

Double Trouble

Duke, UNC fall in ACC road games over weekend. See Stories Below

SPORTS

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NCHSAA STATE VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS

Lady Panthers flawless against Bears

BY ZACH KEPLEY
Sports Editor

WALLBURG — It is safe to say the Ledford Lady Panthers have quickly forgotten about their loss in the Mid-Piedmont Conference tournament last week.

On Saturday afternoon, Ledford played one of its best games of the season from start to finish, dismantling Gray's Creek 25-12, 25-9, 25-10 in the first round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 3-A state playoffs.

The visiting Bears had little chance to catch their breath in the game, as LHS was constant-

ly attacking at the net. Chloe Barnes led the way with 10 kills, while Stevi Williams and Cady added seven kills each and Kaitlyn Otey had six. Emily Vernon set up 18 assists and Ray was one behind with 17.

"We decided on Wednesday that we were going to find a killer instinct and that we were going to push ourselves to be consistent throughout all three games," said coach Kara Berrier. "We have a tendency to start strong and then stop, so we have a new motto — 'Start strong, stay strong, finish strong.'"

Ledford completed phase one

of the motto, getting kills on the first three points and racing out to a 10-1 lead. Gray's Creek would close the gap to 16-11 midway through the first game, but the Panthers put the hammer down to the end, getting four kills from four different players down the stretch.

The Bears kept in better contact during the second game, trailing only 10-7 and getting offensive themselves. Ray brought the boom with a kill on the next point, and the Panthers were out of sight to the end. Ahead 16-9, the Panthers once again reeled off nine

consecutive points to reach 25, finished by a Barnes screamer to the hardwood for the kill.

Williams and Ray started the attack in the third set with a pair of kills, as Ledford completed its fine day with a commanding 15-point win in the third frame, finished by what else, but a kill by Williams.

"In volleyball, having three days of practice in a row is rare, and that was what we needed apparently," Berrier said. "We had very few mistakes today. Maybe we just got them all out of our system Tuesday night."

Ledford, 21-3, will host No. 2 seed Chapel Hill (22-3) today at 7.



CALENDAR

TODAY

VOLLEYBALL
Chapel Hill
@ Ledford
7 p.m.

SOCCER
N. Forsyth
@ Ledford
7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

SOCCER
E. Davidson
@ Thomasville
7 p.m.

SOCCER
Ledford
@ Asheboro
7 p.m.

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL
Thomasville
@ Salisbury
7:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL
E. Davidson
@ W. Davidson
7:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL
Ledford
@ So. Guilford
7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

CROSS COUNTRY
NCHSAA
Regionals
TBA

MONDAY

BASKETBALL
Milligan JV
@ DCCC
7 p.m.

GOLF
NCHSAA State
Golf Tourney
TBA

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SPRINT CUP SERIES

Hamlin owns Martinsville

Narrows Chase lead by Johnson to 6

BY REID SPENCER
NASCARMedia.com

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Dead heat. Well, almost.

Denny Hamlin won Sunday's Tums Fast Relief 500 at Martinsville and trimmed fifth-place finisher Jimmie Johnson's lead in the Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup to six points with four races left in the season.

The closest Chase ever through six races is on a collision course toward next Sunday's AMP Energy Juice 500 at Talladega Superspeedway, the most dangerous and unpredictable race in the Chase.

"We're back, baby," Hamlin exulted in the radio as he approached the finish line. "Awesome



TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE

Martinsville race winner Denny Hamlin dives to the inside of Kevin Harvick on Sunday to take over the top spot and cruise to the victory, closing the points lead down to six points with four races left.

Next Race: Amp Energy Juice 500 @ Talladega (10/31)

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Hurricanes blow by Tar Heels, 33-10

BY BRIANA GORMAN
Durham Herald Sun

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — North Carolina entered Saturday's game against No. 25 Miami riding a four-game winning streak and a wave of confidence after losing its first two games of the season.

The Tar Heels had managed to set aside the distractions of the ongoing investigations into agents and academics and had a chance to stay in the hunt for the ACC championship game against a program it had beaten the past three seasons.

Instead, UNC's offense played one of its worst games of the season with three turnovers and the depleted defense finally showed its inexperience, as Mi-

ami took advantage for a 33-10 victory at Sun Life Stadium.

The loss dropped the Tar Heels (4-3, 2-2 ACC) to fourth in the league, with games against Florida State, Virginia Tech and N.C. State still looming. Miami (5-2, 3-1) moves into second place in the Coastal Division.

"It's disappointing just because it's a loss," UNC senior safety Deunta Williams said.

For the past three seasons, turnovers had been the difference in the games between the schools and this year proved to be no different — except this time the Tar Heels were on the losing end.

UNC got on the scoreboard first when Casey Barth capped

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Hokies hammer Blue Devils in Blacksburg

BY STEVE WISEMAN
Durham Herald Sun

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech brought the hammer down on Duke early Saturday and left the Blue Devils scrambling for answers.

The No. 23 Hokies scored on five of six first-half possessions, routing the Blue Devils 44-7 in an ACC football game before a crowd of 66,233 at Lane Stadium.

Duke (1-6, 0-4 ACC) lost its sixth consecutive game on a day when the Blue Devils offered little resistance.

"Virginia Tech completely dominated us," Duke senior safety Matt Daniels said.

The Coastal Division-leading Hokies (6-2, 4-0) continued

to trend in the right direction, notching their sixth consecutive win since opening the season with losses to Boise State and James Madison.

"When you play well and you have success, it builds confidence," said Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, who collected career win No. 235 to move past Bo Schembechler and sit alone at No. 10 on the all-time Football Bowl Subdivision wins list. "You can't talk your way into it. You have to do it."

Duke coach David Cutcliffe and his players said they came into the game as prepared as they could be to deal with Virginia Tech's talents.

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