

SECTION **B**



Sports

WEDNESDAY • MAY 24, 2017

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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Value of participation

There has been a lot of talk over the last few years about "participation trophies" and the negative affect they may be having on future employees, parents and citizens.

I'll be honest, I hadn't given much thought on the topic until a few years ago when James Harrison of the Pittsburgh Steelers got people's attention with a comment on social media.

Harrison tweeted "I came home to find out that my boys received two trophies for nothing, participation trophies! While I am very proud of my boys for everything they do and will encourage them till the day I die, these trophies will be given back until they EARN a real trophy. I'm sorry I'm not sorry for believing that everything in life should be earned and I'm not about to raise two boys to be men by making them believe that they are entitled to something just because they tried their best... cause sometimes your best is not enough, and that should drive you to want to do better... not cry and whine until somebody gives you something to shut u up and keep you happy."

The outspoken line-backer created quite a stir with his comments, and I personally didn't disagree with what he had said.

I imagined that by the time my son Miles began playing sports that I would feel and act much the same way.

Then a few months later, my son was diagnosed with autism. I began to learn that there was a reason he was having difficulty communicating with others and adapting to social situations.

His mother and I had signed Miles up for a soccer league and he struggled mightily. We wound up pulling him from the team because he had become too large a distraction for the other kids.

A few months ago,

See **FOURTH, B3**

LAWRENCE ACADEMY FINISHES SECOND IN NCISAA TOURNAMENTS

Wondering what might have been...

Lady Warriors battle to a bittersweet end

BY JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

GREENVILLE - They battled, and battled, and battled - all the way to the bitter end.

But Lawrence Academy's dream of giving outgoing coach Kristin White a state title came up a little short.

Halifax Academy scored the winning run on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh inning to secure a 7-6 victory in the championship game of the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association state 1A tournament Saturday afternoon.

The finality of her season ending on a sour note was bitter-sweet for White, who informed her players midseason that she was taking a position at Arndell Parrott Academy in Kinston next year.

The rest of the season, the Warriors seemed to be on a mission - get to the state finals, and win it this time.

"I don't think these girls were doing it just for me," said White, her face concealed by sunglasses and a tear rolling down her left cheek. "I think we wanted to do this together."

They almost pulled it off.

Lawrence trailed 6-2

in the top of the sixth inning but rallied with a pair of two-run frames to tie it.

In the sixth, hits from Lauren Baker, Gracen Rogers and Lindsay Smith made it 6-4.

In the top of the seventh, Katlynn Stotesberry singled and Brinson Edmondson picked the perfect time for her first home run of the year - a two-run blast over the right centerfield fence.

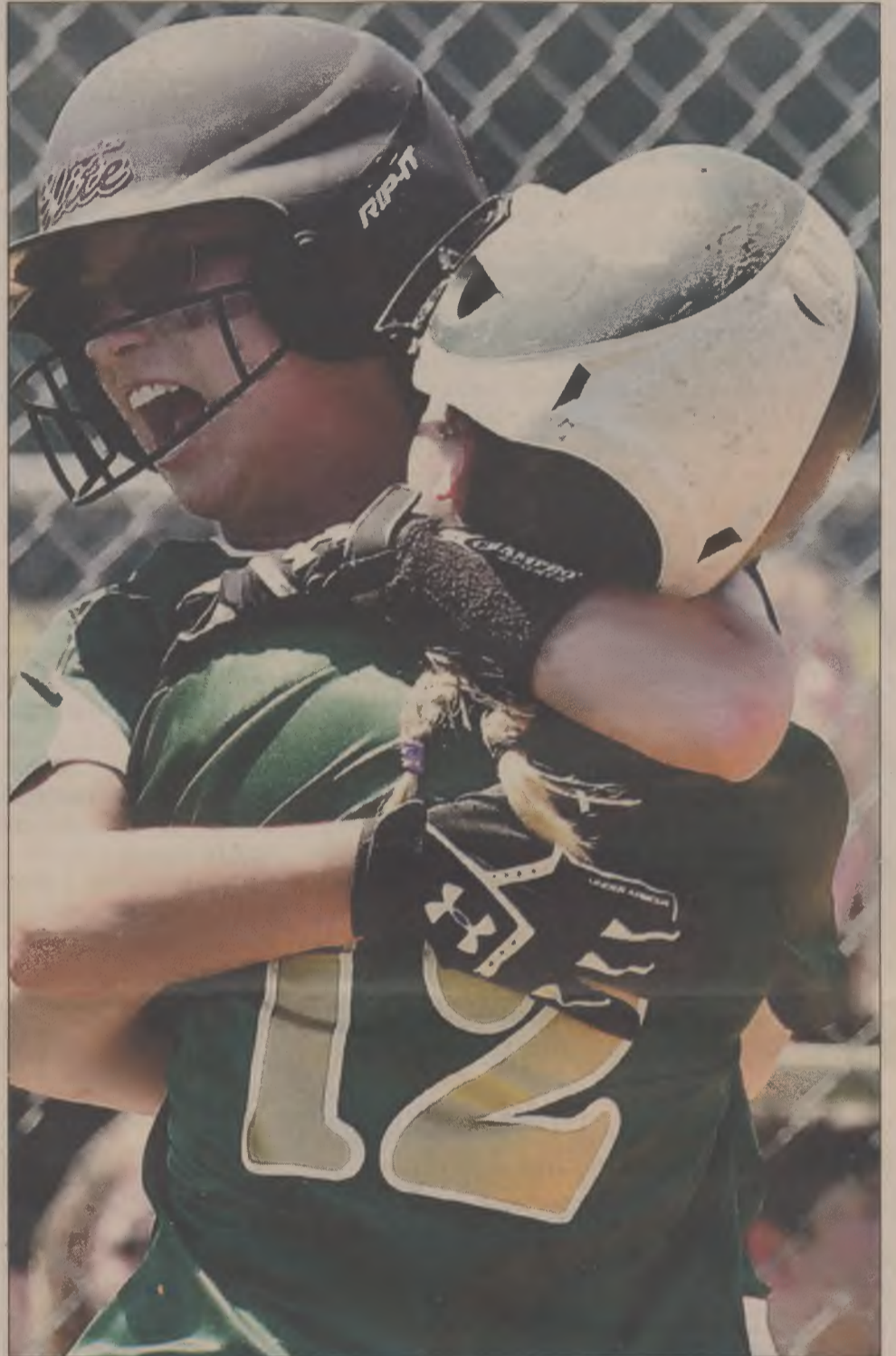
The Warriors had a runner on first after the home run, but the Vikings alertly tagged her for the final out when she overran second base on a grounder by Baker.

Halifax then broke the collective hearts of the Lawrence faithful when Morgan Houdamint walked with one out, stole second, took third on a passed ball and scored on the wild pitch.

Halifax led 2-0 after one frame, but the Warriors cut that in half with a run in the top of the second when Stotesberry doubled and scored after singles from Edmondson and Lauren Smith.

Two walks and a hit in the second put the Vikings ahead 4-1.

Lawrence came right back with a run in the



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

I NEED A PROPER HUG: Lawrence Academy's Lauren Baker (facing camera) and Gracen Rogers celebrate after both scored in the bottom of the sixth inning Friday against Oakwood.

See **GIRLS, B3**



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

An exuberant Jarrett Harrell tries to rally the Lawrence dugout against Kerr-Vance Academy.

Bats go silent for Warrior boys

BY JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

GREENVILLE - The fortunes of the Lawrence Academy baseball team over the weekend can be summed up in three words.

They didn't hit.

The Warriors managed just eight hits and five runs in three games against Kerr-Vance Academy and lost the series two games to one in the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association Class 1A state finals.

Lawrence Academy

went into the championship series at 22-0 and was the No. 1 seed, while Kerr-Vance was 17-3.

The Spartans handed the Warriors their first loss of the season, 5-3, in the opening game on Friday at Oakwood School.

Lawrence came back on Saturday and pulled out a 2-1 victory to force the third game for all the marbles.

But Kerr-Vance jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the decisive game Sat-

See **BASEBALL, B2**

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

JERNIGAN
OIL & PROPANE

Athlete of the week

BACA
Madi Knowles
Softball

