

County Clubs Take Two Of Three



SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL RUNNING BACK KEE'BRION SMITH
(Photo Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

Knights, SNHS pick up clutch grid conquests

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

NASH COUNTY -- It was an eventful weekend for each of the area's local high school football squads, as two teams closed out their nonconference slates while one kicked off league play with a win. The Southern Nash Firebirds jumped back above .500 after a rain-soaked road win at Southern Wayne last Friday night, not just improving to 3-2 on the season but starting Big East Conference play at 1-0 as well. The Firebirds and Saints endured a 90-minute weather



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2026 SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS SOCCER SN'S RED BARRONS



SOUTHERN NASH'S DANIEL LANDA (LEFT) WORKS HIS WAY THROUGH THE WILSON FIKE DEFENSE
(Photo Submitted by Carl Copeland)

Firebirds secure key road victory in conference

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

STANHOPE -- You'd be hard-pressed to find a turnaround more impressive than what the Southern Nash Boys Soccer team has engineered this fall. The Firebird soccer squad had big

dreams coming into the season after last year's run to the second round of the play-offs, and those aspirations could've easily been halted early. Southern started the year with a quartet of losses to Wake County opponents, a streak that easily could've snowballed and had a negative impact far beyond those

four contests. Not only did the Firebirds turn the tables after an early string of losses, they've done so in dominant fashion. Southern won the seventh of its last eight outings on Monday night,

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Fike Still Controls The Big East

Demons claim latest match at Wedgewood

From Staff Reports

WILSON -- Wilson Fike once again flexed its collective team muscle during last Wednesday's Big East Conference girls golf match at Wedgewood GC in Wilson County. The Lady Demons, who have swept every league match to date in convincing fashion, were dominant once again with 121 strokes -- 38 shots ahead of runner-up CB Aycock. Wilson Hunt was third overall in the team standings with 165 strokes, followed closely by Northern Nash at 167.



NN'S BRIAN TAYLOR

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2026 SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF TEAM
(Photo Submitted by Brian Taylor)



THE LEGENDARY DODRILLS -- JEFF AND TRACY

Dodrills running to glory

From Staff Reports

RED OAK -- Some coaches talk the talk while others walk the walk.

In this case, they run the run!

Jeff and Tracy Dodrill (Northern Nash Cross Country coaches) traveled to South Dakota to participate in the Mount Rushmore 1/2



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THE DODRILLS AT MOUNT RUSHMORE

Bishops fall on the road

From Staff Reports

SEWANEE, TENN. -- The North Carolina Wesleyan University football squad battled back from an early two-touchdown deficit and piled up more than 500 yards of total offense last Saturday afternoon, but the Battling



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SOUTHERN NASH'S JOSE DOMINGUEZ EYES AN OPEN TEAMMATE FOR A PASS DURING THE FIREBIRDS' ROAD BOYS SOCCER TRIUMPH AGAINST WILSON FIKE

SNHS

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dropping conference rival Fike 2-1 as the visiting 'Birds improved to 7-5 overall and 2-1 in Big East Conference play. Over that run of eight games, the Firebirds outscored their opponents by a whopping 29-2 margin, headlined by key conference victories over both C.B. Aycock and Fike. The recent matchup between Southern and Fike pitted two of the region's great coaches against one another as well, with Carlos Barron of Southern Nash facing off against Fike's Chris Mizelle — a former soccer legend at nearby Northern Nash High School. A large part of the flip that's occurred at Southern Nash has come from a pair of stellar juniors, Daniel Landa and Braden Delgado — the team's

top goal scorers. Contributions from third-year players and younger players have been a consistent theme for the Firebirds this season, with just six players in the team's massive 28-man roster in their final year of eligibility this season. Multiple different freshmen, such as Levy McLaurin and Chris Hernandez have made early impacts for the 'Birds thus far — with lots of opportunities still left in league play. Southern took the pitch once again on Wednesday, hosting longtime rival Hunt with county foe Rocky Mount set to visit Stanhope on Monday. After the Firebirds' tilt against Rocky Mount, they'll take a trip to Northern Nash before restarting the league

schedule with Southern Wayne on Oct. 7. From there, they'll have one more shot at each team in the Big East, in addition to one last nonconference matchup against rival Nash Central on Oct. 15. The Bulldogs and Firebirds have already met once this season, with Southern routing Central 11-0 in their first victory of the season, kickstarting the streak they're still riding the high of. Monday's matchup between Southern Nash and Rocky Mount is slated for a 6:30 p.m. start, with Wednesday's game against Northern Nash kicking off at the same time. Monday's game will be held at Southern Nash High School, while Wednesday's will be played on the campus of Northern Nash.



SOUTHERN NASH'S GIOVANNY MACIAS DRIBBLES HIS WAY THROUGH THE WILSON FIKE DEFENSE

GOLF

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Rounding out the standings were Southern Wayne at 184 and Southern Nash just one stroke behind with a cumulative score of 185. Wilson Fike also controlled the proceedings in the individual format as the Lady Demons earned the Top Four positions, led by medalist Payton Durham, who fired a sparkling 38. The best non-Fike performer was Northern Nash High School junior Hayley Moss, who claimed fifth place with a 50. Teammate Pier Rochelle, another junior, closed in a tie for 14th place with a 58. Southern Nash's top finisher was senior Leila Gonzalez, who carded a 60, which was good enough for a tie for 18th place. Team and individual results from the event were as follows:

Big East Girls Golf at Wedgewood GC Team Scores

- 1) Wilson Fike 121
- 2) CB Aycock 159
- 3) Wilson Hunt 165
- 4) Northern Nash 50
- 5) Southern Wayne 184

6) Southern Nash 185

Individuals Top 20 Finishers

- 1) Payton Durham (Wilson Fike), 38 (Medalist)
- 2) Loulie Harrison (Wilson Fike), 41
- 3) Kensley Hill (Wilson Fike), 42
- 4) Addison Barnes (Wilson Fike), 49
- 5) Hayley Moss (Northern Nash), 50
- 6) Katherine Horton (CB Aycock), 51
- 7) Addison Brinkley (Wilson Fike), 52
- 8) Andrea Allen (CB Aycock), 53
- 9) (tie) Courtney Barfield (Wilson Hunt) and Ava Martin (Wilson Hunt), both with 54s
- 11) (tie) Sophie Lester Veal (CB Aycock) and Mikyla (CB Aycock), both with 55s
- 13) Ella Farmer (Wilson Hunt), 57
- 14) Pier Rochelle (Northern Nash) and Colbie Godsell (Wilson Hunt), both with 58s
- 16) (tie) Lanie Melton (CB Aycock) and Londyn Askew (Northern Nash), both with 59s
- 18) (tie) Leila Gonzalez (Southern Nash), Camden Sullivan (Southern Wayne) and Emma Matthews (Northern Nash), all with 60s

FOOTBALL

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delay after Southern Nash took an early 7-0 advantage, with star running back D.J. Baker breaking the ice midway through the opening quarter. Head coach Brian Batchelor's squad took a 14-6 lead into the locker room for halftime, with Baker once again finding the end zone with 1:56 remaining in the second period. Southern Wayne tied things up at 14 apiece in the third frame, with the Firebirds later scoring what proved to be the game-sealing touchdown with 3:18 left, this one coming on a run from sophomore Trey Smith. Southern Nash's 21-14 win over the Saints was in large part due to Smith's efforts on the 'Birds final drive, with him amassing 53 yards on that drive alone capped by a one-yard touchdown run. Another sophomore, Zavad Curtis, interrupted Southern Wayne's final drive with an interception, capping Southern Nash's second-straight victory. The Firebirds weren't the only local squad that picked up a key win despite interference from the weather, as Northern Nash dropped South Central 49-26 to level its record at 2-2. The Knights fell into an early 14-0 hole, but flipped momentum after Kamren Freeman returned a kick for a touchdown that opened up the scoring for Northern.



NORTHERN NASH HS PLACEKICKER MATTHEW WALSTON SHARES A PREGAME PRAYER WITH NASH CENTRAL TEAM CHAPLAIN TRIPP SAULS BEFORE THE CLUBS' RECENT GAME AT THE DAWG POUND. SAULS IS WALSTON'S YOUTH PASTOR AT NASHVILLE METHODIST CHURCH. (Photo Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

Including that kick return, the Knights outscored the Falcons 49-6 over a period that stretched from the 3:03 mark in the first quarter to late in the third frame, the most impressive run of football the team has played this season. Perhaps what's most impressive, is that it came in the absence of star running back Myles Eatmon who was sidelined due to an injury. Even with Eatmon out, Northern had two backs cross the 100-yard rush-

ing mark, with Jamarcus Robinson totaling 125 yards and one touchdown while Cam Lyons finished with 100 yards exactly and found the end zone an impressive three times. As for Nash Central, the Bulldogs will head into Quad County Conference play still in search of their first victory of the season, closing out the nonconference slate by suffering a 44-0 loss at the hands of Warren County in a Saturday matinee. The afternoon marked the third time this season that Central has been

shut out, with offense being an early issue for the Bulldogs. Nash Central will take this week off before starting league play on Friday, Oct. 2 at Louisville, a squad off to a hot start at 3-1. Both Northern Nash and Southern Nash will be hosting Big East opponents for the first time in 2026 this week, with the Knights facing undefeated Fike and the Firebirds taking on C.B. Aycock. Kickoff for both games is slated for 7 p.m. at the respective sites.

RUN

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marathon on September 12. They are long-time advocates for the sport and demonstrate that running is a lifetime activity. This duo sets the example for their athletes and community. A few times a year, they organize travel and races for the Red Oak Runners to participate in Virginia and South Carolina. Their latest adventure covered a 13.1 mile trek through the Black Hills of South Dakota that required over 1850 feet of climb in elevation throughout the race. One stretch of the course, from 4.5 miles to the 8-mile marker was a relentless uphill challenge. Although it was difficult, it created amazing views along Iron Mountain Road through the large Ponderosa Pines. The course navigated through three

tunnels with Mount Rushmore in sight along the way. The finish line was in the town of Keystone where the husband and wife team claimed both male and female Master Division (age 40 and over) winners. Jeff finished 16th place overall while Tracy was 34th overall out of 550 starters, in which 468 finished in the four hour time limit. Their official times were 1:53.05 and 2:03.10 which is pretty solid time running at altitude and uphill. Upon returning to North Carolina on Monday, they were back at cross country practice preparing the Knights for a trip to Virginia to participate in the Generals XC Invitational. The team stopped at Monticello (home of Thomas Jefferson) along the way to tour the house and grounds of the third President of the United States.

NCWU

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Bishops ultimately came up short in a 24-17 road loss to homestanding Sewanee at McGee Field at Harris Stadium in the Volunteer State. NC Wesleyan moved to 2-1 on the season following its first setback of the year. Sewanee jumped out to a 14-0 lead in the opening quarter, but the Bishops responded before the end of the period. Jack Pearson connected with Tyson Resper for a 35-yard touchdown with 1:42 remaining, cutting the deficit to 14-7 and giving Wesleyan momentum heading into the second quarter. After Sewanee extended its lead with a field goal, North Carolina Wesleyan answered

again. Braxtyn Green drilled a 41-yard field goal with 3:54 remaining in the first half, trimming the Tigers' advantage to 17-10 entering the break. The Bishops came out of halftime with one of their strongest drives of the afternoon. Starting at their own five-yard line, Wesleyan marched 95 yards on 13 plays and took more than seven minutes off the clock. Braden Selvage capped the drive with a two-yard touchdown pass to Jimmie West III, and Jorge Hernandez-Lara's extra point tied the score at 17-17 with 7:43 remaining in the third quarter of action. Wesleyan had an opportunity to take the

lead later in the quarter after another productive drive, but a 43-yard field goal attempt went wide. The Bishops continued to move the ball in the fourth quarter and reached deep into Sewanee territory before a fumble resulted in a touchback, ending a 73-yard drive. Sewanee broke the tie with 6:35 remaining in the game on a 10-yard touchdown pass to take a 24-17 advantage. North Carolina Wesleyan University responded with one final drive beginning at its own two-yard line and moved all the way to the Sewanee 32, but an interception with 1:13 remaining ended the Bishops' comeback bid.