

NASH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CENTRAL WINS!



NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT TALIEK MORRIS Bulldogs roll past Roanoke Rapids

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

NASH COUNTY -- All four of Nash County's public high schools were in action on the gridiron last Friday night, with the evening headlined by Nash Central winning its first game since receiving a forfeit victory over SouthWest Edgecombe in week one.

The Bulldogs thumped Roanoke Rapids 47-21 on the road, securing their first conference win and improving to 1-1 in league play, 2-5 overall on the season.

"Every game should be competitive," said Nash Central head football coach Chris Lee of his league slate earlier this season. "We feel good about our chances to be competitive with everyone."

Lee's Bulldog squad was more than competitive on Friday, thrashing the Yellow Jackets' defense for a whopping 375 rushing yards, both Taliek Morris and Zaquez Britt totaling over 100 yards on the ground as individuals.



NASH CENTRAL FOOTBALL COACH CHRIS LEE



NORTHERN NASH'S (L TO R) GEHRIG MILLER AND MYLES EATMON



NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL'S LILLIE LONG
(Photos Submitted by Meryn Johnson)

LEAGUE CHAMPS NCHS nabs QCC tennis title

By CHANCE PUCKETT
Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT - In their first year as a member of the Class-2A/3A/4A Quad County Conference the Nash Central High School Lady Bulldogs claimed the conference crown on the tennis court, securing the title after closing the season by winning four straight matches, three of which were league contests.

Nash Central, which is led by head coach Wayne Holloman, edged Louisburg by one match in league play, wrapping up its conference schedule on September 30 with a 7-1 record.

The Lady Bulldogs closed the year with wins over Roanoke Rapids, Bunn and Wake Prep Academy to clinch at least a share of the league, followed by ending the regular season with a nonconference



NASH CENTRAL'S
ELLA BRYANT

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NASH CENTRAL HS GOLFER ISAURA LOPEZ Lady Bulldogs fare well in their new conference

From Staff Reports

SPRING HOPE -- The 2025 Nash Central High School Lady Bulldogs golf season concluded last Monday with the inaugural Quad County Conference Championship match and Peachtree Hills Country Club in Spring Hope.

Nash Central came into the

season with a lot of question marks after graduating 3 all conference seniors and 2024 Big East Player of the Year, Layla Lafferty.

The only returner was senior standout Rylee Brewer, who pulls double duty while also playing volleyball.

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NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS TENNIS TEAM
2025 QUAD COUNTY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

TENNIS

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victory over SouthWest Edgecombe.

With Louisburg’s loss to Wake Prep on October 2, a match that dropped the Warriors to 6-2 in its league schedule, resulting in Central claiming the Quad County crown in uncontested fashion.

“I remember exactly where I was,” said Holloman of the moment he found out that Nash Central won the outright championship, something he learned via text message from the school’s athletic director Kyle Bain.

It’s the first conference championship that the Lady Bulldogs have won on the tennis court since 2012 -- a year that marked the third consecutive league title for the Bulldogs after winning the Class-3A Big East in 2010 and 2011.

Central did a superb job recovering after a rocky start to the season, bouncing back from dropping their first three matches and four of their first five. Central turned on the jets in league play, able to win when it mattered the most.

“Our goal was to get into the best possible shape for conference play,” said Holloman, who spent seven years as an assistant coach for the girls program before taking over the reins as head coach, and has also led the boys team for seven seasons as well.

“You get better by playing people better than you,” - a philosophy that aided him in building a nonconference schedule that consisted of Northern Nash, Southern Nash and Hunt, all schools with strong programs and higher enrollments than what Nash Central has.

It wasn’t just a change in competition that turned the year around, it was real improvement and confidence that rose that tipped the scales as well.

“They started trusting each other,” remarked Holloman. “They started trusting my coaching and what I was saying, they genuinely wanted to get

better.”

As the season progressed, Holloman solidified a lineup that included three freshmen in their rotation, including his own daughter Ava Holloman.

Holloman was one of two Bulldogs who qualified for the Class-4A Eastern Regional as an individual, with top-seeded Hannah Bullock the other.

This Friday’s event will also see the duo of Ashlyn Gardner and Lillie Long compete as a doubles pairing, Gardner being one of Central’s key freshmen while third-seeded Nadia Cooper is the other.

Fourth-seeded Ella Bryant also had a strong year for the Bulldogs as well, who was typically partnered with Cooper in doubles.

“I could say something great about what each of them have done,” remarked Holloman of his squad. “They absolutely exceeded expectations, but I’m not shocked.”

Holloman specifically shouted out Gardner and Long, who provided strong depth for the Lady Bulldogs at the fifth and sixth singles positions.

“The top few seeds typically get the most attention, but if they don’t play at the level they played, we’re not the conference champs,” said Holloman of his fifth and sixth seeds, a duo that combined for an impressive 15-1 record as individuals in league play.

Nash Central now turns its attention to the Class-4A State Playoffs, which began on Monday.

The Lady Bulldogs were awarded a first-round matchup at home as a result of their regular season success, drawing SouthWest Edgecombe who they faced twice in the regular season and beat both times. The Lady Bulldogs once again knocked off the Lady Cougars, with East Duplin, who received a first-round bye, the second round opponent.

FOOTBALL

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The 47 total registered a new mark for the most points scored by Central this season by a wide margin, eclipsing the previous high of 15, which the Bulldogs posted in losses to Southern Nash and Louisburg. Central’s offense saw seven of its drives result in touchdowns, six of which came courtesy of the run game.

Morris, who tabbed a game-high 116 rushing yards reached the end-zone an impressive four times, while Britt added a touchdown of his own as well. Kameron Tucker joined the fun with a score on the ground as well, while quarterback Emory Bynum connected with Aiden Parks through their air for a touchdown as well.

Defensively, the Bulldogs intercepted Roanoke Rapids quarterback Holden Ford three times, adding insult to injury for the Yellow Jackets.

Meanwhile, Southern Nash took part in one of the state’s top games on Friday night, dropping a 51-34 barnburner against rival Hunt.

The Warriors used 21 fourth-quarter points to pick up their first win over the Firebirds since 2014, with Southern dropping to 6-2 on the year with two games left on the schedule.

Head coach Brian Batchelor’s squad tee-

tered back and forth with Hunt throughout most of the game, carrying an 18-17 advantage into halftime and using one of three touchdowns from Jaden Hartsfield to take a 26-24 lead with 4:45 left in the third period.

That was the last lead the Firebirds would hold, though. Hunt built its lead up to 37-26 not long after that, but Southern threatened once again with another Hartsfield score, this one shrinking the Warriors’ lead to 37-34 with 4:07 left remaining in the game.

Hunt then responded by scoring another offensive touchdown and adding a 32-yard pick six, one of three interceptions thrown by Firebird quarterback Isaiah Battle, scoring twice in 33 seconds to push its lead from three points to 17.

Southern Nash now sits at 3-1 in league play - with fellow Nash County opponents Northern Nash and Rocky Mount left on the docket. Both the Knights and Gryphons are 6-1 overall and 3-0 in the Big East, having both earned decisive victories on Friday.

The Knights bounced Southern Wayne 51-7 in its penultimate road game of the regular season, picking up their fourth-straight win and scoring 40+ points for the fourth game in a row as

well.

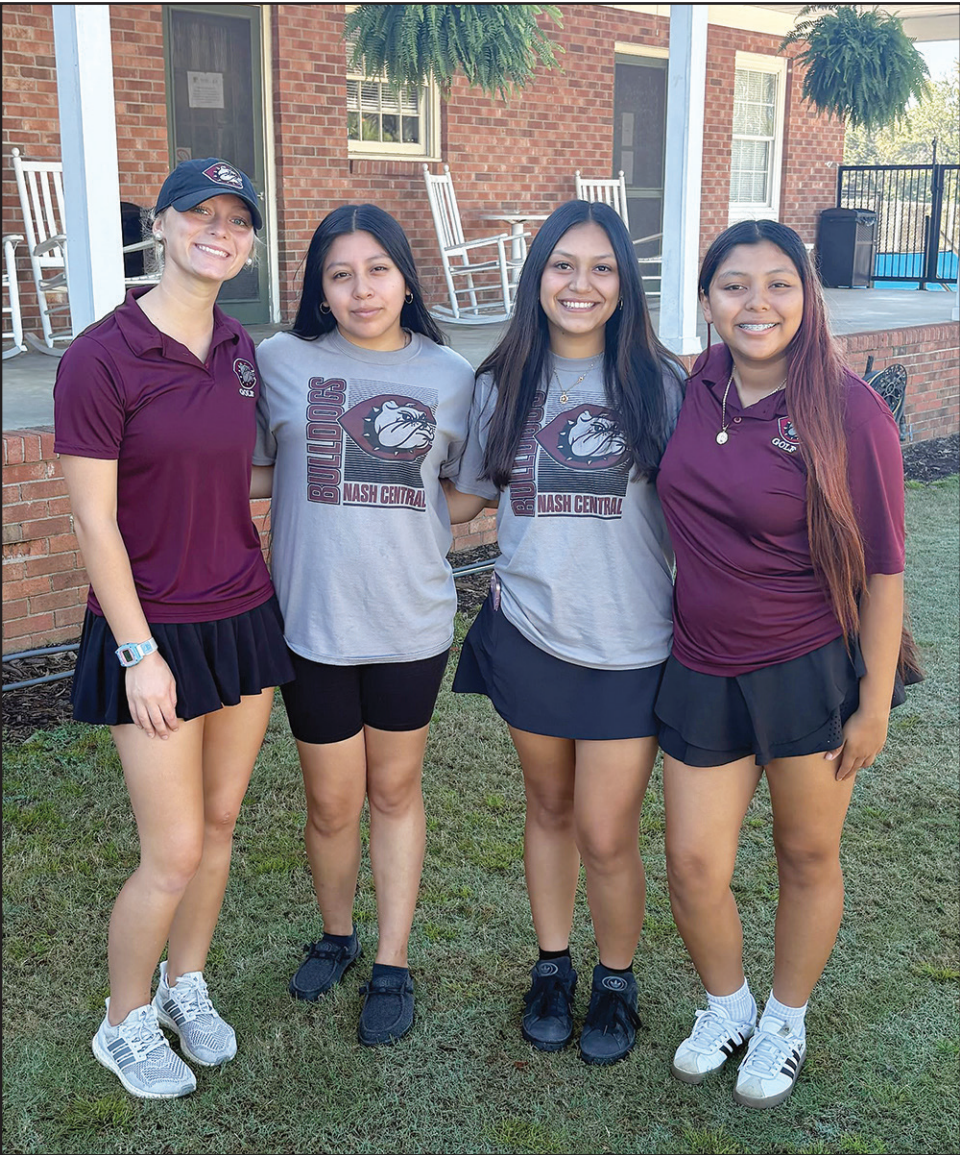
As for Rocky Mount, the Gryphons used a 35-point first quarter and a 56-point opening half to thump C.B. Aycock 56-14, winning the first of three road games in its final four weeks of the season.

Rocky Mount will now turn its attention to a massive home game with crucial league implications on Friday as the Gryphons will play host to Southern Nash, always one of the area’s premier games of the season.

Fresh off a win over Southern themselves, Hunt will travel to Northern Nash in a matchup of teams unbeaten in Class-5A/6A Big East play, another game that could have a serious impact on who emerges from the regular season as conference champion.

As for Nash Central, the Bulldogs will look to build off of the momentum from its victory over Roanoke Rapids against 5-2 Bunn, who is one of two Quad County Conference teams that are unbeaten in league play, Louisburg being the other.

Kickoff for all three of Friday’s Nash County high school football games will be at 7 p.m., with games held on the campuses of Rocky Mount, Northern Nash and Nash Central High Schools



2025 NASH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF TEAM



2025 QUAD COUNTY CONFERENCE
ALL-CONFERENCE GIRLS GOLF SQUAD

GOLF

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But thanks to a trio of first-time golfers playing in their senior year the Lady Bulldogs were able to compete.

Isaura Lopez-Jimenez emerged as the top seed for the Bulldogs, followed by Brewer, Ashley Velasco-Morales, and Carolyn Hernandez.

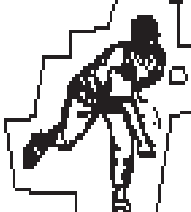
The Lady Bulldogs improved as the season went and came home

with an overall second place finish in the conference standings behind American Leadership Academy.

They also had three individuals make all conference by finishing inside the top 10 in the individual standings -- Lopez-Jimenez, Brewer, and Velasco-Morales, while Hernandez received honorable



QUARTERBACK ISIAH BATTLE AND THE SOUTHERN NASH FIREBIRDS WILL BE IN ACTION THIS FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE ROAD AGAINST THE ROCKY MOUNT GRYPHONS



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