

SPORTS WEEK

MAY 22, 2014



Katlin Sherman indicates that she is #1 from the victory stand.

Photo by Paula King

Parkland girls finish on top

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The coronation took place as expected. Parkland's girls delivered a no-doubt-about-it victory Saturday, taking the team title at the Class 4-A State Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Greensboro.

Boosted by stellar performances in the jumps, sprints and sprint relays, Parkland finished with 89 points to win comfortably over runner-up Raleigh Wakefield (51) and third-place finisher Asheville T.C. Roberson (48).

"In some ways, it's a relief, but it's also what we expected," said Coach Antwan Hughes. "Entering the championships, we were favored to win, so we had a target on our backs. I'm thrilled that our ladies did what everyone thought they would do. They did an outstanding job."

Ila Mumford set the tone for victory in the morning session with a second-place finish in the long jump (18-feet, 4 inches) and third-place finish in the triple jump (37-feet, 11 inches). The preliminary rounds went as expected, with Katlin Sherman and Myshale Spigner (100m) and Ebony Williams (100 hurdles) advancing to the finals of their events.

"Ila got us off to a great start," said Hughes. "Then Katlin, Myshale and Ebony ran well in the prelims and made the finals, so that gave us momentum for the rest of the day."

The Mustangs were led by Sherman, who won the 100m and 200m in impressive fashion. Williams posted a second-place finish in the 100 hurdles (13.76 seconds). Parkland accumulated additional points in the 400m, courtesy of Erin



Hughes

Morrison (who was second at 56.06 seconds) and McKinley McNeill (third at 56.32 seconds).

Sherman had problems with her starts in both rounds of the 100. In spite of her issues, she regrouped in the final to win in 11.88 seconds. In the process, she ran down frontrunners Sydney Murphy of Apex (11.97) and Ama-Selina Tchume of Wakefield (12.06). In the 200, Sherman ran 24.05 seconds while fighting off fatigue and serious challenges from state 400 champ Layla White of Cary (24.39) and Tchume (24.40).

"God was on my side," said Sherman, a junior. "With those bad starts (in the 100), I kept my focus and realized that as long as I did all the right things, I would catch everybody, and that's exactly what happened. I knew I'd be tired in the 200. So, when I got on the last straightaway, I cranked it up and gave it everything I had."

The sprint relays proved to be the exclusive domain for the Mustangs, who broke their own state records

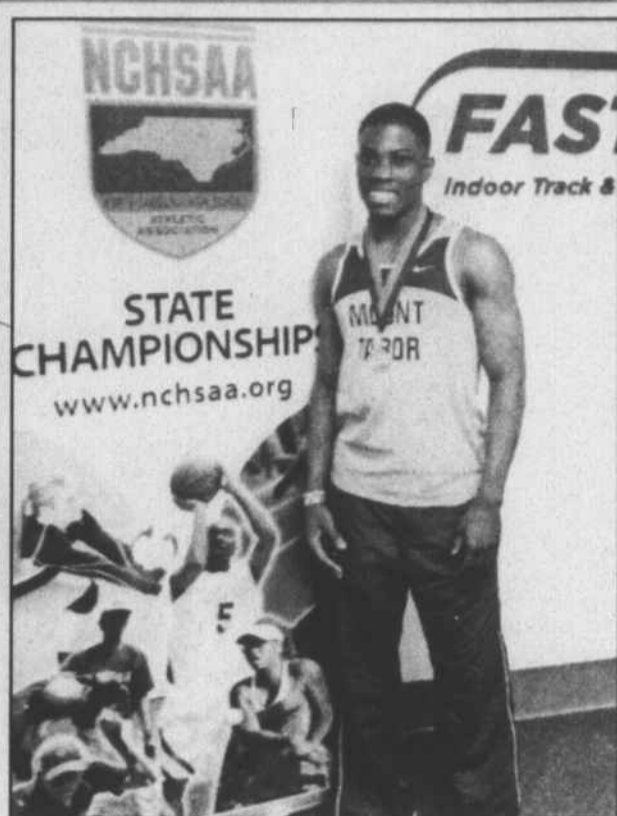
from last year in the 4x100 and 4x200. Mumford, Spigner, Sherman and Miaysha Bryant ran 46.99 seconds in the 4x100 to beat Wakefield (47.45) decisively.

In the 4x200, Sherman, Williams, Bryant and Morrison clocked 1 minute, 36.99 seconds – the fifth-fastest time in the country – to win handily over Greensboro Dudley (1:41.63). Parkland put the icing on its championship display with a dominant showing in the 4x400. Spigner, Morrison, McNeill and Williams proved to be in a class by themselves with a time of 3 minutes, 47.88 seconds. Second-place Cary, which was seven seconds off the winning pace, was the closest challenger at 3:54.72.

The day was nearly perfect for the Mustangs, but there was one noticeable glitch that surfaced in the 300 hurdles. Williams, ranked among the state's top three all season long, had the lead coming down the final straightaway. But with two hurdles to go, she clipped a hurdle and fell to the track, which erased any chance of victory.

The team victory caps a momentous year for the Mustangs, who won the Class 4-A State Indoor Track and Field Championships in February. In Hughes's view, winning another team championship serves as confirmation of what happens when talented athletes dedicate themselves to their sport of choice.

"It's been a remarkable year," he said. "Our ladies put in a lot of hard work to make it happen. It's been paying off all year and at the state meet, it definitely paid off. They deserve all the accolades that come their way."



S. Wayne Patterson II has had a stellar track career at Mount Tabor.

PATTERSON SIGNS WITH NCSU

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Mt. Tabor High School senior S. Wayne Patterson II has officially signed with North Carolina State University, where he will run track for the Wolfpack.

Patterson won second-place in 300 meters in the 4A NCHSAA indoor track meet and was a finalist in the 55 meters hurdles. He also participated in the recent national indoor championships in New York.

Recently, during the 4A NCHSAA Regional, Patterson qualified for the 4A NCHSAA State Championships, where he competed for the state championships in four events – the Boys 110 Hurdles, 300 Hurdles, 4 x 200 relay and 4x 400 relay, in which he and his teammates set a new school record.

Patterson, who has a 4.2 overall GPA, has won eight scholarships.

Players start to commit to upcoming W-S Open

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

John Isner and Tommy Robredo have committed to play in this year's Winston-Salem Open, which will be held from Aug. 16-23 at the Wake Forest Tennis Complex.

Two-time W-S Open champ Isner, a Triad native, and Robredo are the first players to join what is expected to be another strong field at Winston-Salem's ATP World Tour 250 event.

"We're extremely excited that John and Tommy are going to return to the Winston-Salem Open," said tournament director Bill Oakes. "The fact that two top 20 players have committed to play this far in advance shows how well-regarded this tournament is on the ATP Tour."



WS Open Photo

John Isner is action.

Isner is having one of the best years of his career. He has been ranked as high as No. 9 in the world this spring

after a number of impressive performances, including a semifinal appearance at the ATP Masters 1000 event at Indian Wells in March. Isner won the eighth ATP singles title of his career in Auckland back in January and reached the semifinals in Delray Beach in February. He will be returning to Winston-Salem after an injury prevented him from defending his titles last year.

Spaniard Robredo, who will be competing in the Winston-Salem Open for the third year in a row, has had a career renaissance at age 31, rising to his current ranking of No. 18 in the world after recovering from a knee injury that dropped him out of the top 400 less than two years ago. A seven-time Grand Slam quarterfinalist, he has been ranked as high as No. 5 in the ATP rankings in his career.

Tickets will go on sale to the public on June 9, and fans who purchase their tickets prior to July 1 will receive a 10 percent discount. Complete ticket information, including pricing and packages, is available on WinstonSalemOpen.com.

WSSU's Fields preparing for NFL career

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University senior linebacker Carlos Fields has officially signed with the Oakland Raiders as an undrafted free agent.

Fields attended the Oakland Raiders' Rookie mini-camp in Alameda, Calif. and passed his NFL physical. He signed with the NFL team on May 16.

Fields was an integral part of the top-ranked WSSU defensive unit in 2013. He led the team with 93 tackles, including 8.5 for losses. He also had two interceptions, four pass breakups, 6 deflections and one forced fumble in leading WSSU to a 10-2 record and third straight trip to the NCAA DII Playoffs.

He was named Co-Defensive Player of the Year in the CIAA and was also named to several All-American teams for the second consecutive season. Coming into the 2013 season, Fields was ranked as the #1 DII linebacker in the nation. In his stellar career, Fields amassed 322 tackles, 34.5 tackles for loss yards, 6 interceptions, 23 passes broken up, eight quarterback hurries, five forced fumbles and three fumble recoveries.



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garris

Carlos Fields helped the Rams to record seasons.

During his time at WSSU, his team went an amazing 45-6 in four years.

The 6-2, 235-pound Fields led Northern Vance High School in Henderson to the Mid-State Conference Championship and was selected as the conference's Defensive Player of the Year.

He was selected to represent North Carolina in the East vs. West

All-Star Game as a senior and collected more than 100 tackles his senior season. Fields was a two-sport star who was also named All-Conference in basketball. He turned down an offer from North Carolina A&T and drew recruiting interest from James Madison, before enrolling at WSSU. He is the son of Carlos Fields Sr. and Shelia Seward.

Father's Day is June 15

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