

Aces extend win streak, down Red Barons

John A. Holmes 54
Gates County 12

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff Writer

GATESVILLE — John A. Holmes High School's Aces grounded the Red Barons from Gates County, 54-12, on Friday in that neck of the woods.

Leading the Albemarle Athletic Conference, the Aces (8-0, 3-0 AAC) remain undefeated as they head into next week's Homecoming game against Manteo.

With the win, the Aces is ranked No. 3 in the MaxPreps NC Class 1A standings, behind No. 1 Tarboro (9-0) and No. 2

Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy (9-0).

Though the Red Barons (5-4, 0-3 ACC) have lost their last four games, maybe they left the field with a bit of pride knowing that they were one of two teams this season to score two touchdowns against the Aces — Northeastern being the other team.

That said, Aces first touchdown — 81-yard return from the opening kickoff — was quick off the clock — 11:49 in the first quarter.

Pace of the game was much the same as the Aces' offense flew through Red Barons like a knife through warm butter. Aces' quarterback

Landen Hoggard's 27-yard pass connected with Keenan Downing and after adding in the 2-point conversion scored by Teddy Wilson, Edenton is up 14-0.

Gates fades again and Aces receive the punt around the 46-yard line when — boom — there is a 44-yard run by Hoggard on the first down. Malachi

White takes it in from 2 yards out for the touchdown for a 21-0 score with 5:39 left in the first quarter.

Gates again goes four and out, punts. Wow — check this out — Hoggard fires out a 38-yard pass to Omar Thompson on the third down to add six more

See ACES, B3

Spear competes in state tourney

Sophomore: Tennis team's season was 'awesome'

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Aces' sophomore tennis sensation Sydney Spear served her way to the state meet, but fell to last year's state championship runner-up.

Spear played hard but lost to Emma Grace Bost from Gray Stone Day — 6-0.



SPEAR

Bost was the state runner-up at the 2017 and 2018 state tournament. No matter, Spear and her powerful serve

will be back next year.

"Bost was a hard-hitter and an excellent player," Aces' Coach Maggie May said. "Sydney had some very nice rallies with her, but Bost was a very strong player. It was a great experience for Sydney and she knows what she needs to do to return to that level next year."

Spear finished the season as a member of the Elite eight Class 1A tennis players in the state on Oct. 25 in Cary.

"This season was awesome," Spear said. "Practices were fun and my teammates played really well."

Spear offered praise for May.

"Coach Maggie did a real

See SPEAR, B2

SECOND IN STATE



Lawrence Academy's girls tennis team finished second in the state Saturday. Team members are (from left) Isabella Spruill, Perris Clayton, Annie Hayes Trowell, Bryson Perry, Hailey Hope Gardner, Emma Cobb, Lisa Kuschel and Lucy Spruill.

Lawrence Academy falls in NCISAA finals

Girls tennis team includes players from Edenton

BY JIM GREEN

Bertie Ledger-Advance

ROCKY MOUNT — Lawrence Academy's No. 2 singles player, Hailey Hope Gardner, couldn't contain her tears as she was consoled by one of her tennis coaches at Lawrence Academy, Lisa Corbett, following her final match on Saturday.

They were not tears of joy, but of sadness for the Warriors' lone senior, whose career — and Lawrence's season — came to an end following a 5-1 loss to Kerr-Vance Academy in the NCISAA Class 1A State Championship match at North Carolina Wesleyan University.

Gardner tied to hold off Lauren Moseley as long as she could — so much so, Lisa Kuschel — Lawrence's No. 6 singles player — was one point



Lawrence Academy No. 4 singles player Perris Clayton was part of the Warriors' lone win when she teamed with Annie Hayes Trowell for a No. 3 doubles triumph against Kerr-Vance Academy Saturday.

away from giving the Warriors' two victories against the Spartans.

But it was not to be, as

Moseley took a 6-0, 6-1 victory. Kerr-Vance finished 18-3 overall, while Lawrence emerged 17-4.

Two of those losses came to the Spartans.

"It was a very emotional day for Hailey Hope," said Corbett, who coaches the Warriors along with Thomas Cobb. "It wasn't so much the loss as it was the realization she would not play doubles with Emma (Cobb) in a high school match ever again. It was really heartbreaking as we hugged and cried, but what a wonderful way to end it in the state finals."

"I told her how much I loved her and what an important part of our team she has been. She is an awesome leader, is respected by her teammates and loves to laugh but knows when it's time to get serious. She's our only senior and we will truly miss her. I watched her grow on the court from an awkward 'egg' (a nickname from older players) to a skilled

See WARRIORS, B2

FOURTH & LONG

Seniors' last game emotional

Friday was a tough day. My wife and I hopped in the car when I got off work and took a road trip to see my nephew's football game. I was hopeful they would win but in case they didn't, I wanted to be there to see his last game. Unfortunately, that's exactly what



DAVID FRIEDMAN

happened.

I watched as they took a knee after the game and found myself overwhelmed with

emotion. I was, and am, so proud of him. Not only is he a great human being but he was a good teammate and player.

He showed up early for practice and stayed late. He encouraged others and played with pride. He's never been the best athlete on the field but he was rarely out worked. He played both ways, played special teams and did whatever else was asked of him.

I was also heartbroken for him and his teammates. Players cried, coaches cried, parents cried, even uncles and aunts got teary eyed.

This wasn't sadness about a loss of a game, this was about the end of an era. For seniors like my nephew, it was likely the last time they would wear a helmet and shoulder pads. The last time they would line up and battle. The last time they would hear their name called in a stadium for a tackle or forced fumble.

I wrapped my arms around him after the game and told him I loved him, how proud he had made his family and how much I enjoyed watching him play. I desperately wanted to tell him it would be okay and that it will get better as time passes but I didn't

See FRIEDMAN, B3

Cross-country teams end regular season

Regionals set for Nov. 2 at Northside-Pinetown

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

GATESVILLE — John A. Holmes cross country team aced, paced and placed at the Albemarle Athletic Conference Championship last week

at Merchants Mill Pond.

Boys team tied with Manteo for second in points, thus forcing the lawyer-ball rules to go into the effect so as to break the tie at the Oct. 23 meet. The tie breaker was the 6th runner. Manteo's 6th runner came in 18th place while the Aces 6th runner came in 26th place.

"I am extremely proud of the way we ran at the Conference Championship. Each runner did exactly what was needed to secure 3rd place in the conference over the whole season," Aces' Coach Matt Goetsch said.

Lost Colony boys won in a points decision — not pretty, but still a "W."

No matter, Edenton posted some fast times and both the boys and girls' teams posted a third place finish in the conference. Regionals is at Northside-Pinetown on Saturday, Nov. 2.

"I believe we are peaking at the right time," Goetsch said. "I also believe some of the lingering

injuries are beginning to subside. We aren't looking forward to the season ending, but we are looking forward to seeing how far we have come in the last three months."

First out of the gate — Aces' Blake Meadows who crossed the finish line

See X-COUNTRY, B2

Aces earn wins, head into postseason

Boys soccer team will travel to Perquimans today

BY MILES LAYTON
Staff writer

Aces' regular soccer season is drawing to a close.

Postseason playoff action is almost certain as John A. Holmes (12-7-1, 4-3 Albemarle Athletic Conference) is one of the best programs around.

Last week, Aces showed why they are ranked No. 21 in NC Class 1A by MaxPreps by soundly defeating Gates and Pasquotank teams.

Monday, the Aces traveled to the Lost Colony to



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

The seniors of the John A. Holmes High School boys soccer team gather around coach Tom DiMartino prior to the senior night game.

play Manteo — a team that defeated them 4-1 earlier in the season. Redskins (11-7, 7-1 AAC) triumphed — 5-0 — over the Aces, but our boys made Manteo earn every point.

Today (Oct. 30) Aces travel over the river and across the woods to Perquimans (5-10, 2-4 AAC) for the final match of the season. Good luck!

"We'll finish our regular

season at Perquimans," Aces' Coach Tom DiMartino said. "Then we'll look to the postseason. We anticipate a playoff berth."

See SOCCER, B2

SPOOKTACULAR WINS



PHOTO COURTESY JOY HARVILL

A few familiar faces from long distance races put the competition to their paces as they move closer to becoming future Aces. Top 3 in the 1-14 age group of the 10th annual Spooktacular on Saturday in Windsor were third, Josh Harvill, 11, second, Conner Ferebee, 14 and first, Jackson Stegall, 14.