

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2019

Sarai Leigh qualifies for states in 55-meter hurdles

Girls' indoor track and field

BY STAFF REPORTS

ELIZABETH CITY — Aces' Sarai Leigh qualified for the state indoor track competition at a polar bear meet Dec. 5 at Northeastern.

Leigh qualified for state in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 9.2 seconds and placed first. She also placed second in the long jump (13 feet, 5 inches).

Other teams competing were Currituck, First Flight, Hertford County and Pasquotank.

First Flight also won the girls'

competition with 79 points. Currituck was second with 44 points, John A. Holmes was third with 41.5 points, Northeastern took fourth place with 33.5 points and Pasquotank was fifth with 24 points.

Those who scored points for the girls' meet include John A.

Holmes' Sarai

Bailey Rhinehart was fourth in the 55 meters with a time of 7.8 seconds and was third in the long jump (13 feet). Ahmaya Thompson placed fifth in the 55 meters with a time of 11.7, while Kayla Williams was fifth in the 300 meters (51.2 seconds). The 4x200

relay team placed second with a time of 1:48.2 and the 4x400 was fourth (4:37.6).

Zacchaeu Grisson was fourth in the long jump (12 feet, 5 inches). Arinayzia Skinner (27 feet) and Zynia Capehart (25 feet 10 inches) placed second and third respectively in shot put.

Third time not a charm for Aces

Tarboro 35
John A. Holmes 6

BY DAVID GOUGH
Daily Advance

TARBORO — The John A. Holmes football team just can't get past the Tarboro Vikings.

Tarboro, the No. 1 seed in the 1AA NCHSAA east, had been a roadblock for the No. 2 Aces in the East Regional final in 2017 and 2018 and the same stayed true Friday night.

Edenton saw its season come to an end with a 35-6 loss to a Vikings team that has won 44 straight games.

"Tarboro's a great football team," John A. Holmes head coach Paul Hoggard said. "They haven't lost a game in three years for a reason."

Edenton (12-1) fell into a hole quickly in the first quarter.

Tarboro (14-0) received the opening kickoff and went 68 yards in three plays for the opening score.

Running back Cameron Powell ran three yards to the end zone for a 7-0 lead 90 seconds into the game right after Tobias Joyner ran 55 yards up the middle.

Joyner was chased down by Edenton junior Fred Drew three yards shy of the goal line.

The Aces then went three-and-out on their first offensive possession as junior Cameron Grimstead and senior Mitjonta Stanley, in his fourth game starting at quarterback this season, were swarmed by Tarboro defenders in the backfield.

It took the Vikings one play after the punt to score again when Javarious Perkins ran 57 yards down the sideline for a 14-0 lead with 8:10 remaining in the first quarter.

Edenton had better success with the ball on its next drive as a Stanley eight-yard keeper got the Aces to a fourth-and-1 situation.

Lining up as if to punt on their own 34, Stanley took a direct snap and pushed through the Tarboro defensive line for a 16-yard run.

Unfortunately for the Aces, they punted three plays later as they didn't gain another yard on the drive.



NICOLE BOWMAN-LAYTON/CHOWAN HERALD

Fans cheer on the John A. Holmes football team as it travels Friday to take on Tarboro for the NCHSAA 1AA East Regional Final.



PHOTO COURTESY KIM ULLOM

Senior Mitjonta Stanley holds the state regional runner-up trophy Friday after the John A. Holmes football team's loss to Tarboro.

The Vikings then went up 21-0 on another three-yard Powell run with 1:19 still to go in the opening quarter after the home team engineered a seven-play, 63-yard drive.

Tarboro quickly got the ball back after Stanley underthrew his receiver and was picked off on the first play of the Aces' next drive, but the Vikings offense then squandered a scoring chance as Powell was stripped of the ball as he reached toward the end zone.

The Vikings scored their next touchdown with 6:31 left in the first half on a 20-yard run from Travis John-

son to make it 27-0.

Edenton had a chance to put points on the board as the second quarter expired as they reached Tarboro territory, but a throw to senior Keenan Downing was just out of bounds of the end zone and Stanley ran 15 yards to the six-yard line as time ran out.

Tarboro led 27-0 at halftime as the game trended toward the 50-7 and 48-7 scores the Vikings won by

over Edenton in the last two regional finals, but the Aces did find better success in the second half than the first.

After Stanley fumbled the ball on a third-down play in the beginning of the second half, the Edenton defense, helped by facemask and unsportsmanlike penalties on Tarboro, forced the Vikings to punt for the first time.

Tarboro punted again on its next possession and the Aces finally found some real success offensively.

Starting at their own 20-yard line at the beginning of the fourth quarter, Stanley threw a rocket of a pass up the middle to Downing for 22 yards.

Junior Teddy Wilson followed that powering through missed tackles for a 12-yard gain, sophomore Quan Twine also ran 12 yards, Grimstead had a nine-yard catch and Wilson then went 22 yards on the ground.

Twine received a pitch from Stanley's left side on the next play for a three-yard score as the Aces went 80 yards down the field on six consecutive positive plays to make it 27-6 with 9:52 remaining in the game.

"I'm proud of our kids coming back from halftime and not giving up," Hoggard said. "They had every

See ACES, B4

FOURTH AND LONG

It's bowl season

As much as I want to use these pages as an impromptu therapy session about UNC basketball, I'm instead going to do my yearly bowl game watch list.

I don't have to tell you to watch Ohio State versus Clemson. The following are games that might still be worthwhile but won't get nearly as much publicity. I'll try to keep it detailed so you can update your Google calendar.

Bowl season kicks off when Buffalo and Charlotte meet on Friday, December 20 at 2 p.m.. The 49ers didn't even have a football program until 2013 and this is their first bowl game ever.

The following day, you can watch North Carolina A&T face Alcorn State in a Celebration Bowl rematch at noon. This game features the champions of the MEAC and SWAC and is considered by many to be the de facto black national championship.

When you're done commenting about how much better ECSU's Sound of Class would have been



DAVID
FRIEDMAN

App State against UAB at 9 p.m.

If you care about ACC football, you will want to tune in on Thursday December 26th at 4 p.m. to see Miami versus Louisiana Tech and later at 8 p.m. to witness Pittsburgh take on my wife's alma mater, Eastern Michigan.

On Friday, my Tar Heels seek a winning record and unreasonable expectations for 2020 with a win against Temple at noon and Wake Forest will square off against Michigan State in Yankee Stadium at 3:20 p.m.

Notre Dame and Iowa

See FRIEDMAN, B4

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