

SECTION **B**



Sports

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 4, 2018

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Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Sports help make dreams come true

One of the things I appreciate most about sports is how it so often provides an almost ideal mix of the personalities and environments required to create heroic moments and allow dreams to come true.

That's exactly what happened last week when a 36-year-old accountant in Chicago made his professional hockey debut.

Scott Foster last played organized hockey when he was at Western Michigan in 2005.

Since then he has focused on his career, started a family and continued playing hockey when he can in what they call beer leagues. They're essentially recreation leagues where fellas get together, play some hockey and then go drink beer. Hence the name.

He and a few other guys won a public try-out with the Chicago Blackhawks that allows them to attend about 15 games a year and be available in case the first and second string goalie can't play. He serves as the emergency backup goalie for both teams and he usually spends his time in the press box watching the game and enjoying the free food.

That's not what happened last Thursday night.

Chicago was already without their starting goalie, so they called up a young prospect from the AHL with the name of Collin Delia to come in and serve as their second string goalie. Unfortunately, their usual second string goalie, now their starter, injured himself prior to the game.

That meant Delia, who was playing for the Rockford IceHogs two weeks ago, was going to be starting in goal for the Chicago Blackhawks against the Winnipeg Jets. That by itself had all the makings of a wonderful story.

A wonderful story is exactly what it was

See **FOURTH**, B3



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Lawrence Academy shortstop Lauren Baker has a determined look as she fires to first base Monday against Bear Grass Charter School.

Comeback falls short

Lady Warriors rally in seventh but drop Easter title game to Bears

JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

EASONS CROSSROADS - The rally came up a little short.

Lawrence Academy's softball team scored three times in the top of the seventh inning but fell 6-3 to Bear Grass Charter School in the championship game of the inaugural Easter Tournament at Gates County High School Monday.

The Bears improved to 10-2 overall and ended a three-game win streak by the Warriors (9-3 overall). Two of Lawrence's three losses this season have come at the hands of Bear Grass Charter.

Both teams came into the championship game having won games over Gates County and Northeastern on Saturday.

Lawrence trailed 6-0 entering the seventh after stranding nine baserunners through the first six frames against Bears' pitcher Keagan Wilkerson.

Gracen Rogers led off the seventh with a single, and Katlynn Stotesberry followed with a single past a diving shortstop Morgan Lee.

Then things got shaky defensively for the Bears.

Rebekah Goodwin reached on an outfield error to load the bases. Wilkerson coaxed a

strikeout, and Lindsay Smith's fielder's choice plated Rogers, but Lee threw Stotesberry out at third (Kaley Silverthorne).

Lauren Smith reached on an infield error to plate Goodwin, and Claire Dail reached on a dropped fly ball in left to bring home Lindsay Smith. But Lauren Smith was thrown out at third (Brandie Coltrain to Silverthorne) to end the game.

Lawrence left two runners on base in the top of the first inning (Rogers with a single and Goodwin with a walk), but the Warriors couldn't get the clutch hit.

Bear Grass Charter had no problems getting hits, as the Bears struck for five runs on five hits and one error (which plated two of those runs).

Lauren Baker, who relieved Stotesberry on the mound with one out, got the final out of the first and then held Bear Grass to just one run the rest of the way - that coming in the bottom of the second when Wilkerson's two-out double brought in Rachel Hardison (who had walked).

While the Warriors had baserunners, they never could get to Wilkerson until the seventh.



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

See **LA**, B2 Lawrence Academy's Isabelle Phelps makes an over the shoulder catch against Bear Grass.

Bertie Ledger-Advance congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.

Athlete of the week
BACA
Shooting
Adam Hoggard



Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie Ledger-Advance
109 S. King St., P.O. Box 69
Windsor, NC 27983