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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Good, bad in NFL Draft

I understand the appeal associated with talking football in May but it has been my experience that smart football minds get dumb when they have too much time to evaluate talent.

One of the biggest issues I have with the NFL draft is that scouts and General Managers get a few months of watching players run sprints, lift weights and throw or catch footballs and forget what they already knew. I don't understand how a player that didn't impress you during several years of college can excite you as a prospect based on their ability to run 40 yards slightly faster, or bench press 225 pounds a few more times, than others.

Despite my relative lack of enthusiasm for the NFL draft, even I recognize the value it has to a franchise. For a few teams every year the draft will provide pieces that will allow teams to take the next step towards the ultimate goal of a Super Bowl. For others, it will set back their team years due to bad selections or trades. Here a few of my winners and losers from this year's NFL draft.

One of the biggest winners in my opinion was the Carolina Panthers. Christian McCaffrey is the definition of a versatile back with his ability to be weapon both carrying and catching out of the backfield. He is a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

Curtis Samuel will give Cam Newton a much needed target at wide receiver and Taylor Moton, a center out of Western Michigan, should help the Panthers re-establish a running game and hopefully give Newton a little more time on passing downs.

One of the obvious losers in the draft was the Chicago Bears. Nobody is a bigger UNC football fan than me but even I don't see the logic in giving up

See **FOURTH, B6**

LA wraps up TRC season titles

Softball wins 2, finishes 8-0

From Staff Reports

Two wins equaled a perfect league slate for the Lawrence Academy softball team this past week.

The Lady Warriors finished 8-0 in the Tarheel Independent Conference and 14-4 overall with victories over Albemarle School (14-0 Monday) and Ridgecroft (7-5) on Thursday (April 27).

Against Albemarle, Lawrence scored two runs in the first inning, added nine more in the second frame and tacked on three in the third inning.

The Warriors had 10 hits. Gracen Rogers paced the team with three hits, while Katlynn Stotesberry, Brinson



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Katlynn Stotesberry pitched parts of two games and came up with several hits in two wins.

Edmondson, Sydney A hit by Rogers and a pair of walks led to the two runs in the first inning.

Rebekah Goodwin The nine-run second frame was highlighted by a single and double

from Rogers and Lindsay Smith, respectively, singles from Wilkerson, Edmondson and Stotesberry, two hit batters

See **SOFTBALL, B6**

Baseball tops Rams, still perfect

From Staff Reports

MERRY HILL - Unbeaten, and conference champions to boot.

Wood Trowell's run in the bottom of the sixth inning proved to be the difference as Lawrence Academy's baseball team held off Ridgecroft School 4-3 in the Tarheel Independent Conference finale Thursday.

The Warriors ended the regular season 10-0 in the TIC and remained perfect overall at 18-0.

With the home team leading 3-2, Trowell led off the bottom of the sixth inning by reaching on an error. Joseph White reached on an error and Trowell stole third. Trowell

See **BASEBALL, B6**

LAWRENCE ACADEMY TENNIS



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Lawrence Academy No. 1 singles seed Lane Corbett lunges for a backhand return during competition last week.

Warrior netters split

From Staff Reports

Lawrence Academy's boys tennis team emerged with a split of last week's matches.

The Warriors won five of six singles matches on their way to an 8-1 triumph over Bear Grass Charter School Thursday at the Windsor Courts.

No. 1 seed Lane Corbett defeated Josh Wynn 8-2; No. 3 Riley



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Warrior Jason Guo recorded victories in both of his singles matches last week.

See **TENNIS, B6**

Byrum no-hits Hawks

Bertie girls tie for second

From Staff Reports

WINDSOR - Tied for second.

Bertie High School's softball team shut out First Flight 10-0 on Thursday in a North-eastern Coastal 2A Conference game behind a no-hitter from Alyssa Byrum.

The victory moved the Falcons (7-2 NEC, 11-6 overall) into a tie for second place with Currituck (7-2, 10-6) in the conference standings.

The teams meet in Barco Wednesday (today) at 6 p.m.

Bertie scored five runs in the first inning, one in the second frame and finished off the Night-hawks with four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

The game was stopped after five innings due to the mercy rule.

One difference between the teams was pitching.

Byrum, Bertie's freshman right-hander, struck out seven through five frames, but her counterpart walked 11 batters and struck out only two despite giving up only two hits.

See **SECOND, B6**



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

JERNIGAN
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Athlete of the week

BACA
Joshua Morris
Baseball

