

SPORTS

Carolina Clash results

By JOE MOSSO
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Saturday Night
Gaffney, SC.

1. Scott Autry
2. Phil Hall
3. Dennis Franklin
4. Mike Chilton
5. Larry Blankenship

Carolina Clash Points

1. Billy Hicks 885
2. Scott Autry 850
3. Roger Lucas 813
4. Johnny Stovall 778
5. Jeff Cook 733
13. Shawn Beasley 522 (Raeford)
26. Ricky Boehn 243 (Raeford)

Carolina Speedway
Lake View, SC.

- Late Model
1. Micheal Marlowe; 2. Dale Hammonds; 3. Chris Miller; 4. Brett Dysart; 5. Terry Spivey

Super Street

1. Tony Williams; 2. Willie Milliken; 3. Donald Williams; 4. Joe Ward; 5. Cameron Norris

4 cyl Modified

1. Bobby Hudson; 2. Jimmy Ray; 3. Donn Strauser; 4. PJ Green; 5. Elvin Matthews Jr.

4 cyl Stock

1. Mark Gore; 2. Jackie Polston; 3. Bo Odom; 4. Ronnie Taylor; 5. Dave Strausser

Charger

1. Chris Peele; 2. Don Nance; 3. Donald Black; 4. Butch Calhoun; 5. Troy Woodall

Rookie

1. Josie Bullock; 2. Marc Paige; 3. Gibby Peele; 4. Brain Doyle; 5. Levern Tyler

Johnson heads off Elliott

By JOE MOSSO
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Jimmie Johnson held off a hard-charging Bill Elliott to win the MBNA 400 in Dover Del Sunday afternoon. The win was the second of the season for Johnson in this his rookie year. Johnson is chasing Tony Stewart's record of three wins in a rookie season, Stewart did it in 1999. Johnson drives the #48 Lowes Chevy co-owned by fellow racer Jeff Gordon and Rick Hendrick.

The Winston Cup drivers will race this weekend at Pocono, Pennsylvania, and qualifying is set for this Friday afternoon.

MBNA Top 10

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Jimmie Johnson(R) | Chevy |
| 2. Bill Elliott | Dodge |
| 3. Jeff Burton | Ford |
| 4. Ryan Newton(R) | Ford |
| 5. Dale Jarrett | Ford |
| 6. Jeff Gordon | Chevy |
| 7. Ricky Craven | Ford |
| 8. Robby Gordon | Chevy |
| 9. Bobby Hamilton | Chevy |
| 10. Elliott Sadler | Ford |

Winston Cup points standings

- | | |
|----------------------|-------|
| 1. Sterlin Marlin | 1,899 |
| 2. Jimmie Johnson(R) | 1,763 |
| 3. Jeff Gordon | 1,739 |
| 4. Matt Kenneth | 1,731 |
| 5. Rusty Wallace | 1,688 |
| 6. Mark Martin | 1,677 |
| 7. Tony Stewart | 1,674 |
| 8. Kurt Busch | 1,656 |
| 9. Bill Elliott | 1,612 |
| 10. Ricky Rudd | 1,606 |

Fighting Bucks schedule camps

The Fighting Bucks baseball camp and girls softball camp for ages 7-12 are scheduled for June 10-13.

The goals of the camps are to teach each camper the basic fundamentals of baseball through lectures, demonstrations and practice and for each camper to leave camp with a better knowledge of the game.

The camps will be held at Hoke High Baseball Field at 8:30-11:30 a.m. Instructors will be Hoke High varsity baseball players and camp staff members Gary Brigman, Scott Jordan and Bobby Britt, Hoke High; and Ricky Jones, West Hoke Middle School.

Youngsters will need a glove and hat each day. The cost is \$35 and \$30 if brothers and sisters attend.

For information, contact camp director Brigman at 875-2156 ext. 6427; or at home, 875-3491.

Ball-playing siblings take Hoke Schools MVP awards

By PAT ALLEN WILSON
Editor

A father's pride is evident in an e-mail written by Maurice Simmons Sr.: "My son, Micheaux Simmons, a senior at Hoke County High who is graduating and planning to attend UNC Charlotte in the fall, was presented the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Defense Carpenter Award for the Fighting Bucks Varsity Baseball Team at the Hoke High Athletic Banquet. My daughter, Chaola Simmons was presented with a co-MVP Offense Award for the Lady Bucks Varsity Softball Fastpitch Team. My youngest son, Maurice (JR) Simmons, was presented with the Most Valuable Player Award for the East Hoke Eagles Middle School Baseball Team. That made it a clean sweep which I don't know if it has ever happened to this day where one family has captured ALL MVP awards in one season."

Maurice Sr. also says this about his three athletic offspring. "They are an outstanding group. I enjoyed watching them from t-ball all the way up. They play well and have been real competitive at every level."

An Air Force family, the Simmonses bought a home in Rockfish and plan to stay there. Still on active duty, Maurice Sr. hails from Atlanta. Mom Natalia is from the Azores and is a student at Sandhills Community College.

Having athletic children "entails a lot of traveling and a lot of refreshments," their father says.

Maurice Sr. says participation in athletic programs also means a lot of bruises, sprained ankles "and chin scrapes," adds Chaola, who is called "Shay" by her friends. She tells of the time she bunted a ball (something she does extremely well) and sprinted to first base. She ran into the girl on first base (who was crowding the base, Shay explains), flipped completely over her and went head first into the ground.

That incident indicates another skill 16-year-old Shay is known for — speed: she can run 4.8 in the 40-meter dash and stole 30 bases this past season.

At .395, Shay was the team leader in batting averages. She plays centerfield and catcher.

J.R., at 14 is the youngest member of the family. A rising freshman at Hoke High, he says he was influenced to play baseball by his father and brother. "And by your sister," says Shay, who also played some baseball.

Micheaux, who is 17, played right field, shortstop and second base. In



Chaola "Shay" Simmons

addition to winning the Robert Carpenter Award for best defense, he also received honorable mention in All-Conference. A contact hitter, he has been drafted to play with the Fayetteville Legions this summer. For Hoke High, he played right field, shortstop and second base.

Micheaux's batting average this past season was .333.

All have "good gloves," according to their father. "They're just all athletic. We go to the field and practice some on weekends for fun — anything that involves a ball."

Maurice Sr. said he watched the Atlanta Braves play when he was younger and credits his own interest with the sport as one of the reasons for his youngsters' passion for the game.

J.R., who also plays football, says he enjoys baseball because "that's what I do best and I enjoy doing it."

Micheaux also says baseball is "something I'm good at."

Shay says softball keeps her involved in extracurricular activities and "I like playing it. I enjoy the competition and it's an opportunity for a scholarship."

Playing shortstop, pitcher and catcher, J.R. led his team at EHMS with a batting average of .512. This summer he is playing for the Hoke Parks & Rec Babe Ruth team, Hoke 3, coached by his dad.

Named MVP five times and All-Star three times, J.R. says he wants to attend college and play ball while there. His "lifelong dream is to play pro ball," and, of course, he would like to play with the Braves.

Shay is playing travel ball for a summer league team called the Carolina Rockers. College scouts "come out and look at the girls for scholarships," she says.

At UNC-Charlotte, Micheaux hopes to "walk on" the 49'ers team, he says.



From left, Micheaux, Chaola "Shay," Natalia, Maurice Jr. "J.R." and Maurice Sr.



"Shay" bunts.



Micheaux Simmons



Maurice "J.R." Simmons

Hoke's Braves treated royally by Swampdogs

By HAL NUNN
Special to The News-Journal

The Hoke County Parks and Recreation League Coach Pitch team, "The Braves," got the royal treatment at the opening game of the Fayetteville Swampdogs play Friday night, May 31.

The Braves celebrated their end of season party at the historic J.P. Riddle Stadium last week. Team members include Dewayne Locklear, Addison McMillan, Mohamed Samoura, Ambria McNeil, Travis Bush, Marquis Virgil, Heath Nunn, Dequante Moore, Levi Crump, John Colburn, Whitney Poe, Jennifer Valliant, Ethan Nunn, Devontay Dowdes, Amillia

Payne and Charland Clark.

The players were excited and "pumped up" for the game for the Swampdogs and for the food and fun that was all around the ballpark.

Assistant general manager Jack Thompson wants to make sure that all fans get the information about the Field of Dreams program that the Swampdogs offer at Riddle Stadium. The program allows the kids to meet the players, run out on the field with the players, and along with their tickets get free hot dogs, chips and drink.

For more information on the Fayetteville Swampdogs or any of their programs, call Thompson at 426-5900.



Braves players basked in the attention of their baseball heroes.

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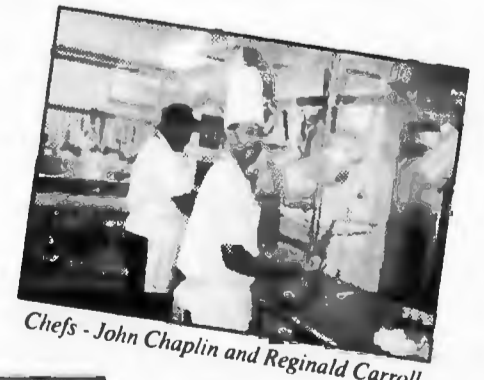
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