

With James Cuthbertson

# Prep Chatter



James

**Congratulations to the West Charlotte Lions and the North Mecklenburg Vikings.**

What a year for the newly formed Tri-County Conference of West Charlotte, North Mecklenburg, Olympic, East Gaston, Crest, Harding, and West Mecklenburg.

Fresh from the creators of the new North Carolina realignment plan, the conference has produced both state basketball champions.

What a year for coach Charles McCullough of the West Charlotte Lions. Charlie is the only coach in the state to have won crowns in both the black and white associations. He won the state championship in the last year for the old All-Black North Carolina State Athletic Association in 1966 when the West Charlotte Lions ambushed Hillside of Durham and now he adds another notch to his crown with a big win over Raleigh Broughton.

This West Charlotte team finished the season 29-0. They never had a real superstar, but they had a lot of stars—Maurice Caldwell, Duane Montgomery, Kevin Reid, Jules Springs, A. J. Morgan, and Chris Welch.

The victory on Saturday night gave Mecklenburg County a rare sweep of the boys' and girls' basketball championships in the state's largest classifications.

North Mecklenburg wrapped up the girls' title with a 61-54 win over Fayetteville Pine Forest.

The West Charlotte win was the first for the city since South Mecklenburg won in 1976.

Leading the charge against Raleigh Broughton was Kevin Reid with 13 points and 11 rebounds; Lance Jones with 12 points and 10 rebounds; Maurice Caldwell with 16 points; A. J. Morgan with 10 points; and Brian Hairston with nine points.

Jules Springs had five and Christ Welch had two for the Lions.

The Lions have played hard all year and they are more than deserving of the title.

The hero in overtime was Maurice Caldwell who sank a layup to give the Lions a 67-65 lead that proved to be the ultimate margin. Broughton's last point was on a free throw with six seconds left after a Caldwell foul.

West Charlotte's wins were 84-53 over Belmont South Point, 88-43 over Clover, 56-45 over York, 61-48 over Independence, 64-52 over East Mecklenburg, 97-50 over South Mecklenburg, 77-65 over Crest, 72-60 over Harding, 97-67 over South Mecklenburg, 71-55 over Olympic, 82-58 over West Mecklenburg, 68-64 over North Mecklenburg, 83-70 over East Gaston, 64-58 over Myers Park, 68-52 over Crest, 62-58 over Harding, 60-40 over Olympic, 59-46 over West Mecklenburg, 59-55 over East Gaston, 73-58 over North Mecklenburg, 70-59 over Myers Park, 82-65 over Harding, 70-68 over North Mecklenburg, 72-58 over Gastonia Ashbrook, 64-56 over Garinger, 47-45 over Gastonia Hunter Huss, 70-46 over Winston-Salem Parkland, 83-73 over Morganton Freedom, and 67-66 over Raleigh Broughton.

**Congratulations to coach Carroll Mizelle and the North Mecklenburg girls.**

Andrea Stinson had an exciting year as one of the best players in the county. She won the game's "Most Valuable Player" with 35 points, six rebounds, and nine steals.

This was the first Mecklenburg County girls' basketball champion.

The Vikings finished the season 26-0 and undefeated.

Stinson hit three straight long jumpers that started a 12-2 spurt that gave North Mecklenburg a 28-21 halftime lead.

Also contributing for the Vikings were Neese Gray with 15. She made six of seven field goals and handed out some tremendous assists.

South Mecklenburg's Roman Phifer, Harding's Danny McKay Jr., North Mecklenburg's Mark Duncan, Independence's Jeffrey Robbins, Garinger's Tony Maxwell, Harding's Daron Mills, South Mecklenburg's Spencer Miller, South Mecklenburg's Raymon Spencer, Hunter Huss' Carl Neely, South Mecklenburg's Brian McCorkle, North Mecklenburg's Letura Stitt, South Mecklenburg's Jeff Gladden, Harding's Chris Bowens, and Independence's Harry Fuller were presented to society by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Charlotte Alumni Chapter last weekend.

Phifer was All-County in football and basketball while maintaining a 3.7 grade point average. He will attend UCLA on a football scholarship.

McKay was a varsity football team member at Harding. Duncan played football and basketball and ran track for the Vikings.

Robbins was the quarterback on Independence's outstanding football team.

Maxwell was an outstanding defensive back for the Garinger Wildcats.

Mills played basketball for the Harding Rams.

Miller played basketball for the Sabres.

Spencer also played for the South football and basketball teams.

Neely was a member of the Huss basketball team and the state 4A championship team in 1985.

McCorkle played football for the Sabres.

Stitt played basketball for the Vikings and was named "Most Valuable" and "Most Improved" last year.

Gladden played soccer for South.

Bowens was the best soccer offensive player for the Rams.

Fuller will attend North Carolina Central on a football scholarship. He was All-County in football and All-Southwestern 4A in football.

We might own a monopoly on state basketball. The last champions were from Hunter Huss. And it moves across the river to West Charlotte.

We had several teams of state caliber and it was a shame that only one got to attend the Western Regional. Something must be done to change that.

Hunter Huss, North Mecklenburg, Independence, and Garinger were all worthy of a shot at the regionals.



Kristy Johnson, Charlene Davis, Jocelyn Canady and Sherylwyne Carr (pictured left to right) are four of the contestants that will be participating in the Alpha Pi Chi Sorority's Torchlighters Contest Sunday, April 6 at the Greenville Center, beginning at 4 p.m. The contest will spotlight young boys and girls with super talent. Other contestants in the talent event include Kimberly Boyton, Lisa Elam, Tynetta Hare, Dewan McElhaney, Renita Murray, Ken Palmer, Rense McFadden, and Troy Scarboro.

## Screen-O-Rama Scheduled

Three development screening clinics for pre-school children will be offered during April and May by the Charlotte Neighborhood Centers Department, Center for Human Development, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the Council for Exceptional Children.

The "Screen-O-Rama" program is a rapid-screening clinic for children ages four and five aimed at evaluating the developmental skills of children before they enter public kindergarten.

"Screen-O-Rama" clinics will be held on the following dates and locations: Saturday, April 19, Belmont Regional Center, 700 Parkwood Avenue; Saturday, May 3, Greenville Neighborhood Center, 1330 Spring Street.

The screening process takes approximately two hours. Testing involves a 40-minute development screening in gross motor, fine motor, concepts and communication skills, vision and hearing tests. Children will be given the screenings by professionals and trained volunteers. Parents are required to remain with their children during the screening.

## 4-Ball Golf Tourney

The Par-Busters Golf Group will host its Tenth Annual 4-Ball Golf Tournament Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, at the Pawtucket Golf Course.

Registration starts Friday, April 4, from 8-11 p.m. at the Par-Busters Club House, 3401 Statesville Avenue.

The first 50 teams will be accepted. The entry fee is \$35 per person and \$70 per team (includes green fee, closest-to-hole contest and the social hour).

A Social Hour will be held at the Par-Busters Club House Saturday, April 5, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tee times will be posted in the Club House after 9 p.m.

For further information, call Pawtucket Golf Course: 394-5890, or John Love Sr., 392-1036.

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