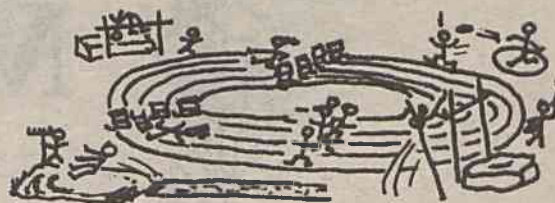


Sports . . .

EDITOR: MICHAEL BLAGG

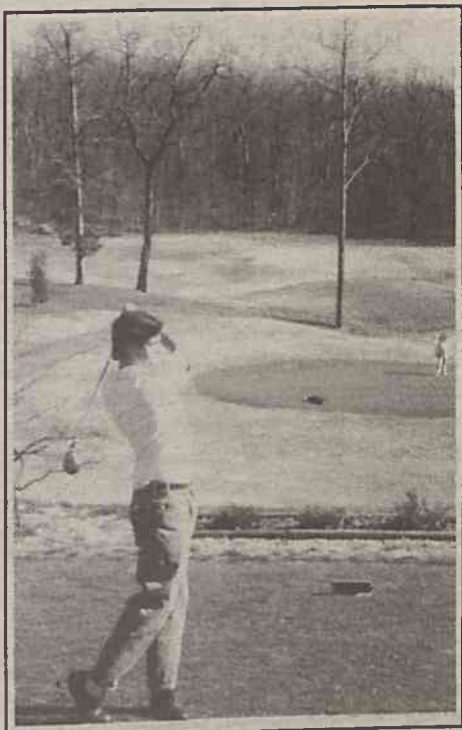


Up to Par?

By Marshall Riggins

The spring sports season has come once again and with it comes the beginning of another "wonderful" season of golf. (Yes, this is a biased opinion, for those of you who hate golf, because I am a golfer myself.) This year, things seem to be looking up for the golf team. With strong play from the seniors and juniors, the team would seem to have a definite shot at the state tournament in Chapel Hill. This would be a great accomplishment, and would be the first of its kind in over four years.

This goal can only be accomplished through hard work and good leadership. (For those of you who are not fortunate enough to play golf, it is a very tough game, mentally, on a player!) The team will be looking to the leadership of the seniors Cam Colvin and Marshall Riggins (a new addition to the team). Other players for this year's team will be Courtney Brown, Danny Benoy, Matthew Allison, Scott Nahrgang, Stephen Aldridge, Curtis Cox, John Holt, Jack Linker, Matt Smith, Peter Smithing, and Brian Snyder.



Scott tees it up for a new season.

Fuzzbusters!

By Michael Blagg

There is a little bit of royalty in Albemarle. Back in the olden days, before J.V., before radio, even before Dave Holcomb, there was very little entertainment. So someone decided to hit little balls with a racket strung with feline intestines. Kings played this sport, queens, dukes, earls, and even better John McEnroe. Tennis is here.

Gary Moran is taking the controls of the AHS "ballbusters" again this year. Tennis at AHS is in an extreme youth movement. There are no returning seniors on the squad. Senior leadership rests in the hands of Michael Blagg. Returning lettermen include such top notch performers as Kerry "Ivan" Brooks, David "Andre" Cranford, and Keith "Stephan" Muse. Wow, what a team! This year will consist of devastating ground strokes, and serves so hot, they'll burn the fuzz right off the ball.

In years past, tennis has not been a real spectator sport. This needs to change! After all, IT'S FREE. Pop on out to Chuck Morehead Park and watch quality entertainment at its best.



Chad tries to master Agassi's devastating forehand.

Diamonds in the Rough

By Shelly Austin

The softball season is underway. Practice started Feb. 20 with a big group of girls. The seniors, Rachel Kendall, Pate Butler, Camille Klutz, and Crystal Crisco were excited to put their gloves on and go onto the field. With leadership from the four seniors and support from the underclassmen, the team hopes to have a successful season. The other returning lettermen are: Paige Newton, Jennifer Eller, Kim Smith, and Pam Carver. The team has a new coach this year, Carla Kimrey. Coach Kimrey will look to the seven returning lettermen to secure the team. Coach Kimrey is a graduate of Wingate College where she played softball. She is excited about the season, even though there are more games in the schedule than normal. They have a total of 23 games this season, and they have started on a positive note. Camille says, "At this point the team is very young, but we are practicing hard and I hope all this running pays off." Good luck to the softball team.



Pam shows her power by sending the ball downtown.

Congratulations To . . .

By Courtney Brown

The Winningest Coach In AHS History

Congratulations to Coach Holcomb on his 500th victory. This special occasion took place on February 15, when our Bulldogs took a big win over West Stanly. After the game a ceremony was held where Mr. Morgan presented Coach Holcomb a basketball signed by the team as well as North Carolina Coach Dean Smith. Mr. Holcomb was also given a plaque congratulating him on 500 victories. T-shirts with "I survived Holcomb" on them were on sale after the game. This night was a special night for Coach Holcomb and I felt honored to just be a part of it. Only a handful of coaches in North Carolina have reached the 500 win mark and the few that have had many more losses than our Coach. Holcomb said that getting his 500th victory was indeed an honor but that the win meant more to him because of the conference championship race than just actually winning 500 games.

State MVP - Mike Kendall

Our very own Mike Kendall has set a new state record in wrestling by winning the state tournament four years in a row. With a combined record of 153-0 and 107 pins he has by far the best record in state history. Our wrestling team will surely miss his presence in years to come as he was a "sure win" everytime he wrestled. Just watching Mike has been quite entertaining- his quickness, agility, and strength are all God-given attributes he utilizes against opponents. Here are just a few of his accomplishments: 1. He has the longest win streak in the state. 2. He has the second longest winning streak in the nation. 3. Most valuable wrestler in the state two years running 4. No wrestler in his path was left unpinned in the state tournament. 5. The Perdue Athlete of the Month was awarded to him. 6. He will represent the United States against other countries.

Mike will definitely be missed by wrestling teammates because he, as *The Charlotte Observer* said, is "Perfect".

Our State Championship Cheerleading Squad

For the third time in four years our cheerleaders are state champions. By winning the state title in Greensboro, the girls get to compete at Carowinds on March 17 against other state championship squads. On the individual level, congratulations to Shelly Austin and Ami Laton for their selection to the all-state cheerleading squad. Shelly and Ami will cheer for the West in the annual East-West All Star Game. Finally, the cheerleaders will end their National Tour with a stop in Busch Gardens in late March. Because of their hard work and perseverance, our cheerleaders deserve to be called state champions.

Seniors Singing the Blues

By Kristi Johnson

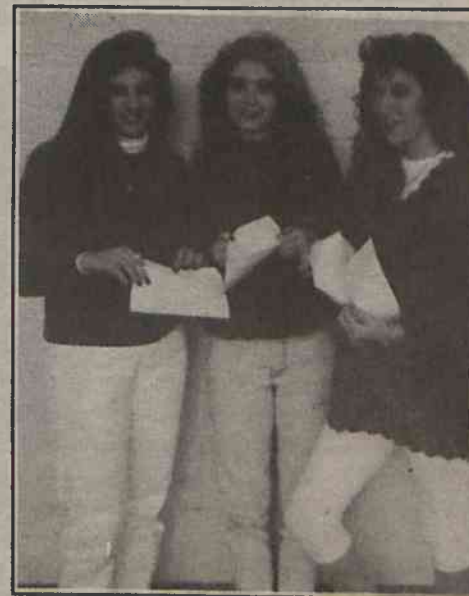
For some seniors, this part of the year is the most stressful. Many students apply for college at the beginning of their senior year and if they're lucky, they'll hear from the college within a couple of months, but some are not so fortunate. A few are put on waiting lists while others are just tortured by not hearing from them at all. The wait is endless, many seniors say. There is always tremendous hope that a large envelope will be waiting in the mailbox saying "YOU'RE ACCEPTED" to the college of your dreams.

Shelly Austin, Jennifer Swanner, and Jennifer Jones, all agree that the wait is terrible. All three are trying to get into Chapel Hill, but they still haven't heard anything yet. Ami Laton is waiting to hear from Duke, although she has already decided to go to Wake Forest. Ward Surratt is hoping to get an affirmative answer on scholarships from Catawba and Lenoir Rhyne. Kevin Muse has already been assured of some scholarships, but he is still in competition for others. Marcille Smith hopes soon to hear if she will be a Teaching Fellow with all its benefits. Leslie Morgan and Jennifer Cook were very lucky because they were accepted at ECU months ago and didn't have to stick out the torturous wait. Whatever the case, I guess since college is the higher education that you've worked your whole life for, the importance of the letter of acceptance is worth the wait.

Keep in mind, Juniors, as you apply for a college, you may have a certain preference, but there are many different colleges to consider.

There may be some that you never really thought of before, but if you find out more information, or maybe even visit it, it may be much more appealing to you. The physical appearance of the campus itself could make more of a difference than you think.

If you're in your early years of high school, crack down and keep your grades high. Be involved in school, and you're more likely to be accepted into college. And for all you seniors, don't lose hope!



Shelly, Jennifer, and Jennifer await their acceptance to the school of their dreams - UNC Chapel Hill.