

2026 NORTHERN NASH HS BOYS SOCCER BALTAZAR'S BEST



NORTHERN NASH'S LEN FERCHO GAINS POSSESSION FOR THE KNIGHTS DURING MONDAY'S CONFERENCE VICTORY AGAINST WILSON HUNT (Photos Submitted by Carl Copeland)

Knights surging in conference action

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

RED OAK -- One of the most successful boys soccer seasons in recent history among any of the Nash County schools is currently taking place on the campus of Northern Nash High School, with the Knights currently holding down the top spot in the Big East Conference.

Northern improved to a stout 9-1-3 on the season after a 7-1 thumping of conference foe Hunt on Monday evening, and faced longtime rival Southern Nash on Wednesday in the first meeting between the two schools so far this season.

Now over a month since the Knights have lost a game – their lone defeat coming at the hands of J.H. Rose back in August – Northern has its eyes on a potential conference title and a hopeful deep run in



NORTHERN'S GEHOVANY ALVAREZ-PACHECO



NORTHERN NASH CROSS COUNTRY SQUAD AT HISTORIC MONTICELLO Historic Journey For NNHS Fighting Knights compete in the Dominion State

From Staff Reports

NEW MARKET, VA. -- The Northern Nash High School Cross Country Team traveled to New Market, Virginia two weekends ago to participate in The Generals Cross Country Invitational.

The prestigious 18-team event took place on an actual Civil War Battlefield in the rolling hillside of New Market.

The Knights took third place as a team and were led by Miguel Guzman with his 7th-place

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NASH CENTRAL'S SAVANNAH PHILLIPS RISES FOR A KILL VERSUS ROANOKE RAPIDS (Photos Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

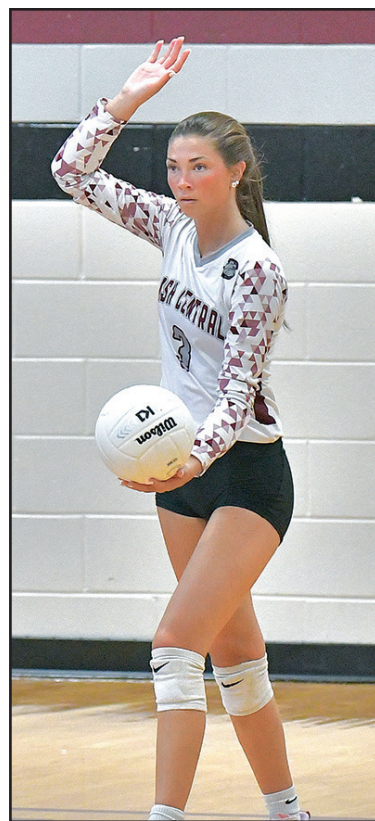
PLAYOFF PUSH NC looking for strong finish

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT -- Time is ticking on the high school volleyball regular season, with just four games remaining for Amber Inman-Perry's Nash Central Lady Bulldogs.

After a slow start to the season that included four-straight losses at the hands of county rivals Northern Nash and Southern Nash, the Nash Central spike squad has fostered quite the turnaround as the year has progressed.

Now above .500 for the first time this season after a three-set sweep of Knightdale on Monday evening, the Lady Bulldogs head into their final stretch at 8-7 overall and 3-3



NASH CENTRAL'S
HALEY FRAZIER

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NORTHERN NASH'S JAMARCUS ROBINSON LUNGES FOR YARDAGE VS. WILSON FIKE (Photo Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

Nash County squads nab key conference victories

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

NASH COUNTY -- Area football teams have officially hit the midway point of this year's gridiron slate, with each squad's outlook different in various ways as their locker rooms begin the race to the



School that had the performance of the week on Sept. 25, with the Knights knocking off previously unbeaten Wilson Fike in a 34-20 decision at Northern Nash's Death Valley.

The Knights used nearly 300 yards on the ground in a wire-to-wire victory over the

It was Northern Nash High

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HASSAN DAVIS-MCKINNEY COMES UP WITH A CLUTCH INTERCEPTION FOR THE FIGHTING KNIGHTS (Photos Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

FOOTBALL

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Golden Demons, highlighted by a whopping 124 yards and three touchdowns from feature back Myles Eatmon.

A senior who was sidelined due to an injury in the team’s non-conference finale against South Central a week prior, Eatmon carried the rock a game-high 25 times against Fike in a game that bumped the Knights above .500 for the first time this season, improving their record to 3-2.

Perhaps what was most impressive was Northern Nash’s defense, who held the Fike offense – a unit that was averaging 55.8 points per game coming into last week’s matchup – to a season-low 20 points.

The Golden Demons have scored as many as 80 points in a game this season and have crossed the 50-point margin three times, so needless to say this was quite the résumé booster for a Northern Nash squad that was in need of a trademark victory.

As for Southern Nash, the Firebirds picked up a crucial third-straight victory in a 28-14 win over C.B. Aycock, with a road game against Fike on the docket for this week.

The Firebirds currently sit in a tie for first place in the Big East at 2-0 in league play, with Southern and Hunt the lone two schools at 2-0 in the conference.

A young squad that is still working on finding



MYLES EATMON CELEBRATES A TD

its way was able to end up in the win column once again in large part because of a star-studded performance from DJ Baker, who tallied an impressive 174 rushing yards while finding the endzone twice against Aycock.

The ‘Birds carried a 21-0 lead into halftime, but survived a threatening second half from the Golden Falcons after Aycock scored 14-straight to open the second half.

Now 4-2 on the season, Southern is met by a brutal back end of a schedule that includes matchups against Fike, Hunt, Rocky Mount and Northern Nash, all of which will be tough outs

for the Firebirds.

Nash Central and Carter Varnell took this Friday to regroup and recollect from a winless nonconference slate – their best effort coming against longtime rival Southern Nash in a one-point loss in which the Bulldogs led by 13 in the fourth period.

Central has shown serious improvement – seen from their own sideline and in the opinions of other coaches – but it’s yet to result in a win, with Varnell still looking for his first victory since taking the reins as the program’s head coach.

This week the Bulldogs will travel to 4-1 Louisburg in QCC action.



NORTHERN NASH’S ISMAEL MARTINEZ ADVANCES THE BALL DURING HIS TEAM’S DECISION OVER HUNT

SOCCER

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the postseason.

The green-and-gold have maintained a complete team effort on the pitch so far this season, spreading the wealth amongst multiple different key players on their roster.

For example, on Monday it was Jayden Roberson who made the biggest mark. A senior that has contributed in a big way during his high school curtain call, Roberson tallied a three-goal hat trick on Monday against Hunt in arguably his most impressive performance of the season.

Even with that eyebrow-raising night, Roberson still sits behind fellow senior Ismael Martinez when it comes to total points and goals scored as well as Noah Blanton – a star sophomore who has emerged as one of the league’s top players.

Of course, Northern is led by beloved head coach Baltazar Rodriguez, who has been building towards this season in recent years in an effort to revive a historically successful Fighting Knight boys soccer program.

While back-to-back winning seasons in 2024 and 2025 were positive steps in the right direction, neither of those squads saw quite the success or have

quite the upset as this year’s team.

The Knights have one match left in the first leg of their conference slate, with a road trip to archrival Rocky Mount slated for Oct. 5 at 4 p.m.

After that, the schedule resets for Northern with the second leg of each Big East home-and-home due up.

That run starts with always-dangerous Fike on Oct. 12, followed by C.B. Aycock on Oct. 14 and Southern Wayne on Oct. 19.

The Knights will face Hunt in Wilson on Oct. 21 before traveling to Southern Nash on Oct. 26, closing out the regular season against Rocky Mount High School on Oct. 28.

Unbeaten in conference play at the time of print, it’s hard not to begin to daydream about the shot at a conference championship if you’re in or around the Northern Nash program – on that’s been headed in the right direction but hadn’t topped out this high in quite some time.

There is still certainly a lot of season left on the pitch, but it’s clear that for the first time in quite some time, Northern Nash is more than just a threat in the Big East Conference, they’re a threat in the East Region as a whole.



NORTHERN NASH MEDALS STAND HONOREES (L TO R) CHRISTIAN POWELL AND MIGUEL GUZMAN POSE AT A CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD IN VIRGINIA

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finish in 18:25. He was joined on the medal stand by teammate Christian Powell who placed 13th overall with his 18:42 effort.

The course covered 3.25 miles instead of the standard 5-k distance.

The other Knights in scoring positions were: Ayden Wright (19:20), Daymond Sherrod (19:48) and Hunter Lupton (20:29).

The event was a sort of homecoming for Lupton. It was on a course that he ran in middle school before moving to North Carolina.

His old team was there competing and he was able to warm up and cool down with his former teammates.

His old coach still had pictures of him while he was running for the Generals during his seventh-grade year.

During the trip, the Fighting Knights stopped by Monticello (home of Thomas Jefferson) in Charlottesville Va. on Friday on their way to the meet.

They had a chance to view the grounds of the home and tour the house of our nation’s third president.

The athletes gained knowledge of life in the early 1800’s.

They learned of the daily life and jobs on a plantation and saw many artifacts and inventions from that time period that were used by Thomas Jefferson himself.



THE GREAT A'DIA CASH SENDS ANOTHER ONE DOWN DURING A MATCH AGAINST ROANOKE RAPIDS

V’BALL

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in Quad County Conference play.

Winner of five of its last seven outings, Central’s remaining schedule includes road trips to Roanoke Rapids and Wake Prep Academy in addition to hosting Louisburg and Bunn.

The race to the finish line is going to be a difficult one for the Lady Bulldogs, with Wake Prep, Louisburg and Bunn each currently slotted ahead of Central in the QCC standings.

Of course, the first go-round between these opponents didn’t break in the Lady Bulldogs’ favor.

Central lost to Louisburg, Bunn and Wake Prep in that order in the initial meetings earlier this season, and each result came by a 3-0

margin.

As the playoffs draw nearer and resumé become a larger topic of conversation in the coming weeks, it’s vital that Inman-Perry’s group turns the tide from the previous decisions that arose against these conference foes.

The Lady Bulldogs next face Roanoke Rapids, who they clipped in three sets at home on Sept. 15.

Nash Central will hit the road to face the Yellow Jackets on Oct. 1, with a big opportunity to build on their already-prevalent momentum before the road gets much more difficult to close the season.

A young but talented group, it’s been clear that Central has improved over the course of the season. A large part of

that production and improvement have come from the core of A’dia Cash and Harmony Dupree – a set of sophomores that both rank in the Lady Bulldogs’ top three killers.

Those improvements are going to need to show as the season winds down if Central wants to hold down a playoff spot and keep their postseason streak alive – one that extends beyond Inman-Perry’s tenure as the program’s head coach.

The Lady Bulldogs take the court at Roanoke Rapids High School today at 5 p.m., with their next home matchup set for the same time on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Central’s regular season finale will take place against Louisburg on Oct. 13.