



Carver's 4x400 relay team (Jibril Mohammed, Brandon Hairston, James Raley and McKinley Morning) won a state title.

Mooresville slips by Carver for 3-A boys title

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORTER

The Carver Yellowjackets couldn't overcome a few mistakes during last week's 3-A state track and field championships at N.C. A&T. The Yellowjackets' talented 4x100 relay team dropped the baton during a race they expected to win. And, standout sprinter Bryce Sherman was beaten by a runner he's beaten every year, prior to last week's race at Irwin Belk Track.

Sherman finished second in the 100- and 200-meter races. Sherman was also responsible for dropping the baton in the relay race, which took Carver completely out of contention for a title. That left the gate wide open for Mooresville. Mooresville tallied 75.5 points in the men's standings to 56 for runner-up Carver. Asheville was third with 52 and Jacksonville White Oak and Cameron Union Pines each had 34 points to tie for fourth. A total of 51 schools scored

points in the men's meet.

Mooresville senior Jamel Allison earned Most Valuable Performer honors as led his team to the state team championship last Friday. Allison earned the Most Valuable Performer award in the meet by capturing first place in both the triple jump and the long jump, finishing eighth in the high jump and running a leg on the four by 100 relay team.

Jake Deaton of Mooresville was also a double winner, winning the shot and the discus, while White Oak's Darryl Williams took first in both the 100 and 200.

Jacksonville took the women's title with 74 points, with defending champ Asheville T.C. Roberson the runner-up with 53.50, just ahead of Western Guilford with 52. Greensboro Dudley was fourth with 41 points and Jamestown Ragsdale fifth at 36.

A total of 55 schools scored points in the women's meet. Senior Kelsey McCorkle took a

pair of individual first places in the 100 and 200 and earned the women's MVP award.

The Yellowjackets' 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams won a state title, after winning with a time of 1:27.62 in the 4x200 and a 3:21 in the 4x400. The combination of Sherman, McKinley Morning, Dominique Tate and Brandon Hairston ran the 4x200, while James Raley, Hairston, Morning and Jibril Mohammed ran the 4x400. Parkland took second in the 4x400, with Rashad Wilkerson, D'Ray Hall, football star Nick James and Jarrell Elliott finishing with a time of 3:25.15.

In other action, Parkland's Jarrell Elliott won a state title in the 400-meter race. Parkland's Jessica Morgan also captured a title when she won the girls long jump event. Also, Parkland's girls 4x100 team of Morgan, Christine Council, the talented Mytoia Gathings and Jacque Thomas, finished second with a time of 47.83 seconds.

Luper pitches way to MEAC honors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina A&T freshman softball pitcher Jennifer Luper has compiled more accolades in a year than most players gather in a career. She added to her collection by being named the 2008 MEAC Rookie of the Year awarded to her at the MEAC Softball Tournament Banquet recently.

Luper (Fort Mill, S.C.) was also named first-team All-MEAC along with three other teammates. Joining Luper on the first team were sophomore shortstop Yahamma White (Lancaster, S.C.), sophomore second baseman Lillian Bullock (Anchorage, Alaska) and senior right fielder Chaola Simmons. White and Bullock earned first-team honors for the second consecutive season, while Simmons (Raeford, N.C.) was making her first appearance on an all-conference team.

Four players are the most Aggies ever selected to a first-team all-conference softball team.

"I was intrigued by all the first-team players we had called," said head coach Mamie Jones. "I have been here a while and I have never seen that before tonight. It was a good feeling because it shows just how hard these ladies have worked to get to this point. Now we have to move on from this and do our best to win this tournament."

Jones' softball team began play in the MEAC Tournament last Thursday. The murmurs around the Ormond Beach Sports Complex last week suggested that most observers were shocked to see the North Carolina A&T softball eliminated from the 2008 MEAC Tournament on the first day. But one of those observers was not N.C. A&T head coach Mamie Jones. After posting the best regular-season in the history of the program, the Aggies lost 5-1 to Delaware State and later lost 4-3 to Florida A&M. The two losses in the double elimination tournament ended the Aggies season at 31-17-1. They won a share of the MEAC South Division regular-season title.

"We had a great season, but we didn't finish it the way we should have," said Jones. "I hope this will be a learning experience for them. They had a lot of success in the tournament last year, but you're not guaranteed success in the tournament



A&T's Jennifer Luper was named the top pitcher in MEAC.

just because you show up."

Back to Luper, she became the Aggies No. 1 pitcher two months ago and has excelled in that role. She won a school-record 20 games this season as she enters the tournament 20-4 on the season.

During the season, she was named MEAC Pitcher of the Week twice and MEAC Rookie of the Week once. On April 28, she received the Aggie Club Award for Excellence at the N.C. A&T All-Sports Banquet. Luper has pitched 162.2 innings, struck out 99 batters and compiled a 2.50 ERA this season.

Wake, Baylor move football game

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest's season-opening football game at Baylor has been moved from Aug. 30 to Thursday, Aug. 28 in order to accommodate a national television audience. Jeremy Langer, Fox Sports Net vice president of collegiate sports and acquisitions, made the announcement last week.

August 28 is the first permissible date of play for NCAA football teams, making the Wake Forest-Baylor game among the first games of the 2008 season.

Kickoff is set for 8 p.m. EDT at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco, Tex. The telecast will be

made available across the nation on Fox Sports Net's 16 owned and operated regional sports networks including FSN South.

Wake Forest was 9-4 in 2007 and concluded its season with a 24-10 win over Connecticut in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. The Demon Deacons have won 20 games over the past two seasons and have been to consecutive bowl games. The Deacons were ACC Champions in 2006 and advanced to the FedEx Orange Bowl.

Baylor is coming off a 3-9 record and will be making its season debut under new head coach Art Briles. Briles was 34-28 during five years as the head coach at Houston.

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