



Kaitlyn Christian hit a solo home run in Friday's game against Louisburg. Christian was also the Perquimans pitcher.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lady Pirates lose heartbreaker to Louisburg

BY PETER WILLIAMS
News Editor

The way Coach Ricky Stallings views it, Perquimans lost Friday but they didn't get beat.

The Perquimans County High School softball team came up short in a 2-1 game against Louisville in the rain, ending the Lady Pirates' season.

"We got robbed of the game. There was no way they beat us. It's heartbreaking to see the girls lose the game and playing championship ball."

Stallings said the game was moved from Thursday to Friday because of weather. On Friday the location was moved from Louisburg

High School to Louisburg College.

"The high school field was soaked," Stallings said.

The game started late because the college wasn't prepared to host a game.

In the top of the second inning, Kaitlyn Christian hit a solo home run to put the Pirates ahead 1-0. Christian was also the Perquimans pitcher.

"Both teams played good defense and both pitchers were great," Stallings said. "The pitchers were shutting everybody down. They shut us down, and we shut them down."

In the fifth inning, it started to drizzle rain, Stallings said.

By the bottom of the

seventh, with Perquimans still up 1-0, it started to rain harder, he said.

Stallings said he talked about to the umpire about holding off the game.

It started raining harder, and Stallings made his plea again. The umpire said he was told the rain was raining on both teams at the same time.

But the point was it was the bottom of the last inning Louisburg wouldn't have had to pitch again if Perquimans had held the score at 1-0.

"She (Kaitlyn Christian) couldn't grip the ball," Stallings said about the rain. "We'd change balls after every pitch."

Stallings said he tells his team not to complain about

the decision of umpires and he doesn't either.

"If we got beat in my heart, it's one thing but I will never say we got beat by this other team."

"I was proud of the girls the way they came together," Stallings said. "But it was heartbreaking to see the girls lose the game playing the type of championship ball that they were."

Camden now has a shot at Louisburg in a best of three game series to determine the East Regional Championship. Camden is slated to host the game on Wednesday. The next two games would be played at Louisburg. The winner advances to the state championship next week.

CORAL CARAVAN



People relax on the grass in from the Perquimans County Courthouse Saturday during a visit by the Coral Caravan.



A vintage camper serves as a coffee bar at the Coral Caravan.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

People check out some of the plants for sale at the Coral Caravan Saturday in Hertford.

DECISION

Continued from 1

things," Reid said. "We talk about things like having a motel and housing."

Councilman Frank Norman agreed some of it is economic.

"Hertford used to be a farm town and when farming was no longer the major employer, we didn't have anything to make the shift

(to a new economy)."

Councilman Sid Eley said it was the loss of small town merchants.

"We had Mom and Pop stores and when Mom and Pop aged out the children didn't want to take over the business."

Reid said without local retailers and with a large percentage of the population working outside the county, a lot of local residents spend their money

outside the county, which makes the cycle even harder to break.

Then Straus turned the question "what is the hope?"

Reid said it would be to have a business come in that hired 20 to 50 people, and then be followed by another one that did the same thing.

"It's not going to be an overnight thing," Reid said. Councilman Archie Aples

did not attend the special meeting Tuesday and Councilman Quentin Jackson did not speak during the discussion.

When it came to what the town wants, Norman said the person needs to be a good match for the people of the town. They also need to have a financial background and be familiar with urban planning. Shoaf was the town's planner before he was named town manag-

er and since then he's been serving both roles.

Eley also said the town manager candidate should have some knowledge of operating an electric, water and sewer utility.

Norman appeared to say he didn't mind hiring somebody who hasn't been a town manager before, pointing out that Shoaf himself didn't have that when he was hired.

"I don't want somebody

who might be great being overlooked," Norman said.

In the end Straus said the screening process may start with 20 or more people, "but if we can find a gem or two, that's great."

Among Straus' clients are Holly Springs which is also looking for a town manager and Newport News, which is looking for a chief of police, according to his web site.

WIGGINS

Continued from 1

"They (the school board) were excited about the motion to name it after Ms. Wiggins and Mr. Cheeseman is hoping this will continue the momentum on the athletic complex," said Lisa Lane, a school spokes-

man.

She said a fundraising campaign will be mounted. She also pointed out the preliminary estimate for building a six-lane track is about \$750,000.

It's also possible that funding can come if House Bill 866 passes. It could provide Perquimans with about \$12 million for school con-

struction.

Perquimans County Commissioner Joseph Hoffer, Judie's husband, said naming the track for Wiggins is important.

"While neighboring counties have educational institutions/facilities named for African-Americans, the M. Shirley Wiggins Track will be the first educational fa-

cility in Perquimans County named for an African-American," Hoffer said.

PCHS has a track team, but athletes train by running down roads.

The track team is coached by Ian Rapanick. When he was hired as football coach, he was told his duties would include coaching track as well.

"I remember saying, we don't have a track."

It's a challenge to train without one, but he said the athletes do their best. Sometimes they travel to Pasquotank County High School or Elizabeth City State University to practice on tracks there.

When it comes to track meets, they always have to

travel.

"This year we've went to Edenton four times, Manteo twice and the big meet at Pasquotank."

Despite the high price tag for the track, Hoffer is confident.

"I feel like God is working things out," she said.

"I think it will be a positive thing for the county."

HUNTER

Continued from 1

11. The case was on Friday morning's Camden criminal docket before Chief District Judge Edgar Barnes. Camden Clerk of Superior Court Paula Harrison said Barnes continued the case until next month.

Hunter couldn't be reached for comment.

According to Camden District Court records, Hunter has retained attorney Sam Dixon of Edenton as her

defense counsel.

An aide to Dixon, reached by phone Friday afternoon, said Dixon was in Raleigh for a meeting and not immediately available.

Reached later on Friday, Meiggs said both he and Hunter were in the courtroom Friday morning.

"I was ready," Meiggs said. "They (Hunter) are the



HUNTER



MEIGGS

ones that laid it over, not me."

Meiggs declined to discuss why he filed the complaint against Hunter,

but indicated he may talk about it later.

"I really don't feel comfortable with talking about this much until after it has gone through court," he said. "And when it does, I'll be glad to talk to you."

Hunter is a marketing company owner and a former television anchor. She lost her bid for the GOP nomination in the 1st House District to Eddy Goodwin, a former state ferry director and Chowan County Commissioner, 55 percent to 45 percent.

Goodwin will face Bertie Board of Commissioners Vice Chairman Ron Wesson in the November general election.

Meiggs, a Republican, has been a member of the Camden Board of Commissioners since 2008.

SCAM

Continued from 1

"One if not both of them went to prison for five years for this type of thing, and just got out," he said.

White said the two men

typically target homes where there may be an outdoor wheelchair ramp. They will then target other homes in the same neighborhood, he said.

Perquimans residents approached by the men are asked to call the sheriff's office at 426-5615.

GOLF

Continued from 1

"So if you take in \$100,000 in entry fees, they take \$20,000, so there is \$80,000 for prizes," Loughlin said.

At the Biggs Classic, 100 percent of the entry fees are paid out in purses.

Another plus about the Biggs is residents at the Plantation open up their homes to the golfers for free lodging. Some also provide food as well.

"Some of these kids may not spend a nickel on food

the whole week they are here," Loughlin said.

In the first and second rounds Thursday and Friday the first wave of golfers start at 7:30 a.m. and there is a second wave at 12:30 p.m.

In the third and final round Saturday, play starts at 8 a.m.

Gary Haugh, the president of the G-pro tour, said he's glad to be associated with the Biggs Classic.

"In five short years the Biggs Classic has established itself as the golf standard of developmental tour golf. We are proud to

be a partner in this event and hope this relationship continues for years to come."

The tournament also benefits the community. The Plantation has already donated \$5,000 to the Girls and Boys Clubs of the Albemarle. It also awards a scholarship. This year's winner, Charley Hines, is graduating from Perquimans County High School and will be attending East Carolina University this fall.

Tom Duncan, the head golf pro at the Plantation, explains the success of the

Biggs.

"It's pretty simple. We have a beautiful and challenging golf course, a great partner in the G-pro tour, our incredibly generous, supportive and loyal sponsors and 150 dedicated and talent resident volunteers. Add to that the Rex exemption, and it's not surprising we will have players here from all over the country. I just hope the general public takes the time to watch these talented young men compete."

For more information, call 426-5555.

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