

SN, NN Claim County Crowns

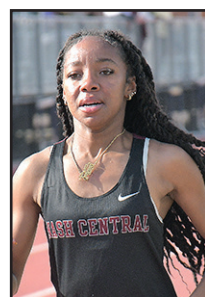


NNHS RUNNERS (L TO R) CHRISTIAN POWELL AND HUMBERTO ESCOBAR (Photos Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

Northern and Ladybirds win at track event

From Staff Reports

ROCKY MOUNT -- No matter the circumstance, winning the Nash County Track and Field Championship is a big honor -- and this year's victors were the Southern Nash girls and the Northern Nash boys.



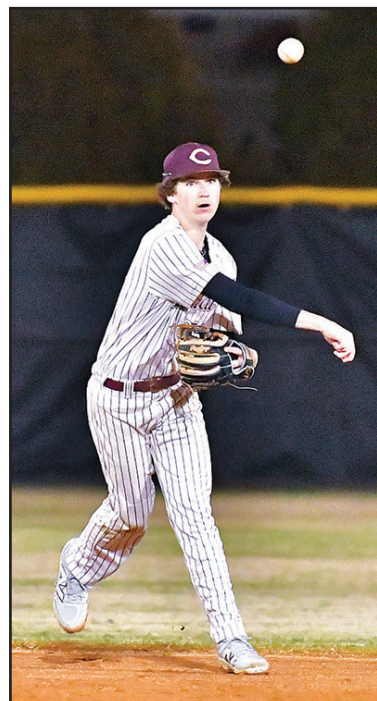
DIONJANAE KIRTZ OF NC Nash girls.

Those clubs made their mark on county track and field lore during the latest Nash

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NORTHERN NASH'S ANDREW RINE



NASH CENTRAL'S PEYTON HARRIS

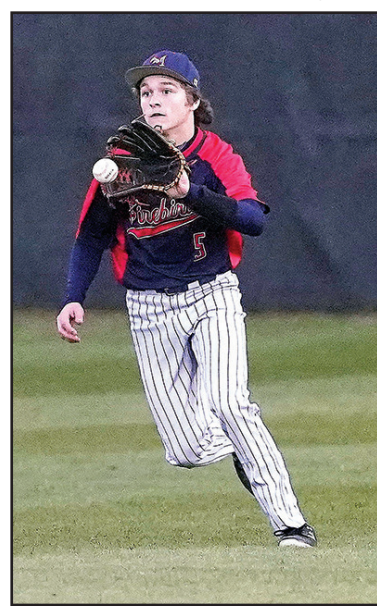
Baseball clubs are surging

By CHANCE PUCKETT Correspondent

NASH COUNTY -- One week remains in the area baseball regular season, with Nash Central, Northern Nash and Southern Nash each vying for a spot in the state playoffs that begin on May 5.

Willie Langley's Nash Central Bulldogs are Nash County's lone representative in the Class-2A/3A/4A Quad County

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SOUTHERN NASH'S ELI SUDYAM

2026 BIG EAST CONFERENCE BOYS GOLF SEASON BRITT-ISH INVASION



THE 2026 ALL-BIG EAST CONFERENCE BOYS GOLF TEAM WAS HONORED AT THE FINAL MATCH NN's Crumley repeats as conference champion

From Staff Reports

ROCKY MOUNT -- Pardon Brian Taylor for being a bit skeptical when he received an email from Britt Crumley 15 months ago, inquiring about the possibility of joining Taylor's Northern Nash High School golf squad.

Crumley wasn't a student at NNHS but, as an attendee of Nash Everywhere Digital Academy, he was free to compete in sports at his district school, which happened to be Northern Nash.

But what piqued Taylor's interest the most was when Crumley stated if he would be available to compete in all of Northern Nash's meets due to possible conflicts with golf lessons and junior weekend



NN'S BRITT CRUMLEY -- BIG EAST CONFERENCE GOLFER OF THE YEAR

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COURT MASTERY NC enjoys solid tennis campaign

By CHANCE PUCKETT Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT -- Regionals are set to take place this Friday for the Nash Central Boys Tennis Team, which wrapped the regular season at 5-6 overall with a 3-3 record in Quad County Conference play.

It was a serious improvement from last year's squad, one that went 4-11 overall while registering a 3-9 mark in conference action.

Under the direction of



NASH CENTRAL'S AURELIEN FRAND

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NASH CENTRAL BOYS TENNIS PLAYER MICHAEL WHITTINGTON



VICTORIA MACEDO TAKES HANDOFF FROM JAYDA LEONARD

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championship, which took place on April 20 at the Rocky Mount High School Football Field.

The on-the-rise Ladybirds' program roared to the girls crown with 94 points -- 24 tallies ahead of runner-up Nash Central.

NCHS edged third-place Rocky Mount by just one marker, while Northern Nash was fourth overall at 37 points.

Northern Nash, with 101.5 points, outlasted host Rocky Mount for the No. 1 position.

The Gryphons closed with 85.5 points for a comfortable second-place finish ahead of Nash Central (61.83) and Southern Nash (23.17).

Freshmen ruled the day at the meet as Southern Nash's girls were paced by ninth-graders Brooklyn Rice and Madison Huey.

Rice was the winner in the Girls 1600, 3200 and 800, while Huey took the top position in the Girls 100 and 200 in impressive fashion.

But the Young Guns heroics didn't stop there as Northern Nash's boys received exceptional work from distance specialists Christian Powell, Humberto Escobar and Pearson Bisette.

Nash Central ninth-grader A'dia Cash got into the act by winning the Girls Pole Vault, while Northern Nash freshman Piper Williams was the winner in the Girls 100 Hurdles.

Results from the annual prestigious event were as follows:

Girls

Team Scores

- 1) Southern Nash 94
- 2) Nash Central 70
- 3) Rocky Mount 69
- 4) Northern Nash 37

Boys

Team Scores

- 1) Northern Nash 101.5
- 2) Rocky Mount 85.5
- 3) Nash Central 61.83
- 4) Southern Nash 23.17

Events

- Girls Discus -- Shania Wilson (Rocky Mount), 86-07
- Boys Discus -- Jayden



NASH CENTRAL'S CHRISTIANA LYNCH

Whitaker (Nash Central) 139-10

• Girls Shot Put -- Shania Wilson (Rocky Mount), 33-07

• Boys Shot Put - Micahis Jones (Rocky Mount), 50-01

• Girls Triple Jump -- Layla Hasan (Northern Nash), 35-09

• Boys Triple Jump -- Jaden Haney (Rocky Mount), 46-01

• Girls High Jump -- Keysha Mizzell (Rocky Mount), 5-0

• Boys High Jump -- Zach Lynch (Nash Central), 6-05

• Girls Long Jump -- Layla Hasan (Northern Nash), 16-0

• Boys Long Jump -- Kamarian Spell (Nash Central), 20-03

• Girls Pole Vault -- A'dia Cash (Nash Central), 8-06

• Boys Pole Vault -- Liam Kopf (Nash Central), 11-0

• Girls 3200 Relay -- Nash Central, 11:37.68

• Boys 3200 Relay-- Northern Nash, 9:07.60

• Girls 100 Hurdles -- Piper Williams (Northern Nash), 17.04

• Boys 110 Hurdles -- Terryk Pittman (Rocky Mount), 15.40

• Girls 100 -- Madison Huey (Southern Nash), 12.91

• Boys 100 -- Jayden Roberson (Northern Nash), 10.98

• Girls 800 Relay -- Nash Central, 1:52.58

• Boys 800 Relay -- Northern Nash, 1:29.66

• Girls 1600 -- Brooklyn Rice (Southern Nash), 5:32.52

• Boys 1600 -- Christian Powell (Northern Nash), 4:59.97

• Girls 400 Relay -- Rocky Mount, 54.47

• Boys 400 Relay -- Northern Nash, 44.68

• Girls 400 -- Madison Huey (Southern Nash), 1:00.46

• Boys 400 -- Khaleek Evans (Northern Nash), 48.64

• Girls 300 Hurdles -- Christiana Lynch (Nash Central), 53.77

• Boys 300 Hurdles -- Ahmir Nelson (Nash Central), 42.00

• Girls 800 -- Brooklyn Rice (Southern Nash), 2:27.59

• Boys 800 -- Perason Bisette (Northern Nash), 2:13.13

• Girls 200 -- Madison Huey (Southern Nash), 26.79

• Boys 200 -- Elam Penny (Rocky Mount), 22.63

• Girls 3200 -- Brooklyn Rice (Southern Nash), 12:42

• Boys 3200 -- Tayquan Alson (Rocky Mount), 11:31

• Girls 1600 Relay -- Nash Central, 4:37.45

• Boys 1600 Relay -- Northern Nash, 3:29.07

BASEBALL

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Conference, a league they sit in second place in having wrapped up their conference slate as of last Thursday.

Behind only first-place Bunn, who posted a spotless 10-0 record during its league slate, the Bulldogs enter Friday's regular-season finale having dropped back-to-back outings and three of their last four games, two of those coming against league foes that finished the season with the same 5-5 conference mark they did.

Nash Central's seventh-inning rally fell just short against a stellar Hunt squad on Monday evening, falling 3-2 to the Warriors -- the top team in the Class-5A/6A Big East.

Central split its preceding two-game sets against Wake Prep Academy and American Leadership Academy-Johnston (ALAJ), the two schools that matched the Bulldogs at 5-5 in league play.

In what's become the norm for Central, the Bulldogs won their outings against Wake Prep and ALAJ in which sophomore hurler Caleb Cox started on the mound, building on an impressive second-year campaign that has earned him a spot amongst some of the state's top pitchers.

Cox currently ranks first in the state of North Carolina in strikeouts, having thrown 112 batters the chair over the course of the season.

"With [Caleb] Cox on the mound, the pitching may go our way against any team in the state," said longtime Nash Central skipper in an interview earlier this season, and he wasn't wrong.

In 10 appearances, Cox has compiled a 6-3 record with a bat-killing 1.65 earned run average (ERA), allowing just 12 earned runs over 51 innings of work. He's additionally tossed three complete-game shutouts, the most recent an 11-0 wallop of Wake Prep on April 14.

One of those three complete-game efforts was against county rival Northern Nash earlier in the year, a game that was the Knights season-opener.

Northern Nash suffered yet another loss to a local rival on Tuesday night, falling to Southern Nash 12-5 in the

team's penultimate home game.

Tuesday was the latest example of the Knights' offensive woes, an issue that has seemingly reared its head throughout the course of the season. Just three members of

Northern's everyday lineup have hit above a .300 clip over the course of the season, with Brody O'Brien leading the way at .394, with Hylan Wheeler (.333) and Gehrig Miller (.310) not far behind.

That trio has also been a critical piece of the Knights' success on the mound, coming into this week having combined for 46 1/3 innings of work.

Northern has two opportunities left to improve its resumé in the regular season, facing rival Rocky Mount on Thursday before the team's season finale on Friday against Middle Creek.

The county's top team resides in Stanhope, where Southern Nash closed out its regular season earlier this week by topping Northern on Tuesday and thumping Rolesville 12-1 on Monday.

The Firebirds have been excellent on the mound this season, having only surrendered double-digit runs once. Even in that game, Southern's offense did enough to outthit South Stanly and came away with a 15-13 victory.

Each of the Firebird pitchers that have tossed at least eight innings have produced ERAs below 4.00, with Grayden Murray, Brayden Parker, Caiden Peeler plus the duo of Kwamaine and Joshua Battle shutting down opposing lineups throughout the entirety of the season.

Southern has now wrapped its regular season at 15-7 and will await its playoff hopes next week, with brackets set to be released on Monday by the NCHSAA.

Nash Central will close out the regular season at home on Friday against Southeast Collegiate Prep Academy, while Northern Nash will travel to Rocky Mount on Thursday and host Middle Creek Friday.

First pitch for Nash Central's season finale is set for 5 p.m., while Northern's closing stanza in the competitive Big East will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday followed by a 6:30 first pitch on Friday.

GOLF

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tournament play.

"Then I saw Britt strike the ball for the first time, and I was like 'OK, we're good,' Taylor said. "I told him we could make it work."

The rest is a dose of Nash County links history as Crumley earned his second consecutive Big East Conference Individual Championship during last Wednesday's league finale at Northgreen Golf Club in Rocky Mount.

Fittingly, Crumley earned medalist honors in the finale with a 77 -- one stroke ahead of the 78 carded by Rocky Mount's Benjamin Parks.

Crumley's season total of 440 strokes easily earned him Player of the Year honors once again. That number was 31 shots ahead of runner-up Charlie Thurston from Wilson Fike.

In addition to Crum-

ley and Thurston, other All-Big East Conference honorees were Joshua Barnes (Southern Nash), Landon Kintzele (Wilson Hunt), Caden Paugh (CB Aycock), Nathan Skinner (Wilson Hunt), Maddux Gray (CB Aycock), Connor Lewis (Wilson Fike), Caleb Wells (Rocky Mount), Parks (Rocky Mount) and Noah Craft (Southern Nash).

In the team standings, Wilson Hunt edged Fike for the top spot, with Southern Nash finishing strongly in the third overall position.

Hunt and Fike will represent the Big East as a team in upcoming regional competition, while Crumley will be in action for the Fighting Knights as an at-large participant, along with the two RM golfers and most of Southern Nash's roster.

NN's Aaron Fleming,

a senior veteran, has also qualified for regional competition.

The regionals will be held next Tuesday at the Country Club of Johnston County in Smithfield as Crumley will look to qualify for the states for the second consecutive season -- along with cementing his legacy as one of NN's all-time best golfers (and there have been some good ones).

"When you have a homeschool kid come in, you're not sure how they are going to fit in," Taylor said. "But Britt has been great. He's a great teammate who gets along with our guys and the guys on the other teams."

Taylor's lone regret is that Crumley didn't come out for the team until he was a sophomore -- but he is definitely making up for lost time as member of the NNHS links squad.

TENNIS

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head coach Renny Taylor, who led the Bulldogs' boys basketball program for many years before taking over the tennis courts, Central picked up wins over Wake Prep Academy, Northern Nash, Rocky Mount and Louisburg over the course of the regular season, the year of course highlighted by the team's two wins over county foes.

The Bulldogs used a pair of 10-5 tie-break victories en route to a win over the Northern Nash Knights on March 17, with senior Cameryn Petteway taking the three-seed match via an extra set while junior Cole Ambrose did the same amongst the five seeds.

Central's 6-3 defeat of Northern was followed just a few days later by a rivalry win over Rocky Mount, which the Bulldogs clipped 7-2.

Petteway, in addition to Aurelien Frand, Ryland Daughtridge and Jonathan Eason each picked up singles wins over the Gryphons, while the team's trio of doubles teams swept Rocky Mount during that portion of the March 23 contest.

Perhaps the most impressive piece of Nash Central's puzzle has been Frand, who has mostly played second-ranked singles and doubles while participating in the top-seeded doubles match once.

Frand, an exchange student from Belgium, closed the regular season by firing off a spotless 10-0 record in singles matches, only being taken to a tie-breaker once.

When taking his doubles record into account, Frand is an impressive 15-4 on the season, helping put together a senior campaign that has certainly been one to remember.

Frand is just one of two seniors -- Petteway the other -- on an improved Nash Central squad, one that could be a serious threat in not just the Quad County Conference but the 4A classification as a whole.

Of course, the Bulldogs have their individual regional appearance on Friday first before next year comes into focus.

Central did qualify for the Class 4-A playoffs this year, hosting Eastern Wayne on Monday after being issued the 16th seed in the playoffs. The Warriors sat just one spot below the Bulldogs at 17th, with the winner of that contest rewarded with top-seeded Central Davidson High School on Wednesday.

While the dual tennis season may be over for Nash Central at this point, next year's squad will certainly be one to look out for, with top-seeded Ethan Frantz, Ambrose, Daughtridge and Michael Whittington primed for big senior campaigns.

On the individual side, Bulldog competitors still have Friday's 4A East Regional to look forward to, with teams from all around eastern North Carolina turning to Barton College in Wilson for the next step of the postseason.



SOUTHERN NASH POLE VAULTER RAY WIGGS