



James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Witherspoon Wins College Athlete Of Year Award

Teresa Weatherspoon, a basketball guard who led Louisiana Tech University to the 1988 Division I national championship and was a starter on last year's U.S. Olympic women's team, received the Honda-Broderick Cup as Collegiate Woman Athlete of the Year.

To accept the award, Weatherspoon returned from Italy where she is playing for a club team. She was selected not only for her athletic achievements, but as an embodiment of the ideals of team contribution, scholastic endeavor, school and community involvement, and personal character.

The 5-8 point guard was named All America in her junior and senior years at Louisiana Tech, where she established school career records for assists and steals. The school retired her jersey during ceremonies January 7 in Ruston, Louisiana.

Also honored during the January 10 banquet in San Francisco were Angela Brinton, a volleyball player at California State University - Northridge who was named Division II Woman Athlete of the Year and Jessica Beachy, basketball player at Concordia College - Moorhead, who was named as Woman Athlete of the Year in Division III.

Other finalists for the Honda-Broderick Cup were Kim Betz, Indiana University - Bloomington, cross country; Tracey Michs, Connecticut, field hockey; Christina Barrett, Longwood, golf; Kelly Garrison-Steves, Oklahoma, gymnastics; Lisa Longaker, California - Los Angeles, softball; Betsy Mitchell, Texas - Austin, swimming and diving; Shaun Stafford, Florida, tennis; Vicki Huber, Villanova, track and field and Suzanna Eagye, Hawaii - Honolulu, volleyball.

Phoenix Suns' Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons had a few wise words for coaches:

"What you look for in the development of young players is consistency. To force young guys to step in an be stars is hard. Most cannot step right in and play. For instance, if you look at the young players who were drafted in the NBA, you will see that all have struggled with the exception of Mitch Richmond of Golden State. It takes time."

Congratulations and good luck to the new coaches at Providence High.

Jim Seacord is the new football coach. He won a North Carolina 4A championship in 1981 at South Mecklenburg and in seven years at the school was 48-26. He had five winning seasons and won two Southwestern 4A championships. He won a Big East 4A championship in Wilmington at Hoggard.

Bob Angley is the new basketball coach. He comes to Providence from Northwest Cabarrus where he coached for 19 years and won seven regular season and seven conference tournament titles.

Robert Miller is the new girls' basketball coach. He has been a girls' junior varsity and varsity coach for 12 years at Carmel Junior High School where his career record is 121-38.

Official Playing Dates

The NCHSAA has released its playing date list for the next four years of realignment. Here are the dates for the 1989 season:

Regular Season: August 25, September 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29; October 6, 13, 20 & 27; November 3.
Playoffs: November 10, 17 & 24; December 1.
State Championship: December 8.

Metropolitan Boys' Rankings

1. **Garinger** - The Wildcats are hot right now.
2. **Myers Park** - The Mustangs are smoking.
3. **North Gaston** - Two years ago, the Wildcats were state runners-up. They could return.
4. **West Charlotte** - The Lions are roaring.
5. **Crest** - This is the best Crest team yet.
6. **Independence** - The Pats are always in the running.
7. **West Mecklenburg** - The Indians are on the move.
8. **Kings Mountain** - The Mountaineers have their guns ready.
9. **Catholic** - This is the best Catholic team ever.
10. **Hunter Huss** - The Huskies are on the move.

Metropolitan Girls' Rankings

1. **West Mecklenburg**, 2. **Hunter Huss**, 3. **Providence Day**, 4. **Myers Park**, 5. **Olympic**, 6. **Independence**, 7. **Country Day**, 8. **Charlotte Latin**, 9. **Charlotte Christian**, 10. **Kings Mountain**.



Photo: CALVIN FERGUSON

Hunter Huss's Levi Melvin (45) double-clutches a shot in the Huskies' loss to Myers Park last week. Defending are Mustangs Demetric Nash (24) and Dingo Hunter (34).

Winter Games At Banner Elk

Skiers will wipe their goggles in disbelief as they redefine the meaning of "winter fun" when the third annual "Jose Cuervo Games of Winter" makes its inaugural local stop at Beech Mountain resort, Banner Elk, NC, Saturday, February 4, part of a 15-event national program.

Piloting creatively altered box cartons down a slope, a reminder of childhood antics, and volleyball, usually reserved for the summer beach or indoors, will be the unlikely yet competitively exciting and social pair of activities set for Beech Mountain resort.

Cardboard will replace skis as participants each slide 200-ft. of bumps and glory in the "Great Jose Cuervo Carton Race," beginning at 12 noon. Four entries will race side-by-side in each heat. Use of other materials to speed the vehicle will not be allowed. Awards will be presented for both speed and originality in design and decoration of the colorful creative crafts.

In the same spirit of Jose Cuervo's annual pro and amateur beach volleyball programs, plenty of "spikes" and "digs" will replace ski vernacular when "Jose Cuervo Snow Volleyball" follows at 1 p.m. Registration is open to a maximum of 25 co-ed teams of three members each. Teams reaching seven points first win games. Thankfully, for greater comfort and maneuverability, players are not allowed to wear ski boots!

An apres-volleyball awards party including a singing contest and other prizes giveaways will conclude the activities.

Interested contestants are invited to pre-register for the events. If openings are available, registration will continue on the morning of the events. All competitors are asked to check-in by 11 a.m.

Participation is free and open to those 21 years of age or older.

L-R Votes To Join NCAA

HICKORY - Lenoir-Rhyne College officials have announced that the school has been accepted for membership in Division II of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The acceptance, announced at the recent NCAA convention in San Francisco, is effective immediately.

A long-time member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Lenoir-Rhyne applied for NCAA membership during the summer of 1988 with hopes of competing as a dual member in both organizations. College officials stated Lenoir-Rhyne will continue to compete as an NAIA member for now.

"There is a two-year period in which we are unable to compete for championships at the Division II level, but other than that, we are officially in (the NCAA), with all those rights and privileges," said Dr. Keith Ochs, athletic director at the college. "Over the next two years, we will evaluate which direction we want to take athletically. Since our conference, the SAC-8, is still NAIA-affiliated, we will compete as such for now."

Some noticeable changes stemming from the move will involve scheduling for football and men's basketball. Lenoir-Rhyne will be required to play two football games and six or seven basketball games each year against teams classified as NCAA Division II or higher. Wofford, a Division II member and long-time L-R football rival, will remain on the Bear football schedule and probably will become a basketball opponent.

Western Carolina University joins the football schedule for next season and the Hickory-East Rotary Classic basketball tournament may become a Division II-oriented event. A couple of present basketball rivals, dual-affiliate members Pembroke State and Pfeiffer, should remain on the Bear schedule as Division II opponents.

"Our scheduling is pretty well in line with the addition of Western Carolina in football and the prospects of playing Wofford, Pfeiffer and Pembroke State in basketball," said Ochs. "We need to begin the process of upgrading the rest of our programs."

Lenoir-Rhyne President Dr. John E. Trainer Jr. said the time is right for the college to align with the NCAA and that this "testing of the waters" gives Lenoir-Rhyne a number of possibilities and opportunities for the future.



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