

By James Cuthbertson

# Prep Chatter



Independence's Teddy Pauling, North Carolina's top 300 meter intermediate hurdler, remained unbeaten during the 30th annual Myers Park Relays as he tied the meet record of 37.6 seconds.

Myers Park's Alvin Blakeney leaped 24 feet and eight inches in the long jump. Blakeney is ranked third nationally.

Steve Lathrap, Kelly Dixon, Joey Simpson, and Pauling captured the 1,600 meter relay in 3:17.6 seconds.

North Mecklenburg's Neese Gray won the Ralph Sandiford Award for outstanding female performance capturing the long jump at 17.5 and the 100 meters in 12.3 seconds.

Other outstanding performances in the Queen City were John White of West Charlotte who jumped the high jump at 6-6; Bill Beamer of Independence, 400 relay at 41.8; James Jett, Joey Simpson, Beamer, and Pauling, Independence, 800 relay in 1:27.8; James Coleman of Independence, 3,200 meter run, 9:52.5; Cheryl Weaver, Independence, triple jumped in 37 feet 11½ inches; Sylvia Barber, Myers Park, discus in 105-10.

### GIRLS' SOFTBALL RANKINGS

1. West Mecklenburg, 2. North Mecklenburg, 3. South Mecklenburg, 4. Independence, 5. Harding, 6. East Mecklenburg, 7. Myers Park, 8. Olympic, 9. Garinger, 10. West Charlotte.

Jennifer Turner and Michelle Young had homers in East's win over Myers Park.

North blasted Harding last week as Andrea Stinson had two homeruns.

Former Harding star Constance Watt went three for three to lead UNCC over North Carolina A&T in a doubleheader, 11-0 and 7-0. The Lady Miners are 33-7 overall. One of Watt's hits was a homerun.

In tennis Eric Abrams has kept his record intact with a win at North and West.

The Eagles are unbeaten.

### TENNIS RANKINGS

1. South Mecklenburg, 2. East Mecklenburg, 3. Myers Park, 4. Independence, 5. North Mecklenburg, 6. Garinger, 7. Olympic, 8. West Charlotte, 9. West Mecklenburg, 10. Harding.

Scott Morgan is an outstanding pitcher for the Independence Patriots. He threw a two-hitter at Myers Park to serve notice that the Patriots are seeking a return to the state championship series.

The 6-1, 250 pounder is 7-1 on the season.

Teammate Tom Malchesky is headed for UNCC. He hit a line drive single to score the Patriots' first run.

Olympic's Jamie Furr threw a three-hitter at Garinger to post a 6-1 Trojan win.

Brian Dillon of West Mecklenburg no-hit South for a 3-0 win.

Charles Gabriel of North had two hits and six runs batted in to pace the Vikings past Harding, 15-6.

Shane Shirley scored the winning run as West Charlotte beat East, 3-2.

### BASEBALL RANKINGS

1. Independence, 2. Olympic, 3. Myers Park, 4. Garinger, 5. West Mecklenburg, 6. South Mecklenburg, 7. West Charlotte, 8. North Mecklenburg, 9. East Mecklenburg, 10. Harding.

It is with much sadness that I watch the demise of the Southwestern 4A Conference as we know it.

All the appeals are over and the state has acted to make the new realignments final.

This is how it affects us:

**TRI-COUNTY 4A Conference:** Shelby Crest, East Gaston, Harding, North Mecklenburg, Olympic, West Charlotte, and West Mecklenburg.

**SOUTHWESTERN 4A Conference:** Gastonia Ashbrook, East Mecklenburg, Garinger, Gastonia Huss, Independence, Myers Park, and South Mecklenburg.

**SOUTHWESTERN 3A Conference:** Burns, Chase, East Rutherford, Kings Mountain, North Gaston, Rutherford-Spindale Central, Shelby, and South Point.

**SOUTH PIEDMONT 3A Conference:** Central Cabarrus, Concord, East Rowan, Forst Hills, Northwest Cabarrus, Sun Valley, and West Rowan.

**CENTRAL STATES 4A Conference:** A. L. Brown, Davie County, Winston-Salem, Mt. Tabor, North Davidson, Winston-Salem Parkland, R. J. Reynolds, South Rowan, and West Forsyth.

**CATAWBA VALLEY 4A Conference:** Alexander Central, East Burke, Freedom, Hickory, McDowell, South Caldwell, and Watauga.

**DISTRICT 2A Conference:** Bandys, Bessemer City, Bunker Hill, Cherryville, Maiden, Mooresville, Newton-Conover, and West Lincoln.

**ROCKY RIVER 2A Conference:** Albemarle, Charlotte Catholic, Monroe, Mount Pleasant, North Stanly Parkwood, Piedmont, South Stanly, and West Stanly.

### EARLY FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS FOR THE NEW CONFERENCES

**TRI-COUNTY 4A:** 1. West Charlotte, 2. North Mecklenburg, 3. Olympic, 4. West Mecklenburg, 5. Crest, 6. Harding, 7. East Gaston.

**SOUTHWESTERN 4A:** 1. South Mecklenburg, 2. Hunter Huss, 3. Independence, 4. Myers Park, 5. Garinger, 6. East, 7. Ashbrook.

## Harris Centers Her World Around Being "Special"

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer  
Veronica Harris has centered her world around an idea of being and becoming someone special who would be involved in activities that have meaning.

### Where They Play

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Tennis:  
Olympic at East  
Garinger at Harding  
West at Independence  
West Charlotte at Myers Park  
South at North

Baseball:  
North at East  
Garinger at West  
Harding at West Charlotte  
South at Independence  
Olympic at Myers Park  
—All Games at 7:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Girls'-Boys' Track:  
North-South Classic at Olympic  
(Myers Park, Independence, South, Olympic)

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Golf:  
East at Harding  
Independence at Garinger  
Myers Park at West  
North at West Charlotte  
Olympic at South  
Softball:  
Garinger at East  
West at Harding  
West Charlotte at Independence  
South at Myers Park  
Olympic at North

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Baseball:  
Garinger at East  
West at Harding  
West Charlotte at Independence  
South at Myers Park  
Olympic at North  
—8 p.m.

"When I was a kid, I used to see people who had achieved success and I would sit and tell myself someday someone would look at me and say I want to be like her," said the Olympic senior.

"Therefore, through the years I have strived to maintain an air of dignity and have pursued every honor I could possibly get by carrying myself in a proper manner," she added.

"I have given a lot of myself to the school and the community, and this makes me feel that all the honors, awards and extra hard work have all been worthwhile."

Harris has a 4.3077 Class Rank Index Average and ranks 12th in her class of 304.

She has not made a C in her high school career.

The daughter of Cleveland and Virginia Harris of 9101 Shadowwood Road, plays basketball and volleyball for Olympic.

The junior marshal and Order of the Trojan member participated in Project Excel and was a member of the National Honor Society.

She was MVP in baseball her sophomore year, junior year and senior year. She was All-Conference and a member of the Junior Olympics All-State team.

For the Trojans, she averaged 14 points and 10 rebounds per game from the point guard position and was first team All-County on everyone's ballot.



Veronica Harris  
.....Scholar-athlete of Year

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