



Sports

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ANDRE ALFRED / A.A. Imaging

Alyssa Byrum and the Bertie High School softball team can clinch second place in the conference with victories this week.

Thoughts on the NFL Draft

Do you get excited about the NFL Draft? Do you throw a party, cook wings and/or analyze mock draft boards? If you answered yes to any of these questions, there is a good chance you aren't a Patriots fan.

It's not that New England doesn't draft well. In fact, they traditionally do a much better job of evaluating pure football talent than anyone else in the game. They aren't always the best judge of character or they may just not care but they have historically been above average in regards to finding talent.

Patriots fans know though that their team isn't drafting early and if they do, they are likely selecting a left guard.

I was discussing with my best friend the then upcoming draft last week when he mentioned that getting excited for the draft probably wasn't a good thing. For once in his life, he was right.

For the majority of my life as a Dolphins fan, I have been the most optimistic about my team during the offseason.

The regular season has brought with it some hope but mostly heartbreak and the postseason has been largely nonexistent. The offseason though is filled with unsubstantiated promise and unrealistic expectations.

There is no greater

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

example of this than the NFL Draft. It takes a special kind of optimism and arrogance to believe that your favorite team, the one that hasn't sniffed a Super Bowl in your lifetime, can be propelled to world championship status with the acquisition of a few fraternity members.

Sure, franchise changing players do come through the draft but they don't come every year and let's be honest, to get one you almost always have to lose a lot and draft early. Tom Brady was selected in the 7th round but even the Patriots had no idea what he might become when they picked him. He is the exception, not the rule.

More often than not, if you are eager to see the draft it's because you are either a football junkie in need of help or the fan of a bad NFL franchise in need of counseling. Either way, know that you are not alone, there are a bunch of us just like you. We just aren't Patriots fans.

David Friedman is a long time sports writer and lifelong fan. David can be reached via e-mail at fourthandlongcolumn@gmail.com.

Down to the wire

Bertie baseball/softball finishes against Bears; Lawrence takes part in conference tourneys

JIM GREEN

Bertie Ledger-Advance

After almost a week off for Easter break, high school athletic programs return this week to complete the final week of the regular season.

The Bertie High School varsity baseball team played at home Tuesday (April 30) against Hertford County and will travel to Ahsokie Thursday for a 7 p.m. rematch with the Bears to finish the Northeastern 2A Coastal Conference schedule.

During Tuesday's home game with Hertford County, Bertie recognized its baseball seniors (Dylan Hoggard, Trenton White and Jakiese Freeman) and its male track athletes (Keyuntra Lee, Darius Rascoe, Jamarri White, Christopher Cooper, Ernest Strawther, Charlie Jenkins, Jakai Cooper, Oscar Jones and Eric Moore).

The Bertie High School softball team played at home Tuesday against Hertford County and recognized

its seniors (Sydney Cowand, Kaleigh Freeman and Taylor Scott) as well as the female track athletes (Kasiah Freeman, Dasani Hill, Dashear Hill and Destiny Clark). The Falcon nine can clinch second place in the NEC with a win at Hertford County at 7 p.m. Thursday.

The Bertie High School track teams will compete in the NEC Championships today (May 1) at Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City beginning at 1 p.m.

Lawrence Academy's varsity baseball and softball teams are playing in the Tarheel Independent Conference Tournament this week.

The baseball Warriors are the No. 3 seed and opened the event at home Tuesday against No. 6 seed Hobgood Academy.

If its wins, Lawrence plays today (May 1) at 4 p.m. vs. either No. 2 Pungo Christian Academy or No. 7 Terra Ceia Christian School in the semifinals at PCA.

The championship game is set for Thurs-



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Charles Atkins and the Lawrence Academy baseball team are playing in the TIC Tournament this week.

day at 4 p.m. at PCA.

The Lawrence softball team is co-champions of the conference and drew the No. 2 seed for the tournament. It had a bye in the first round and will play either No. 4 Northeast Academy or No. 5 Hobgood Academy today (May 1) at 2 p.m. at PCA.

A win in the semis puts the Lady Warriors in the championship game at 4 p.m. Thursday at PCA.

The Lawrence Acad-

emy boys tennis team is currently 6-6 overall with two matches remaining.

The Warriors were scheduled to play at Oakwood School on Tuesday and will conclude their regular season at Grenfield today (May 1).

Bethel Assembly Christian Academy's varsity baseball and softball teams play at New Life Academy May 6 and will host New Life on May 9.

Bertie girls drop 2

EDENTON - The Bertie High School varsity softball team suffered losses in its final two games of an Easter tournament at John A. Holmes High School last week.

The Lady Falcons fell 11-1 to Nansesund Suffolk Academy (Virginia) and then suffered a 5-4 defeat to Holmes to finish the event with one win and two losses.

Bertie had just three base hits against Suffolk. No. 2 batter Alyssa Byrum tallied two hits while leadoff hitter Lindsey Dickens added the other hit and accounted for the Falcons' lone run.

Holmes scored what proved to be

the winning run in the bottom of the sixth inning to slip past Bertie in the final game.

Elizabeth Eure had three hits, Dickens doubled and tripled and scored a run for the Falcons, and Stephanie Castelloe added a pair of hits for the visitors.

Byrum, Castelloe and Rachel Hoggard (who walked twice) scored a run each for Bertie.

Byrum was saddled with the loss on the mound. She allowed seven hits and five runs with three strikeouts and two walks.

The Falcons' defense turned a double play in the fourth inning when second baseman Miranda Meldick snagged a fly ball and then doubled the Holmes runner off first.

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

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

Athlete of the week

LA
Baseball
Charles Atkins



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