

SPORTS



The Hoke County Special Olympics took place last week at Raz Autry Stadium on the campus of Hoke High School. Over 100 students participated in track and field events and games. (Left photo) Angela Thornton of Hoke High gets a little help from Grand Marshall Jeff Huffman with the lighting of the torch to kick off the Olympics. (Right photo) Danavian McNeill of Sandy Grove Elementary School participates in the softball throw as Coach John Bombatepe of Don Steed Elementary School looks on.



Lead referee Arthur Salisbury comes to Jennifer Valliant at the beginning of the game, pats her on the shoulder and gives her the coin used in the coin toss. A moment of silence was observed just prior for her brother Kaleb Valliant and his friend Thadius Markle.

SKATERS 4 MOORE

We are very pleased to have teamed up with Skaters for Moore, a non-profit organization established for children and young adults within the Hoke/Moore County Area. ASC is proud to present a 7,000' Sq. Ft. indoor skate park equipped with half-pipes, grinding rails and ramps for the skate board enthusiast.

D & S Jumpers is a local jumping balloon business and we are very pleased to have teamed up with ASC and would love to assist you with your in door Birth Day parties. We also offer Cotton candy, Pop corn and Sno-cone machines So make your reservations TODAY!!!

Exciting news for the paintball player looking to have a fun time! Starting 15 May, Aberdeen Sporting Complex and Outlaw Paintball will open up the first recreational paintball field designed for the paintball novice and the not-so novice who just want to have fun! We are going to have all you need to play the sport safely on site.

Aberdeen Sports Complex
 9750 Aberdeen Dr.
 Aberdeen Hwy 211
 (910) 944-4745

ZOOM!!!

Emotional night for Bucks' soccer

BY HAL NUNN
Sports writer

It was a tough decision - whether or not to play Monday night's soccer game between Hoke County and Purnell Swett - and the decision was left to the family of Kaleb Valliant and his younger sister Jennifer.

As most people are aware by now, Kaleb Valliant and Thadius Markle of Raeford were killed in a car accident Saturday afternoon in Fayetteville. Kaleb was the captain of the boys' soccer team and his sister is on the girls' soccer team. Both Kaleb and Thadius were seniors and members of the Jazz Band at Hoke High. Kaleb was the public address announcer and clock operator for the girls' team.

The girls hosted Purnell Swett Monday night.

"We knew this was going to be a tough night," Hoke Athletic Director Gary Brigman said, "so we left the decision to play or not play the game up to the family." Coach Derek Butler said, "We felt

that it would be best for the girls to try to play and heal a little bit and Kaleb loved soccer and we believe that's what he would have wanted us to do."

Jennifer attended the game and, although she did not play, she was made the honorary captain. "I thought it was great that Jen was able to be our honorary captain at the game and she is a great girl and is being so strong during all of this," Coach Derek Butler said. The pre-game routine was the same but when the referee, Arthur Salisbury, blew the whistle to start play, the planned memorial began.

In a ceremonial gesture - the clock not starting - the referee blew his whistle again and motioned to the press box, where an announcement was made about the tragic accident that took the lives of two young men, Kaleb and Thadius, and that Kaleb's sister was in attendance for the game.

After a moment of silence and a few tears and hugs, head referee Arthur Salisbury ran over to the bench where Jennifer was sitting

and gave her a pat on the shoulder and the coin used for the coin toss - a simple but profound gesture by the lead referee.

With the game underway, the Bucks went on to literally destroy the Rams 11-0. How ironic is that score? Kaleb wore number 11 as the captain of the boys' soccer team. Jennifer also wore the number 11 on the girls team. "I wanted to get 11 goals in the first half to honor Kaleb, so the 11-0 victory was a tribute to him. The girls wanted to reach that goal and accomplished that for Kaleb, Jen and their family," Butler said. The game was called at halftime because the rule states that if a team scored 10 goals or more in the first half, the game is then over.

After the game, many friends and fans came down onto the field and surrounded Jennifer with hugs and support.

The girls' soccer team will play at home Monday night in the first round of the conference tournament. Senior night festivities will take place that night.

Furniture I want and credit I can actually get!

See our Full Catalog Selection at badcock.com

Badcock

HOME FURNITURE & more®

**1311 N. Sandhill Blvd.
Aberdeen • 910-944-9500**

Twin Bedroom \$799.85
with FREE Nightstand

T-883623
F-883624

Save \$199.95 on this Offer **FREE** Matching Nightstand with purchase of this 5-Piece Youth Bedroom

\$199.95 value

SYDNEY COLLECTION
900519 PRI30
5-Piece Youth Bedroom includes Full Panel Headboard, Footboard, Rails, Dresser & Mirror
\$849.85

Also Available: 5-Drawer Chest \$349.95, TV Media Chest \$349.95

Bed \$399.95

Save \$501.85 **FREE VALUE** on 6-Piece Bedroom 883625

NICOLET COLLECTION \$998
900133 HOH30
6-Piece Bedroom - Queen Sleigh or Platform Headboard, Footboard, Rails, 6-Drawer Chest, Dresser & Mirror
Reg. \$1499.85

Save \$499.95 on this Offer **FREE** Matching 5-Drawer Chest with purchase of this 6-Piece Bedroom

\$499.95 value

YORKTOWN COLLECTION
900101 DAV52
6-Piece Bedroom includes Queen Sleigh Headboard, Footboard, Rails, Jewelry Box, Dresser & Mirror
\$1249.90

Also Available: Nightstand \$329.95 • Save on King Size too!

Bed \$399.95

Save \$501.85 **FREE VALUE** on 6-Piece Bedroom 883625

NICOLET COLLECTION \$998
900133 HOH30
6-Piece Bedroom - Queen Sleigh or Platform Headboard, Footboard, Rails, 6-Drawer Chest, Dresser & Mirror
Reg. \$1499.85

Save \$499.95 on this Offer **FREE** Matching 5-Drawer Chest with purchase of this 6-Piece Bedroom

\$499.95 value

YORKTOWN COLLECTION
900101 DAV52
6-Piece Bedroom includes Queen Sleigh Headboard, Footboard, Rails, Jewelry Box, Dresser & Mirror
\$1249.90

Also Available: Nightstand \$329.95 • Save on King Size too!