

SECTION **B**

Sports

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 15, 2017

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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Let the madness begin ...

There should be no doubt amongst regular readers but for those wondering, I'm going to be writing about the tournaments this week.

I say tournaments, because I'm going to start by mentioning the NIT Tournament.

The game I was most interested in was played Tuesday evening when Syracuse faced off against UNC-Greensboro.

Syracuse head coach Jim Boeheim had some unflattering things to say about the city of Greensboro and, in one of the greatest tweets of all time, the city of Greensboro reminded Boeheim that he could "lose in the first round anywhere" and that "at least it's a quick ride home."

Fortunately for Boeheim, the Orange hosted the Spartans in the Carrier Dome so should Syracuse again decided to take an early exit from tournament play, they will already be home.

One team I certainly hope doesn't take an early exit are my Tar Heels.

While I can't imagine a first or second round loss in this year's NCAA Tournament, making it out of the South Region will be an especially tough row to hoe.

With UNC, Kentucky and UCLA as the top three seeds respectively, they have a combined 24 national championships. Add to them Wichita State and Butler and I count five teams in the South Region that are legitimately capable of winning the whole thing.

The East Region, while not as tough as the South Region, is also top heavy with Villanova and Duke as the top two seeds. Both of those squads are popular picks to win six straight games.

The region also features UNC-Wilmington

See **FOURTH**, B2

LA baseball opens 3-0

Three wins.

The Lawrence Academy varsity baseball team opened the 2017 season with three victories.

On Monday, the Warriors improved to 3-0 with a 9-0 triumph over Pasquotank at home.

Wood Trowell fired a three-hit shutout and struck out 10 batters while walking one to pick up the win on the mound for Lawrence.

A five-run third inning - sparked by a home run from Jarrett Harrell, a single from Charles Atkins and a stolen base - helped the Warriors on their way.

LA finished with 13 hits, as Joe White had three, while Slade Cowan, Wood Trowell, Miller Trowell (two doubles) and Atkins added a pair of hits each.

Harrell and Daquan Wilson contributed one hit each.

Harrell and Cowan drove in two runs each, while Atkins, White and Nixon Rascoe added an RBI each.

The Warriors didn't



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

See **WARRIORS**, B2 Lawrence Academy baserunner Bond Wilson takes off for second base in last week's win over Pungo Christian Academy.



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Lawrence Academy batter Marybeth Jordan makes contact during Thursday's game against Pungo Christian Academy at home.

LA softball wins 2 of 3

Two victories.

Lawrence Academy's varsity softball team opened its 2017 season last week with two wins in three games.

The Warriors fell 11-1 to Northeastern in their debut on March 7.

Lauren Baker doubled and tripled and scored the lone run for Lawrence in the first inning. But the Warriors managed only three more baserunners the rest of the way - Lauren Smith via single and Mariah James on a walk, both in the fourth inning, and Lindsey Smith on a single in the sixth inning.

Northeastern took advantage of 10 errors by the Warriors. The Eagles scored four runs in the third inning, added two

more in the fifth frame and tacked on their final five runs in the seventh inning.

Baker suffered the loss on the mound, allowing five hits and 11 runs with 13 strikeouts and three walks.

On Thursday (March 9), Lawrence earned its first win of the season by shutting out Tarheel Independent Conference rival Pungo Christian Academy 2-0 at home.

Baker earned the mound win by striking out 12 while issuing no walks and just six hits.

The Warriors took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning when Lindsey Smith tripled

See **SOFTBALL**, B2

Bertie track posts top finishes in first two meets

Bertie High School has participated in two track meets so far this season: at John A. Holmes in Edenton on March 1, and in the N.C. Runners Eastern Tour March 7 at Pasquotank

High School. In the Edenton meet, here is how the Falcons fared:
 • Alexis Askew, first in long jump (14-06)
 • Greg Williams, first in 100-meter dash

(11.14)
 • Houston Battle, first in 110-meter hurdles (17.14), third in 300 hurdles (47.64), sixth in 100 (11.84)
 • Christopher Cooper, seventh in 100 (12.04)

• Dajour Keemer, first in 300-meter hurdles (47.24), third in 110 hurdles (17.84)
 • Daquan Jones, fourth in 110 hurdles (20.04), fourth in 300 hurdles (47.84)

• Alex White, fifth in 1,600-meter run (6:56)
 • Keyuntra Lee, second in shot put (35-06), sixth in 1,600-meter run (7:34)

See **SOFTBALL**, B2



Duck Thru Food Stores congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.

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Athlete of the week
 LA
 Wood Trowell
 Baseball

