** for the region title. ACA is also unbeaten.

East Clarendon was hitting .372 as a team with five starters at .400 or better. Junior **Evan Lee** had a team high .478 average and 22 runs scored with three doubles and three triples. Junior **Braylon Hunt** was hitting .462, senior **Wes Springs** was at .442 with a team high 16 runs batted in, junior **Crosby Timmons** was at .429 with 14 RBI, and senior **Barnes McConnell** was at .400.

Junior **Colten Baker** was hitting .333 and junior **Cade Mooneyham** was at .316.

Pitching-wise, sophomore **Heath Jordan** had a 4-0 win-loss record with a 1.48 ERA in a team high 23 2/3 innings. Sophomore **Gavin White** was 2-2 with a 3.15 ERA in 20 innings, and freshman **Easton Donlon** was 1-1 with a 1.53 ERA in 18 1/3 innings.

5 (college) players with a little more polishing” Bass said. “I look forward to seeing how they can help the team finish the season and how they turn it on next year and progress.”

EAGLES TRACK ATHLETES HAVE GOOD PERFORMANCES

Performers for both of the Scott’s Branch track and field teams have had strong performances in the early portion of the season.

For the girls team, **Jernee Ford** has finished in first place in both the shot put and the discus on two occasions. **Maxfield Traonha** won the long jump in a meet.

Those who have second-place finishes in an event are **RaKy York** in the 400-meter dash, **Taraji Logan** in the 400 hurdles, and **Azari Taylor** in the long jump.

Montrell Session has been a standout for the boys team. He had two first-place finishes in the long jump along with a second-place finish. Session also finished second in the 400 in one event.

Quinten Jackson also won the 200 dash in an event. **Nazaiah Richardson** has finished second in both the 200 and the javelin. **Fra’Jon Bennett** finished second in the 400 and **Matthew Perry** finished second in the 400 hurdles.

EAST CLARENDON

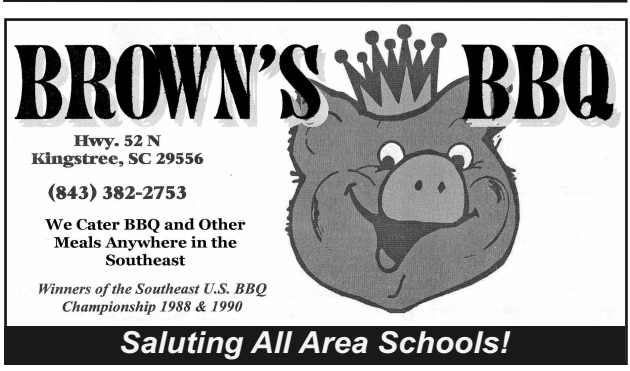
Mishoe Oil Company - Go Wolverines!

Eddie’s Pecans
 843-373-8179
 The Best Around! Shelling Services Available!

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119
THE CITIZENS BANK
 Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.
 www.tcbank.com Member FDIC



Nutrien
Ag Solutions™
Jamie F. Brown
 Facility Manager
 Agronomic Products / Services
 PO Box 554 t 843-382-3661
 1861 Eastland Ave. f 843-382-3662
 Kingstree, SC 29556 c 843-687-2498
 jamie.brown@nutrien.com
 nutrienagsolutions.com



BROWN'S BBQ
 Hwy. 52 N
 Kingstree, SC 29556
 (843) 382-2753
 We Cater BBQ and Other Meals Anywhere in the Southeast
 Winners of the Southeast U.S. BBQ Championship 1988 & 1990
 Saluting All Area Schools!

Charles Dorn Smith, III MD
 Salutes East Clarendon High School

SCOTT’S BRANCH

The Clarendon County School District is Proud to Sponsor Year-Round Coverage to All Our Hard Working Student Athletes at Manning High, Scott’s Branch High and East Clarendon High. Good Luck During the 2025-26 School Year. Courtesy Superintendent



Shawn Johnson and Clarendon County School District Athletic Director Reggie Kennedy

Gaffney baseball focused on consistency

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Gaffney—The Gaffney High baseball team is coming out of Spring break (7-9, 3-4) focused on more team consistency as they prepare to play the final 9 regular season games on their 2026 schedule.

“Our second half of the season is going to be a challenge,” said head coach **Jeff Mages**. “**Byrnes, Dorman, Boiling Springs**, and non-region **Clinton** are going to be quality opponents we still must play. I would like to see us take at least five of our last 9 regular season games.”

Going into Spring break, Gaffney’s top four hitters were senior co-captain **Brady Smith** at .364 and he has been a catcher on the team for five seasons now. The team’s other co-captain is two-time senior all-region left-fielder **Jace Braddbury** who is batting for 436 with three doubles and a home run. Senior third baseman **Brody Bright** is at (.318) with four RBI’s and shortstop **Sam Smith** is hitting 304 with 9 RBI’s.

Braddbury, among the most versatile players on the team, has signed up to play at **Catawba Valley Community College** in North Carolina next season.

The Indians top pitcher has been **Tucker Whelchel**. “Tucker has really stepped up his game,” said Coach Mages. “He has a 1.20 ERA with 22 strikeouts and only five walks.

“To compete at our best, we need to play consistent

for all seven innings,” said Coach Mages. “Too often we miss opportunities to put team’s away, or rally back by leaving too many runners in scoring position.”

Senior right fielder **Sam Carroll** is hitting over .300 with a team leading four doubles coming out of the break.

In the teams latest 3-2 win over **York** on March, 30 Smith led the Indians at the plate with three hits and one RBI. Senior second baseman **Gage McDaniel** had a hit and two stolen bases to contribute to the win. Bright and Braddbury also had a hit.

Against York, Whelchel pitched a complete seven inning game recording seven strikeouts and walking only one batter.

Dallas Turner leads the team in RBI’s with 11. Senior **Ethan Harvey** is the Indians starting first baseman and he is batting around .250 with three doubles, four RBI’s and a home run. Harvey has also worked 14.2 innings on the mound with 10 strikeouts and a 3.34 ERA.

Other key reserves on the team include utility infielder **Jackson Harris**, senior back-up first baseman and relief pitcher **Seth Phillips** along with junior outfielder **Jaedon Paulino**, back-up catcher **Bryson Johnson**, and junior outfielder/pitcher **Trevor Smith**. Junior **Jaxon Peeler** is a pitcher who has worked five innings with five strikeouts.

Coach Mages is assisted by **Colby Crow**, **Camron Farley**, and **Brandon Jefferies**.

Gaffney softball focused on making playoff push

From Staff Reports
Gaffney—**Gaffney High** head softball coach **Madie Pruitt** had her “baby boy” early, and we congratulate her on that wonderful achievement, so assistant **Brooke Perry** will be filling in for a while with the softball team.

Going into Spring break the Lady Indians were (5-12, 3-5) and focused on working hard for a playoff berth in the upcoming playoffs.

The team is being led at the plate by freshman third baseman **Maysen Byars** who has a .385 average with two RBI’s and four stolen bases. Sophomore first baseman **Kalee Church** is batting .333 with two RBI’s and a double. Sophomore catcher **Kayden Morris** is also batting .333 with one double and one RBI.

Freshman center fielder **Miya Calhoun** has contributed one home run and two stolen bases while 7th grade outfielder **Zylie Sarratt** has played well in the outfield.

White Knoll baseball eyeing postseason in 2026

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Lexington -

White Knoll’s baseball team continues to be a work in progress, with a stress on ‘progress.’ After a dismal 2025 season when the Timberwolves finished 7-22 and were 0-10 in Region 4-5A with a roster that lacked baseball experience, this year’s roster has a blend of older and younger players that are more experienced.

“We’ve kind of figured out how to play a little bit,” second-year head coach **Dolan Crolley** said. We hit better, we play defense better, but offensively we’ve improved a lot.”

At 7-8 overall and 4-2 in the region, White Knoll’s record shows that improvement. The Timberwolves have already won as many games as they did last year, plus they posted two wins apiece against region foes **Dutch Fork** and **Irmo**. Both region losses came at the hand of region leader **River Bluff**.

“River Bluff was one of our off weeks,” Crolley said about a 9-6 loss March 17 and a 9-0 loss March 19 to the Gators. “I think we did a good job hitting wise but they’re a great hitting team. We did a good job of keeping them at bay offensively. We then

played (defending 5A Division 1 state champion) **James Island** tough but we couldn’t scratch up enough runs.”

The Timberwolves then reeled off five wins over the next six games, including the wins over **Dutch Fork** and **Irmo**, to go into Spring Break on a high note. White Knoll went to a tournament in Orlando over the break, but both of its scheduled games were rained out.

“I’ve always wanted to bring a team to Florida. We kind of got screwed from the weather, but we found a hitting facility,” Crolley said. “I’ve had a lot of compliments about the guys, how well-mannered they’ve been. I’ve got a good group. They’ve put in a lot of work and they know what to expect.”

The Timberwolves got back to business with two games against 2024 5A Division 1 champion **Lexington** this week.

Leading White Knoll on the mound has been junior No.1 starter **Denzel Posey**, who is -31 with a 2.33 earned-run average in 24 innings. Behind Posey are juniors **Drew Shealy** (1-1, 3.00 ERA) and **Randy Gunter** (0-1, 3.94 ERA).

Posey also posts a .395 batting average with a home run and 10 RBI. Senior **Dillon Woods** leads the team at the plate with a .429 average, two

GAFFNEY



Proud Supporter of the Indians!


se123 Twin Acres Road Gaffney, SC
864-444-2434



The Gaffney Football Booster Club Salutes the Indians!



Gaffney High School Proudly Salutes Indians Athletics!



The Gaffney Softball Booster Club Salutes the Indians! Go Diamond Tribe!

*The Dennis Sentelle Family - Go Indians!
 Dace, Korbyn, Abigail & Judd - Proud to be Indians!
 Tina Frye Salutes the Gaffney Indians!*




BWO CONTRACTING, INC.
 GAFFNEY, SOUTH CAROLINA
 General Contracting & Concrete Construction

P.O. Box 65 Gaffney, SC 29342
864-303-7980 Go Indians!

ern on the 15th. They are at Byrnes, Riverside and Spartanburg for three games in a row on April, 17, 21, and 23rd. They host Dorman on April, 24, travel to Wade Hampton on the 28th and then conclude the regular season

WHITE KNOLL



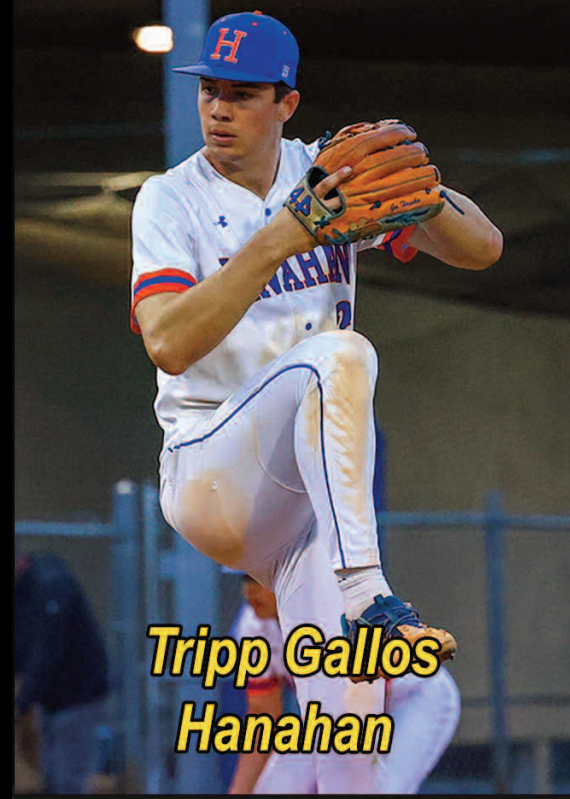
White Knoll High School
 5643 Platt Springs Rd, Lexington, SC

Principal Nicholas Pearson and Athletic Director Shane Fiddler join the WKHS Athletic Booster Club in Wishing the Best of Luck to the Timberwolves! Be the Best You Can Be!

homers and 12 RBI. Senior **Jean Maldonado** has a .357 percentage with 13 runs batted in. Juniors **Tra Johnson** (.356) and **Chase Chavis** (.324) also provide a boost in the lineup. Unlike last season when the team’s biggest goal

See **White Knoll**, pg. 63

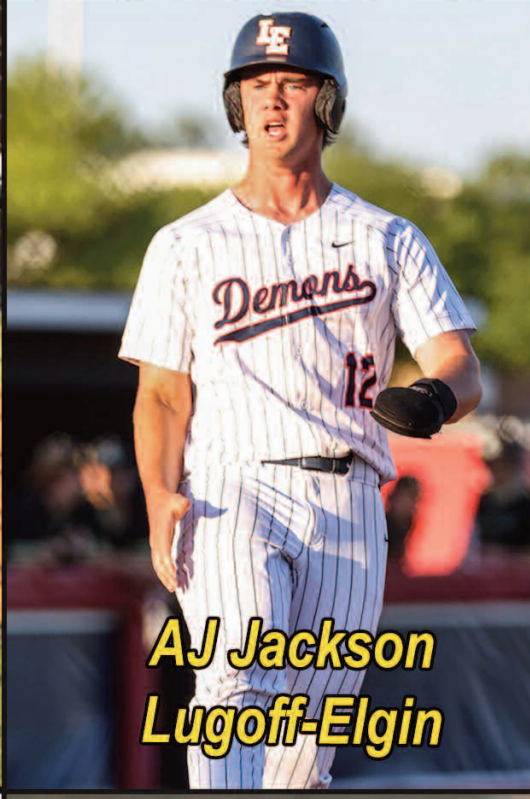
Diamond Level Talent



Tripp Gallos
Hanahan



Kensley Vicars
Powdersville



AJ Jackson
Lugoff-Elgin



Prestan Schuriknight
Orangeburg Prep



Bryce Meil
Catawba Ridge



Lyza Pricklemyer
Laurance Manning



JT Williams
Lugoff-Elgin



Jay Kellahan
Williamsburg Acad.



Peyton Hendrix
Gray Collegiate

Passion for the Game!

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, IF
 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 (8th grade)

NETC Student Athletes of the Month

Honoring Lake View's Kaleigh Blackmon

Lake View — Kaleigh Blackmon is a senior and softball player at Lake View High School.

As a student athlete, and dual enrolled with NETC, Blackmon has completed 11 college level classes already and many of these courses will help reduce her college work load. She's already completed American History, Macroeconomics, Probability and Statistics, English 101 and 102, plus Biological Science, to name a few.

Blackmon who has been a starter on her softball teams since the 7th grade readily admits softball is her favorite sport. She enjoys the challenges of playing in the infield at third base. She is also interested in continuing to pursue athletics at the next level.

In the classroom she carries a 4.2 GPA, and she says that after high school she plans to attend Horry Georgetown Technical College to earn an Associate's Degree in Sonography.

For all her athletic and academic accomplishments, Blackmon 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.



Kaleigh Blackmon

The NETC currently offers over 44 online dual credit courses for the 2025-26 school year to students in the three counties they serve.

Currently, Blackmon is enrolled in dual credit online courses offered by NETC. "Being an athlete has helped me improve my time management because I've learned to balance practices, games, schoolwork, and all my other responsibilities," she said. "It's taught me to stay organized, don't procrastinate, and make the most of my time."

When asked about what NETC did to help her, Blackmon said, "It helped prepare me for college by teaching me how to manage online classes along with my high school workload and athletics. It has improved my time management, organization, and ability to stay disciplined without someone constantly See Blackmon, pg. 35

Honoring Lake View's Bryce King

Lake View — Bryce King is a senior, three-sport athlete at Lake View, where his senior year has been one sports season after another.

This fall, he played football at the wide receiver and safety positions, which is a sport he's played every season since middle school. After football, he returned to basketball for his senior season as a guard. Then, with spring time, his favorite sport baseball has started. King started playing t-ball early in life and he has played baseball, in some organized fashion, from summer travel ball to varsity athletics.

He readily admits baseball is his favorite sport and hopes his final season will get him noticed by more college scouts. In 18 games this season he's is batting .530 with 29 hits and a home run. He plays short stop and pitches. He has pitched in 9 games with 53 strikeouts. He is interested in playing in college. King says he has visited USC-Salkehatchie. With his planned college major in nursing, he is also considering USC-Sumter and Florence Darlington Tech.

In the classroom, he carries a 4.3 GPA, and he plans to pursue degree in nursing with the goal of becoming a Registered Nurse and possibly a career as a flight nurse in medical transportation.

For all his athletic and academic ac-

complishments, King 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. King has completed his English 101 and 102 requirements for college plus Algebra 101 and Statistics via the online courses offered by NETC.

When asked about managing his time to balance academics and sports, King said "Time management is about



Bryce King

See King, pg. 35

Make It HAPPEN

Explore Your Options at Cheraw / Dillon / Marlboro / Pageland Campuses

- Short Term Workforce Programs
- Transfer to 4-Year Universities
- High School Dual Enrollment
- Continuing Education

APPLY NOW!

FALL SEMESTER START DATES:

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 3

CHERAW CAMPUS
1201 Chesterfield Hwy.
Cheraw, SC 29520
843-921-6900

DILLON CAMPUS
2204 Hwy. 301 South
Dillon, SC 29536
843-921-1481

MARLBORO COUNTY CAMPUS
1120 Oakwood Street
Bennettsville, SC 29512
843-921-1451

PAGELAND CAMPUS
815 S. Pearl Street
Pageland, SC 29728
843-921-1483

NORTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE | 800-921-7399 | NETC.EDU



2026 Spartanburg Day Tennis

Griffins tennis hopes to “retire” Hall of Fame Coach Allsbrook with third straight title

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Spartanburg—It has been quite a 39-year journey for **Spartanburg Day** head tennis coach **Bob Allsbrook** who has announced he will be retiring from coaching at the conclusion of this season in May.

Coach Allsbrook is the Director of the Tennis at the Spartanburg Day School. Through the years his girl’s and boy’s Griffins team have won 20 state titles collectively.

This year’s boys’ team got the season off to a positive start with an 8-1 win over Asheville School on April 10, despite missing three of their top six players for various reasons.

The Griffin’s boy’s tennis team are currently back-to-back defending SCISA AAA champions, and they will be favored to win their third straight title at the Palmetto Tennis Center in Sumter in early May. A state title would be a fitting memory for Coach Allsbrook as he enters the world of retirement 65 years young.

Last year the Griffins edged past **Hilton Head Prep** 5-4 in the state finals. In 2024 they defeated the Dolphins 5-1. The two schools have quite a rivalry in the sport of tennis.

“I have always wanted to go out on my own terms with it being my idea,” said Coach Allsbrook, shortly after his teams opening season win. “I never wanted to be that person who hung around too long. I have been truly blessed to coach so many wonderful student athletes in the game of tennis over the past 39 years at the Spartanburg Day School. I would not have done this job for 39 years if I didn’t love it.”

All six singles players claimed victories for the Griffins in their win over Asheville School. Number one singles player, talented sophomore **Charlie Fogarty** scored 6-1, 6-0 victory over his opponent.

“Charlie is one of my favorite players ever and he and I have been together for quite some time,”

said Coach Allsbrook. “Tomorrow (April 11) he is flying to Barbados for a ICF tournament event, and he currently carries a 11.0 UTR ranking which makes him a very special player for his age.

“When Charlie first got involved with the tennis program at Spartanburg Day in elementary school, I was amazed how fast he picked up things I was trying to teach him,” said Coach Allsbrook. “I remember thinking to myself that this kid could be special one day in the sport of tennis. He just had a love for the game very early, and he was willing to put in the work to keep improving.

“It has been a true blessing to have a front row seat to watch him grow and develop over the years,” said Coach Allsbrook. “He serves very well and he hits the ball very clean. He also has a very strong back-hand and moves well over the court. He will still need to work hard to fulfill all his goals in tennis, but I can honestly say that he will play college tennis at a very high level when he graduates from the Spartanburg Day School.”

Sophomore **Henry Gosnell** won at number two singles 6-2, 6-2. Senior **Nathan Harris** won 6-0, 6-3 at three singles. Harris has been in the Griffins tennis program since the 6th grade, and he plans to attend **Baylor University** in the fall.

Six grader **Colton Weaver** had to step up and play varsity for the first time, and he won at four singles 6-1, and 6-2. Senior **Risha Rana** was also a step-up player in the opening season match winning five singles 7-5, 6-2. Rounding out the match at six singles was freshman **Nicholas Querin** who won his competition 6-3, and 6-0.

In SCISA there are three doubles team matches per competition. At one doubles against Asheville School, Fogarty and Gosnell won 8-1. Harris and Weaver won at two doubles 8-3. The only match the Griffins lost was a three- doubles when Rana and Querin lost 8-2.

The three players who could not make the first match of the season included 7th grader **Parker Wil-**

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

son who has been battling wrist issues. The other two missing players were senior **Bradley Johnson**, who usually plays at two singles, along with freshman **Bennett Johnson** who usually plays at five singles.

Coach Allsbrook describes Bradley Johnson as the captain of the team. “Bradley has been in our program, it seems like forever,” said Coach Allsbrook. “He has been among our top three players on the varsity since he joined the team years ago. He never complains, works hard, and he is just a good example and teammate.”

Two other members of the varsity team include sophomores **Cash Fluegee** and **Connor McGraff**.

The Griffins have not lost a regular season tennis match in three seasons. “Before our match with the Asheville School I knew we were missing three players, and that some newcomers were stepping up in varsity competition for the first time,” said Coach Allsbrook. “I challenged the team to step up and play with confidence and just have fun. I told them to own the moment and work extra hard to win their matches.

“I also told them that both winning and losing is contagious, but it is so much more fun to win,” said Coach Allsbrook. “I tell my players all the time that when you are new at the top of one level it just means you are at the bottom of the level you just left.”

The team has upcoming matches at **Cardinal Newman** on April 13. On April, 15 they are hosting **St. Joseph’s Catholic** at a state-of April on campus tennis facility named in Coach Allsbrook’s honor, on the campus of the Spartanburg Day School. They next host **Carolina Day School** on April 16 before playing at **Heathwood Hall** on April 23.

The SCISA state quarterfinals begin on April 27 while the semi-finals begin on April 29. The SCISA State Finals will be at the Palmetto Tennis Center in Sumter on May,1.

Coach Allsbrook is a USPTR Pro 1 tennis professional. In his long and storied tennis journey the coach has been named South Carolina Tennis Pro of the Year, and he has been ranked as high as the number two in the USA as a player. He was ranked on the ATP Tour and has been inducted into the Spartanburg Day School Athletic Hall of Fame, the Appalachian State University Athletic Hall of fame, and the South Carolina Tennis Hall of Fame.

He has been married for 38 years to his wife Terri. There surely will be a tear or two shed in early May at the Palmetto Tennis Center in Sumter when the Griffins conclude their final matches of the season, under the tutelage of Hall of Fame coach Bob Allsbrook. No doubt, the first tears will be shed by Coach Allsbrook himself.

Saying goodbye is never easy.

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
- Aspen Boulware-Gray Collegiate-SS_SC
 - Katie Guiliam-Summerville-SS-Mizzou
 - Preston Schurknight-Orangeburg Prep-Inf/P-Lander
 - 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 Roseburgh-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
 - Nadie Hutto-Bamberg-Ehthardt-P-OF-Olivia Miller- Indian Land-P
 - Hope Fowler-Greenville-Utility
 - Saddie 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-Powersville-P-(R-R)
- 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-
- 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) 7th!
 - 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-(7th Grade)
 - Jazelyn Robinson-Westside-P-SS-(All-Region) 8th
 - Wren Gaines-Byrnes-C-(8th Grade)
 - Mindy Veler-White Knoll-OF (8th Grade)
 - Hanna Coburn-Lake View-2B-(.338/9 RBI)
 - Mackenzie Sease-Gray Collegiter-P-
 - Lily Brinson-Fort Dorchester-P-
 - Lily Brinson-Carolina Forest-V-
 - Kenya McDaniel-Spring Valley-3B-
- HSSR 2029 -30 Softball Prospects (8th & 9th)**
- Players To Watch:**
- Maci Collins-Green Sea Floyds-P-
 - Bailey Honeycutt-West Florence-C-3B
 - Ava Miller-Cane Bay-P
 - Annsiton Street-Georgetown-SS-8th
 - Carter Cox-Hanahan-P-3B-
 - Ytovell Watts-South Florence-C-8th
 - Jayla Wright-Dillon-P-8th
 - AJ Sanders-Emerald-P-Ath-Emerald
 - Avery Moms-Oceanside Collegiate-Utility-9th
 - Austyn Smith-Fountain Inn-P-8th
 - Ashton Cassidy-Chestfield-P-9th
 - Shalayah Badger-Barnwell-3B-P-8th
 - Kensley Terrapin=Barnwell-P/SS-8th
 - Calee Hartzog - Orangeburg Prep – 9th Grade (IF)
 - Genesis Walker-Barnwell-1B-C-8th

HSSR Baseball / Softball Prospect All-State Nomination Form

Athlete’s Name: _____

Sport: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

Key Stats: _____

Reason for Nomination: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 1607 Goose Creek, SC 29445 (800) 489-0649



HSSR Baseball / Softball Prospect All-State Nomination Form

Athlete’s Name: _____

Sport: _____

School: _____

Position: _____

Key Stats: _____

Reason for Nomination: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 1607 Goose Creek, SC 29445 (800) 489-0649



Hampton County girls becoming AA powerhouse

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Varnville – In the three years that Hampton County has competed in class AA the girls basketball program has become a fixture in the class AA playoffs as they have advanced into the second round twice.

They finished the 2025/26 season 16-7. They finished third in region 5 AA play with a 6-4 record which forced them to travel for the first time in the first round of the playoffs where they fell to Phillip Simmons 52-36. They started the year by winning their first seven games and 9 of their first 11 games.

Like last season the Hurricanes will lose only two seniors in **Tryvaiah Henderson** and **Serenity Jackson**. Henderson was one of the Cane’s two captains. She was second in scoring at 9.8 points per game and third in rebounds at 5.2 a game.

Jackson had a solid year averaging 6.6 points per and 4.3 rebounds per game. She led the team in assists dishing out 3.1 a game and in steals at 3.9 per game.

They will be missed by Canes. The cupboard isn’t bare for head coach **Anthony Elam’s** as he will return one of the top juniors in the state in **Lyrice Jones**. She led the team in scoring at 21 points a game which pushed her career point total to 1728 points. She will pass the 2000 point mark sometime next season.

Also back will be the twin towers in junior forward **Faith Brooks** and center **Kaliyah Dobson**.

A.G. Solomons, Jr. Attorney at Law Solomons & Lawton, PC PO Box 969, Estill, SC 803-625-3232	Proudly Saluting the Hampton County Hurricanes!
---	--

They were one/two in blocks and rebounding. Brooks has earned the name “Windex” as she cleaned the glass to the tune of 14.4 a game to lead the team. She also had 18 blocks.

Dobson was second in rebounding at 8.8 per game while she led the team in blocks with 51. The Boys finished with 20-5 record for their third consecutive 20 win season. They also won their third straight region title. They have gone 27-1 in region play over that span.

Their six seniors have been an integral part of them teams success and this season they accounted for over 80% of the Cane’s offense.

The six seniors are guards **Darius Brooks**, **Jaylen Singletary**, **Jaquan Solomon**, **Desmond Mathis**, forward **Tyler Davis** and **Tarell Grant**. Brooks led the Canes in scoring at 16.4 a night and will look to make his second straight class AA All State team. He also became the second Cane in the last three years to pass the 1000 career point mark.

Soloman and Singletary also averaged double figures for the Cane’s with Solomon knocking down 14.3 points per game and Singletary scoring 10.1 a game.



ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

We support our local schools!
843-208-5551

palmetto.coop

HAMPTON COUNTY

HURRICANES

SPORTS CAFE

803-964-1902 Pick Up Copies of the HSSR here!

Dr. Tire, Inc. Proud To Salute the Hurricanes!

565 Railroad Ave. SE
 Estill, SC 29918
 803-625-2201
 www.dretireinc.com

Go Hurricanes!
 Neighbors helping neighbors since 1907

Hal L. Bennett, V. President
 106 3rd St., Estill, SC

FDIC

Go Hurricanes!
 Courtesy of the Hampton County Booster Club

PATRICK HENRY

THE PHA Athletic Booster Club
 Salutes the Patriots!
 Good Luck in 2025-2026!

GREEN ACRES
 TURF FARM, LLC

Specializing in sports and residential turf

803-625-2902

Dr. Tire, Inc. Proud To Salute Patrick Henry!

565 Railroad Ave. SE
 Estill, SC 29918
 803-625-2201
 www.dretireinc.com

Go Patriots!
 Proud To Have Served The Financial Needs of Hampton County Citizens Since 1934!

Hal L. Bennett, V. President
 106 3rd St., Estill, SC

Member FDIC

Quick Cash - Buy, Sell, Trade
 P.O. Box 103, Hampton, SC
 (803) 942-3569

Go PHA Patriots!

Patrick Henry baseball exceeding expectations

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Estill – **Brody Gibson** is in his first season as the baseball head coach at **Patrick Henry Academy**. All things considered, he is happy with how the season has gone to date.

The Patriots were 7-5 on the season with a 2-1 record in Region 4-AAA prior to spring break.

“I feel like we’ve played above expectations,” Gibson said. “The majority of our guys had none or very little varsity baseball experience to start this season. We have a couple of eighth-graders and one freshman who have stepped up and competed. The guys have shown their inexperience at times, but other times we make high level plays and competed with some very talented teams.

“Our main goal is to finish this season playing with more consistency and make the playoffs.”

PHA returned just four starters from last year’s 9-11 team in junior **Scot Mizzell**, senior **Rylin Brunson**, senior **Keagan Lee** and senior **Jacob Corley**. Those four occupy the first four spots in the batting order.

Brunson is the leadoff hitter and catches and plays shortstop. Mizell is the primary shortstop and bats second, Lee is in the 3 hole and plays the outfield, while Corley is also an outfielder hitting cleanup.

Batting fifth is freshman first baseman **Josh Evans** followed by eighth-grade third baseman **Caleb Corley**. Junior outfielder **Andrew Haddock** bats seventh, junior catcher **Devin Austin** bats

eighth, and junior second baseman **Wylder Vaughn** flips the order.

Brunson was leading the team in hitting with a .410 batting average and 18 runs scored. He had three doubles, a triple and a home run. Lee was batting .364 with 13 runs, while Jacob Corley was hitting .333 with 16 runs. Mizzell was leading in runs batted in with 12 while batting .235.

Brunson had 12 stolen bases, Jacob Corley 11 and Lee 10.

Evans was batting .280, and Haddock was hitting .211.

Brunson, Mizzell and Austin were doing most of the pitching. Brunson had a 2-0 win-loss record and a 2.14 earned run average in 19 2/3 innings. Mizzell was 3-1 with a save and a 0.40 ERA in 17 1/3 innings and Austin had a 1-1 record and a save with a 4.20 ERA in 11 2/3 innings.

Patrick Henry plays in a 3-team region along with **Colleton Prep Academy** and **Hilton Head Prep**. The Patriots won both of their games against Colleton Prep by scores of 9-8 and 9-7. They lost to Hilton Head Prep, which is 18-1 and 3-0, by an 8-2 count.

Patrick Henry had a chance to share the region title when it played host to the Dolphins on April 14.

A.G. Solomons, Jr. Attorney at Law Solomons & Lawton, PC PO Box 969, Estill, SC 803-625-3232	Saluting Patrick Henry Athletics!
---	--



2026 Colleton County Cougars softball

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Walterboro – The more things change, the more they stay the same. So goes the softball program at **Colleton County High School**.

Colleton County lost some valuable pieces from a team that tied for second-place in region 6-AAAA last season, but coach **Tamara Edwards** is making it work with several new players in 2026.

The Cougars entered spring break sitting at 8-7 overall and 4-1 in region play, putting them right back in the hunt for a region title with defending champion May River. Colleton County’s only region loss early came to May River.

Several returning players from last year have been posting solid production as leaders this season. Senior **Brooklyn Holmes**, who hit over .500 last season, is just over .300 this season. She has scored 10 runs early on.

Senior **Alexa Eversole** is hitting .409 with 10 RBI after hitting .565 in 2025. Sophomore **Breanna Gerard** is leading the team in hitting at .514 on a team-high 19 hits. Gerard handles the bulk of the pitching duties as well with six wins and a 2.14 earned run average. She has 84 strikeouts in 59 innings of work inside the circle. **Peyton Craven** has tossed 10 innings.

Emery Gentile has her batting average at .299. Other members of the team this spring include **Gabby Brown**, **Montana Turner**, **Demitria Turner**, **Makenzie Cochran**, **Janay Manigo**, **Gabby Sineath**, **Makayla Shaffer**, **Morgan McMillon** and **Brook Stuart**.

CPA baseball and softball teams having success

By David Shelton
Senior Writer

Walterboro – With a new coach calling the shots, the baseball team at **Colleton Prep Academy** is having a solid season overall in 2026.

Joe Hill is the new head coach this spring. Hill grew up in Walterboro before moving to Michigan for high school and college. He has since moved back to the area and has been involved in the summer travel ball scene for a few years. Having played the game at a high level, Hill feels he can instill a winning attitude through player development, hoping to reverse the fortunes of recent years.

“We have a good group of young men and they have bought in well so far,” Hill said. “I feel like we have a good coaching staff and we are all focused on improving in the fundamentals and learning how to win. I think we can surprise some people this year if we can stay healthy and continue to focus on getting better each day. We have some experience and we added a few transfers. Now we just have to gel.”

The Warhawks are off to a solid start, sporting a 10-7 record as they come out of spring break. The focus now is on a strong finish and a berth in the SCISA state playoffs.

“So far we have been swinging the bats pretty well but it all comes down to competing on the mound,” he said. “We have a good group of arms but they will have to produce when called upon. We just have to throw strikes and let our defense make the plays.”

Among the top arms this season will be freshman **Channing Terry**, junior **Cale Owens**, sophomore **Nick Martin** and freshman **Kaiden Kinard**, who will likely be used as a closer this season. Terry has worked 22 innings with a 4.63 earned run average while Owens has a 2.74

The baseball team has struggled to find consistency through the first half of the season, posting a 5-11 overall record and off to an 0-6 start in region play.

In soccer, the boys team is 4-5 overall and 1-5 in region play while the girls team is 5-6 overall and 1-5 in region action.

Come early May, the football team will go through a few weeks of spring practice under their new head coach **Bradley Adams**. Adams was hired earlier this year and is the former head coach at Union County, Woodruff and Georgetown. He was most recently the athletic director at Beaufort High.

“I am excited to have this opportunity to lead this football program,” Adams said. “Being away from coaching these last two years has renewed my passion and hunger for coaching and developing young men. We have a lot of work to do but I feel like the program has a lot of what is needed to compete.”

Adams brings more than 22 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate levels.

Colleton County has suffered in recent years, managing just a handful of wins in the last six seasons. Adams realizes the challenges ahead but is ready to attack head on.

“The important thing is to have a plan, a standard, and never waver,” he said. “It’s one step at a time and we can’t rush it or overlook anything. Every day is another day to move forward and we understand that.”

Adams first task is putting together his coaching staff and he hopes that process is complete by the time spring

ERA in 15 innings of work. **Martin** has an ERA of 2.86 in his work.

“We’re kind of young in some spots but it’s a group with a lot of potential,” Hill said.

Junior catcher **Hartman Fisk** is hitting .327 with nine RBI while **Owens** is hitting .270 with eight RBI. First baseman **Grayson Martin** is hitting .352 with 17 RBI while sophomore centerfielder **Fripp Smoak** is hitting .380 with 11 RBI. Terry has eight RBI and senior **Tanner Wolf** has six RBI early on.

Junior **Tyler Reasoner** is the starting shortstop and senior **Gerardo De La Cruz** is the rightfielder.

“I think we have a chance to be pretty solid overall defensively,” Hill said. “We have good team speed and athleticism. We have to lean on our strengths and make sure we’re helping the pitcher’s out.”

Colleton Prep’s softball team entered spring break at 11-2 overall and expects to contend for a state title in May. Senior pitcher/shortstop **Sydney Stivender** and senior first baseman **Ava Murray** lead the team this season. **Brooklyn Whitley** is a returner at third base and **Bre Cain** returns as a starting outfielder.

Another key returner defensively is second baseman **Brayli Stanfield** while **Hadley Harrison** is the starting catcher. **Addison Godley** does some work inside the circle and plays shortstop when **Stivender** pitches. **Addy Busch** is starting in centerfield.

COLLETON COUNTY

Lowcountry Surgical Associates, PA
Dr. Andrew Calcutt, MD, FACS
843-549-8003
Saluting All Area Schools!

practice starts in May. “We have a good idea of who we will have,” he said. “We have some guys already here that have expressed a desire to help rebuild the program. We’ll probably have a few new faces as well. We want everyone in place and on the same page by spring practice. Spring will be very important for us to lay the foundation and establish the culture.”

COLLETON PREP

Louie’s Liquor & Fine Wine
(843) 549-2921
 1319 N Jefferies Blvd
 Walterboro, SC 29488

CORBETT BUILDING SUPPLY
Serving Colleton County for over 90 Years!
 513 Memorial Ave., Walterboro, SC 29488
 Office: 843-549-5311 Fax: 843-782-3386

Palmetto Pest Control (803) 284-3720

TOMMIE’S AUTO & DIESEL REPAIR, LLC
 2674 Jefferies Hwy. • Walterboro, SC 29488
843-538-2122
 Your complete “Auto & Truck” Repair Facility
 Towing - Light • Medium • Heavy
 www.tommiesautodiesel.com
 Family Owned and Operated for Over 25 Years

“Proudly Supporting Colleton Prep Athletics!”

ENTERPRISE BANK
 OF SOUTH CAROLINA
 1105 N. Jefferies Blvd.
 Walterboro, SC 29488
 (843) 549-5544

IP Builders, Inc.
 Residential & Commercial

Ian Padgett
 President
 Office: (843) 538-2010
 Fax: (843) 538-2015
 ian@ipbuilders.net
 PO Box 1667
 4472 Jefferies Hwy
 Walterboro, SC 29488

PRTC

292 Robertson Blvd.
 Walterboro, SC 29488

www.PRTC.us
(843) 538-2020

Saluting the Warhawks!

ML MURDAUGH LAW GROUP, LLC

Steven Murdaugh
 Attorney at Law
 Phone: (843) 782-6070
 Cell: (843) 908-0634
 Fax: (843) 782-6060
 Email: smurdaugh@murdoughlawgroup.com

Matthew Murdaugh
 Attorney at Law
 Phone: (843) 782-6070
 Cell: (843) 908-0634
 Fax: (843) 782-6060
 Email: mmurdaugh@murdoughlawgroup.com

462 Robertson Blvd. Walterboro, SC 29488
 MURDAUGH LAW GROUP, LLC

www.HSSR.com

Two pour girls bartending
Two pour girls bartending
 843-599-1116 843-908-1409
Proud Supporter of the Warhawks!

SUMMERVILLE GREENWAVE

Summerville baseball aspiring to be giant killer

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR
Summerville – While you can't exactly say **Summerville** is a giant killer on the baseball diamond this Spring, the **Green Wave** has upset a couple of heavy-weights.

In its home opener, the unranked Green Wave claimed a 9-8 win over **Lexington**, which was ranked third in the state for **5A, Division 1** in the **S.C. Baseball Coaches Association** rankings.

During the **Peach Ridge Invitational** tournament, Summerville defeated **Aiken** and **Dutch Fork** while tying **Fox Creek**, the 10th ranked team for 3A. That moved Summerville into the tournament championship game, where it fell 6-5 to **Airport**, the top-ranked 4A team.

Then on April 1, the Green Wave toughed out a 2-1 home win over **Hanahan**. The **Hawks** were the state's No. 3 ranked 3A team.

"**Brady Coryell** kept us in that game," said Summerville coach **Thane Maness**. "**Chris Polm** did a great job for Hanahan so it was two really good pitchers battling one another and fortunately we came out on top."

Coryell only surrendered three hits and as many walks in six innings on the hill while striking out three batters and yielding no runs. Polm only surrendered four hits and one run in six-plus innings while striking out six batters and walking six.

Short stop **Jaxson Johnson** led the Green Wave batters, going 2 of 3 at the plate with a run scored. Outfielder **Trenton Morris** had a double and designated hitter **Shep Cadwell** reached base three times and had an RBI.

Summerville stole the win in the bottom of the seventh. Johnson reached on a fielder's choice and moved to third on a walk and sacrifice fly by Cadwell. After a relief pitcher walked **Cooper Gaskins** to load the bases, he threw a wild pitch that allowed Johnson to come home for the game-winning run.

The Green Wave went 2-1 during last week's **Hanahan Invitational Tournament** to improve to 11-5 with a 5-1 mark in **5A Region 8**. Summerville opened the tournament with a 14-8 win over **Marvin Ridge of North Carolina**. The next day, the Green Wave was shutout 12-0 by **Ocean Lakes of Virginia**. Summerville bounced back on Day 3, edging **Western Branch of Virginia** 3-2.

"We just want to be playing really good baseball going into our next three region series, which will be tough for us," Maness said. "We saw some good arms, which is what we wanted out of the tournament."

Centerfielder **Carter Gullotti** and Gaskins are leading the team's hitters with batting averages above .400 and multiple homeruns. Cadwell and **Parker Holladay**, who is recently back from an injury, are also swinging the bat well.

"These guys always play really hard and they play for each other," Maness said. "Our offense is capable of being better than it was against Hanahan, but we have a team of grinders."

Cadwell and Gaskins are senior catchers/pitchers/designated hitters. Seniors **Kayleb Pinckney**, **Trippe Tillman** and **Brayden Mitchum** are seeing a lot of action in the outfield.

Coryell is one of the team's top pitchers/infielders. Southpaw **Evan Rash** and fellow junior **Trenton Morris**, along with Coryell, Gaskins and Cadwell, have seen the most time on the mound. However, coaches try to work other arms into the mix.

Other members of the team are **Wyatt Tanner**, **Pre-**



Photo by Roger Lee
Senior Brady Coryell is one of Summerville's top players

ston Maloy, Jaxon Shook, Cooper Wilmes, Trenton Morris, Lucas O'Dell, Rodney Hannah, Sullivan Hodges, Cullen Bailey and Jackson Bailey.

Summerville hosts **Fort Dorchester** April 13 and April 17 and travels to the **Patriots** April 15.

SHS Softball
 Summerville returned six starters to the softball diamond.

The Green Wave lost two pitchers, including an **All-State** hurler, its starting **All-Star** catcher and a pair of players who held down first most of last season. However, a solid core of varsity lettermen return from a team that only lost two games in 2025.

The Green Wave was ranked second for **5A, Division 1** in the **South Carolina Coaches Association of Women's Sports** preseason softball polls, behind **Byrnes**.

Summerville **All-State** shortstop **Katie Guilliam** returns for her senior season. Now a **University of Missouri** signee, last season she had a .495 batting average, .588 on base percentage and .850 slugging percentage.

All-Region infielders **Daphne Frady** (a **North Greenville University** signee) and **Maeven Moreno**, as well as starting outfielders **Summer Knight**, **Jayden Bennett** and **Haylee Sexton**, are also back. However, some of them are filling different roles.

"I am very confident in Daphne's abilities in the circle and excited at how she has started," said Summerville coach **Heather Tucker**. "She has thrown really well. **Natalie Farlow** is a good complement to her."

Frady improved to 15-1 on the season April 10 with a pitching shutout of **Ashley Ridge**, fanning 17 batters in the process.

Seniors **Ryanne Harley** (a **Bryant and Stratton College** signee) and **Delaney Hayes** are competing for time at first.

Other members of the team are **Addy Chapman**, **Payton Sharpe**, **Gabrielle Savage**, **Gracelyn Cantrell** and **Dakota Clark**.

Summerville is 16-1 and 2-0 in its region. The team travels to **West Ashley** April 15 and hosts **Fort Dorchester** April 17.

Miler Properties 6205 OLD TROLLEY ROAD
 SUMMERVILLE, SC 29485
 821-1111 (Office) • 873-0927 (Fax)
 REAL ESTATE SALES & RENTALS Richard L. Miller
 email: dmiller@bellsouth.net

Converse Chellis
 Exclusive Agent
 Personal Financial Representative
Allstate
 437 N. Main St.
 Summerville, SC 29483
 Office 843-771-0061
 Fax 843-771-0156
 conchellis@allstate.com
 www.allstateagencies.com/converse-chellis-summerville-schl.html
Go Green Wave!
Allstate.
 You're in good hands.

Michael Hess
 Agency Owner
 The Michael Hess Agency
Allstate.
Allstate Insurance Company
 1203 Old Trolley Rd
 Suite C
 Summerville, SC 29485
 Phone (843) 873-8970
 Fax (843) 873-6647
 michaelhess@allstate.com
Your trusted Allstate advisor www.allstateagencies.com/michaelhess



James A. Dyal Funeral Home
 303 S. Main St.
 Summerville, SC 29483
 843-873-4040
Proudly Saluting All Area Schools!
#1 Funeral Home in Summerville!

GARY W. BAILEY CONSTRUCTION
 LANDSCAPING • CLEARING • GRADING
 121 Peartree Circle
 Summerville, SC 29485
 (843) 871-1226
 Mobile (843) 200-2724
 BaileyConstruction539@gmail.com

Summerville Country Club, Inc.
 (843) 873-2210 - Go Green Wave!

SUMMERVILLE **Ford**
 9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
 SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

SALUTING ALL AREA SCHOOLS
EXTRA EFFORT SPORTS
 A BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TRAINING FACILITY
620 GREENWAVE BLVD. (843) 990-3059

LOWCOUNTRY ORTHOPAEDICS
 & SPORTS MEDICINE
 www.lowcountryortho.com
 (843) 797-5050
 North Charleston
 Summerville
 Clements Ferry
Go Green Wave!



2026 Dorchester Academy softball

Dorchester softball looking to make title run

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

St. George – The **Dorchester Academy** softball team just missed out on bringing a state championship trophy home last season. The Raiders advanced to the best-of-3 SCISA AA title series before falling to **Carolina Academy**.

DA head coach **Justin McClure** believe that being that close is serving as motivation this season.

"Overall, I feel really good about our team," said McClure, who is in his second season in charge. "We came very close to winning the whole thing last year, and we have carried over that momentum into this year.

"We are starting to play our best ball right now, and I really like our chances come playoff time."

The state tournament is scheduled to be played in **Sumter** in the middle of May. The two bracket winners will then play in the title series.

Dorchester is 8-5 on the season with most of its action coming against AAA schools since it has no region foes.

"It has been much more challenging, but we are playing well and have won five of our last six games against **Calhoun Academy** and **Orange-**

burg Prep, including a 3-game sweep of Orangeburg Prep," McClure said.

The Raiders lost just two starters from last season. The starting lineup has sophomore **Emery McClure** leading off and primarily playing shortstop. Freshman utility player **Lily Canady** bats second, while eighth-grader **Molly Blanchard** bats third and pitches.

Batting cleanup is junior third baseman **Kinsey Bates**, who returns after missing all of last season with an injury. She was the team's offensive player of the year in 2024.

Junior catcher **Alyssa Grooms** is back batting fifth, while senior **Rylee Matthews** returns in left field and bats sixth. Rounding out the order are senior **Lyla Owens** returning in right, eighth-grade newcomer **Ella McClure** at first base and junior **Palmer Kiser**, a returning starter at second.

Emery McClure is the offensive catalyst as she had a .469 batting average. She had seven triples, 12 runs batted in, 24 runs scored and 15 stolen bases.

Blanchard has hit the ball well with a .390 average and 11 runs. Canady was batting .319 with 16 RBI and 12 stolen bases. Bates was batting .375 with six doubles, two home runs and 15 RBI,

Palmetto Christian baseball building its future

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR

Mt. Pleasant – When you are in the process of building a program most of the time (There are expectations) you are going to take your lumps in the early part of the process but through the tough times you look for your team to build character, understand it's the little things that cost you the most but the most important thing is comradery and the unity that your team builds in each other.

These things along with their Christian faith are what have pushed the Eagles baseball team to continue fight and improve each week. While their record may not reflect a lot of success it is the areas of improvement during the year are what has head coach **Nick Cantatore** and his staff excited about the future of his baseball program.

"Coming into the season, we knew we'd have a relatively young roster so our expectations were centered more on the process and development than results. We wanted to build a strong foundation by focusing on fundamentals, consistency, and reshaping the culture of the program," said coach Cantatore.

Coach continued, "At the same time, I put the onus on our upperclassmen to step into leadership roles and set the tone in terms of work ethic and accountability. I think our guys have done a phe-

nomenal job of adjusting to the new staff's expectations and rising to the occasion, which has helped the underclassmen adjust and be ready for the moment."

Senior **Jake Taylor** has been the leader of the team. He is the top pitcher and has gone seven innings three times this season and has the teams lone win on the year. On the bump he has shown great control all year as he has only walked three hitters in 30 innings and has 23 strikeouts. At the plate he has a team high six RBI's.

Freshman first baseman **Ryan Delaney** is the team's top hitter at .320. He is a returning all-region player. He is second on the team in steals with six and in the field he has been flawless this season with 1,000 fielding percentage.

Junior right fielder **Brayden Doster** is second on the team in hitting at .280 and leads the team in triples with two. He has been solid in the field.

Shuler Roberts, just an eighth grader has started all year at Shortstop. He is doing a phenomenal job defensively with only two errors in 32 chances for a .938 fielding percentage. He is still finding his way at the plate.

The rest of the starting lineup are senior **Kyler Stille** at catcher, 8th grader **Dalton McMillan** at 2nd Base, junior **Kade Watson** at 3rd Base, junior **Jake Johnson** at Left Field, senior **Sullivan**

DORCHESTER ACADEMY
Carolina Eastern Williamson
 Chemicals • Seed • Fertilizers
 Custom & R_x Spreading
 Phone: 803-793-3746
 Fax: 803-793-4382
 Cell: 803-837-3587
 Email: dinfinger@carolina-eastern.com
Donnie Infinger
 Manager - Sales
 Certified Crop Advisor

Proud to support all local student athletes! Study hard, play hard -- the rewards will come!
Gene "Rat" Weathers

Dorchester Academy Raider Booster Club
Saluting the Raiders All The Way!

J. Frank Quattlebaum
 Attorney at Law
 222 N. Parler Ave
 St. George, SC 29477
 Phone: 843-563-2112
Proudly Saluting the Raiders!

while Grooms was batting .295 with four doubles and two triples.

Matthews was batting .310 with an on-base percentage of .510. Owens had a .375 OBP, and Kiser had a .297 OBP.

Blanchard had seen most of the time in the circle, starting nine of the 13 games. She had a 6-2 win-loss record with a 3.91 earned run average and 70 strikeouts in 59 innings pitched.

Emery McClure, last year's primary pitcher, was 2-3 with a 4.72 ERA in 22 innings.

PALMETTO CHRISTIAN
The PCA Booster Club
Proudly Salutes the Eagles!

Huempfnr in Center Field and senior **John Parnell** at DH. Johnson leads the team in runs scored with 7 and he is tied for the team lead in steals with 7.

Joining Taylor on the hill are Huempfnr, junior **Kade Watson**, Doster, Johnson and freshman **Wyatt Thomas**.

"This is a group that's getting better every day and building something that can carry over beyond just this season. The seniors are focused on putting their stamp on this season and knowing they are setting the program on the right course. The young guys are starting to gel and are focused on growing together to build something special in the coming years," coach said.

PCA was recently recognized as the top Private School in Mt. Pleasant for the 12th consecutive year in a row.

WOODLAND HIGH SCHOOL WOLVERINES



Coach Keith Lowman and his senior baseball players

Wolverines baseball focused on finishing strong

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Dorchester—The Woodland baseball team played one of their better games of the season against visiting **Barnwell** on April 8 as the Wolverines pounded out 10 hits in the 7-0 non-region win.

Junior pitcher **Hunter Morris** worked all seven innings for Woodland, allowing only two hits while recording 13 K's. "Hunter is one of our most effective pitchers and he throws a lot of strikes," said Wolverines head coach **Keith Lowman**, now in his 15th season in the program.

At the plate, the Wolverines were led by six- and seven-hole batters, senior first baseman **Luke Crosby** and soph center fielder **Kevin O'Callahan** with two hits each. O'Callahan stole home early in the game to give his team momentum. Lead-off batter **JT Milligan**, a freshman catcher, also contributed two hits in the win.

"We have a lot of freshman and sophomores playing a lot of baseball for us and they are having an impact" said Coach Lowman. "We have had a tie, or the lead, in at least four or five games this season going into sixth and 7th innings and we were just not able to finish them out.

"We just need to learn how to finish out games because I feel like we are a much better team than what our record dictates," said Coach Lowman. "This is one of the better teams we have had here in a while. Last year at this same time we lost four or five games by 10 runs or more. We are playing hard, and we are much more competitive this season. We are making good contact, but the ball is not dropping in where we need it to.

Woodland softball focused on improvement down the stretch this spring

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher

Dorchester—The 2026 softball season for Woodland and veteran head coach **Kim Reeves** has yet to meet expectations as the team went into Spring break with a 1-6 record.

"We have played a very hard early season schedule to prepare for our region games," said Coach Reeves. "We just need to keep working hard and we need to minimize the errors and work to string together base hits.

"We want to finish at least second in our region and then advance to the district and win it like we did last year," said Coach Reeves. "This team has yet to play up to their true potential."

Coach Reeves said leadership has come from several players this season. "Our leadership players right now are catcher **Alyssa McClellan**, **Katey Westbury**

as a pitcher, and senior all-region returning shortstop **Dallas LaChance** who just signed with **USC Union**," said Coach Reeves.

McClellan is currently batting .500 with three RBI's. LaChance is hitting .294 with five RBI's and a home run. Westbury has pitched a team leading 25 innings.

Returning all-region third baseman **Jordan McCarthy** leads the team in hitting at .562 with four RBI's. Sophomore first baseman **Joise Mitchum** is hitting .471 with a team leading 8 RBI's and two triples. Outfielder **Jordan Gorkey** is hitting .412 with three RBI's to date. **Corrine Westbury** starts in center field, and she is batting .312 with five RBI's.

Addisyn Wagoner is back this season starting in left field. **Zoe Pringle** is an 8th grade pitcher with a lot of potential. Other key reserves include outfielders **Erin Garvin** and **Kemorah Johnson**. **Jasmin Robin-**



The Woodland Athletic Department
Joins the Athletic Booster Club In Saluting
the Wolverines Athletes & Coaches!

J. Frank Quattlebaum
Attorney at Law

222 N. Parler Ave
St. George, SC 29477
Phone: 843-563-2112

Proudly Saluting the Wolverines!

Barnwell) we had junior pitcher **Hunter Morris** on the mound, and he is one of our better arms. We had freshman **JT Milligan** behind the plate and senior **Dayton Cloer** was at third and he is going to **Lincoln University** in Pennsylvania to play baseball.

"We had freshman **Jet Riley** at short and sophomore **Mac Milligan** was at second and senior **Lee Crosby** started at first base," said Coach Lowman. "We had freshman **Easton Waggoner** in left, with sophomore **Kevin O'Callahan** in center and senior **Drew Campbell** was in right."

Coach Lowman was proud of the fact the 6 and 7 hitters produced four hits in the win over Barnwell. "It's a good sign of progress to get some hits from the back of the line-up," said Coach Lowman. "We have been getting most of our hits at the top and kind of running through to the back some and a lot of the time we play small ball with the guys in the back."

Coach Lowman talked about the rest of the regular season. "We go to **Goose Creek** on Friday April 10), and we just lost them in extra innings last week and then we come back into region play with **Academic Magnet** and **Timberland**," said Coach Lowman. "We have a couple non-region games mixed in.

"We don't have to be good now; we need to be good in our remaining region games," said Coach Lowman. "We are going to make the playoffs. We lost twice to **Phillip Simmons** and **Andrews**, and those games were winnable with us having the lead late in most of those games. We are looking at a third or fourth place spot in the region and they key for us now is to get in the field and make things happen."

Woodland (3-7, 0-4) have seven games left in the regular season starting with a home game against **Goose Creek** on April 10. The Wolverines have four region games left, two with **Academic Magnet** (April 14 & 17) and two with **Timberland** (April 21 & 24).

Coach Lowman is assisted by **Seth Patrick**, **Ryan Troutman**, and **John Sendziak**.

son is contributing with a .250 batting average, and she can pitch and play in the outfield. **Landyn Ranck** provides depth at second base.

Woodland has 8 remaining games in the regular season as of April 9. The team has crucial region games at **Academic Magnet** on April 14, and they host **AC** on April 17. Then they have two regional games against **Timberland**, away on April 21 and they host the **Wolves** on April 24. Sandwiched in-between will be a game with **Pinewood Prep** and two games against **Beaufort**.

Coach Reeves said her goals for the team the rest of the way include playing as a unit and not playing as individuals and cut down on errors while stringing together base hits.

Coach Reeves is assisted by **Adam Canady** and **Phillip Paradise**.

Fort Dorchester baseball is strong at the plate

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR

North Charleston – A run into the 2026 **Hanahan Invitational Tournament** finals should have prepared **Fort Dorchester** for the rest of its season.

The **Patriots** defeated two teams from out of state during the **HIT**, but fell to **Hanahan** and then to a **North Carolina** squad during the finals.

"We saw good competition here and overall we played good and never gave up so I'm proud of our guys," said Fort Dorchester coach **Jay Christmas**, who was named the team's coach this Summer. "We saw a lot of good pitching this week and that is why we play in the **HIT**. We only gave up five runs in the first two games so we were able to be the wildcard advancing to the finals."

Providence of Charlotte broke open a tight game against Fort Dorchester in the late innings April 9 to capture the **Hatfield Division Championship** of the tournament. The **Patriots** continued to swing the bats well last week, hitting multiple homeruns during the tournament to take the team into double digit homeruns on the season.

"Going into the championship game, six out of the nine in our lineup were batting above .400," Christmas said. "**Nathan Clark** was just below .600. The problem is we aren't putting those hits together so we leave runners on base."

Along with **Clark**, **College of Charleston** commit **Banks Wickersham** and **Brady Quirk** are the team's top hitters this season. Their batting averages hover near the .500 range.

Fort Dorchester returned 16 varsity lettermen to the diamond this season. Wickersham, a returning **All-State** pitcher who throws in the 90s and is the **Patriots'** ace, headlines a group of 14 seniors on the team. The **Patriots** also have pitching depth.

"**Alex Zapata** and **Daniel Schenk** are guys this team has heavily relied on," Christmas said. "**Connor Baumgardner** pitched some last year and **Thomas Wamer** is a



Photo by Roger Lee
Thomas Wamer is one of 14 seniors on Fort Dorchester's roster this season.

returning starter."

Other hurlers the team leans on include **Hanahan** transfer **Sam Romero**, **Cannon Corder** and **Quirk**.

Wickersham, Corder and **Juan Gil** do most of the catching. **Luke Conroy** and **Quirk** anchor the middle infielders. **Cade Ridgway**, **Zach Welch**, Corder and **Schenk** are seeing a lot of action on the corners of the infield. **Wamer**, **Clark**, **Lee Lovelace** and **Jansen Bohanan** are getting most of the starts in the outfield.

Other members of the team are **Lucas Grecco**, **Max Lloyd**, **Greg Jenkins**, **Dustin Gorman**, **Kenneth Howell**, **Ethan Scott**, **AJ Watts**, **Cash Crone**, **Samuel Damanti**, **Myles Dewese** and **Kanaan Jackson**.

Swamp Foxes are on the hunt on the diamond

By Roger Lee
Special to the HSSR

Summerville – The wins and losses are even for **Ashley Ridge** on the baseball diamond, but the team's coaches are optimistic about the rest of the season.

The **Swamp Foxes** have an 8-8 record with a 2-4 mark in **5A Region 8**. However, the team has already faced two of the region's toughest opponents, **James Island** and **Fort Dorchester**. It won two of three games against Fort Dorchester.

Ashley Ridge went 2 for 3 in the 2026 **Hanahan Invitational Tournament** last week with the loss coming to a very tough **Starr's Mill** team out of **Georgia** in extra innings. It defeated **Laurens** 10-1 and **Hickory Grove of North Carolina** 12-2.

"We've been competitive in every game even though we lost some we shouldn't have," said **Ashley Ridge** coach **BJ Bellush**. "Now we pretty much know the guys who we are going to be able to rely on. We swung the bats well during the **HIT**. If we can continue to get 11 or 12 hits per game and continue to get good pitching from our starters the main thing we need to work on is getting our bullpen to improve."

Jeremiah Alford is leading the team at the plate, batting just over .400 with 20 hits including 3 for extra bases, 13 RBIs and 11 runs scored. **Brodie Tuthill** has 19 hits including 4 for extra bases, 12 RBIs and 15 runs. **Kruse Kuhn** has 14 hits including 4 for extra bases, 9 RBIs and 17 runs. **Mason Wilcox** has 13 hits including one for extra bases and 12 RBIs. **Noah Bailey** has 12 hits including 5 for extra bases, 13 RBIs and 10 runs.

Braxton Sherrouse, **John Dahlberg** and **Bailey** are the team's top three pitchers. **Jagger Spivey** and **Riley Waters** are seeing a lot of innings in relief. Sherrouse is 3-1 on the season with a save and has 33 strikeouts. **Bailey** is 2-2 with 12 strikeouts. **Dahlberg** has a pitching win and 21 strikeouts.

Coming off a disappointing season in 2025, **Ashley Ridge** returned a lot players with varsity experience, including several starters.

"We were very sophomore heavy last season so we returned a lot of guys," Bellush said. "**Mason Crout** played on the **JV** last year and is now one of our varsity starters in the outfield. Our catcher, **Nick Bone**, is a transfer from **Summerville**. We have guys back at the

FORT DORCHESTER

SUMMERVILLE | 
9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

 **Dorchester School District Two**
815 South Main Street
Summerville, SC 29483
(843) 873-2901 www.ddtwo.org
Proud Supporters of FDHS Athletics!

Fort Dorchester has an 8-8 record and a 4-2 mark in **5A Region 8**. The **Patriots** enter a best-of-three region series with **Summerville** April 13.

FD Softball



Fort Dorchester is off to one of its best starts on the softball diamond in recent years. The **Patriots** defeated **Stratford** 9-0 April 9 to improve to 8-1 with a 2-0 mark in **5A Region 8**.

"Our chemistry is crazy," said Fort Dorchester coach **Curtis Moore**. "They all get along so well and play well together. We have a lot of girls hitting the ball right now. Tonight shortstop **Moran Carter** led the charge with some big hits. She's our No. 3 hitter and every time she came up with a runner on base she drove them in. **Lily Brinson**, our No. 4 hitter, hit a lot of balls into gaps that allowed a lot of runs to come in."

Catcher **Nadia Lorenzano** and infielder **Ella Birchwood** have been consistent at the plate all season with averages above .400. Defensively **Carter**, pitcher **Mila Lorenzano** and **Brinson** are leading the charge.

Other members of the team are **Destiny Copeland**, **Regan Bruder**, **Bayliegh Martian**, **Kayla Gardner**, **Lexi Oswin**, **Ja'Niya Ray**, **Elizabeth Martray**, **Jordan Wallace** and **McKinley Tompkins**.

ASHLEY RIDGE

 **The Ashley Ridge
Booster Club**
Proudly Salutes Our Foxes!! 

SUMMERVILLE | 
9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550

Games when we play the whole way through, things are great."

The **Swamp Foxes** are 8-7 with an 0-2 mark in **5A Region 8**. They have wins over **Hanahan**, **Cane Bay**, **Dorman**, **Stratford**, **Oceanside Collegiate** and **Berkeley**. The team's losses to **Hartsville**, **Chapin**, **White Knoll**, **Fort Dorchester** and **Summerville** all came by a margin of three or less runs. **Clover** thumped **Ashley Ridge** 9-0 early in the season, but only won its second game with **AR** April 6 by one run in extra innings.

Ashley Ridge returned a starter in six out of nine positions.

"I have an extremely talented team, but it's frustrating when we don't play to our ceiling," Shannon said. "**Ad-dilyn Bacon** played for us two years ago and came back this year and can play short stop and third base. We have moved **Kassy Hicks**, who was a utility player for **JV** last year, behind the plate and she has been done a fantastic job there."

Cali Lennes, **Hailey Pokrant** and **Allison Pokrant** all return with pitching experience. **Kaylee Hicks**, **Chloe Heaton** and **Emily Henderson** return to the infield and **Sawyer McLaughlin**, **Autumn Atienza** and **Marlee Elam** return to the outfield. **Abby Daniels** returns as the designated player.

Transfer **Isabella Pankake** is also seeing time in the middle infield. Outfielder **Mariah Rivera** is another athlete who played for the team two years ago who has returned. Newcomer **Mia Wiggins** rounds out the team's roster.

Henderson is leading at the plate with an average just below .500. **Bacon** also has a hot bat right now.



Photo by Roger Lee
Short stop Kruse Kuhn

other positions."

Alford holds down first base most nights. **Spivey** and **Kuhn** are the middle infielders. **Tuthill** mans the hot corner. Joining **Crout** in the grass most nights are **Jack Healing** and **Bailey**.

Other members of the team are **Mason Wilcox**, **Jackson Ross**, **Kason Kuhn**, **Will Jutzeler**, **Dylan Plant**, **Brett Boberg**, **Chad Wightman**, **Jake Dahlberg**, **Jackson Meyer** and **Grant Bernard**.

Up next for **Ashley Ridge** is a series with **West Ashley**. The **Swamp Foxes** travel to the **Wildcats** April 13 and 17 and host **West Ashley** at 7 p.m. April 15.

AR Softball

Ashley Ridge shows promise on the softball diamond, but needs to stay focused in order to fulfill that potential.

"We are experiencing the ebbs and flows of what team shows up for what game," said **Ashley Ridge** coach **Larissa Shannon**. "Some games we are aggressive through the first few innings and then just stop playing so we go from being up to being even. When a team comes back on us, we have a hard time turning it back on.

LAURENCE MANNING ACADEMY SWAMPCATS

Swampcats softball adjusting to new pitching

By Dennis Brunson
 hssr.com Associate Editor
Manning – For the first time in a very long time, the **Laurence Manning Academy** softball team doesn't have **Laini Kosinski** or **Kayleigh Parmenter Avins** trotting out to the circle to pitch.

The Swampcats, the 2-time defending SCISA AAAA state champions, are still doing well this season, mind you. They were off to an 8-1 start, but it's just a different feel. "I told the girls that we've got young pitchers, so we're going to have play strong defense and our offense has to produce," said LMA head coach **Buddy Truett**.

Laurence Manning had done a good job with that up until it faced AAAA archrival **Wilson Hall**. The Swampcats dropped an 11-5 decision to the Barons in the first of two regular-season meetings.

"That was the worst game we've played all year, probably the worst we've played in a very long time," Truett said. "We had nine errors and eight strikeouts, three backward Ks (the bookkeeping symbol for taking a called third strike).

"It was uncharacteristic for us. I would much rather have that game in the middle of the season than at the end. It's good that they got punched in the mouth."

Laurence Manning has a strong senior class back for its final run in leftfielder **Marlee Black**, first baseman **Lyza Prickelmyer**, shortstop **Ashley Rae Hodge**, third baseman **Lily Wellborn** and rightfielder **Maggie Welch**.

The Swampcats were hitting .483 as a team coming out of spring break. Prickelmyer was leading the way with a phenomenal .759 batting average batting third, while cleanup hitter Hodge was "only" hitting .531. Black, the leadoff hitter, was at an even .500 while 5 hole hitter Wellborn was at .444 and Welch was at .458 batting seventh.

Prickelmyer was leading in runs scored with 23 to go with five doubles, four triples and 16 runs batted in.

"Every year she gets even better," Truett said. "That one right there is going to compete. She's going to compete until the last out. I wish I had nine just like her. Everybody would."

Hodge leads in RBI with 17 while scoring 16 runs with five doubles and a triple. Black had two home runs and two triples to go with 16 runs and seven RBI. Wellborn had three doubles, two triples and 10 runs and eight RBI, while Welch had a triple, nine runs and four RBI.

Freshman **Kendall Tanner** bats second. She was batting .462 with three doubles, three triples, a homer, nine RBI and 12 runs.

Junior centerfielder **Gracie Lyles** was batting .304 with two homers 10 RBI and 11 runs in the 6 hole. Sophomore catcher **Caroline Welch** bats eighth and was hitting .440 with five doubles, a triple, 10 runs and nine RBI. Freshman **Mcree Holcombe** bats ninth and was hitting .400.

Pitching-wise, Tanner had seen most of the time in the circle with 21 1/3 innings pitched. Caroline Welch had worked 11 innings and senior **Hannah Pack** had tossed 10 1/3. Page had a 4.59 earned run average Welch a 4.46 ERA and Pack a 2.71 ERA.

"They're young, so when the wheels fall off, they fall off," Truett said of his pitchers. "That's our weakness right now. We've just got to have consistency. I tell them to do your best and don't get frustrated when they hit the ball because they're going to hit the ball."

Other members of the team are seniors **Ashlynn Holmes** and **Emma Jean Casselman**, freshman **Olivia Welch** and sophomore **Irelynn Connors**.

With the Wilson Hall game being the final one LMA played before the break, it has had to have that bad taste in

its mouth for over a week. "One game doesn't define us as a team, but it's the last one we had," Truett said. "We've got to hit the reset button, buckle down and play fundamental softball."

LMA BASEBALL STARTS 5-9

The Laurence Manning baseball team won just five of its first 14 games and was only 2-6 in Region 3. Those are numbers that LMA veteran head coach **Barry Hatfield** is not used to seeing. He was hoping the Swampcats were ready to turn the corner upon returning from spring break.

"We have a certain expectation on our baseball program," said Hatfield, who has led Laurene Mannig to three state championships. "We're starting to come on, hitting the ball better in recent games.

"We had nine seniors last year and seven of them were pitchers. All the years we've been here we've had pretty defined roles. This year it's kind of been like musical chairs."

The Swampcats had one 2-game region series left against **Trinity Collegiate**. Hatfield believes the outcome of that series will go a long way in determining if his team makes the state tournament.

The typical batting order has senior **Payton Brown** in the leadoff spot with senior **Zy Dennis** in the 2 hole and junior **Connor Carter** hitting third. Junior **Grainger Powell** is the cleanup hitter with sophomore **Tyleek Dennis** batting fifth and junior **Josh Niswonger** sixth.

The back half of the order has junior **Bryson Pepper** hitting seventh, either senior **Brayden Barnhill** or junior **Pierson Gamble** in the 8 hole and senior **Ray Weston** flipping the order.

The only lockdown positions are held by Powell at shortstop and Zy Dennis in center field. Carter and Niswonger both see time at first base, while Brown and Barnhill both play second. Brown also sees time at third base with Pepper spelling him. Pepper also sees time in left with Gamble. Tyleek Dennis is the normal rightfielder with sophomore **Gavin Mathis** seeing time there as well.

Weston is the primary catcher who gets spelled by sophomore **Eli Sandifer**. Niswonger and Pepper also see time as the designated hitter.

Barnhill is the leading hitter with a .333 batting average. Powell was hitting .324, Zy Dennis .312, Carter .303 and Tyleek Dennis .300.

Niswonger was batting .292 and Brown was hitting .282.

Niswonger and Mathis are the primary starting pitchers. Niswonger had worked 24 innings with a 2.63 earned run average to go with 35 strikeouts. Mathis had worked 23 1/3 innings with a 3.30 ERA

Hatfield also calls on Weston, junior **Drake Price**, Barnhill, Brown and Pepper for innings with Powell the closer.

All of the pitchers are right-handers. The only left-hander is junior, but he is currently rehabilitating an injury. While Carter has been able to play in the field, he has been unable to pitch because of an injury.

"We've got a lot of people who should probably be throwing junior varsity," Hatfield said. "It's a big jump for Gavin to the No. 2 starter but he's done a good job. If Carter were able to pitch, he'd probably be in a starter's role."

In Memory of Spencer Jordan
 Mishoe Oil & Propane Co., Inc. (843) 426-2600

Laurence Manning Booster Club
 Salutes the Swampcats!!!

Anderson Pharmacy
 Phone 433-2212
 419 South Mill St. - Manning, SC
 Saluting All Area Schools!
 Rock Ouzts

Oak III Farms
 P.O. Box 145
 Summerton, SC 29148
 803-478-6163
 Saluting All Area Schools!

Pocotaligio Products
 1575 Pleasant Grove Rd
 Alcolu, SC 29901 (803) 513-9286
 www.pocoproducts.com

Superior Manufacturing
 PO Box 669 - Manning, SC 29102
 803-473-3135 Go Swampcats!

FTC ftc-i.net | 888.218.5050
 Proud Supporter of Swampcat Athletics!

Porter Jack's Grill
 505 S. Mill Street
 Manning, SC 29102
 (803) 433-5000
 Go Swampcats!

Brunson's Pharmacy
 12 North Brooks Street
 Manning, SC 29102
 (803) 435-2511 www.BrunsonsRX.com
 Proudly Saluting the Swampcats!

SH Jackson Farms
 PO Box 456 Manning, SC 29102
 803-460-4884 Go Swampcats!

WILDER BROTHERS WILLIAMSBURG HOUSE
 EST. 1938
 "The Best Furniture Prices in the State!"
 (843) 426-2456 GCWilder@yahoo.com

SkateStation Fun You Can Feel
 45 Old Manning Rd. Sumter, SC
 803-481-7655 (ROLL)
 Swampcat football: A Griffith Family Affair

C & A CARPET
 FLOORING EXPERTS
 SO YOU DONT HAVE TO BE
 An authorized dealer of **Shaw**
 Where Great Floors Begin
 990 S. Pike W - Sumter, SC 29150
 (803) 774-0001
 candacarpet.com

Triple T Electric
 1530 Airport Rd. Sumter, SC 29153
 803-469-4942 Go Swampcats!

SHONEY'S
 2742 Paxville Hwy
 Manning, SC 29102
 (803) 696-4481
 www.shoneys.com
 Go Swampcats!

T&S Construction
 400 Dorethia St. Sumter, SC 29154
 803-983-1042 Go Swampcats!

Wardlaw baseball and softball teams competing

By: Gerald Doolittle
Johnston, S.C. – The Baseball and Softball teams at **Wardlaw Academy** go into spring break still in the run for SCISA Region 4-A and State playoff seedings.

The softball team coached by **Katie Yonce** heads into spring break with a 3-4 overall record and 0-1 in region play. They are in the same region with **W.W. King Academy** and **Richard Winn Academy**.

After spring break the **Lady Patriots** will have 10 games left to play. They will face **Hammond (twice), W.W. King (twice), Greenwood Christian, Augusta Christian, Richard Winn, Jefferson Davis (twice) and Heathwood Hall**.

The batting average leaders so far have been **Brianna McNeil (sr) .562, Bailey Sturkie (sr) .500, Ellie Yonce (8th) .471, Katherine Trotter (sr) .357 and Taylor Hill (sr) .353**.

Knights spring sports in competitive races

By: Gerald Doolittle
Batesburg-Leesville, S.C. –Going into spring break the **W.W. King Academy Baseball and Softball** teams are in competitive races for Region and State Titles for the 2026 seasons.

The softball team coached by **Allen Guy** are hoping for another deep run in the playoffs. Last season the **Lady Knights** finished 9-3. This season the **Lady Knights** go into spring break with a 6-2 overall record and 2-0 in region play. After spring break they have six games remaining, including two region games with **Wardlaw Academy**. **W.W. King, Wardlaw and Richard Winn** are only schools in the region playing softball this season. **Newberry Academy, Cambridge Academy and Anderson Christian** did not field teams in 2026.

Coach Guy's roster includes seniors **Kenzie**

Laurens Academy baseball opens up at 6-4

By Dennis Brunson
 hssr.com Associate Editor
Laurens – After getting off to a slow start, the **Laurens Academy** baseball team entered spring break playing well. The Crusaders had won five of their last six games to up their overall record to 6-4.

LA head coach **Darryl Halbert** thinks the best is yet to come for a team with just one senior.

"Eight of our starters were playing basketball deep into the playoffs (reaching the semifinals of the SCISA AA state tournament) and are just now getting into baseball condition," said Halbert, who has seen his team eclipse last year's win total when Laurens went 5-8.

The most consistent lineup is made up of senior **Braydon Burke**, juniors **Caleb Hardy, Evan Asalone, Ethan Collins** and **Elijah Hornberger**, sophomore **Mason Cooper**, freshmen **Elias Littleton** and **Riley Whittaker** and eighth-grader **Wyatt Little**.

Littleton, Whittaker and Little man the top three spots in the batting order. Hardy, Asalone and Collins are usually in the next three spots with Cooper, Burke and Hornberger manning the bottom third.

Little led the team in hitting with a .486 batting average and had six doubles. Asalone was batting .333 with Whittaker at .323 and Collins at .318.

Burke and Asalone are the top two returning pitchers. Burke had a 3-1 win-loss record in 18 1/3 innings pitched while Asalone is 1-1 in 12 1/3 innings. Little is also 1-1 with a team best 1.46 earned run average in 14 1/3 innings. Whittaker has worked 10 1/3 innings and has a save, and Littleton is 1-0 in 3 2/3 innings.

Other members of the team are sophomores **Rob Roper**, freshman **Jenson Tarver** and eighth-graders

Rounding out the **Lady Patriot** roster **Dorothy Kemp, Ashley Reichling (sr), Brooklyn Proctor (fr), Olyvia Wall (jr), Brilee Brazell (jr), Charlotte Culver (fr), Allysa Carpenter (jr), Gracie Kelly (sr), Maddie Campbell (soph), Savannah McNeill (8th) and Lillie Stocum (soph)**.

The baseball team coached by **Morgan Burgess** heads into spring break with an overall record of 2-7 and a 1-2 record in SCISA Region 4-A. After spring break they have two games against **Jefferson Davis Academy** and one game with **W.W. King** to close out the regular season. Then will have games to play in a Region 4-A tournament on April 21-22.

The Patriot roster includes **Sam Coughenour (364), Evan Bryan, Jake Winn (.261), Brady Edmunds (.286), Chandler Bartley, Judah McClelland (.179), Thomas Proctor (.182), Kale Henderson (.200), Jon Rodgers (.182) and Brody Johnson (.385)**.

Morse, Petra Mannel and Abby Aull. The two juniors are **Zoey Livingston** and **Madison Bedenbaugh**. The only sophomore is **Grace Black**. The two freshmen are **Caroline Pickens** and **Alivia Anderson**.

Rounding out the **Lady Knights** roster are the 8th and 7th graders **Emma Enlow, Emily Bergeron, Blythe Buzhardt, Sarah Pickens, Lilly Claire Matthews, Aiden Amick, Eva Yarborough and Emoree Shealy**.

The baseball team coached by **Zach Matthews** are working hard to improve on their 7-9 record from last season. Going into spring break the **Knights** have a 6-4 overall record and 2-1 in region play. After break, the **Knights** have games left with **Williston-Elko, Wardlaw** and two games with **Lau-**

See **WW King**, pg. 63
 George Sherer and Hodges Compton.

LA SOFTBALL STARTS 2-5

The **Laurens Academy** softball team is also young with just two seniors. The **Lady Crusaders** opened with a 2-5 record.

"The season so far hasn't been what we want, but we are a young team," said LA head coach **Frankie Dunaway**. "We started the season without a definite pitcher. I've had three ladies step up and are trying their best to throw strikes."

The three working in the circle are senior **Madyson Graham** and sophomores **Caroline Robinson** and **Mackenzie Runyans**.

Runyans is batting leadoff and also plays shortstop. Junior **Morgan Bolding** bats second and plays either shortstop or second base. Batting in the 3 hole is sophomore third baseman/outfielder **Brooke Abercrombie**.


Graham is batting cleanup and also plays first. Junior outfielder **Addison Mitchum** bats fifth followed by senior outfielder **Sophia Harvey**, outfielder **Robinson** and junior catcher **Makayla Lindley**.

Junior **Caroline Mullinax** and eighth-grader **Ellie Watts** share time in the outfield and round out the batting order.

Lindley was leading in hitting with a .500 average, while Graham was batting .364 and Abercrombie .333.

"We've improved since the beginning of the season, and we are striving to get better game by game," Dunaway said.

Other members of the team are sophomores **Payton Cagle** and **Lily Goforth**.


WARDLAW
The Yonce Family Salutes Wardlaw Athletics

In Memory of Wardlaw Supporter Larry Yonce
 Courtesy the Yonce Family
 The Peach Capital of the World

Green Meadows Poultry
 Proudly Salutes Wardlaw Academy
 (803) 480-2943 - Go Patriots!

Phillip Quarles Proudly Salutes Wardlaw Academy Athletics!
 Let's Go Patriots!

WW KING
 Kilo Charlie Shooting Range Salutes WKA!



Let's Go Knights!
 Friends of W.W. King Academy


"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

Amick Farms
 PREMIUM CHICKEN PRODUCTS
 Proudly Saluting the WW King Knights!

www.HSSR.com

LAURENS ACADEMY


THOMAS MECHANICAL
 1925 Hunter Industrial Park Rd.
 PO Box 462
 Laurens, SC 29360
 864.681.4247 (Office)
 864.681.4822 (Fax)
Go Crusaders!


Robertson Ace Hardware
 578 N. Main St., Woodruff, 29388
 340 Hillcrest Dr. Laurens, SC 29360
 107 Jacobs Hwy, Clinton, SC 29325
 401 S Alabama Ave, Chesnee, SC 29323
 (864) 476-5580 (864) 984-2280

Gray baseball, softball ready for final stretches

By WORTHY EVANS
Staff Writer
Columbia - This season is proving to be a great year for the **Gray Collegiate** baseball team, in spite of head coach **Matt Hornsby** no longer being with the team after just one year as head coach.

Under assistants **James Adams** and **Terry Oldaker**, who are acting as co-coaches this spring, the War Eagles are 14-3-1 and unbeaten in Region 4-4A at 9-0.

With the change at the top came a challenge for the seniors as well as the assistant coaches, in that they had to bear a larger responsibility to keep the team going in the right direction.

"The team was challenged. It's their season, not ours," Adams said. "We put some captains in place; that's never been done before. We've leaned on our seniors. We have given them some direction. They have done a phenomenal job with it."

After a 3-3 start, Gray won 11 straight games, including a 5-4 win over region rival and defending 4A champion **Airport** April 3. The War Eagles got off to a 4-0 lead by the fourth inning, but Airport scored one run in the bottom of the fourth and, after Gray got a run in the sixth, scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth. Relief pitcher **Brogan Sox**, who came on to start the sixth, retired three of four Eagles batters to earn the save to starter **Zak Perry's** win.

"This is No.1 and No. 2 in the region," Adams said. "It came down to the wire. We had our guys on the bump tonight. We dealt with adversity, we got it done. I'm proud of them, they grinded it out slowly but surely."

Perry is 5-0 on the season with a 0.24 earned-run average in his five appearances and 38 strikeouts. Sox

is 2-0 with a 2.48 ERA in six appearances.

At the plate **Kaleb Holmes** leads War Eagle batters with 40 or more at-bats with a .356 average. **Chase Starkey** is batting .354 with 17 hits and a team-high 19 RBI, and **Garrett Blankenship** isn't far behind with a .346 batting average, 18 hits. **Noah Styron** (.346), **M.J. Hornsby** (.245), and **Perry** (.319) all have a home run.

After a strong stint in the **Gilbert Invitational** over Spring Break, the War Eagles' season goes into its final stretch. Gray faced **Brookland-Cayce** twice this week and takes on second-place Gilbert next week. How those two series play out will determine how good a seeding the War Eagles get in the postseason.

Beyond the push for the playoffs, Adams said he and Oldaker want to make sure the team stays loose and ready for anything that comes along.

"If it's not broke, don't fix it. We're going to keep doing what we are doing," Adams said. "We're going to let the boys have fun. We're going to practice hard and be wise with our time. We want to take the same approach to every game no matter who the opponent is that we are playing."

Gray Collegiate softball won the 4A state championship largely because of its power at the plate. The War Eagles hit more than 60 home runs last year.

This season, after the loss of seven seniors, Gray has just nine home runs. While the dropoff of dingers is noticeable in the team statistics, the War Eagles (18-0, 8-0 Region 4-4A) are still very much a formidable team.

"We're just a solid team. We're more athletic than we've ever been," head coach **Doug Frye** said. I've

See **Gray Collegiate**, pg. 60



2026 Oceanside Landsharks Girls Soccer

Oceanside once again chasing spring crowns

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Mt. Pleasant - The dominant success of the athletic department at **Oceanside Collegiate Academy** has been well-known as the premier winner in South Carolina.

OCA won nine state titles during the 2024-25 school year and several of those state championships came from the spring sports. As expected, the spring sports of 2026 are having similar success and several teams will likely make state title runs by the end of May.

With three weeks remaining in the regular season, OCA is starting to wrap up region championships in most sports with sights soon turning to the postseason.

The OCA baseball team has not been as dominant as in recent years but the Landsharks have the talent to challenge in class AAA. OCA came out of spring break with a 12-8-1 record overall against one of the tougher schedules in the state.

Several players are having productive seasons to date. **Charlie Johnson** is hitting .422 with seven RBI and **Finn Kucaba** is hitting at a blistering .543 clip with 11 RBI. **Tanner Fleming** is hitting .314 while **Cash Crone**

is hitting .281.

Key workers on the mound include **Brayden Schwartz**, **Aiden Culler** and **Hank Griffith** but coach **Britt Reames** has used 11 pitchers in various situations this season in an effort to build depth for the long run.

The OCA softball team entered this season with high hopes after winning 20 games last season. But the season got off to a slow start, against a tough early schedule, as OCA lost their first six games of the season.

Things have settled down since as the Landsharks won five of their next eight games, hopefully setting the stage for a late season run.

Coach **Alecia Robinson** has mostly underclassmen on her roster this spring. The only senior starter is utility performer **Mia Roseborough**. Junior infielder **Kendall Bas** is a returning all-state performer and sophomore **Alexa Miller** is a returning starter behind the dish.

Junior **Hannah Bagwell** returns on the infield and junior **Brooke Bas** and sophomore **Hannah Stubbs** return on the outfield.

A key addition to the roster is junior pitcher **Gracie Sue Billings**, a transfer from James Island.

GRAY COLLEGIATE



The Gray Collegiate Academy
Athletic Department
& Booster Club
Salutes the War Eagles!



Dr. Raleigh Boulware
Salutes All
Gray Collegiate
War Eagles
Athletic Programs!

OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE

The Dale Strickland family salute OCA Sports!
Parker Stubbs #25 - Go Landsharks!

Go Landsharks!
Oceanside Collegiate Academy
580 Faison Rd.
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466
(843) 936-7128

BLACK & BLUE BOOSTER CLUB
PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE OCEANSIDE COLLEGIATE ACADEMY FOOTBALL PROGRAM
#FINSUP CONGRATS On a Phenomenal 2024 Season ocafootball.com

SCREEN EAST
843-871-8213

EST. 1982 Proud Supporter of all Area Schools!
SCREEN PRINTING & GRAPHIC DESIGN

www.ScreenEastInc.com

Another defending state champion is the girls lacrosse team. This year's team is off to an 8-4 start with all four losses coming to out-of-state powerhouse programs.

Senior **Scarlett Mayer** leads the team in scoring with 50 goals and 23 assists. Freshman **Reagan Bowers** has tallied 34 goals and senior **Greta Mayer** has accounted for 18 goals and 24 assists. Senior **Kaitlyn Boerst** has 30 goals and 17 assists. Sophomore goalie **Avery Clark** has posted 65 saves.

Also defending state titles from last season are the boys lacrosse team, the boys soccer team and the girls soccer team, which has won four consecutive state championships.

Florence Area Feature Page

West Florence's Eliason dominating in softball

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Florence - It has been said if a softball team possesses a dominant pitcher in the circle, it can be a very, very, very good team.

West Florence High School has a very, very, very good softball team.

The Knights have senior **Annie Ruth Eliason** pitching, and she is having a phenomenal year. Eliason, the only senior on the roster, has victories in all 12 of their games and had yet to allow an earned run in 72 2/3 innings. She had faced 247 batters, striking out 189 of them while walking just eight. Opponents owned a .051 batting average against her.

"Annie Ruth's composure on the mound this season has been incredible," said **Wayne Locklair**, who is in his second year as head coach after serving six years as an assistant. "She has been able to throw all of her pitches with tremendous control, having only eight walks. She has worked very hard to get where she is at, and she is also our team mentor to the younger players."

Eliason is third in the batting order. Centerfielder **Bayleigh Honeycutt** and shortstop **Paityn Daniels** bat in front of her while third baseman **Anniston Kirshy** bats behind her as the cleanup hitter.

Catcher **Hannah Marsik** hits fifth followed by sec-

ond baseman **Ashley Moody**, rightfielder **Hannah Grace Duke**, first baseman **Jayde Perugini** and left-fielder **Tolsyn Lynch**.

Daniels was leading the team in hitting with a .486 batting average and an on-base percentage of .604. Honeycutt, an eighth-grader, was hitting .467, Marsik was at .459 with three home runs, and Eliason was at .410 with three homers and 15 runs batted in. Moody, another eighth-grader, was hitting .341.

Despite starting two eighth-graders and sometimes three freshmen, Locklair is happy with the way his team is handling the pressure of being undefeated.

"Surprisingly, the team is handling success very well," said Locklair, whose squad was leading Region 5-A with a 6-0 record. "We work very hard on trying to keep them humble. I have noticed the players being very respectful to our opponents, which is a quality trait."

SOUTH FLORENCE SOFTBALL

See Florence Area, pg. 41

ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
2001 Hoffmeyer Rd. Florence, SC
O: 843-702-0801 Ext. 1657
KeiaG@abbank.com

Call Keia!

Young FCS baseball off to strong start in 2026

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Florence - The **Florence Christian School** baseball team went 11-10 last season in **Scotty Keefe's** return to the dugout as head coach. However, the Eagles lost six starters from that squad.

That hasn't deterred FCS so far this season though. It owned an 8-2 overall record coming out of spring break and was 1-1 in SCISA Region 3-AAA, splitting a pair of games with **Pee Dee Academy**.

"We are starting just three with any amount of varsity starting time or experience on the varsity level,"

Keefe said. "The young men are making progress and are very scrappy in hanging in there to compete."

The three returning starters are sophomore **Riley Minton**, senior **Wyatt Clark** and freshman **Layton Alexander**. Along with being position players, they were slated to be the primary starting pitchers, although Alexander had yet to pitch due to an arm injury.

Clark and Minton have been outstanding on the mound to date. Clark had a 4-0 win-loss record, while Minton was 3-0. Clark had 14 1/3 innings pitched, while Minton had logged 27 2/3.

See Florence Christian, pg. 31

Lamar baseball, softball having strong seasons

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor

Lamar - Head coach **Adam Fedewa** has seen some things he really likes about his **Lamar High School** baseball team. And then, not so much.

"I think we've shown glimpses of being a special baseball team, but we've also shown a lack of focus at times which has cost us in some contests," Fedewa said. "Finding stability is still our missing element."

Coming out of spring break though, the Silver Foxes owned a 9-4 overall record. More importantly though, they were undefeated in Region 3-Class A with a 6-0 record.

Lamar returned six starters from last year's 13-12 team that reached the championship round of its district tournament in the state playoffs.

The batting order has **Aiden Munn** leading off and starting in right field. **Zori Pierce** starts in center and bats in the 2 hole with catcher **Cody Barr** batting third.

Hayden Timmons, who pitches, plays the outfield and serves as the designated hitter, bats cleanup. First baseman **Messiah Simes** bats fifth, and third baseman **Ryan Hill** is in the 6 hole.

The order rounds out with shortstop **Ethan Munn** hitting seventh, second baseman **LT Weatherly** eighth and **Tucker Watford** ninth.

Watford, Timmons and Barr as the closer see most of the important innings on the mound.

LAMAR SOFTBALL 8-2 IN REGION

The Lamar softball team is having a strong season. The Silver Foxes were 10-6 overall and 8-2 in region play, good for second place behind defending Upper State champion **Lewisville**.

The Silver Foxes are hitting .350 as a team and are led by sophomore **Isabella Hayes** with a .485 batting average. Hayes had six doubles, a triple and a home run to go with a team high 17 runs batted in.

Junior **Cheyenne Anderson** was batting .433 with seven doubles, eighth-grader **Jordyn Scarbrough** was hitting .375 with 18 runs scored, junior **Ryley Nichols** was hitting .333, seventh-grader **Sadie McManus** was hitting .323, M Bullard is hitting .321, freshman **Taylor Guinn** was hitting .320, junior **Gabby Mendiola** was hitting .312, and junior **Ansley Brantley** was hitting .303.

The Silver Foxes run the bases with abandon as they've stolen 125. Leading the charge is Brantley with 20 while Guinn and McManus both had 18, Scarbrough 15, Anderson 12 and freshman **Kynley Brantley** 10.

Hayes leads in innings pitched with 38. She had 44 strikeouts and a 4.42 earned run average. Ansley Brantley has worked 21 2/3 innings with a 3.55 ERA.

Greystone Properties (843) 615-2358
Carolina Carts (843) 665-5689
Lil D's Dugout (843) 629-0645
BG's Outdoor Metal Roofing (843) 321-5227
Chick-Fil-A Irby Street Proudly Salutes the Bruins!
Proudly Saluting #17 Jayden Sellers

South Florence High School Athletic Department
Saluting All Bruins Athletes!

The Citizens Bank
"Where old-fashioned service never goes out of style"
843-656-1660
www.thecitizensbank.com

South Florence High School Athletic Booster Club
Proudly Saluting the Bruins!

Go Bruins!
Scranton - (843) 389-0500
Georgetown - (843) 545-8473

Carolinas Centers for Sight
Leaders in Advanced Eye Care **ccfs.com | 843.664.9393**
Go Bruins!

PALMETTO HEATING & COOLING
843.669.8050 **PalmettoHC.com**
LET US TAKE CARE OF YOUR AIR

Lee's Tire & Auto
4316 S. Irby Street Florence, SC 29505
843-702-0105 **Proudly Saluting the Bruins!**

ZION GILBERT
We're Proud of You!
Love, Your Family

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN
Brett Butler
Producing Branch Manager
NMLS #197760
Company NMLS #1018
GO MORTGAGE
bbutler@gomortgage.com
843-954-5281
843-615-1992
gomortgage.com

Chick-fil-A
Proud Supporters of Florence Christian Eagles Athletics!
Irby Street

Coward Truck Stop
3506 US Hwy 52 Coward, SC 29530
Ph: (843) 210-0370
Kitchen: (843) 210-0371

LAMAR
JIA
Jeffords Insurance Agency
Auto - Home - Farm - Business - Life
(803) 484-5462
Bishopville, SC 29010
(843) 326-1487 (803) 433-0060
Lamar, SC 29069 Manning, SC 29102
Go Silver Foxes!

piggly wiggly
local since forever™
Go Silver Foxes!
100 Railroad Ave, Lamar, SC
(843) 326-7117

Lamar High School Athletic Booster Club
Salutes the Silver Foxes!

www.HSSR.com

PARKER'S USED CARS

Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com

Specializing in Clean Used Cars Since 1983

3802 Hwy 38 S Blenheim, SC 29516 Off: 843-528-3100 Fax: 843-528-3100

Berkeley softball still the team to beat in region

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Moncks Corner – Despite changes in personnel and youth in some key areas, the softball and baseball teams at **Berkeley High** are still the teams that everyone else is chasing in region 7-A.A.A.A.A.

Both teams have some new faces in the lineup, with the softball team hit especially hard by graduation after the 2025 season. Coach **Kelley Dillon** has guided her program to eight consecutive region titles.

Eyebrows were raised in late March when Berkeley suffered a 5-4 loss to Wando. Dillon says her team may have been feeling the weight of past successes and didn't handle the pressure very well.

"I think our program has created a culture where winning our region is something we set a standard for, and with a young team this year I believe that we created a little more pressure for us on the field," the coach said. "There was a tense weight that we were carrying and that didn't allow us to play as freely as we would have liked,

"I think Wando played a great game and they're a competitive team but we just didn't do what we needed to do in order to win. All of our region is competitive and to be able to accomplish what we have so far is amazing."

After the loss to Wando, and just before spring break, the Stags bounced back with an 11-3 win over Stratford. They were able to breathe and relax a little during the break.

"Pressure is a good thing and it's not something we should run from but embrace and shape into a form of focused fun and allow us to play a little more freely going into Stratford. I think we dropped some of the pressure that we took with us to Wando.

"It's tough to say whether the break came at a good time. I think going into the break after a good outing can be a great way to say 'hey this is where we want to be and who we need to be to capture another region title', but also give us a little bit of separation to reflect on the changes we've made."

Berkeley came out of spring break with an 8-8 record and a 3-1 record in the region. The first game back, on April 13, was against Wando so Dillon will get a real look at how her team is responding.

Around the lineup, Dillon has **Peyton Gamble** starting at third base and **Sara Curtis** starting at shortstop. The right side of the infield has **Hayden Garner** at second and **Emma Drawdy** at first. Both are first-year starters.

Mariah Heath has taken over as the No. 1 pitcher this spring while **Jaysea Shaw** is a first-year starter behind the plate. **Brooklyn Hill** is a veteran returner in the outfield, joined by **Natalie Floyd** and **Emerson Williams**.

After the rematch with Wando, Berkeley will face Cane Bay twice, and has single games with Goose Creek, Stratford and Lucy Beckham, which are the three teams Berkeley has already defeated in region play.



2026 Cane Bay Cobras softball

Cane Bay baseball, softball fighting for playoffs

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Summerville – Though neither team is considered a state title contender this season, the baseball and softball teams at **Cane Bay High** are working hard to at least earn a spot in the A.A.A.A.A. Division I state playoffs in early May.

Both squads are fairly young overall and each team is battling hard to compete. Coming out of spring break, both teams were 5-10 overall. The baseball team is 3-3 in region 7-A.A.A.A.A. play while the softball team is 2-1. Both teams have an ending schedule backloaded with region teams so there's plenty for the taking.

The baseball team has three region wins over Goose Creek but the Cobras lost all three of their three-game region series against Wando. The Cobras still have three-game series with Stratford, Lucy Beckham and Berkeley.

Coach **Shane Todd** has a handful of seniors but also starts a bevy of underclassmen. Freshman **Tre Lawrence** is the starting centerfielder and considered a Division I prospect. He is hitting .286 with eight RBI through the first 15 games. Freshman **Davis Owens** is the starting shortstop and has show great potential, while sophomore **Colton Price** is working in the middle infeld and is hitting .296 on the season.

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.

BERKELEY

Moncks Corner Cleaners Since 1945
We Support The Stags!
Cleaning, Laundry, Alterations, Pressing, Button Replacement, Mending.
Michael Locklear 204 E. Main Street Moncks Corner, SC 843-761-8441
"We Spoil Our Customers, Not Their Clothes!"

HOME TELECOM "Saluting All Area Schools!"
888-746-4482
www.HomeSC.com

CFP Go Stags!
Custom Fabricated Products, LLC
864 Whitesville Rd.
Moncks Corner, SC 29461
843-761-6370

KING Risk Partners Go Stags!
Craig Mims 111 Foxbank Plantation Blvd, Ste C (843) 824-8000 Cell: 843-509-8427

County Supervisor
JOHNNY CRIBB
Supports All BCSD Athletics

Delta Pharmacy & Medical Supply Since 1935
Moncks Corner - Daniel Island - Charleston
Hollywood - Elloree - Isle of Palms - Eutawville

Santee Drug Center, LLC Saluting All Area Schools!
3931 Byrnes Dr. Suite D St. Stephen, SC 29479 (843) 567-3291

CANE BAY

Winningham Insurance Agency
PO Box 764 Summerville, SC 29484
843-873-9202

Go Cobras!

In softball, **Traci Hutchinson** is in her first season as head coach. Hutchinson is a former Cane Bay player. **Cadence Adkins** is one of the top players this season, hitting .344 with 11 RBI in the first 15 games. Junior shortstop **Jasmine Dargan** is hitting .310 and **Kayleigh Christmas** is hitting .318 with five RBI.

Other contributors offensively include **Charlet Reed** (.282, 7 RBI), **Marleigh Robertson** (310, 6 RBI), **Emma Tychek** (.308, 12 RBI), and **Lyla Roberson** (.399, 10 RBI).

Isabella Kelly is the top pitcher but Robertson and **Ava Miller** have seen time inside the circle, Kelly leads the staff with 36 innings of work.

Saluda baseball in deadlock for region lead

**By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor**
Saluda – **Saluda High School** baseball coach **Travis Mills** was more than pleased with how his team had performed heading into spring break. The Tigers owned an 11-5 overall record and a 5-1 mark in Region 2-AA.

Mills is hoping that strong start has laid the groundwork to what comes over the final few weeks of the season.

"I'm super proud of how we have played to this point in the season so far," Mills said. "We have played a really tough schedule that we hope prepares us for a run at a region title and also a run in the AA playoffs."

Saluda was tied with defending AA state champion **Batesburg-Leesville** for first place. The teams have yet to meet this season. They face off on April 21 and April 24.

The Tigers also have two region games left against **Strom Thurmond**.

Mills credits a 7-man senior class for helping set the stage for this season. They are **Brayden Williams, Cooper Gantt, Lane Ashley, Jeremy Matthews, Sid Shaw, Zac Costain** and **Ethan Graham**.

"We have a great group of seniors who have been here a long time and those guys are leading the way," Mills said.

Three of them are in the starting lineup in Shaw, Williams and Matthews. Shaw is a returning **South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association All-State selection** and was the runner-up for Region Player of the Year. He's the catcher and the leadoff hitter.

Williams is the centerfielder and bats cleanup. Matthews is the rightfielder and hits seventh.

Shaw was leading the team in both hitting and on-base percentage. He had a .431 batting average and a .554 OBP. Williams was batting .372 with a .518 OBP, and Matthews had a .250 average and a

.352 OBP. Sophomore shortstop **Eduardo Dominguez** bats second behind Shaw while sophomore designated hitter **Bryson Burnett** bats third. In the 5 hole after Williams is freshman first baseman **Abraham Del Valle** followed by junior leftfielder **Tristan Daniels**, Matthews sophomore second baseman **Cash Martin** and freshman third baseman **Javier Sorcia**.

Daniells was batting .429 with a 520 OBP, Del Valle was hitting .370 with a .393 OBP, Burnett was at .308 and .410, Dominguez was at .275 and .383, and Martin was at .235 and .386.

Mills has a pair of freshmen as his region starting pitchers in right-hander **Cayden Rogers** and left-hander **Westan Rowe**. They have been highly effective so far with Rogers possessing a 1.45 earned run average and Rowe a 1.50 ERA.

Dominguez has a 1.67 ERA, while Costain was at 1.70, Burnett at 1.11 and **Will Wideman** at 2.63.

Other arms Mills has available are Williams, Matthews, Gantt and Ashley.

What is Mills' one wish as the playoffs draw near?

"As we head into the back half of the season, one thing I'd like to see us improve on is our defense at times," he said.

SALUDA SOFTBALL AT 15-3

The defending upper state champion Saluda softball team was off to a strong start. The Tigers were 15-3 overall and 4-1 in region play. They had one region loss along with B-L and **Ninety Six**.

Saluda was working its way back through the region schedule after spring break. Its loss came to Batesburg-Leesville while it defeated **Ninety Six**.

Key performers are **Kamryn Campbell**, pitcher **Miller Martin**, **Zoey Springs**, **Nyla Jordan**, **Aubrey Boots Marnatti**, **Ava Martin**, **Amy Sorcia** and **Karen Almarez**.

Edwards Heating & Cooling, LLC
1759 Newberry Highway Saluda, SC 29138
(864) 445-0088

The Hair Strand
328 South Main Street Saluda, SC 29138
864-445-2991

SALUDA NURSING & REHAB CENTER
Where caring is a way of life
Proudly Saluting the Tigers!

Saluda County Schools
Saluda County Schools
LEARNERS FOR LIFE

Florence Area, continued from pg. 23

Despite losing AAAA All-State pitcher **Payton Perry** to graduation, **South Florence** was off to another strong start. The Bruins were 11-3 overall and 6-1 in Region 5, good for a tie for second with **Hartsville** with both teams trailing undefeated **Darlington**.

Senior catcher **Ryleigh Hux** is back for the Bruins after an outstanding junior season. Also back are junior **Blakely Blue**, junior **Ava Black**, freshman **Page White** and freshman **Rylie Rowsey**.

WILSON SOFTBALL

Wilson is a region foe for South Florence, and the Tigers were 7-5 overall and 4-4 in region play.

Senior **Zoey Miller** was having a huge season. She was batting .690 with three doubles, four triples, four homers, 24 runs scored and 14 RBI.

Wilson was hitting .427 as a team. Senior **Martina Taylor** was hitting .600, senior **Kayla Carroway** .469,

junior **Sakura Jordan** .455 and junior .452.

WEST FLORENCE BASEBALL

The Knights started with a 9-6 overall record and were winless in their first four region contests.

Carson Haynes was the leading hitter with a .391 average and a team high 20 RBI along with two homers. **Newt Hinson** was batting .342 with a team high four homers, and **Avery Weaver** was batting .385 with two homers.

Weaver has been strong on the mound as well. He had a 2.84 ERA in a team high 32 innings.

SOUTH FLORENCE BASEBALL

The South Florence baseball team was 12-7 overall, but 6-0 in Region 5. That was good for a tie for first with **Hartsville**.

Senior **Christian Hickson** was leading the offense with a .447 average and a team high 18 runs. Senior

SALUDA

Southern Roots Salon & Spa - (864) 445-3310
Cheering on the Tigers! - LeeAnna and Natalie
The Hardware Store (864) 445-3472
General Supply Company (864) 445-7412
Punks PB & JAMM (864) 445-3434
Crawford's Contracting Salutes the Tigers!
Smith Auto Sales (864) 445-2342 (864) 445-7113
Rowe Automotive (864) 445-3468
Ramey Funeral Home (864) 445-2366
Linda's Styling Salon (864) 445-9262
Trotter Enterprises LLC - (864) 445-2300
Goff's Landscaping Inc. - Go Tigers!
Butler & Sons Funeral Home (864) 445-2623

SALUDA HIGH SCHOOL
salutes our
TIGERS
Robert C. Etheredge, Principal
160 Ivory Key Rd, Saluda, SC 29138
(864) 445-3011

The Saluda High School Booster Club
Salutes Tiger Athletics!
Go Out & Make Us Proud!

Saluda Livestock Market Inc.
501 N. Main St. Saluda, SC 29138
(864) 445-2765

Hoof 'N Paw Veterinary Services
106 W. Wheeler Circle / Saluda, SC
864-445-7056

www.HSSR.com

Manning Hatchell was batting .391, and senior **Khalon McKee** was batting .295 with a team high 18 RBI.

The pitching staff was led by senior **Kellin Croshaw** and eighth-grader **Gavin Jordan**. Croshaw had a 3-0 record, a 1.75 ERA and 35 strikeouts in 24 innings. Jordan was 4-0 with a 1.62 ERA and 28 strikeouts in 21 2/3 innings.

WILSON BASEBALL

The Tigers were just 7-10 overall but owned a 4-2 mark in region play.

Mark Law was the leading hitter at .478 to go with a team high 15 RBI. **Cruz Freeman** was batting .417, **Jayden Buntin** was at .345 and **Kingston Cooper** was hitting .333 with a team high 21 runs.

Law was the top pitcher with a 3-2 record, a 1.95 ERA and 42 strikeouts in 28 2/3 innings.

Abbeville spring sports aiming to finish strong

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Abbeville – Entering spring break, the spring sports teams at **Abbeville High** have set their sights on a strong finish.

Abbeville will have a good presence in the Class A state playoffs when the postseason begins at the end of April/

One team hoping for a good run in the baseball team, coached by **Daniel Little**. Though Little has a relatively young team after losing nine seniors off a 24-win team of 2025. The Panthers carried an 8-3 record into spring break.

“Much younger group with a lot of new faces, but it’s a fun team to coach,” Little said. “They are a scrappy bunch. They play hard and they practice well. We have a lot who have been in the program for a few years waiting on their chance. They know the expectations of the program and they understand what it takes to compete.

“This is my fifth year here so these kids have been with me since I took over and we have grown together. We have good team chemistry and it is a tight group.”

The two most experienced players on the roster are shortstop **Easton Townsend** and pitcher **Trey**

Deason. Deason is hitting .391 through 11 games while Townsend is hitting .333. Sophomore second baseman **Thomas Nickles** is hitting .381 and sophomore **Logan Overholt** is hitting .333.

Sophomore **Brayden Randall** leads the team with 15 innings pitched through March.

“We don’t have the big power guys so we have to work hard to get guys on base, play small ball and use our speed to create scoring opportunities,” says Little.

The softball team hit the break at 8-6 overall and 5-2 in region 1-A. Senior **Carli Smith** has been the leader offensively with a .436 batting average and 22 RBI. Senior **Jocelyn Foster** is hitting .342 with 11 RBI and senior **Miranda Smith** is hitting .333. Freshman **Rylee Tiller** is hitting .316 with 10 RBI. Freshman **Maddie Beiler** also has driven in 10 runs.

The boys soccer team sits at 7-5 overall and 4-2 in region play. Senior **Parker Henderson** is among the top players with 16 goals and eight assists. Sophomore **Carter Oberholzer** has scored 15 goals with eight assists while freshman **Juren Dominguez** has 10 goals and eight assists. Sophomore **Juan Velazquez** has scored four goals and junior **Brice Williams** has scored three goals.



2026 Emerald Vikings softball

Emerald diamond teams focused on playoffs

By Billy G. Baker
Publisher
Greenwood-Tiaria “Tee” Agnew is in her 5th season as the **Emerald** Lady Vikings head softball coach, and she is a former all-state pitcher for the Vikings, and she earned a spot in the school’s athletic Hall of Fame back in 2022.

Agnew, a former *HSSR* all-state player, went on to pitch at PC and Claflin Colleges and she is focused on rebuilding the softball program at her alma mater from the ground up.

Coming out of Spring break the team is (3-9, 1-4). On April 9, the Vikings got a confidence boost with a 14-1 over **Brassier Middle College**.

In the 7th grade third baseman **Lonna Ann Holloway** led the Vikings at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two RBI’s and she scored two runs. Seventh grade freshman utility performer **AJ Sanders** had a hit with two RBI’s and junior lead-off batter pitcher **Destinee Powers** had a hit and two RBI’s as well. Senior **Lander** RF signed **Emma Cline** also had a hit with two RBI’s.

Powers got the win in the circle over Brasher Middle College allowing two hits and striking out five.

“As a team I feel like our defense is strong and our pitching has vastly improved over last season,” said Coach Agnew. “We just have to work hard at improving our hitting. We have to learn to produce runs when we get runners on base.

“We are a more competitive team this season and I give our improved pitching a lot of credit,” said Coach Agnew. “We can put pitchers in the circle who can throw strikes and they are figuring out the mental side of pitching better.”

“My goal is to get Emerald softball back to the way we were when I graduated in 2013,” said Coach Agnew. “We are now playing the same five teams on the back end of our schedule. We are in a very competitive region, but we hope to keep improving and find a way to make the playoffs if we finish strong.”

Other members of the softball team include senior co-captain and **Lander** signee **Paydan Stafford**, a pitcher, who is currently batting .364 with 8 RBI’s and 9 stolen bases. Stafford is a utility player when not in the circle. Senior co-captain **Shamyra Jackson** starts at first and she is a five-year member of the team batting clean-up.

Chole Butler is an 8th grader who starts in left field while 8th grader **KJ Scott** is a two-year starter at second who is batting .286 with five RBI’s and 7 stolen bases. Senior **Laniya Moore** is a five-year-old member of the varsity who starts in center field, and she is also the team’s number two pitcher. Freshman **Britley Harrison** is the team’s DP and she is batting .300.

Key reserves include 8th grader **Blakey Jay** who is out with a shoulder injury. Senior **Latisha Wiley** shares time in right field. Freshman **Jordyn Knight** sees time at the DP spot.

ABBEVILLE

Hite and Stone Attorney at Law 864.366.5400
Nationwide Richard W. Wilson Agency
Dependable Auto Care (864) 446-2277
Harris Funeral Home Salutes the Panthers!
Abbeville Youth Athletics Supports the Panthers!
Abbeville Hardware (864) 344-7702
The Jerry Hedden Family Salutes the Panthers!
Artists at Chatfield Wood - Go Panthers!

Go Panthers! 
 Courtesy of the
 Abbeville Athletic Dept. and Booster Club

 **Abbeville Calhoun Falls**
 864-366-2158
 www.abbevillefirst.com
 Member FDIC

Abbeville
 SOUTH CAROLINA 

Theo's Restaurant 302-I S. Main St. Abbeville, SC 29620
 366-4400 366-4401
 SEAFOOD, PIZZA, PASTA & DELI
 Proudly Feeding Hungry Panthers!

Wow Burgers & Hot Dogs
 815 Greenwood Street
 Abbeville, SC

 **(864) 366-9522**
Hwy. 28 Farm & Garden
 1319 Hwy. 28 Bypass • Abbeville, SC 29620

 **Abbeville School District**
 Proudly Salutes Panther Athletics!
 Putting Students First

EMERALD

Hite & Stone 100 E Pickens St, Abbeville, SC 29620
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW (864) 740-0354
Saluting the Emerald Vikings and All Area Schools!

Coach Agnew is assisted by **Jenna Chaudorie**, **Brandon Normon**, and **Brad Norman**.
Emerald Baseball Team Focused On Making Playoffs

As of April 8, the **Emerald** baseball team was (6-10, 4-6) and focused on improved hitting and a strong finish to earn a berth in the upcoming playoffs.

The team is head coached by athletic director **Mac Hite**, a former HSSR All-State player from **Abbeville High**. “We are definitely focused on making the playoffs because you have to get in the dance to have a chance,” said Coach Hite. “We are hoping our best baseball is ahead of us.”

“Baseball can be a funky game,” said Coach Hite. “Sometimes the hits that were not falling may begin to fall and change outcomes. We’re just trying to stay positive and continue to work on getting better.”

“We recently lost two heart-breaking games to **Wren** in walk-off fashion and that is always tough on you,” said Coach Hite. “We have played a very tough schedule against the likes of **Fountain Inn**, a top 10 team for sure. We also had our chances in our first two games

See Emerald, pg. 63

Wolves athletes win Berkeley County crowns

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
ST. STEPHEN - **Timberland High School's** track and field teams competed in the Berkeley County School District championships earlier this month at Cane Bay High School and multiple athletes ascended to the top of the awards podium.

Timberland’s performances were led by winners **Carter Hawkins** (triple jump, 13.97 meters), **Antaun Faison** (long jump, 6.8 meters) and **Malyk Goodman** (110-meter hurdles, 14.99 seconds). Hawkins’ mark in the triple jump met the Mile-Split US Second Team standard.

More notable finishes by the Wolves the boys’ meet were turned in by **Day’vian Bennett** (second, 400 hurdles), **Kevin Brown** (third, high jump), Faison (third, triple jump), the 4x100-meter relay (fourth), Goodman (fifth, 400 hurdles) and the 4x800 meter relay (sixth).

The girls’ team was led by hurdler **Jermance Washington** (fourth, 400 hurdles), **Kemani Lampkin** (fifth, 800 meters) and thrower **Samara Scott** (sixth, shot put). Two relays were top five, too. The Lady Wolves placed fourth in the 4x800-meter relay and fifth in the 4x100-

meter relay.

Prioleau commits to Coker

Timberland basketball standout **Zion Prioleau** verbally committed to further her basketball career at Coker University

Prioleau was chosen as the Region 6-2A player of the year and became a two-time all-state selection on the hardwood by the South Carolina Basketball Coaches Association this winter. Prioleau also earned all-state honors as a junior.

This past season, she helped power the Timberland girls to the Class 2A Lower State championship game. Prioleau averaged a team-high 16.8 points and three assists, while tallying 5.1 rebounds and four steals per game.

She was part of a talented senior class in St. Stephen that orchestrated a deep playoff run in 2025-26 and captured at least a share of the region crown for the fourth time in five seasons. The Lady Wolves won 22 games during their most memorable campaign in 15 years.

Cavaliers baseball experiencing a rebuild

By Neill Kirkpatrick
Special to the HSSR
Moncks Corner – Despite losing seven seniors from a playoff team in 2025 the St. John’s Christian Academy Cavaliers came into the 2026 season with an eye on a return trip but as the season approached head coach **Stuart Pierce** wasn’t sure he would have enough players to field team.

Coach Pierce made the decision to bring up his 7 freshman from the JV team but he had to make a new schedule and the decision not to compete in the region this year.

“It was a tough decision to make on the season but I had a couple of seniors that wanted us to do what we could do to play the season. We should be playing a JV schedule but the young guys have responded,” said coach Pierce.

The Cavaliers are currently sit at 3-6 with three of their losses coming by one run and two coming in the bottom of the seventh when they had a three run lead to start the seventh. Despite their youth this team has been competitive.

“The young guys have grown up a lot this year and if we can keep this group together we have a chance to be a good ball club over the next couple of seasons,” coach Stuart said.

The Cavaliers are led by senior catcher **Jacob Glover** has been outstanding behind the plate over his four year career. Heading into this season had committed seven errors in 319 chances and he has been better this year as he has yet to commit an error in 55 chances. At the plate, he is having his best season leading the team in hitting at .467, in runs scored with 9 and is tied for the team led in steals with 9.

“Jacob was on the seniors who wanted to play this season. He is a four year starter from me and is the leader of the team,” coach said.

Cross tracksters preparing for Class A state meet

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Cross - With a limited number of available athletes, **Cross High** is unable to put a lot of teams together during the spring sports season. One big option for those spring athletes is track and field and Cross has solid participation in that area this spring.

The track and field program competes against a highly regarded schedule with hopes of improving enough to earn a berth in the state meet in May. One late season meet that Cross looks forward to competing in is the annual Berkeley County track and field championships which includes quality competition from the likes of Stratford, Goose Creek, Cane Bay, Timberland, Berkeley and Philip Simmons.

The 2026 county meet was held on April 1 at Cane Bay High School and despite being the smallest school in attendance, Cross competed well in most events.

On the girls team, top sprinters this spring include

Aaliyah Davis, **Talea Small**, **Kaylen Smith** and **Sarah Mazyck**. Working in the 400 are **Alanah Pinckney**, **Zaniyah Young**, and **Alicia Wilson**.


Caylee Bradley is one of the top throwers on the team. Other throwers include **Milan Davis** in the discus and **Laura Campbell** and **RiLeigh Jackson** in the javelin. **Abigail Ingram** is the top thrower in the shot put.

The top sprinter on the boys team is junior **Mah’ky Green**, who figures to be a strong state title contender in the 100 meter sprint. **Keith Washington** is tops in the 200 meter sprint and **Ashton Geathers** and **Corey Ferguson** run well in the 400. **Micah Dukes** sets the pace in the 800 and **Que Taylor** is tops in the 1600 meter run.

Bernard Middleton has been the top 110 hurdler and placed third in the event at the county meet. **Dillon Nelson** is the top 400 hurdler.

Andrew Mack is the top triple jumper and

TIMBERLAND

 **Timberland High School**
 1418 Gravel Hill Rd.
 St. Stephen SC
 (843) 567-2817/567-2818
Tim Evans, Principal

Principal Tim Evans, A.D. Michael Wilkerson, THS Athletic Booster Club, and the Faculty and Staff Salute Our Mighty Wolves!

In Loving Memory of Dr. Herbie Orvin
 1955-2007 Long Live the Wolves

M&K Food Mart
 (Formerly Handy Mart II)
 2227 N Hwy 17A, Bonneau, SC (843) 565-4198
 “Best Hot Dogs & Hunt Brothers Pizza in Berkeley County”

Senator Ronnie A. Sabb Salutes the Wolves!

Santee Drug Center, LLC
 3931 Bymen Dr. Suite D
 St. Stephen, SC 29479
 (843) 567-3291 **Saluting All Area Schools!**


County Supervisor
JOHNNY CRIBB
Supports All BCSD Athletics

ST. JOHN’S CHRISTIAN

St. John’s Christian Academy
Proudly Saluting our athletes and coaches!

Santee Drug Center, LLC
 3931 Bymen Dr. Suite D
 St. Stephen, SC 29479
 (843) 567-3291 **Saluting All Area Schools!**

CROSS

 **Cross High School**
Home of the Trojans
The Cross Athletic Dept & Athletic Booster Club Salute All Trojans Athletic Teams!
 Courtesy Matthew Bradberry, Athletic Director

Keyawn Wilson is the top pole vaulter. **Marquis Pringle** in the discus, **Andrew Hockett** in the shot put, and **Sherraw Spann** in the javelin are the top throwers.

Hawks eyeing strong finish on the diamond

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
Hanahan - Hanahan High School's baseball team finished its annual spring break tournament with a 3-1 record, falling only to Blythewood in the championship game of the 56th annual Hanahan Invitational Tournament.

Before losing 7-6 to Blythewood, the Hawks blanked Fort Dorchester 2-0, Blessed Trinity 8-5 and Ben Lippen 13-3.

Hanahan improved to 11-10. "We've won a lot of games around here the last 15 or 20 years," Hawks coach **Skylar Hunter** said. "They have that expectation, and we weren't winning the close ones. You could feel that pressure on them. My response to that was to relax and loosen up. It's not as hard as these kids were making it. It's just about relaxing, going out there and always competing. Just shrink the game. Don't make it bigger than it is."

Against Fort Dorchester, Hunter gave the ball to ace pitcher **Chris Polm** and Polm went the distance for the Hawks. He scattered six hits on 95 pitches and struck out eight batters, while walking one.

"He pitches his best when teams have guys on base," Hunter said. "He showed it tonight. Less than 100 pitches and a shutout against that lineup is impressive. They're good. He was really good tonight."

The Hawks manufactured both of their runs against the Patriots. In the bottom of the fourth inning, Hawks catcher **Hudson Sprovero** led off with a single to left field and went to second base on a wild pitch. After stealing third, Sprovero came home with the game's first run on infielder **Richard Atencio's** bunt. Hanahan scored its other run in the fifth inning. Outfielder **Mason Bellamy** laced a one-out double and moved to third on an infield single by **Brendan Moll**. Outfielder **Tripp Gallus** then laid down a bunt to the left side to score Bellamy.

Against Blythewood, the Hawks plated all six of their runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to almost overcome



Tripp Gallus

a 7-0 deficit.

Gallus, Sprovero and designated hitter **Will Muirheid** collected two hits apiece for the Hawks. Sprovero's RBI double pulled the Hawks within 7-6 with two outs in the bottom of the sixth. Young Hanahan reliever **Bryce Rennie** did a good job over 4.1 innings after inheriting a 5-0 deficit, scattering four hits. He allowed one earned run with two strikeouts. "We are still so young," Hunter said. "To get over the hump of winning a close game against a really good team is huge. All of our losses have been close losses to really good teams. We just kept fighting. That's what it is with young ones. Maybe you struggle a little bit early, but they're coming around."

The Hawks finish the regular season with contests versus Hilton Head Christian (away, April 13), Lucy

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 short-stop/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 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 and on the 5th, they conclude the regular season at **Lee Acad-**

HANAHAN

Hanahan High School Salutes Its Hard Working Student Athletes!



6015 Murray Dr - Hanahan, SC 29410

Tom Gallus
Principal

Go Hawks!



The Hanahan High School Athletic Booster Club Salutes the Hawks!

County Supervisor

JOHNNY CRIBB

Supports All BCSD Athletics

Beckham (home, April 16), Oceanside Collegiate (away, April 21), Oceanside Collegiate (home, April 24), Ashley Ridge (away, April 28) and Philip Simmons (home, April 29).

NORTHWOOD ACADEMY

SUMMERVILLE | 
 9700 Dorchester Rd. Summerville, SC
 SummervilleFord.com | 843-873-3550



Saluting the Chargers!

The NA Athletic Booster Club Wishes Our Student Athletes Good Luck This Season!

emy.
 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.

Youth movement will lead to success for Rebels

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Ridgeland – Small schools often go through cycles where the number of athletes decrease, which leads to a lack of success. But, as the numbers cycle upward, the teams experience more success.

At **Thomas Heyward Academy**, the girls basketball program is in such a cycle when it comes to older and more experienced players. A numbers crunch has forced the girls program to step back from varsity play and focus on the lower levels until the younger players grow and develop into varsity players.

The school is putting together a season this winter, a junior varsity team that is playing a mixture of varsity and jayvee teams. The hope and expectation is that the eight players on the jayvee squad will advance to the varsity level next year.

Natalie Soto is serving as the coach this season. A former high school player in California, Soto took over the program very late, choosing to coach the team when no one else would. She has a daughter, **Lydia Soto**, who plays on the team as an eighth-grader.

The measuring stick for success is not focused on wins and losses this season but more so on growth and development.

"Fundamentals and learning the game. That has

been our focus," said Soto. "We have eight girls and five are eighth-graders with three sophomores. It's a fun group to coach because they work very hard and have a great attitude. We have come a long way this season in terms of our fundamentals and knowledge of the game. I'm really impressed with how much we have improved. I took the team because they didn't have a coach but I have enjoyed this season more than I thought I would."

The three sophomores on the team this season are **Marlie Needham, Lilly Gant** and **Sophia Arzillo**. The remaining roster of eighth-graders include **McKayla Cormack, Lilly Heath, Sydney Harriott, and Paola Estrada**.

"We measure success with small victories and steady improvement," Soto said. "I want to see improvement every day, every game. Just do things a little better each time out. We don't have much height so we have to play scrappy and create chaos with pressure. This group has embraced that. It's been cool to watch us grow this season."

"We are competing well, more than the record shows. We have some games where we are just over-matched but we compete in most every game. We're a totally different team than we were when we started and I think we will be a team that is improved from year to year. We will be ready to play a full varsity schedule next season."

THOMAS HEYWARD

The Pinckney Family Salutes THA Athletics!


 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

We support our local schools!
843-208-5551


palmetto.coop 


The Thomas Heyward Academy Athletic Booster Club Salutes You!

 **8196 E Main St, Ridgeland, SC 29936**
(843) 717-3111

Butler's Service Center
 PO Box 370 - Hardeeville, SC
843-784-6226




OFFICIAL APPAREL STORE FOR GRETSCH

BEAUFORT


Carolina SPORTSCARE
 and Physical Therapy
"Getting you back in the game of life"
 1076 Ribaut Road, Suite 102, Beaufort, SC 29902
 (843) 521-1970 Fax: 843-521-0908

D & S HEATING & COOLING

"Committed to bringing you superior service"
 Residential - Installation-
 Commercial Heating & Cooling

(843) 552-0034

Good Luck, Eagles!

 **(843) 645-8377**
(980) 299-2777
 www.ars-roofing.com
Saluting the Eagles!

ber one pitcher with 67 innings in the circle.

The boys soccer team enters the break at 1-8 overall while the girls soccer team is 1-7..
The boys lacrosse team is 3-10 and is led by Hunter Booker, who has 24 goals and seven assists, Jonah Preston has scored 13 goals with six assists and **Elias Stefan** has 12goals and 9 assists. **Emma Hopper** lead the girls lacrosse team with 26 goals in 10 contests. The girls are 3-entering spring break.



2026 Beaufort Eagles baseball

Beaufort spring teams chasing playoff berths

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Beaufort - A lack of experience may prevent the spring athletes at **Beaufort high** an an opportunity to compete for a state title in 2026. Nonetheless, the eagles will put forth the effort to compete at the highest level possible this spring.

Beaufort spring rosters were loaded with underclassmen and competing for region titles will soon be possible. For this spring, however, gaining experience for future challenges is of utmost importance. The state 4A playoffs will begin at the end of this month and the goal of Beaufort teams is to be a part of the postseason in some capacity.relying on underclassmen to learn the ropes this spring.

Beaufort baseball is one of those teams that is gaining experience daily despite a lack of overall success. The eagles entered spring break with an 0-8 record overall and winless in the region . But, down the stretch the opportunity for success is there for the taking.

The eagles do you have some senior experience. They are asking underclassmen to shoulder a heavy

load. One of the young open commerce on the baseball team is 8th grader **brooks Martin**, is hitting. 318 this season while sophomore **Tanner Brucher** is hitting.280 and also is receiving experience on the mound. Junior **Dylan Bright** is hitting .364 and junior **Nick Talbert** has been a key performer on the mound as well.

Senior **Jayden Davis** has been receiving the most work on the mound, with 20 innings pitched heading into spring break Senior **Peyton brooks** led to the eagles in hitting at .357 while senior **Tyler Gruber** is hitting 300.

The softball team inner spring break in the mix for a playoff berth, splitting their first six regiona games. The lady eagles are 6-10 overall with three weeks remaining in the season.

Senior **Caylin Adkins** is among the leading hitters at .387 with 13 RBI. Sophomore **Hadley Stevens** is hitting.385 with 13 RBI and freshman **Londyn Broadwater** is hitting 390.

Sophomore **Kate Neuhring** is hitting .417 with twelve RBI and freshman **Aliyah Aiken** is hitting 343 with eleven RBI. Aiken also is the team's num-

HHP Spring sports in contention for big things

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Hilton Head – It comes as no surprise to see several of the spring sports teams at **Hilton Head Prep** building towards state title contention in 2026.

The girls soccer team, coached by **Risa McMullan**, entered this season looking for a fourth consecutive state championship. While the roster has some new faces, McMullan has placed her confidence in her five returning starters to set the tone and lead the way this spring.

The Dolphins come out of spring break with an 8-2 record and have seven contests remaining in the regular season.

The five returning starters include keeper **Brooke Heins**, defenders **Madeline Schlieman**, **Sophia Schlieman** and **Alexa Palazzo**, and mid-fielders **Marisa Mora** and **Riley Wilbert**. Palazzo has scored 11 goals with seven assists while eighth-grade newcomer **Alice Carmines** has tallied 29 goals with 10 assists. Wilbert has scored eight goals with seven assists and Mora has nine goals with 10 assists.

Key leaders defensively include seniors **Sammy Rehling** and **Ellie Lorenz**.

“I am excited about our schedule as we are playing some new teams that we have never played before, as well as teams we have not played in many years.”

HHCA baseball looking for third straight crown

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Bluffton – After winning the SCISA AAA state championship in 2024, the **Hilton Head Christian Academy** baseball team captured the AAAA crown last season in its first year in the classification.

With eight starters returning from that squad, the Eagles were off to a 17-1 overall start this season with their focus squarely on a 3-peat. Head coach **Jay Scarboro** is not surprised by the results thus far.

“It’s a mature group of players,” said Scarboro, who was the head coach last season after being an assistant in ’24. “They are a battle-tested group since most of them have played over the last year or two. I know night in and night out what I’m going to get from them.”

“That maturity has led to the 17-1 record (including an 8-0 record in Region 3). They are a pretty consistent group of guys.”

It can be said consistently spectacular in the case of senior centerfielder **Slaide Burd** and senior catcher **Roman Colella**. They are both in their third seasons as starters and are having tremendous seasons.

Burd, who has signed to play collegiately with **Georgia Southern**, owned a .557 batting average with a .617 on-base percentage. He had nine home runs and 31 runs batted in.

“He just sets the tone for our team,” Scarboro said of Burd, who is the leadoff hitter.

Colella, who is third in the batting order, was batting .386 with a .500 OBP. Colella, who has signed with **Anderson University**, had three homers and 26 RBI.

Meanwhile, the baseball team is seeking to repeat as state champions after defeating Orangeburg Prep in the three-game championship series last May.

So far, so good. The Dolphins have been dominant this season, winning 19 of their first 20 games while posting 10 shutouts.

This year’s team is led by returning starters **JP Pirkey** (OF/P), **Sammy Middleton** (SS/P), **Calvin Middleton** (3B), **Brandon Espinoza** (C/P), **Tyler Britschge** (P/DH), **Brody Hausher** (OF), **Finnian Rooney** (Utility), **Brandon Hunter** (OF).

Head coach **Chris Wells** expects contributions also from first baseman **Paulie Smith**, outfielder **Byron Espinoza**, infielder **Charlie Diamond** and pitcher **Cole Rogers**.

“We should have depth on the mound again this year and the top of our lineup is strong. Our goal is to compete every time we step on the diamond,” coach Chris Wells says.

The powerhouse boys tennis program is off to a 9-1 start and will contend for a state title once again. Members of the team this season include **Christian Arnold**, **Alex Finn**, **Hunter Gilroy**, **Pedro Gomes Ascencio**, **Wyatt Harmer**, **Chase Jones** and **Landon Quilter**.

Another title contender will be the boys golf team, which competes in the SCISA state tournament on April 27-28 in Conway.

Scarboro said Colella, who was the AAAA Player of the Year last season, is as valuable defensively as he is offensively.

“Roman has been fantastic and is a great shutdown catcher,” the HHCA head coach said.

Batting in the 2 hole between Burd and Colella is junior second baseman **Jackson Richardson**. In his third season as a starter, Richardson was batting .391 with a .482 OBP to go with a homer and 16 RBI.

The trio was getting plenty of help from the rest of the lineup. Hilton Head Christian was averaging over 11 runs a contest.

Batting cleanup is sophomore designated hitter **Josh Koepke** followed by senior shortstop/pitcher **Chip Hetzel** and sophomore **Dylan Gehm**, the lone newcomer to the starting lineup.

The No. 7 hitter is freshman third baseman **Stone Burd**, Slaide’s younger brother. Batting eighth is senior infielder/outfielder **Will Mahl** with freshman first baseman/pitcher **Colt Spargur** flipping the order.

The left-handed throwing Spargur is a standout on the mound. He had 59 strikeouts in 29 innings pitched against just four walks. He owned a 0.72 earned run average.

“He’s 6-(feet)-2(-inches), he goes downhill and he’s tough,” Scarboro said.

Junior **Tucker Nelson** has also worked 29 innings and has a 1.69 ERA. He had 37 strikeouts while walking only four like Spargur.

Hetzel is the “wild” man among the starters. He had walked a “whopping” 10 batters in 21 innings while fanning 23. He had a 1.64 ERA.

Mahl had worked significant innings as well at

Orangeburg Prep, from pg. 12

with a toss of 87 feet, 6 inches. McCutchen also runs legs on the record-setting 4x100- and 4x400-meter relay teams. The 4x1 team

had a time of 51.15 seconds. She is joined on the team by junior **Mary Legare Delaney**, junior **Gee Gee Riley** and sophomore **Morgan Gue**.

HILTON HEAD PREP

NOVIT & SCARMINACH, P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
“Serving the Beaufort Country Community Since 1967”
HILTON HEAD ISLAND: **BLUFFTON:**
JADE BUILDING, STE 400 PLANTATION BLDG, STE 104
52 NEW ORLEANS RD 10 PLANTATION PARK DR
(843) 785-5850 (843) 706-5850
FAX: (843) 785-2090

- Residential Real Estate
- Probate & Estate Planning
- Commercial Real Estate Development
- Property Owners Assoc. & Condo Law
- Taxation
- Business & Corporate Law
- Employment Disputes

GO DOLPHINS!!!

palmetto.coop

Forming the roster this spring are **Jeffrey Adams**, **Henry Anderson**, **Aaron Bakala**, **Max Diamond**, **Asher Graves**, **Nick Kupper**, **Michael Reba**, and **Matt Spille**.

HILTON HEAD CHRISTIAN

“To know Christ and make Him known”
Go Eagles!
Compliments of the HHCA Booster Club

palmetto.coop

20 2/3 with a 5.42 ERA. Gehm was steady out of the bullpen, owning a 2.21 ERA in 6 1/3 innings over five appearances.

Other members of the team are junior **Liam Lyons**, junior **Eli Morgan**, junior **Casey Rizzo** and junior **Mason Mikkelson**.

While the focus has been on getting ready for the state playoffs, Scarboro said the Eagles have had no problems with the day-in, day-out routine of the regular season.

“Our guys are so competitive,” he said. “We do our best with our practices and our games. Every practice we try to motivate and push them.”

“Our guys are very analytical. They compete against each other, but it’s still about winning. It’s not really hard to motivate them. They are a super competitive group.”

The 4x4 team now holds the school record with a time of 4:14.91. McCutchen, Delaney, Riley and Garrick make up the team.

Knights aiming to defend Region 7-A AAAA title

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
Stratford High School’s baseball team finished 2-1 in the annual Hanahan Invitational Tournament April 6-8, defeating Ardrey Kell (15-10) and Bishop England (12-7) before falling to Providence Day (2-1).

Stratford, the defending Region 7-5A champion, returns to the league slate with a three-game series versus Cane Bay High School April 13-17. The Knights follow with three games against Berkeley High School April 20-23.

Some highlights for the Knights during the HIT include infielder **Dom Longello** and outfielder **Tyler Majewski** combining for seven RBIs against Ardrey Kell, Longello scoring four runs on three hits from the leadoff spot against Bishop England and pitchers **Cooper Deacon** and **Caleb Lott** combining on a four-hitter with six strikeouts versus Providence Day.

The 2026 Knights seem to be picking up where that bunch left off after navigating a bumpy start to the season. They have won 11 of their last 13 games and take a 5-1 league mark into the home stretch.

“I think the region is going to be tough this year,” Stratford coach **Tony Osterman** said. “I don’t think you have one team that is going to dominate like it was last year. We went 14-1 in the region. I think Berkeley is going to be a team to beat. A lot of good coaches in the region. It might come down to who is peaking at the end.”

As for returning players from last year’s Lower State finalist, Citadel signee **Jarrett Wagner** is the cornerstone. He was an all-state selection by the South Carolina Baseball Coaches Association as a junior. He went 8-1 on the bump with a 1.077

Gators baseball seeing more success this year

By Rob Gantt
Special to the HSSR
GOOSE CREEK - Goose Creek High School’s baseball team has surpassed its 2025 win total with a pair of victories over spring break.

The Gators edged Woodland, 2-1, and Lowcountry Wildcats, 13-6, to move to 7-9 on the season. The Gators won just five games last spring.

The Gators won three games in 2024 and two in 2023. Their best season recently came in 2022, when they finished 11-17.

Goose Creek coach **Seth Mellen** is in his first season after spending three seasons at Northside Christian.

“We’re right at the halfway point, and a game like this could kind of be a catalyst moving forward,” Mellen said after clipping Woodland in nine innings. “It shows who we are, the character and grit. I just keep preaching to the guys to do their job. This is what’s it’s all about. Hats off to my guys.”

In the ninth, sophomore **Landon Goetz** forced a leadoff walk. Senior **Connor Stephenson** followed with a bunt to move Goetz to second base, also reaching base himself.

With momentum building in the Goose Creek dugout, senior **Blake Bass** did his job, too, moving both runners over with a sacrifice bunt for the Gators. Then, junior **Logan Parker** was hit by a pitch to load the bases before freshman **Malikhi Alford** walked to score Goetz with the winning run.

The Gators scored their only other run in the bottom of the first inning on a two-out RBI double off the bat of freshman **Brody Wilson**, who leads the



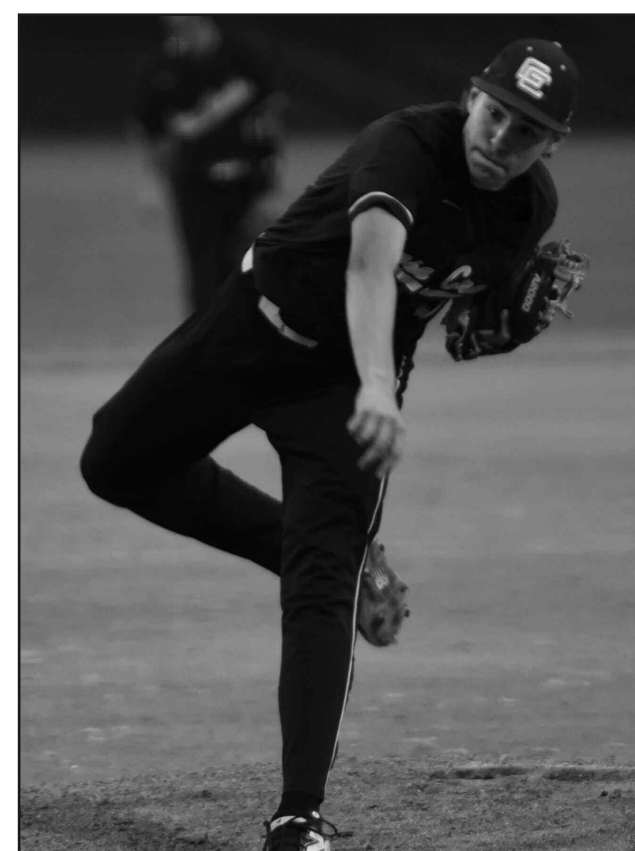
Jarrett Wagner

earned-run average, striking out 72 batters in 52 innings. He also played corner infield spots and batted .338 with 17 RBIs.

Jameson Lee, a junior infielder who has moved from third base to second base, is a returning starter also. He batted .337 with 22 RBIs as a sophomore.

Longello moved from second base to short stop. He hit .317 with 13 RBIs last spring.

Lott started behind the plate as an eighth grader



Senior Connor Stephenson

team with a batting average near .400. Wilson knocked in senior **Dylan Hughes**, who had just reached via walk.

“Six or seven of my starters are either ninth- or eighth-graders,” said Mellen. “This is a big one that hopefully we can make an identity out of.”

STRATFORD

Heather L. Taylor
Principal
951 Crowfield Blvd.
Goose Creek, SC 29445
Phone: (843) 820-4000
Fax: (843) 574-2060
taylorh@bcscschools.net

Good Luck in the 2025-26 Season! Go Knights!

We Back the Knights All the Way!
Friends of Stratford Athletics

County Supervisor

JOHNNY CRIBB

Supports All BCSD Athletics

and is also pitching this spring.

GOOSE CREEK

Go Gators!

We salute all our hardworking students, athletes & coaches! Best of luck this season!
Courtesy of Goose Creek High Faculty & Staff

Goose Creek High School Athletic Booster Club Salutes All of Our Outstanding Athletes!

Stephenson, a team captain, hurled the first 7.1 innings for the Gators, scattering seven hits while striking out four batters.

Goetz came on to record the final five outs and was credited with the win, his first of the season. Goetz struck out two batters in 1.2 hitless innings as Goose Creek ended an eight-game losing streak.

The Gators won, 13-6, a night later, cruising past the Lowcountry Wildcats for their seventh win of the season. Stephenson knocked in two runs, while Alford and Goetz recorded two hits apiece. Goetz, Wilson and **Brayden Pike** teamed up on the mound to record six strikeouts. Only one run was earned.

*The HSSR is looking for full-time marketing reps!
Call Publisher Billy Baker at 843-553-0264 or 843-200-9555*

Jefferson Davis baseball opens season at 6-7

By Dennis Brunson
HSSR.com Associate Editor
Blackville – The game of baseball was made to be played with nine players, and that’s exactly what **Jefferson Davis Academy** is having to do, at least most of the time.

“We say all the time that nine is all you need to play,” said Raiders head coach **Mannie Wright**. And the Jefferson Davis Nine was doing a pretty good job. The Raiders were 6-7 coming out of spring break and that was against a schedule in which it had faced a fellow SCISA Class A team just once. JDA split two games with **Holly Hill Academy** winning 17-4 before falling 14-7.

“I feel great about where we’re at,” Wright said. “I think we’re still primed to make a great run deep into the playoffs and make a run at a state championship.”

A newcomer to the team is the leading hitter in junior catcher **Harrison Ray**. He owns a .432 batting average, 16 runs batted and 15 runs scored, all team highs. He had five doubles and two triples.

Junior first baseman/third baseman **Reece Still** was batting .343 with seven RBI and 13 runs, while junior shortstop **Corbin Perry** was hitting .306 with a team high six doubles.

Senior **Landon Williams** plays shortstop and third, senior **Tanner Page** splits time between second base and left field, junior **Bryson Livingston** plays left, sophomore **Jake Harrington** right and senior **Dalton Nix** center. Like Still, freshman **Carson Sumner** is a corner infielder.

On occasion, the JDA 9 does have an “and one” in seventh-grader **Deklin Grubbs**. He’d played three games when called up from the junior varsity and was batting .286. Wright is very high on him.

Ray is batting leadoff with Page in the 2 hole and Perry hitting third. Still is the cleanup hitter followed by Sumner, Williams Harrington, Livingston and Nix.

As far as pitching goes, Perry has been the workhorse with 27 2/3 innings pitched in six games, five of them starts. He had 29 strikeouts and a 3.04 earned run average.

Fox Creek softball, baseball undefeated in region

Dennis Brunson
HSSR.com Associate Editor
North Augusta – The **Fox Creek High School** softball team came into the year needing to replace graduated pitcher **Addyson Snellings**. She was the Region 5-AAA Player of the Year.

It appears the Predators have done a good job doing so. They owned a 12-3 overall record coming out of spring break, including a 7-0 region mark.

“I am very satisfied and excited about the season,” said Fox Creek head coach **Derrick Quinn**, who has a career record of 383-132-1. “We have some great leadership, and the girls continue to work hard and get better.”

Addie Goff has taken over in the circle and has done a solid job. She owned a 2.77 earned run average and a 7-0 win-loss record in 48 innings pitched.

Fox Creek was batting .364 as a team and makes good use of its speed with 61 stolen bases. The Predators have six players with batting averages above .300 and four at .400 or above.

Jordyn Grant was batting an even .600 with 10 runs scored, seven runs batted in, three doubles and one triple. **Ava Lindsay** was batting .529 with a team high 17 RBI and seven doubles along with 13 runs scored.

Still had worked 17 1/3 innings with a 5.65 ERA. Nix had worked 10 innings and Ray nine.

Wright said the Raiders need to continue to hone their game as the playoffs near.

“We have to play our brand of baseball,” he said “We can beat anybody when we play our game. We’ve got seven losses and in five of them it was something we could control.”

JDA SOFTBALL OPENS 2-8

The Jefferson Davis softball team has struggled this season. However, when you’ve graduated eight seniors over the past two seasons and are a Class A school, that might be expected.

“The season has been full of ups and downs,” said veteran head coach **Bart Owens**, who led the Raiders to a state title in 2024. “We really struggled pitching and scoring runs, but the last few games have been better.

“We have had to replace five seniors from last year and three the previous year, so we are struggling but we’re getting better. Hopefully we will be playing our best at the end of April and first of May (for the state tournament).”

JDA was hitting .243 as a team, but had three batters hitting over .300. **Harper Still** had the highest batting average at .381 with three doubles, six runs and five RBI, while **Abby Deering** had a .333 batting average and seven RBI. **Esme Montejano** was batting .318 and shared the team lead in runs scored at seven with **Rynn Fickling** and **Kinlee Ray**.

Fickling was only batting .200 but had a double and two triples. Ray was batting .238 but had a team high eight RBI.

Deering has been the most effective pitcher. In 10 innings, she had a 3.50 ERA. Fickling had pitched the most innings at 20 1/3, while **Avari Yonque** had worked 8 2/3 innings.

Other members of the team are **Mattie Morris**, **Natalie Black**, **Breland Hay**, **Kaylee Crouch**, **Jamlynn Mack** and **McKaylee Padgett**.

Emma Widener was batting .485 with a team high 20 runs scored, and **Alana Kate Henderson** was batting an even .400 with 10 RBI.

Jada Jennings was hitting .346 with 12 RBI, and **Addison Woodward** was batting .343 with seven RBI.

Woodward, Grant and Lindsay were returning All-Region selections.

Paisley Byrd was leading the team in stolen bases with 15. Henderson had nine, Widener eight, and **Lily Eidell** six.

BASEBALL ALSO UNDEFEATED IN REGION

The Fox Creek baseball team is in position to win a third consecutive region championship. Like the softball team, the Predators were undefeated in region play with a 7-0 record. They were 11-6-1 overall.

Lawson Lewis was leading the way offensively. He was batting .490 and had 11 extra-base hits among 24 hits with our home runs, four triples and three doubles. He also led the team in runs with 24 and RBI with 19 to go with 15 stolen bases.

Manny Abro owned a .442 average with 16 RBI

JEFFERSON DAVIS

Jason Still Farms, LLC

2915 Honey Ford Rd
Denmark, SC 29042
(803) 259-6893

We Salute
JDA
 Athletics!

Wise Trucking

2110 Holman Bridge Rd, Blackville, SC 29817
(803) 259-0817 Go Raiders!

Wade's Repair Service - (803) 259-1749
TNC Fireworks Salutes the Raiders!
Barnwell Collision (803) 259-7075

NEELEY APPLIANCE COMPANY

4787 Carolina Hwy. - Denmark, SC 29042
803-793-3367 - 803-793-1628 (fax)
Website: www.NeeleyApplianceCompany.com

Loadholt's Used Cars
 1488 North Hampton Ave.
 PO Box 387 Fairfax, SC 29827
 803-632-2413
Go Raiders!

Carroll Heavy Metal Recycling
 1469 Watermelon Dr., Olar, SC
 (803) 259-0171 Let's Go Raiders!
Carrollheavymetal@yahoo.com

FOX CREEK

Go Predators!

Courtesy of the
 Fox Creek Athletic Booster
 Club & Athletic Department

and a team high 16 steals. **Hayden James** was hitting .350 with 20 runs and nine stolen bases, and **Will Frischmann** was hitting .364 with 18 RBI and eight steals.

Head coach **Roby Gillespie** has been spreading the innings pitched over several players. Eight different pitchers have worked at least five innings.

Leading the way was **Will Fountain** with 28 1/3 innings He had 42 strikeouts and just 10 walks to go with a 1.73 ERA. Frischmann had 18 2/3 innings and a 1.88 ERA, and **Cameron Porter** has a 4.20 ERA in 11 2/3.

Raiders making noise in baseball, softball

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Pamplico – There is still work to be done but coming out of spring break the softball and baseball teams at **Hannah-Pamplico High** are very much in the thick of the region title race.

The regular season will end by the first of May and then comes the class A state playoffs. From the looks of things heading into spring break, both teams should be a major player in the postseason.

The softball team won the state championship in 2024 and was a strong contender again last spring before losing out in the Lower State tournament. Coach **Amber Knight** has a solid group of veteran players returning and the early results have been good.

The Raiders come out of the break with a 9-3 overall record but more importantly they are 6-0 in region play. The Raiders are scoring runs and allowing very few, a good combination for winning.

In the pitching department, **Kadence Poston** is a veteran of many battles and is one of the better hurlers in class A. She has eight early wins with a 0.65 earned run average. She has struck out 79 hitters in 54 innings of work so far this spring. Poston also delivers with her bat, hitting .333 in 12 games.

Panthers softball has made quick turnaround

By Dennis Brunson
HSSR.com Associate Editor
Batesburg-Leesville – The 2025 campaign was not a good one for the **Batesburg-Leesville High School** softball team. The Panthers were just 4-12 overall and 1-9 in Region 2-AA. Worse yet was the fact they didn’t advance to the state playoffs.

B-L doesn’t have to worry about any of that this season, but they might have some bigger fish to fry. It had almost tripled its win total at spring break with an 11-1 record and had secured a playoff berth. With a 5-1 region mark, it is in a battle for a region title.

“We battled with a lot of injuries, specifically in the pitcher position, and were just a young team playing in a very tough, experienced region,” said Batesburg-Leesville head coach **Amber Hartley**. “This year our pitching staff is strong, and although the team is still young, we’re full of potential. The players are motivated, confident, and very coachable. They work every day to improve. I’m proud of the effort the entire team has put in and excited to see what they can accomplish.”

The Panthers had played one more region game than both **Ninety Six** and **Saluda**, who had one loss in five games. B-L has lost to **Ninety Six** and beat defending upper state champion **Saluda** and has a game remaining with each of them.

B-L returns six starters from last year, but it is a newcomer that has played a major role in the turnaround. She is sophomore **Ainsley Minchew**, who is the starting pitcher and is hitting third in the batting order.

Seniors play a major role in the team’s success. Catcher **Meredith Stone** is hitting .520 with 11 RBI and centerfielder **Savannah Owens** is hitting .314. Senior shortstop **Chloe Cooper** is hitting .487 with 10 RBI.

Eighth-grader **Addison Thomas** is hitting .500 in her opportunities and second baseman **Allie Nettles** is hitting .290 with eight RBI. Sophomore third baseman **London Lee** sports a .382 batting average with 11 runs batted in.

In baseball, the Raiders won eight of their first 12 games overall, including a 5-3 start in region play. Pitcher/outfielder **Mason Smith** has been on a tear offensively, posting a .533 batting average with six runs driven in. Centerfielder **Jonah Poston** has hit .498 and also has been strong on the mound with a 1.52 earned run average over 23 innings of work.

Outfielder Jackson Fitch is hitting .333 with five RBI and designated hitter **Daniel Chandler** is hitting .300 with four RBI. Outfielder **Shane Morris** has his average up to .316 through 12 games and third baseman **Zack Rhames** is hitting .375 on the season.

Kolby Hyman plays second base and Davis Kimbrough plays shortstop.

HANNAH-PAMPLICO

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119

www.tcbasc.bank **Member FDIC**

HANNAH-PAMPLICO
RAIDER BOOSTER CLUB
Go Raiders!

Supports The
Hannah-Pamplico Raiders!
Quality Transport, Inc.

Quality Transport Inc.
Elleven Poston, President

 PO Box 430 433 S. Church Street
 Lake City, SC 29560 eposton@ftc-i.net

BATESBURG-LEESVILLE

TRACY'S LOGGING & T3 CHIPPING LLC
 820 N. EDISTO RD., LEXINGTON, SC 29070
 803-657-5295

916 N. Edisto Dr - Leesville, SC 29070
803-888-2715
Proudly Saluting the B-L Panthers!

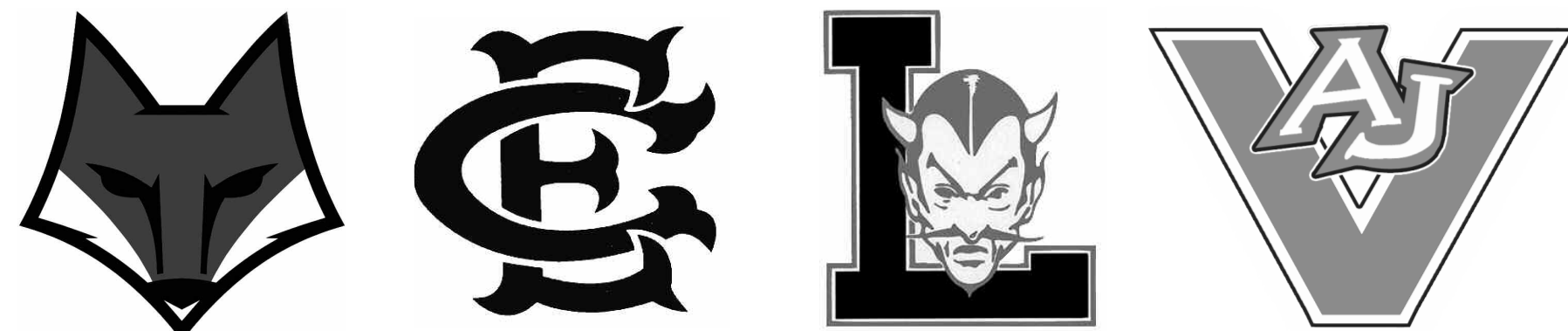
brand and freshman **Khloe Hildebrand**.

B-L BASEBALL OPENS 5-1 IN REGION

The Batesburg-Leesville baseball team, the defending AA state champion, opened the season with a 12-4 overall record and was tied for first in the region with **Saluda**.

Both teams were 5-1 even though they had yet to play their 2-game series yet. The Panthers lost to **Ninety Six**, while **Saluda** lost to **Pelion**. The teams meet on April 21 and April 24.

SC High School Logo Trivia



Can You Identify Them All? Email HSReport@aol.com

Johnsonville spring athletes focus on finish line

**By David Shelton
Senior Writer**
Johnsonville – The spring break of 2026 is now complete and it's back to action for the Johnsonville High spring sports teams of baseball, softball and track and field.

The Flashes have set their sights on the upcoming state playoffs with postseason play scheduled for late April and into May.

In mid-May, the SCHSL will hold the Class A state track and field meet and there are hopes that several Johnsonville athletes will qualify for the meet. The program has competed in several meets during the spring with the qualifying meets coming up.

On the girls team, two athletes competing in the 100 and 200 meter sprints are **Shy Alston** and **Peyton Singletary**. **Zykerra Skinner** and **Jalayna DeLeon** are competing in the 400 meter run while **Alissa Carter** is tops in the 800 meter run and in the 1600 meter run. Carter also is one of the top 3200 meter runners in the region. Johnsonville's top hurdler this spring has been **Arkeria Cunningham**.

Sakayla Morton is the top high jumper while Singletary has been the top long jumper with **Abigail Lambert** also competing well.

Lambert is the top triple jumper and **Jaleah Brown** is tops in the discus and **Haidyn Carter** is the best in the shot put.

On the boys team, **Jamere Ross** has been the top sprinter while **Skylar Montgomery** and **Edmund McClary** are running well. **De'Reon Livingston** is best in the 400 and **Caron Geter** is tops in the 800 meter run. **Ben Eaddy** and **Jahkeem Hampton** have been solid in the 1600 with Eaddy also leading in the 3200 meter run.

Hampton is the best 400 hurdler while **Levan Nesmith** is the top 110 hurdler. Montgomery and **Rondrell Livingston** are in the high jump while **Tahkari Ross** and Montgomery are the top long jumpers. Montgomery is the top trile jumper and **Noah Lee** is the best in the discus. **Jonathan Lewis** has led the way in the shot put.

Johnsonville's baseball team began the 2026 season as the top-ranked team in Class A but coach Carson Carroll put very little stock in the preseason ranking. The Flashes have started the season with a 5-3 record as they battle in the state's top class A region.

After all, somebody has to start the season number one and Johnsonville will have to deal with the early pressure. Count on every opponent to bring their "A" game when they take on the Flashes.

"I honestly was very surprised and I don't know how

we ended up No.1" said Carroll, now in his third season. "I'm not sure who put us on top. All I know is we have a lot to prove. I would rather be no. 1 in mid-May. Then we will have earned it."

Whether they warrant a top ranking or not, the 2026 Flashes will certainly be a quality team that is capable of contending for a state title. The Flashes return most of their lineup but must replace their best player from last season, catcher **Landyn Cribb**. Cribb not only produced like a leader but also led the team by his actions and intensity.

"Replacing him will be a challenge because he just did so much for us," Carroll said.

Stepping into the role behind the plate is junior **Larkin Powell**, a third baseman last season but one that always has been a catcher first.

"We had Cribb so we played Larkin at third but Larkin is a quality catcher," Carroll said.

The Flashes will rely heavily on three primary arms, closer **Kayden Jackson**, and starters **J.C Lyerly** and **Gavin Marlowe**.

Jackson will play first base and Lyerly is penciled in at second. **Caleb Tanner** will take on duties at shortstop and Marlowe will nail down third base.

Senior **Spencer Brown** has quality experience in left and junior **Zaghe Davis** is starting in center. Junior **Jackson Eaddy** will handle duties in right field.

"I feel like defense will be solid. We have a lot of talent and experience," Carroll said. "We have more team speed than we had last year and we're more mature as a team overall. Certainly we have a lot of potential."

Carroll says he discussed with his team the pitfalls of being ranked number one so early. He feels the team has responded well.

"I told them everyone has circled Johnsonville on their schedule so its up to us to be mentally ready to play every day," he said. "No one is going to take it easy. Every team we play is capable of beating us if we don't play well. We have the potential but we have to perform at a high level. If we think we're too good, someone will knock us down a peg."

Johnsonville has opened the season with four wins. Carroll expects traditional powers Latta and Lake View to be among the teams to beat in region 6-A, and feels the Lower State as a whole is going to be very competitive.

"We have a lot of question marks right now but we have shown the potential to compete," Carroll said. "Competing in early March is different than competing in April. April and May tells the tale in a season."

Latta softball looking for strong finish to 2026

**By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor**
Latta – The Latta High School softball team had a magical run to the Class A state championship last season. **Anna Rogers** took over as head coach one week before the start of the state playoffs, and the Vikings worked their way to the crown.

With graduation though, Latta had to replace **Maddie Berry**, the Class A Player of the Year. It wasn't an easy start to the season as Latta owned a 6-8 overall record at spring break to go with a 2-2 mark in Region 6.

Despite the slow start, Rogers believes good things await her team.

"We are a young team, but we have a lot of talent and have challenged ourselves by playing strong competition," Rogers said. "We still hold high expectations and are committed to upholding the standard of Latta softball. As we head into the playoffs, our focus is on continuing to improve every day and playing for each other."

Latta lost four players from last year, two of which are now playing collegiately in Berry and **Katelyn Johnson** at Wofford and Erskine, respectively.

Junior **Paisley Jackson** has taken over in the circle and has had a strong season. She had a 1.53 earned run average in nine games. She had faced 181 batters and struck out 87 of them while giving up 36 hits and walking just six.

Left-handed swinging shortstop **Samantha Townsend** is the only senior in the starting lineup and she bats lead-off. Junior catcher **Chayse Walters** bats in the 2 hole, while Jackson is batting third.

Sophomore second baseman **Adlay Hyatt** is the cleanup hitter with freshman first baseman **Jaelynn**

Miller batting fifth and sophomore leftfielder **Rylan Hunt** batting sixth. Sophomore third baseman **Sarah Bryant** is seventh, eighth-grade rightfielder **Lacie Barnhill** is in the 8 hole and sophomore centerfielder **Ryleigh Vicente** flips the order.


Other members of the team are **Kyrian Oxendine**, **Jessalyn Edens**, **Ke'Nyah Page**, **Lillie Jordan** and **Erianna Crawford**.

LATTA BASEBALL STARTS STRONG

The Latta baseball team was off to a great start. The Vikings won 14 of their first 17 games and were 5-1 in region play.

JJ Welch had the highest batting average at .520. **Fischer Richardson** led in runs batted in with 19 and was tied for the lead in runs scored with 22 to go with a .391 average. **Zach Lane** was hitting .310 with 22 runs, while **Caden Hyatt** was at .367. **BW Berry** was at .405, and **Mason Weatherford** was at .424.

On the mound, Berry had a 4-0 win-loss record with a 0.97 ERA in 21 2/2 innings.



Tommy Parker
843-528-3301
www.parkersautos.com

Specializing in Clean Used Cars Since 1983

JOHNSONVILLE

Florence: 843-665-1660 Turbeville: 843-659-2126 Pamplico: 843-493-2119



THE CITIZENS BANK
Solid Traditions. Smart Solutions.

www.tcbasc.bank Member FDIC

LET'S GO FLASHES!
THE JHS ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB
SUPPORTS YOU WITH PRIDE!!



417 Georgetown Hwy
Johnsonville, SC
843-386-2810
843-386-3213 Fax
Clemson c/o '85



Let's Go FLASHES

374 Lake City Hwy
Johnsonville, SC 29555

Andrew Gaster, President
843-319-8393
Fax: 843-386-9323
drew@gastersgrading.com



Established in 1975


Big D's B-B-Q Barn
Hemingway, SC 843-558-2661
Saluting All Area Schools!



SEALERS & FINISHERS

Southeast Region Sales & Service
Ryan Vestal 843-933-1008
service@slabmastersconcrete.com

F5 FLORENCE Go Flashies!
SCHOOL DISTRICT 5




693 S. Georgetown Hwy
Johnsonville, SC 29555
843-386-2523

Proudly Saluting the Flashes!

LATTA

County Councilman Brad Coward
Councilman Stevie Grice
Councilman Robbie Coward
Anderson Brothers Bank (843) 418-1114

**From the Principal,
Faculty, Staff and Students
GO VIKINGS!**

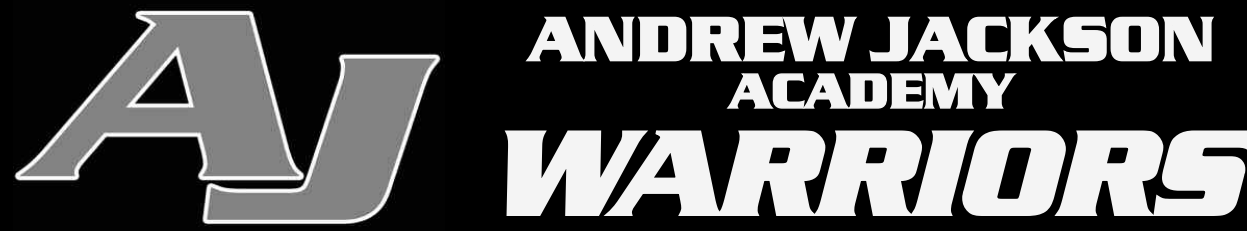


406 Hwy 301 North
Dillon, SC
Go Vikings!
Member FDIC

COWARD TOWING

**Ask for Brad!
843-774-4331**

**If You Are In An Accident
Request Us & Receive
\$100 CASH**



ANDREW JACKSON ACADEMY WARRIORS

AJA softball having best season in recent memory

**By Billy G. Baker
Publisher**

Ehrhardt—The Andrew Jackson Academy softball team is having their best season in years under head coach **Andy Palmer** as the Lady Warriors went into Spring break at (5-2, & 2-0).

"We have been off since our last game with JDA," said Coach Palmer. "We had Prom and then Spring break. We'll get back together for a practice on April, 12 and then we play at **Colleton Prep** the next day. Hopefully, we can get everyone back in game mode."

AJA will celebrate Senior Night on April, 14 where first baseman **CJ Ulmer** and left fielder **Alexandra Johnson** will be honored as the team's two senior players.

"We have no changes to our lineup since our last game before Spring break but **Carrigan Moore** has been moved to bat lead-off on offense," said Coach Palmer. "**Mariya Hiott** and **Mic Beard** continue to share pitching duties. Moore, **Harlo Sease**, and **Braelyn Hall** have been our defensive leaders."

The team's wins come over **Northside Christian Academy** (14-0 & 15-5), the **Cross School** (8-4), **Thomas Heyward Academy** (11-6), and **Jefferson Davis Academy** (11-7) when the team last played on March 31. Their two losses were against **Holly Hill Academy**.

In their win over JDA center fielder **Mic Beard** was the starting pitcher in the circle working three innings with six strikeouts. **Mariya Hiott** pitched

AJA baseball focused on deep playoff run

**By Billy G. Baker
Publisher**

Ehrhardt—The Andrew Jackson Academy baseball team went into Spring break (6-2, 4-0) and the Warriors will resume play on April 13 with a road game at non-region foe **Colleton Prep**.

The team last played on March 31 when they beat **Thomas Heyward Academy** 3-2 in a very competitive region game. The same two teams meet in the last regular season game of the regular season on April 23 at **Thomas Heyward** with the region title on the line.

"It is a challenge to play hard for two months and then have almost two weeks of Spring break without games and few practices," said head coach **Jason Mathys**. "We practice on Sunday (April 12) and then play at **Colleton Prep** the next day. You just hope the break did not cause you to lose any momentum."

On March 25, the Warriors defeated region foe **Beaufort Academy** 3-2. In that win **Tanner Chassereau** led the way at the plate with two hits including a double and one RBI. Other hitters against BA included **Jaxson Brandt** and **Gage Risher** who had a double, while **Evan Mathys** and **Eli Mathys** each added a hit in the win.

Against BA ace pitcher **Landon Johnson** worked six innings, allowed one hit with 15 K's. **Hunter Tucker** pitched the last inning.

"We started off the season with three 10-run wins and then in our fourth game we are tied 5-5 with **Holly Hill Academy**," said Coach Mathys. "Then in the 5th inning they scored 10 runs and beat us 16-6. In the second game of the season, we had beat them 14-4. Our defense can pick the worse times to commit errors."

Coach Mathy is still trying to find an effective hitter to put in the two- hole. "I have tried several different

the final three innings and she had four strikeouts. Against JDA, Beard was 1-of-2 with a double and one RBI. **Carrigan Moore**, a solid defensive catcher behind the plate, who also can play in center field, had a hit in the JDA game also. **Abbagale Jacques** also had a hit and one RBI.

The team will resume play with an away non-region game at **Colleton Prep** on April 13 before playing against **Orangeburg Christian** away on April 16.

Currently the top hitters on the team are freshman infielder/outfielder **Abbagale Jacques** (.440 & 2 RBI's) along with prospect **Carrigan Moore** (.316 with two triples and two RBI's). Moore has a .961 fielding percentage in 51 chances behind the plate.

Other top hitters include junior third baseman **Braelyn Hall** (.294 with one triple & 3 RBI's). First baseman **CJ Ulmer** is at (.278 & 3 RBI's), along with sophomore **SS Harlo Sease** (.250, 4 RBI's & 7 stolen bases). Pitcher/infielder **Mariya Hiott** is also batting for a .250 with one RBI. **Mic Beard** is at .238 with three doubles and 7 RBI's.

Other hard-working members of the team include freshman **Brianna Jacques**, sophomore second baseman **Nala Tuten**, **Mary Grace Hiers**, sophomore right fielder **Scarlett Mixson**, and senior left fielder **Alex Johnson**.

Coach Palmer is assisted by **Jeremy Bessinger**, **Monica Beard**, **Bill Johnsn**, **Dennis Duncan**, and **Carmen Mixson**. The Head of School is **Gill Hackney**.

players in the two-hole and every time I have to move them down the order due to lack of production," he said. "This is a very important spot in your hitting order. We need to be able to move the lead-off batter and get runners in scoring position."

Going into the game with **Colleton Prep** April 13, **Walker Terry** was the top hitter with a .476 average including 8 RBI's, two doubles, and a homer. As the Warrior's number two pitcher he had 9.1 innings on the mound with 12 K's.


Next on the hit index is **LF Eli Mathys** batting .467 with a RBI. **Johnson** is hitting .421 with five RBI's and a homer. On the mound Johnson has an incredible 49 K's in 19 innings. He has a 1.84 ERA and is 3-1 on the season.

Chassereau is batting .400 in a utility role while shortstop. **Evans Mathys** is batting .368 with 8 RBI's and a .636 on base percentage. Center fielder **Gage Risher** is batting .286, second baseman **Jaxson Brandt** is at .263 with four RBI's and **Jaxson Tucker** is at .250 with three RBI's.


"**Landon Johnson** and **Walker Terry** are doing a very good job for us on the mound, and they are both hitting the ball really well also," said Coach Mathys. "We are also getting good production at the plate from **Tanner Chassereau** and **Evan Mathys** and **Eli Mathys**."

"We have also been getting good play from catcher **Hunter Tucker** and **Jaxson Brandt** has been playing

See AJA Baseball, pg. 62



COOTER'S ENTERPRISES
843-908-3534
Agricultural & Truck Tires • Lawn Care
Pivot Irrigation Systems Installation and Maintenance
Grain Bin Installation and Maintenance



The Bill Crosby Family salutes AJA Athletics & our special Warrior Jesslyn Ellis

Brandt Forest Products
(803) 571-6915 - Go Warriors!

R&R Farms
Rusty Kinard (843) 599-2240
Proudly Saluting the AJA Warriors!



6925 Yemassee Hwy, Early Branch, SC 29916 **803-943-5295**



Carolina TURFGRASS SALES & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY
Sodding South Carolina One Square Foot At A Time
Farm Office - Ehrhardt, SC

Richard Moore Calin Heirs
(803) 446-6625
Proud Supporter of the AJA Warriors!



Old Salk Wrecker Services
843-599-6482
One Call, That's All!
Go Warriors!



Palmetto STATE BANK
www.palmettostatbank.com
PO Box 2000
127 Hampton Ave. S.
Fairfax, SC 29927
O: (803) 632-2551 F: (803) 632-2554
Neighbors helping neighbors since 1907

THE WALLING AGENCY
P.O. Box 160
5968 Ehrhardt Rd.
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
Phone: 803-267-2534
Fax: 803-267-2537
Go AJA Warriors!



Go AJA!
ENTERPRISE BANK
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
"We want to be part of your family"
13497 Broxton Bridge Rd, Ehrhardt, SC 29081
Phone: (803) 267-3191
Member FDIC

Ehrhardt Motor Company
12983 Broxton Bridge Rd.
Ehrhardt, SC 29081
(803) 267-7850
Proud Supporter of Andrew Jackson Athletics!

Wild Hair
Proudly Saluting AJA Athletics!
(803) 267-7012 (803) 237-4053

Marion softball looking for improvement

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Marion – The Marion High School softball team has been experienced up the middle defensively under the guidance of head coach **Kenosha Hyman**. That isn't the case this season.

“My key spots, which are pitching, catcher and shortstop, are first-year varsity players,” said Hyman, who led Marion to the AA state championship series in 2024. “We are struggling when it comes to pitching and catcher, but they are getting better as we go along.”

Freshman **Layla Gause** has taken on the pitching duties after **Kynnedi Jenkins** transferred. The catcher is sophomore **Mariah Hyman**, the head coach's granddaughter. The shortstop is also a freshman in **Shamya Moses**.

While the Swamp Foxes aren't off to a start like in previous seasons, they are still doing OK. They were 4-6 overall heading into spring break and 4-2 in Region 7-AA. They swept both **Kingstree** and **Mullins** in the 2-game region series and were swept by **Atlantic Collegiate Academy**.

Coming back from spring break Marion had region series remaining against **Lake City**, **Manning** and defending AA state champion **East Clarendon**.

The Swamp Foxes do have five returning starters from last season. Leading the way is senior third baseman and leadoff hitter **Maliyah Williams**. Also Coach Hyman's granddaughter, Williams has signed to play collegiately with **North Carolina A&T**.

Williams was batting .538 in the early going with two doubles, a triple and two home runs.

The other returning starters are senior first baseman **Sheteira Bethea**, senior leftfielder **Kendall Romesburg**, junior centerfielder **Naveah Shaw** and senior second baseman **Kristin Shaw**.

Moses bats second behind Williams while Gause bats in the 3 hole and Bethea handles cleanup.

Reaves sees improvement with Mullins softball

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Mullins – When you have any athletic program that struggles, one often has to find success in measured ways.

The **Mullins High School** softball team is in its first season under head coach **Cierra Reaves**, having been the head coach for just two months. The Auctioneers were winless in their first 12 games and were 0-8 in Region 7-AA.

Reaves, however, sees where her team has made improvement as the year has gone despite still being winless.

“I feel like the scoreboard and record don't tell the full story of progress,” Reaves said. “Compared to last year's five total runs scored, we have scored 58 runs this year with me just coming in mid-February. We have played at least five innings in most of our games (minus doubleheaders) when they seldom played past four or five innings last year.”

Ariyah Staley was leading the Auctioneers in hitting with a .381 batting average. **Kei'hauna Lacy** was hitting .356 and **Arreyianna Carter** had a .334 average.

Reaves said her top pitchers are **Nariya Woodbury** and **Carter**. Reaves also tabbed **Carter** as one of her top defensive players along with **Jalea Cross**.

Reaves had eight returning starters from last year's team. She believes an offseason of being able to work and coach her players will pay major dividends.

“Although our pitching is still developing and we have to eliminate some errors, we can be a solid team if I have more time with them prior to season play next year,” Reaves said.

Reaves admits she was pleasantly surprised with

Romesburg bats fifth Nevaeh Shaw sixth, Hyman seventh, junior rightfielder **Ariya Admore** eighth and **Kristin Shaw** ninth.

Gause was batting .643 and Nevaeh Shaw was at .462.

Coach Hyman was also hoping to get senior 4-year starter **Ayoni Malloy** and sophomore **Yani Thomas** back from injuries following the break. Malloy, who had a triple and a home run in her one game, was expected to be able to play in the first game back. Thomas, who was batting .444 in three appearances, had a doctor's appointment and was awaiting clearance.

Coach Hyman hopes better things await the Swamp Foxes coming down the homestretch of the season.

“We had to build the team up this year,” she said. “We will be building up to be better in the future.”

BASEBALL STARTS 4-2 IN REGION

The Marion baseball team owned just a 4-8 record through its first 12 games. However, where it counts – in region play – the Swamp Foxes were in much better shape.

They were 4-2, which was practically enough to secure a berth in the state playoffs. Of course, MHS wants more than that in its remaining region series against **Lake City**, **East Clarendon** and **Manning**.

Malachi Graham was leading in hitting in the early portion of the season with a .636 average. **Andre Stanley** was batting .579, **Jontae Cooper** was batting .455, and **Nigel Smith** was hitting an even .400.

Jayden Hilbourne had the best pitching numbers. He had a 2-1 record with a 2.71 ERA in 10 1/3 innings. Smith had a 2.47 ERA, 11 strikeouts and a 1-0 record in 5 2/3 innings. Graham had a 4.42 ERA in 6 1/3 innings.

what she inherited in regards to talent. “My expectations were nonexistent,” she said. “I knew I was walking into a minimally funded and coached program, but I was pleased to see the level of athleticism and drive to be better these young ladies have displayed thus far. It also helps that I have an awesome group of parents.”

MULLINS BASEBALL 1-7 IN REGION

The Mullins baseball team won only two of its first 11 games and was 1-7 in region play coming out of spring break.

The Auctioneers had a doubleheader scheduled against region unbeaten **East Clarendon** on April 14. If Mullins is to have a shot of making the state playoffs, it will likely have to sweep 1-7 **Kingstree** in games on April 21-22.

The Auctioneers' one region game against **Manning** by an 11-1 score. They almost swept the Monarchs but dropped an 15-14 decision.

Mullins' other win was over **Lee Central** by an 11-10 count.

The Auctioneers were hitting .267 as a team. They were led by **Andre Littlejohn** with a .474 average, while **Layne Gerrald** was batting .368. **Jaydn Garrett** had a .348 average, and **Jadae McGill** was hitting .318 and was leading in stolen bases with 10.

Adam Shaw and **Bryan Jonap** worked the most innings as pitchers. Shaw had 17 innings with 33 strikeouts, while Jonap pitched 12 innings.

In the win over Manning, Shaw pitched a tremendous game. He tossed a 1-hitter and an unearned run in five innings. He struck out 11 while walking just three.

MARION

P.O. Box 1190
 Marion, SC 29571

First Citizens Bank Mullins Marion Nichols
 Member FDIC

Gore's Tire Service
 Complete Tire Line - Farm Tires - Road Service
 1400 E. Liberty Street - Marion SC 29571 - 423-5000

MARION COUNTY SCHOOLS
 Marion County Schools
 Dr. Kandace Bethea
 Superintendent

SENATOR KENT WILLIAMS
 SALUTES MULLINS AND MARION
 DURING THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

M Friends of Marion Athletics Proudly Salute the Swamp Foxes!

MULLINS

F & J PROPERTIES
 Allen W. Floyd and Kenneth Johnson Wish
 The Aucs Good Luck in 2025-26 season!

First Citizens Bank Mullins Marion Nichols
 Member FDIC

CITY OF MULLINS
 151 E Front Street
 P.O. Drawer 408
 Mullins, SC 29574

Saluting All Mullins High School Athletes!

M Friends of Mullins Athletics Proudly Salute the Auctioneers!

Smith - Rogers Oil Co. Inc.
 P.O. Box 308, Mullins, SC 29574
 (843) 464-9577

Spring sports rolling along at North Myrtle Beach

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Little River – If you ever wonder how the spring sports season at **North Myrtle Beach High** is going, jump on the social media app X (formerly twitter) and follow the school's athletic director **Tony Heilbronn**.

Heilbronn is among the most active athletic directors in South Carolina when it comes to promoting and publicizing the athletes in his program. He is constantly posting results and achievements throughout the spring, making sure to mention all of the sports.

Heilbronn has kept busy this spring as several of the spring sports teams are having solid success and competing well in and out of region 6-AAAAA. It appears there will be a few teams in the hunt for a region title until the very end of the regular season, which is less than a month away.

One of those region title contenders is the baseball program, coached by Brian Alderson. As has been the case for the last several years, the baseball team is heading down the stretch is position for a top two finish in the league standings.

Entering action on April 13, after spring break, the Chiefs had an overall record of 13-3 and a 6-2 record in region six. Both region losses came in close games against Carolina Forest. The Chiefs return from spring break with a huge three-game region series against another contender, St. James with games on April 13, April 15 and April 16. They also have a third region game against Carolina Forest on April 27.

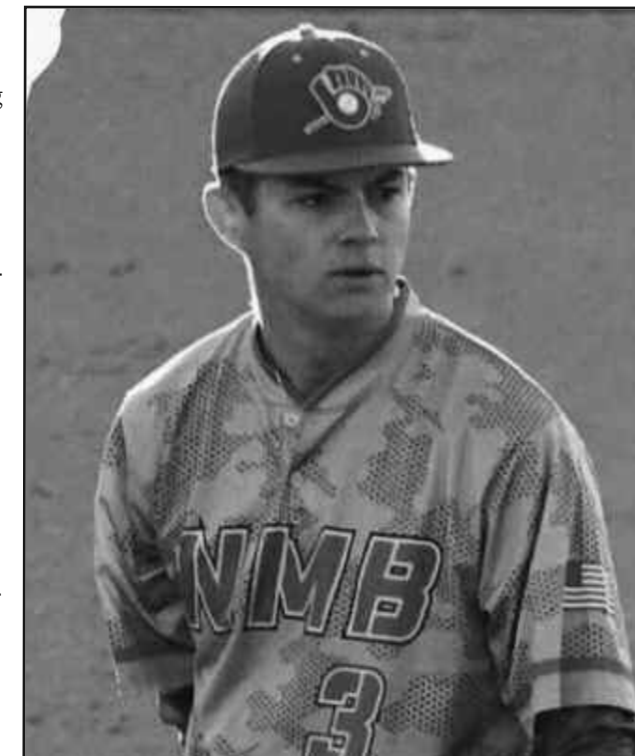
The Chiefs are showing a good balance between pitching and hitting with pitching being the overall strength of the team. North Myrtle Beach pitchers have a combined 2.71 staff earned run average with solid depth.

Senior **Sawyer Smith** has three early wins and a 0.83 earned run average in 25 innings of work. Junior **Gabe Priest** has a 2.07 earned run average and two wins while **Fisher Nichols** has three wins and a 2.63 ERA.

Smith is among the top hitters as well with a .327 batting average and 13 RBI while Priest is hitting .316 with nine RBI. **Evan Steuhl** is hitting .279 with eight RBI and **Trevor Mitchetti** is hitting .306 with 14 RBI.

Andrew Moody (.286), **Kaden Lank** (270), and **Porter Anglin** (286) also contribute offensively. Moody and Lank also see action on the mound.

The softball team continues to build a solid foun-



Pitcher Fisher Nichols

dation in **Krystal Mante**'s second season at the helm. The program produced a 17-13 record last season, finishing third in the region and advancing to the district finals in the state playoffs.

With eight players back from a year ago, the Chiefs are competing hard against a tough schedule. They had an overall record of 10-9 and a 4-6 region record as of April 12.

Senior pitcher **Sierra Bendik** is a key returner to the program. As the primary hurler, Bendik has all 10 pitching victories with a 3.47 earned run average. Offensively, she is hitting .290 with nine 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 is hitting .379 with 11 RBI this season.

Senior **Isabella Bruno** is back at shortstop and is hitting .351 with 11 RBI while senior first baseman **Lilly Carney** is hitting .311 with 16 RBI.

Another returning starter at third base is senior **Hadley Leonhardt**, who is hitting .306 with nine RBI. Sophomore **Katherine Currie** is 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**.

Blackmon, from pg. 17

reminding me.” When asked about the online class experience, Blackmon said her online experience “It helped me become more independent and responsible with my schoolwork,” she said. “I've really enjoyed taking on-

King, from pg. 17

priorities, and you just have to give up some lesser priority stuff, to make sure you complete your priority items. As a student athlete, and Christian, I prioritize what is important and that means my academics come first, so I can use my athletic talent plus I prioritize making time for church activities.” King had this comment about the NETC experi-

Central, from pg. 34

Butler is handling the pitching. She had 63 innings pitched and a 3.56 ERA.

Centerfielder Myers bats leadoff, Butler handles the 2 hole and righfielder McMillan bats third. Quick plays shortstop and bats cleanup. Junior catcher/designated player **Johniya Hough** hits fifth. Rounding out the order is junior first baseman

line classes and that was a confidence booster for her time management and planning skills. I try my best to stay organized by getting my NETC work done at the first of the week. I often get my schoolwork done at school so after practice I have time to spend time with

ence. “It showed me a college level work load and gave me valuable experience that will prepare me for success at the next level,” he said. “One thing about the online experience, with some courses we were required to talk in groups about the assignments which meant meeting and interacting with our classmates in the online setting which was nice.”

Farrah Price, senior second baseman **Rielyni Chambers**, freshman leftfielder **Bentlee Doste** and either freshman third baseman **Arianna Wilson** or freshman rightfielder/shortstop **McKeena Lowry**.

NORTH MYRTLE BEACH

Hall Appliance Center - (843) 249-3371
BJ's Furniture - (843) 361-1970

ELLIOTT REALTY NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC
 VACATION RENTALS
 GOLF PACKAGES
 REAL ESTATE SALES
 Service You Expect. People You Trust. 800-925-0225

Eagle Nest GOLF CLUB
 Highway 17
 North Myrtle Beach
 800-543-3113
 www.eaglenestgolf.com

306 17 Ave. South N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582 Tel.: 843-272-2105 Fax: 843-272-3873
HEWETT'S Heating & A/C, Inc.
 Sales • Service • Installation
 SC & NC Licensed Contractor

Atlantic Heating and Cooling, Inc.
 843-249-8596
 502 N. Main St. North Myrtle Beach, SC
 www.atlanticheatingandcooling.com

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS REAL ESTATE
Elliott Coastal Living
 701 Sea Mountain Hwy 29582 North Myrtle Beach, SC
 www.elliottcoastalliving.com 843.280.5704 Office 843.249.2576 Fax 888.280.5704 Toll Free

Boulineaus 212 Sea Mountain Hwy, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
 Ph: (843) 449-3231
 Fax: (843) 249-8839
 www.boulineaus.com

Windy Hill Hardware
 Salutes Zane Smith & the Chiefs!
 3702 Hwy 17 S, North Myrtle Beach, SC (843) 272-6924

CAR CITY 3 Locations to Better Serve You!
 Conway, SC (843) 331-1151
 Whiteville, NC (910) 642-3196
 Calabash, NC (910) 579-1110
 www.CarCityCentral.com

SCG SC Res. Builders Lic. # 61832
843-957-6398
 info@scgcustomhomes.com
SCOTT CONSTRUCTION GROUP
 PO Box 587 Little River, SC 29566
 www.SCGCustomHomes.com

Plantation FLOORING (843) 399-0300
 Proudly Saluting North Myrtle Beach Athletics!
 4239 Exchange Street, Unit A - Little River, SC 29566

my family.” Blackmon recalled her favorite thing about playing softball “is the camaraderie of the dugout; we chant and cheer to uplift our teammates, and it's just having fun.”

When asked about a favorite memory in any sport, King noted that happened in baseball during his junior year, “We had to beat Latta twice in the playoffs to win and earn a spot in the State Championship series,” he said. “We ended up doing just that and earned the lower state title.”



2026 Central Eagles baseball

Central baseball battling for region supremacy

By Dennis Brunson
hssr.com Associate Editor
Pageland – The Central High School baseball team finds itself in a position it hasn't been in in a while: battling for a region title coming down the homestretch of the season.

While the Eagles are just 9-9 overall, they are 6-2 in Region 5-AA. **Chesterfield** and **Buford** also have just two losses, but Central has two more victories.

The Eagles had two 2-game series left. The first one began on April 14 against **Buford**. The final series will be against **North Central**.

Cody Branham is leading the offense with a .488 batting average. He had five home runs, 17 runs scored and 18 runs batted in, all team highs.

Logan Olney was hitting .365 with five doubles and 14 RBI. **Dylan Tomberlin** had a .286 average with seven doubles, 11 RBI and 16 runs, and **Aidan Welch** had 10 RBI and a homer with a .222 average.

Landon Crawford has been Central's top pitcher. He had worked 27 2/3 innings and owned a 2.53 earned run average.

Olney and Welch were also getting regular work. Olney had a 4.20 ERA in 13 1/3 innings while Welch had a 2.56 ERA in 13 2/3 innings.

Kingston Jackson, **Cohen Phillips**, **Lawson Hicks** and **Tomberlin** had each worked at least six innings.

CENTRAL SOFTBALL 8-8

It has also been a long time for the Central softball team to have a season as good as this one. The Eagles were 8-8 overall even though they were just

Myrtle Beach showing up strong this spring

By David Shelton
Senior Writer
Myrtle Beach – They're at it again. After winning the AAAAA Division II state title last year, the **Myrtle Beach High** boys tennis team is among the top contenders for the title this spring.

Last year's state championship was their third in four years and with most of the lineup returning this spring, the Seahawks have a great shot at winning another ring.

The Seahawks post an impressive lineup this spring, led by senior **Spenser Green** as the No. 1 singles performer. Green has won his first 14 matches of this season.

IN at No. 2 singles is eighth-grader **Wyatt Anderson**, with 10 wins already this season. Playing No. 3 singles is junior **Caleb Cahill** while senior **Foster Cahill** is at No. 4 singles. Rounding out the singles ladder is sophomore **Kenneth Gunter** with eighth-grader **Ian Magee** pushing hard to make the top five.

The boys soccer team at Myrtle Beach also figures to be a state championship contender. The Sea-

hawks entered spring break in early April with a 12-2 overall record and a clean 6-0 sheet against region 6-AAAAA competition.

The scoring load is balanced but is led by senior **Christian Ott**'s 13 goals and three assists. Junior **Raul Lopez** has scored eight goals and has three assists while junior **Yarin Bouskila** has five goals and three assists. Senior **Landon Conder** has tallied four goals and four assists while junior **Evry Yakoel** and sophomore **Joel Watson** each have scored three goals.

The baseball team continues to work hard and hopes to earn a playoff berth later in April. The Seahawks hit spring break at 6-10 overall and 3-6 in region 6-AAAAA play.

Will Moran leads the team in hitting at .364 with seven RBI while **Julio Delfin** is hitting .361 with six RBI. **Garrett Mays** is hitting .327 with seven RBI and **Cooper Davidson** is hitting .333. Anchoring the pitching staff are **Anderson Goff** and **Sinclair Bolick** with Mays and Moran providing valuable innings as well.

The softball team sits at 3-9 overall and 1-7 in 1-4 in region play. "We have won more games this season than Central has won since 2019," said **D.J. Middleton**, who is in his first season as head coach after having helped his father, former head coach **Steve Middleton**. "We've gotten better each game, and we are learning to find a way."

Central plays in a region which had four teams ranked in the *High School Sports Report* AA Top 10 poll in No. 4 Buford, No. 5 Chesterfield, No. 6 **Andrew Jackson** and No. 8 North Central. That's where the four region losses have come from, while the Eagles own a win over **Cheraw**.

They were going back through the region after spring break. Any victory would more than likely secure another trip to a district tournament in the state playoffs.

A return to the playoffs would give Central a chance to reach a goal. "Our end goal this season is to win a playoff game and establish our program as committed and on the rise," D.J. Middleton said. "I'm extremely proud of the way our team has played so far this season and I look forward to the future."

Senior **Tashia Quick** was leading in hitting with a .333 average. The **Florence-Darlington Technical College** commitment had four doubles, two triples, two homers, p 18 runs and 12 RBI.

Junior **Ashanya Myers** was batting .278 with a homer, 10 stolen bases and 14 RBI, junior **Blaire Butler** was hitting .250 with a team high 14 RBI and two homers, and senior **Jasmine McMillan** was hitting .250 with a homer and 12 RBI.

See Central, pg. 35

CENTRAL

Cedar Lane Supply (843) 672-6547



WE SALUTE ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS

Courtesy of Central High School Staff and Students



The Central High School Athletic Department & Staff Salute Our Student Athletes! Good Luck Eagles!



CAROLINA LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES

Pageland, SC 843-672-7300

Proud Supporter of Central Athletics!



KIM MANGUM SALUTES CENTRAL

ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS - GO EAGLES!



Saluting All Area Schools! First Citizens Bank

303 N. Pearl Street, Pageland, SC (803) 672-6129

Financial Sales Manager: Justin Young (843) 672-0924

David Durham, SVP Manager of Retail Banking, Pee Dee Market



1938 Peach Orchard Rd

Jefferson, SC 29718

Go Eagles!

P&J PINE NEEDLES

523 Paul Hurst Rd. Ph: 843.672.2545
Pageland, SC 29728 Fax: 843.672.7901

CROSS COUNTRY ADJUSTING

William Curry VP Client Relations/Pilot wcurry@ccadjust.com
Office: 888-658-1828



211-B South Pearl Pageland, SC 29728
Ph: (843) 337-8286 jermaine1@shtc.net
Let's Go Eagles!



P.O. Box 7 601 N. Pearl St. Pageland, SC
Ph: 843-672-6135 Fax: 843-672-5393
Email: cmtucker@infovoe.net

Go Eagles!



708 W. McGregor Street Pageland, SC 29728
Ph: (843) 672-6131 Fax: (843) 672-6134
suttonfh@shtc.net

MYRTLE BEACH

Best Western Ocean Sands Resort

1525 South Ocean Blvd North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582



843-272-6101

Reservations 1-800-588-3570
www.oceansands.com

Best Western.

Call & Ask for your High School Sports Discount



9918 N. Kings Hwy Myrtle Beach, SC 843-449-3231
www.thechesapeakehouse.com

region play. **Madalyn Thompson** leads the team in hitting at .306 while **Ava Brunell** is hitting .303. **Ava Grace Sherman** is next at .296. Julie Langway handles the pitching duties.

Pee Dee softball team rolls on towards playoffs

By Dennis Brunson

hssr.com Associate Editor

Mullins – And the beat goes on.

For the **Pee Dee Academy** softball team that is. The Golden Eagles have won four consecutive SCISA state championships and appear to marching toward making it five in a row.

PDA had a 15-1 overall record coming out of spring break. The only loss came to St. James, the defending **South Carolina High School League** AAAAA Division II state runner-up, in a time-limit game in the championship game of the **Pee Dee Pitch-Off in Florence**.

"This is a great group of girls, they get along well and are playing pretty well," said head coach **Will Eskridge**. "We know how capable our returners are, and we've been pleased with how well the new girls have hit thus far this season.

"We have several very talented and fundamentally sound players, but still have some areas to clean up and correct to get where we want to be. The good news is they have the ability and the time to do what we need them to do."

The Eagles have four returning starters led by senior pitcher **Maddie Coward**. The left-hander is dominant in the circle and at the plate.

The **Wofford** commitment has a 0.91 earned run average and 89 strikeouts in 59 2/3 innings pitched. At the plate, she had a team high .605 batting average with eight doubles, a triple, a home run and a team

high 33 runs batted in while hitting third in the batting order.

Freshman **Addison Hasty** returns at shortstop and is the leadoff hitter. Junior **Azeleigh Arnette** returns at third and hits in the 2 hole. The cleanup hitter is freshman newcomer **Dinah Johnson**, who plays first.

Senior catcher **Leah Nettles** is a returning starter and hits fifth followed by sophomore **Kayden Pearson** at second base. Rounding out the batting order are junior rightfielder **Carly Carroll**, senior left-fielder **Catherine Fick** and freshman centerfielder **Lilly Grace Rowell**.

Hasty was hitting .538 with a team high 26 runs scored, while Arnette was batting .410 with 25 runs. She had also worked 28 innings and had allowed just one unearned run.

Johnson was batting .444 with 20 RBI, Nettles was hitting .394 with 16 RBI, and Pearson was hitting .375.

The other members of the team are sophomore **Shelley Lane**, juniors **Sara Bethea** and **Chloe Hasty** and freshman **Bree Wallace**.

Eskridge sees plenty of ways the Eagles could improve as the state tournament draws near.

"As a team we could select better pitches to swing at," he said. "That would help us a lot, and baserunning! We need some of the younger, less experienced players to learn to be better baserunners, which usually comes with experience. Defensively, the on-field communication needs to improve."

Andrews softball ready to make deep playoff run

By Neill Kirkpatrick

Special to the HSSR

Andrews – The Andrews Yellowjackets softball team has wrapped up their second consecutive Region 6 AA going undefeated in region play 6-0 so with three weeks left in the regular season coach **Joy Weisner** squad will look to get ready for the class AA playoffs.

The 8th ranked (HSSR Poll) Yellowjackets are 11-1 overall with their only loss coming to the 8th ranked AAA team the Georgetown Bulldogs. They have won 9 straight since that loss. They will face 8th ranked AAAAA DII South Florence twice and second ranked class A Hannah Pamlico once which will help them get ready for the playoffs. Last season they made it to the district 8 finals where they fell to Marion.

Junior catcher **Chloe Skipper** is outstanding behind the dish. She has made only two errors in her last 106 fielding chances, which is a fielding percentage of .981. She has not made an error all season and does a great job of handling a pitching staff that has a 1.56 team ERA. At the plate she is hitting over .300 and is one of six players with at least 10 RBI's this season.

Seniors **Addison McCants** and **Addyson Davis** split time in the circle for the Yellowjackets. Neither one is a strike out pitcher but they know how to work the plate and the zones with big pitches at the right time as well as relying on a solid defense behind them. They also have allowed only extra base hit all season.

Davis is a returning All-State player. She is the team's shortstop when not in the circle and is hitting .452 with 13 RBI's and is second on the team with 7 extra base hits and 10 steals while McCants is hitting .412 and is going to join the 10 RBI club as she sits at

9. Those 9 have come in just six game.

The Yellowjackets three other senior's all man the outfield in **Sarah Jennings** (CF), **Emmalee Lambert** (LF), and **Briana Walker** (RF). Jennings leads the team in hitting with a .556 average, in hits with 20, runs scored with 22 and steals with 13. In the field she has a 1.000 fielding percentage from center field.

Walker is second on the team in hitting at .528 while Lambert is hitting .379. They have score 31 runs between them.

These five senior have set the table for the future of Andrews softball as they have shown the younger group that hard work and commitment payoff. Each year they improved their record.

Junior **Karaline Gainey** is at first base. She has scored 12 runs and has 13 RBI's.

Jenna Cook and **Tori Smith**, both sophomores, play all over the infield for the Yellowjackets. Smith plays at shortstop and third base while also seeing time in the circle. She has given up one run in seven innings pitched. At the plate she leads the Yellowjackets in extra base hits with 11; 9 doubles and two triples. She is tied for second with 16 runs scored. Her fielding percentage is close to .900.

Cook sees time on the hot corner and at first. She is hitting .417 and leads the team in RBI's with 15.

Lauren Stump rounds out the Yellowjackets roster. The freshman is hitting .474 with six extra base hits and 10 RBI's.

The Yellowjackets will finish the season with seven non-region games to get themselves ready for a deep run in the AA playoffs.

Florence Christian, from pg. 23

Briggs Filyaw had pitched 15 innings with no record, and **Sawyer Godbold** had worked five innings with a 1-0 record. **Braydon Murray** and **Jaxon Nealey** have also pitched.

Minton was leading the team in hitting with a .407 batting average to go with a .553 on-base percentage. Godbold was batting .345 with a .457 OBP, and senior **Hayden Johnson** was batting .333 with a .464 OBP.

Senior **Landon Feagin** is the leadoff hitter followed by Minton in the 2 hole and Nealey batting third. Godbold is batting cleanup with Johnson fifth, Clark sixth, Alexander seventh and **Brodie Hickson**

eighth. **Sellers Huggins** and Filyaw, who share time at catcher, round out the batting order.

With Alexander having yet pitched, the double play combination has pretty much been set with him at second base and Hickson at shortstop. Nealey completes the defense up the middle by starting in center field. He is flanked by Feagin in left and Godbold in right.

Clark and Minton handle third base when the other is pitching. Johnson is the regular first baseman even though Clark and Minton could see some time there as well.

William Hicks, **Bradlee Smith** and **Brody Cariati**

PEE DEE ACADEMY

House Member Lucas Atkinson - Go PDA!
Ashley Brady Salutes the Eagles!



Dillon Internal Medicine Associates, P.A.

705 North 8th Street - Suite 1A (843) 774-2478 (843) 476-3011

James P. Wallace, M.D.
James J. Kelly, M.D.
Nicholas Wallace, M.D.
Alto B. Odin, D.O.

Caren C. Arnette, FNP
Kelly Jacobs, DNP
Morgan Hayes, FNP
Victoria Davis, FNP



First Citizens Bank

Mullins Marion Nichols
Member FDIC

Smith - Rogers Oil Co. Inc.

P.O. Box 308, Mullins, SC 29574
(843) 464-9577

Best of Luck to the Players & Coaches!



ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK
www.abbank.com



Ashley Brady, Mayor
Emerson Hunt, Mayor Pro-Tem
Ronald Atkinson, Council Member
Michael Baker, Council Member
Joseph Frazier, Council Member
Donny Gerald, Council Member
Tassie Lewis, Council Member
Post Office Box 1190
107 South Main Street
Marion, South Carolina
843-423-5961
843-423-8620 (fax)
Go Eagles!

Craig Martin, CPA, PA

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Post Office Box 783
207 Tom Gasque Ave.
Marion, SC 29571

Phone (843) 423-6002
Fax (843) 423-4010
cpa99@bellsouth.net

ANDREWS

Hemingway Chiropractic 843-264-8757



MOORE AUTO SERVICE

7 Seaboard Road
P.O. Box 465
Andrews, SC 29510
(843) 221-4040

Proudly Saluting the Stallions!



MORRIS INSURANCE LLC

LEE MORRIS
MPCI & P&C

431 Country Club Road
Andrews, SC 29510
lee.morris53@yahoo.com

Cell: 843.325.4700
Office: 843.389.2459
Fax: 843.221.4588

Epic Tech

7582 Georgetown Hwy
Andrews, SC 29510
(843) 264-1297

see time in the outfield.

The Eagles' playoff fate was to be determined following spring break. It had 2-game series remaining with region foes **Williamsburg Academy** and **Dillon Christian School**. It played host to Williamsburg on April 14 before traveling to **Kingtree** on April 16. It is to be at home against DCS on April 21 before visiting the Warriors on April 23.

Seawell's Midlands Feature Page

Midlands baseball, softball gearing up to make playoff pushes

By Worthy Evans
Special to the HSSR

Columbia - With Spring Break in the books, baseball and softball teams return to two weeks of intense region play to determine the bracketing for the state playoffs that begin May 4. For this issue we'll take a look at some of the top teams that look for a long run in the district and upper/lower state tournaments.

Baseball

Blythewood baseball (15-2, 8-0 Region 5-5A) has come close to winning a state championship, reaching the final series in 2019 and again in 2023. In head coach **Travis Poole's** third year with the team, the Bengals are putting together an identity of coming from behind and winning in late innings. Starting the season 1-2, Blythewood is in the midst of a 14-game winning streak.

Most recently the Bengals came from behind at **West Florence** March 31 and beat the Knights 4-2 in nine innings. At Blythewood three days later, the Bengals scored three runs in the sixth to rally from 6-4, then closed out a scoreless seventh for a 7-6 win.

"Hats off to these guys. They don't give up," Coach Poole said March 17 after rallying from a 7-3 deficit to rout Spring Valley 19-7. "They're going to do what they do, stay aggressive. Good things will happen, but we've got to be better early."

Regardless of when they get hits, the Bengals are a team that's hitting a collective .338. **Andrew Blackwell** leads the team in batting average with a .405 percentage, with lead-off man **Sergio Melendez** hitting .404 with a homer, three doubles and 12 runs batted in. **Amare Counts** and **Johnny Collins** provide the power for the team. Counts is batting .372 with a team-leading five home runs, four doubles and 17 runs batted in. Collins has a .364 percentage with three homers, two doubles and 12 RBI. Seven of the 11 Bengals with batting records are hitting well over .300.

Add to those offensive stats a pitching staff with a collective earned-run average of 2.68, and Blythewood has become a solid contender.

The Bengals have no clear ace, but instead a veteran battery of pitchers who can start or come to the mound in relief to stop the bleeding. Junior **Bowman Rummel** is 4-0 with a 4.40 ERA and a team-leading 21 strikeouts over 20 2/3 innings. Junior pitching brothers **Andrew** and **Caleb Blackwell** are both 3-0 in four appearances. Andrew has a 2.38 ERA Caleb's is 2.47. Collins, a senior, leads the team with a 1.00 ERA over four appearances and 20 strikeouts in 14 innings of work.

River Bluff (12-5, 5-1 Region 4-5A), which beat Blythewood for the 5A state championship in 2023, continues to play good baseball. The Gators fell 2-0 to region rival **Chapin** March 31, but improved to a 5-1 region mark with a 2-1 victory over the Eagles April 2 just before the break. They are atop the re-

Midlands Baseball Top Ten

- Blythewood (15-2, 6-0 Region 5-5A)**
- River Bluff (5-1, 12-5 Region 4-5A)**
- Gray Collegiate (14-3-1, 9-0 Region 4-4A)**
- A.C. Flora (12-5, 6-0 Region 3-4A)**
- Airport (14-4, 7-2 Region 4-4A)**
- Swansea (14-3, 4-2 Region 5-3A)**
- Batesburg-Leesville (12-4, 5-1 Region 2-2A)**
- Chapin (11-6, 3-3 Region 4-5A)**
- Cardinal Newman (10-9, 6-1 SCISA Reg 1-4A)**
- White Knoll (7-8, 4-2 Region 4-5A)**

Midlands Girls Top Ten

- Gray (18-0, 8-0 Region 4-4A)**
- Lexington (13-3, 6-0 Region 4-5A)**
- Blythewood (10-4, 4-2 Region 5-5A)**
- A.C. Flora (14-5, 5-0 Region 3-4A)**
- Batesburg-Leesville (10-1, 5-1 Region 2-2A)**
- River Bluff (11-7, 5-1 Region 4-5A)**
- Chapin (7-9, 3-3 Region 4-5A)**
- Pelion (7-5, 2-2 Region 2-2A)**
- Gilbert (8-7, 4-4 Region 4-4A)**
- Airport (8-8, 4-4 Region 4-4A)**

gion standings ahead of **Lexington, White Knoll**, and **Chapin**.

In the **Forest Acres Classic** hosted by **A.C. Flora** last week, River Bluff dropped close games to defending 4A state champion Airport (14-4) 9-8 in eight innings and Dorman (17-2) 7-6, but edged Asheville's **T.C. Roberson** (12-5) 6-5.

The Gators took on **Dutch Fork** twice this week, and will wrap up region play with a 3-game series with 2025 upper state champion Lexington April 21-24.

Gray Collegiate baseball had been shaken with the departure of first-year coach **Matt Hornsby** before the season. Under assistants **James Adams** and **Terry Oldaker**, who are acting as co-coaches this spring, the War Eagles are 14-3-1 and unbeaten in Region 4-4A 9-0.

With the change at the top came a challenge for the seniors as well as the assistant coaches, in that they had to bear a larger responsibility to keep the team going in the right direction.

"The team was challenged. It's their season, not ours," Adams said. "We put some captains in place; that's never been done before. We've leaned on our seniors. We have given them some di-

rection. They have done a phenomenal job with it."

War Eagles ace pitcher **Zak Perry** is 5-0 on the season with a 0.24 earned-run average in his five appearances and 38 strikeouts. **Brogan Sox** is 2-0 with a 2.48 ERA in six appearances.

At the plate **Kaleb Holmes** leads War Eagle batters with 40 or more at-bats with a .356 average. **Chase Starkey** is batting .354 with 17 hits and a team-high 19 RBI, and **Garrett Blankenship** isn't far behind with a .346 batting average and 18 hits. **Noah Styron** (.346), **M.J. Hornsby** (.245), and **Perry** (.319) all have a home run.

Defending 4A state champion **Airport** (14-4, 7-2 Region 4-4A) is third in the region standings but still very much in the mix of top Midlands teams. The Eagles did fall 5-4 to region leader Gray Collegiate April 3, but bested River Bluff 9-8 in eight innings in the Forest Acres Classic April 6.

In that game River Bluff scored four runs in the seventh to take an 8-7 lead, but Airport got a run in the bottom of the seventh, and got the game winning run without a hit. Leadoff batter **Alex Nicholas** was hit by a pitch and subbed on the basepaths by **Cooper Chavis**. Chavis reached third base over the

course of two outs, and scored on a wild pitch for the win.

"That last run, sometimes you need a break to go your way," Airport head coach **Casey Bradwell** said. "I know our record says we are 14-4, but we haven't had a ton of breaks go our way yet. It was good to see the kids fight."

Landon Jeffcoat leads the team in batting average with .422 and has a home run, three doubles and 14 RBI. **Braden Gross** is batting .356 with a homer and two doubles, and **Rylan Bullis** is hitting .333 with a team-leading two home runs, four doubles and nine RBI. **Justin Sightler** (.238) has driven in 14 runs.

On the mound, Bullis (4-1) has an ERA of 1.29, two saves and 26 strikeouts. **Daniel Butts** (3.54 ERA) is 5-1 with a team-high 47 strikeouts in 29 2/3 innings of work.

Softball

Gray Collegiate softball won the 4A state championship in 2025 largely because of its power at the plate. The War Eagles hit more than 60 home runs last year.

This season, after the loss of seven seniors, Gray has just nine home runs. While the dropoff of dingers is noticeable **Midlands**, pg. 62

SEAWELLS
Catering and Events

Family owned since 1946
Formal to Casual Catering
Groups of 20 to 1,000+
(803) 771-7385
seawellscateringsc.com

SEVENTY YEARS OF HOSTING BIG DAYS

Modern Turf Farm Recruiting Feature

Recruiting, continued from Cover

HSSR SC 2027-29 Prospects
(Nominate A Player: 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-6-0,165
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 Richardson-Sumter-QB-6-2,220
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 Watkins-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 Anderson-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. Makel 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. Emari 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?)

ware batted .588 and she helped her team win a Gold Medal World Cup championship. She scored the most runs of any player in that event. Before she reclassified, Boulware was rated as the number one player in the 2027 Class in the nation.

Boulware is the daughter of former NFL and FSU football player **Michael Boulware** and **Jessica Vanderlinden Boulware**, who was a former National Softball Player of the Year at Florida State where she was an outstanding pitcher, hitter, and outfielder over the 2001 to 2004 period.

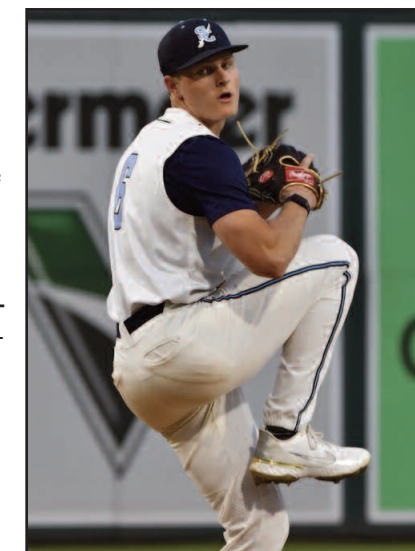
She is also the granddaughter to **Dr. Jim** and **Melva Boulware** who rarely miss one of her games.

To say that Aspen the daughter, and Jessica, the proud mother are close would be the understatement of the century. This is how Gray Collegiate head softball coach **Doug Frye** describes their relationship.

"So many times we would finish up with a two-hour practice at Gray Collegiate, and then Aspen and Jessica would leave my practice and go over to Reco Field, where we use to practice and play as a team, for Aspen's second practice," said Coach Frye. "Jessica would hit her daughter ground balls, and they would practice base running, and she would pitch to Aspen at top speed. In all my years of coaching I have never seen a player want it more, and she has worked hard and she earned everything that has come her way in softball."

Coach Frye said he knew Boulware was a special athlete from her very first game with the Gray Collegiate varsity in the 8th grade. "Aspen is on first base and our next batter hits a bloop single over the first baseman's head that the outfielder fielded cleanly," said Coach Frye. "The next thing I know Aspen is sliding into home and there was not even time for the other team to throw to the plate. I had never seen a softball player run so fast and I was shocked with her speed on the base paths."

Coach Frye says her defense is just as impressive. "We are playing against **Dutch Fork** Aspen's freshman season, and a lined drive is hit in the air between second and third and I just knew it was going to score a run," said Coach Frye. "Aspen jumps three feet in the air, catches the ball, and before her feet hits the ground, she



Southside Christian's Carson Boleman



Gray Collegiate's Aspen Boulware

the ball to second for a double play.

"Then we are playing at a tournament hosted by **Byrnes High** early this season and a ball is ripped between second and third," said Coach Frye. "Aspen dives to the ground, catches the ball, and while on her knees she makes a bullet throw against a fast runner to get the player out by two steps."

Coach Frye agrees with his star player reclassifying up one grade to graduate this year. "It was time for her to take her talent and skills to the next level," said Coach Frye. "As far as I am concerned, she could be playing in college right now. We will miss her, but she will do just awesome."

Coach Frye said that while Boulware can play shortstop, or in the outfield, he is convinced that shortstop is her rightful position. "Aspen's range at shortstop is off the chart," said Coach Frye. "She can get to ground balls most shortstops can not get to. She has great hands, quick feet, and a strong arm to first base."

Boulware joined the Generation Seahawks travel team as a 12-year-old after playing softball at the rec level "for as long as I can remember." She started out as a pitcher and catcher before evolving into a shortstop later.

"I would say having a mother who was such a great player in college to help me learn the fundamentals at an early age gave me advantages and I am very thankful for her support and help," said Boulware. "We are both

See Recruiting, pg. 61

modern turf

Proudly Keeping South Carolina Schools on Winning Turf!

Modern Turf, Inc.
843-421-5479
mark@modernturf.com
www.modernturf.com