

SECTION **B**



Sports

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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

McGregor-Mayweather musings

It was announced last week that the much discussed and highly-anticipated Connor McGregor versus Floyd Mayweather fight will happen in August. Somehow, I am both shocked and not at all surprised.

I am shocked that McGregor will accept a fight that even he must know he probably won't win.

The UFC champion would be a favorite to win if they were fighting in the octagon; however, he will take on Mayweather in a boxing match.

If Floyd were an average professional boxer, I think McGregor would have his hands full. Instead, Mayweather is undefeated with 49 professional wins. He has taken on and beaten some of the biggest names in boxing, men who have spent their entire lives training in this one sport.

McGregor has surely had some boxing training but not nearly enough to warrant an opportunity to take on a man many still consider to be the best pound-for-pound boxer on the planet.

Fiscally, it makes perfect sense, or should I say cents.

Every time Mayweather fights, he makes more money, and while McGregor may prove to be his least challenging opponent, he may also turn out to be his most profitable one.

While Connor is a good fighter, he is a great talker and a phenomenal promoter.

The trash talking that I expect to go back-and-forth between these two guys over the next two months will most likely be far more entertaining than anything that happens in the ring.

The fact that one fighter is white and the other is black will certainly help.

Anyone that doesn't

See **FOURTH, B2**

Cowan realizes his dream

Local product joins LA teammates at Chowan

From Staff Reports

MERRY HILL - Chowan University's baseball program has picked up another local product.

Slade Cowan, a first baseman/pitcher for Lawrence Academy, recently signed to play for the Hawks.

Cowan, who is from Ahoskie, will join former LA teammates Tyler Jones and Jarrett Harrell at Chowan.

"Chowan is appealing to me as a school because of its size," Cowan said. "It's a smaller university, so the classroom size will be smaller and more one-on-one, which appeals to me."

"I have always liked the smaller setting, and I also like the fact that I am going to be close to home," he added. "We are very fortunate to have such a great college in our small, rural area."

Cowan said Chowan was his only choice since he was 10 years old.

"I have been asked by several (colleges) to come work out with their school and take tours of different campuses," he said. "But it was never a thought. I applied to Chowan and Chowan only."

He continued, "Since the 10-year-old boy working with the Chow-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lawrence Academy first baseman/pitcher Slade Cowan (seated, center) flanked by his parents, Brad and Jeana, signed June 5 to play baseball at Chowan University. Joining him were (back row, from left) LA baseball coach Jason Wynne and athletic director Lee Hoffman.

an University baseball player, that was my goal and dream and it never swayed. That right there should tell you how great of a school it is."

Cowan ended his senior season with solid numbers.

He batted .384 and owned a slugging percentage of .515. He drove in 23 runs and scored 20 times.

On the mound, he was 3-0 with an earned-run average of 1.30 with two saves and 25 strike-

outs.

Cowan has played baseball since he was 5 years old, and along the way, he has received much support and guidance.

While he said he always worked hard at it, he admitted he didn't have the God-given talent.

"I've always had to work hard to succeed," he said.

At the age of 10, Cowan had his parents contact the Chowan coach at the time and inquire

about individual tutelage. That's when Brian Hill entered his life.

"The first day I met him at the Chowan field, I was in awe, like a kid at Christmas," Cowan said. "From that day until this one, my childhood dream and goal turned into being good enough to go to Chowan and play on their baseball team."

Hill remained a mentor to Cowan through high school, when another Chowan player - Tyler Burden - became

an influence when Cowan watched Burden at Chowan.

In meeting head coach Taylor Furlough, Cowan felt a bond he saw as family.

Jones had hunted and fished with Cowan for years, and were teammates and opponents.

When Jones decided to sign with Chowan last year, "that was the icing on the cake," Cowan said.

"Tyler is a pusher

See **COWAN, B2**

YMCA FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Members of the Tigers, the Bertie County YMCA flag football champions in the 10-13-year-old age group, are (from left, front row) Jaylen Matthewson and Justin Dameron; (second row) Makhil Watford, Zylee Bazemore, Darrell Harrell Jr., Jamari Brockers and Jhameik Bond; (third row) Coach Kelvin Outlaw.

Football camp set for July

From Staff Reports

WINDSOR - It's set.

Bertie High School will hold a youth football camp from 9 a.m.-12 noon July 26-27 at Roy L. Bond Jr. Stadium.

The cost is \$20, and all of the funds raised from the camp will go to the Bertie football program and the Bertie County YMCA.

All campers will have the opportunity to work with Bertie High School and YMCA football coaches, as well as current and former players from BHS.

Campers with asthma are asked to bring their inhalers to camp.

For more information, call BHS Football Coach Grantley Mizelle at 252-794-3034 or Bertie County YMCA Director Casey Owens at 252-794-9622.

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



JERNIGAN
OIL & PROPANE

Female Athlete of the Year
BHS
Sha'Nidra Outlaw
Female Athlete of the Year

