

KM skater eyes national tourney

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

In line speed skating has started to take the place of quad speed skating. And Kings Mountain's Amber Bolden has been capitalizing on the recent skating trend.

"Basically they still have what they call a quad nationals," Dense Miller, Bolden's mother said. "In line speed skating has actually been very hot. It started getting really popular when she was about seven years old."

She will be heading to the United States Amateur Confederation of Speed Skating National Meet in Pensacola, Fla. on August 10 - 16.

Miller said a new league is starting in New York but thinks USAC will make speed skating an Olympic sport.

Currently, speed skating is not an Olympic sport.

Since the family finances the cost of going to meets, Miller said Bolden does meets around the southeast to save time traveling.

"What they do is have several meets during the year," Miller said about the league's meet schedule. "They have meets all over the United States. It's basically what you can afford to take your kid too. We basically keep her in the region."

Bolden goes to approximately six meets a year then competes in the state and regional competition. The state competition, where she won two first place medals, was held in Hickory.

There is no qualifying format for the state meet, but skaters are grouped with people of a similar skill level.

Miller said usually the top three at the state competition go on to the Southeastern Regional competition, and the top three from there go to the National meet.

Besides individual events, Bolden also takes part in relay events, involving a one boy and one girl combination and a combination of two girls.

Bolden qualified for another relay event at the regional meet in Hickory.

See Skating, 4B



BEN LEDBETTER/THE HERALD
Amber Bolden holds several medals she won in speed skating events this year. She will be competing in a national tournament in August in Pensacola, Fla.

Football focus of area sports

Excitement is in the air at over 300 schools in North Carolina which began pre-season football practice Monday afternoon.

Two schools that expect their football fortunes to rise tremendously are 2A South Brunswick in Eastern North Carolina, and 3A Franklin in Western North Carolina.

During the summer, South Brunswick hired perhaps the #1 prep football coach in the State, Darryl Barnes, who had posted a 105-5 record over the past eight years at Richmond Senior. During two coaching stints with the Raiders, Barnes won four State championships and turned out a number of All-American players including Rabbit Waddell, now a starting cornerback at Carolina.

The word is that Barnes received a salary package worth more than \$100,000 a year from the school and community. In addition, after Barnes was hired the Booster's Club and community persuaded the school system to adjust its plan to build a 500-square foot weight room. The weight room is now going to be 3,100 square feet and will include 92 lockers, huge weight and conditioning centers, coaches offices, film rooms and rest rooms for coaches and athletes. The community is also supporting an effort to put indoor batting cages in all of the high schools in Brunswick County.

South Brunswick has won no more than three football games in any of the past five seasons, and the Cougars have had four different head coaches during that span. The Cougars are picked to finish fifth in the six-team Waccamaw 2A Conference this fall, but don't be surprised if they make the State playoffs. And, write this down too: With the backing of the community of Oak Island is giving Barnes he'll win a State championship within four years.

Franklin, a member of the Mountain Athletic 3A, has hired former Duke University head coach Fred Goldsmith as its new coach.

The Panthers' immediate outlook isn't too bright. They're coming off a 5-5 season in which they lost most of their starters, and they're in a tough conference that includes Enka, Asheville, Tuscola and Erwin.

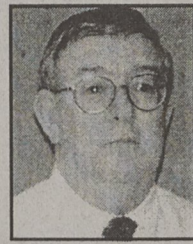
But the word is that Goldsmith has a lot of good, young talent and that could mean a good future.

Tidbits:

Gaffney's Indians will likely be going to the air more often this year. Clay Merchant, who broke all of South Carolina QB

Phil Petty's records at Boiling Springs High School in Spartanburg, has transferred to GHS. Joe Montgomery doesn't look for a repeat of last year's 5-7 season...

Mark August 24 on your calendar. On that night, some of the top football talent in the State will be at KM's John Gamble Stadium for the third annual First Charter Bank Jamboree. Crest, Hickory, Burns, A.L. Brown and South Point should be among the top 3A teams in the state, and Shelby should be in the running for the 2A state championship...



Gary Stewart

Editor



MARSHALL FEEMSTER

College notes:

Two former Kings Mountain High School football players have made the team at Appalachian State University this year as walk-ons. Torrey Cureton, a defensive back, and Torez Leach, a wide receiver, are both red-shirt freshmen...

Another freshman with the Mountaineers is 6-3 quarterback Perry Woolbright of Clover, SC, who will probably see some playing time. He is the son of former South Carolina quarterback Marty Woolbright, who is the head coach at Clover... Junior Erik Rockhold of Shelby is the Mountaineers' place-kicker. He hit 5 of 8 field goals and 24 of 27 extra points last year...

Former Kannapolis A.L. Brown star Nick Maddox is in line to become the starting tailback at Florida State this year. He was a back-up wide receiver and kick returner last year but was moved back to tailback during spring drills...

Kings Mountain's Riko Feemster is currently listed as a back-up offensive tackle for North Carolina's Tar Heels. A red-shirt sophomore, Feemster played on 17 snaps in last year's season-ending victory over Duke...

Kareem Marshall, a transfer from Gulf Coast Community College, is listed as the #2 offensive tackle on the University of Georgia's pre-season depth chart. Marshall, who was a JUCO All-American last year, transferred to UGA after Christmas and took part in the Bulldogs' spring training. Look for the 6-6, 335-pounder to break the starting unit early in the season...

Former North Gaston player Nate Gillespie is slated for starting action at offensive guard at Clemson this fall. He played in eight games last year to help lead the Tigers to a 9-2 record... It was sort of disheartening to read over the weekend that when Mack Brown left Carolina for Texas, Tommy Bowden was expecting an offer from Chapel Hill but it never came. If it had, he said he probably would have taken it.

Columbus County wins tourney

By BEN LEDBETTER
Staff Writer

Columbus County defeated Brunswick County in the final of two games last Friday during the North Carolina Dixie baseball 13-14 year old tournament Friday at the Kings Mountain Family YMCA.

In Friday's first game, Brunswick County turned a triple play in the sixth inning to defeat Columbus County 4-2.

Rand Smith hit a one-run homer in the third inning for Brunswick County.

In the seventh inning, Columbus County had the tying run on second base but never scored, which forced a second game.

In Friday's final game, Columbus County built on an

8-1 lead after five innings to defeat Brunswick County 13-3.

Columbus County will represent North Carolina in the Dixie World Series August 4-9 in Sulphur, La.

Other news and observations from the tournament:

• Rain delayed the tournament by a day on Wednesday night. Thursday's championship was moved to Friday.

"The past couple years it's been par for the course," North Carolina Dixie Director George Page said. "It's part of life, you have to deal with it." Other than the weather, Page said he has seen no other problems with the tournament.

"I think all these kids have enjoyed themselves and had a good time," Page said. "I think they've really enjoyed them-

selves."

• In a game last Sunday, Rockingham County's Matt Burdette hit two home runs against Kings Mountain 21-10. Page said he has not seen anybody hit multiple home runs since he has been running the state tournament. "That's not a usual thing," Page said. "I'd say that would be something worth reporting."

• In game nine of the tournament last Sunday, Brunswick County's pitchers struck out 15 Midway batters. But Midway returned the favor and struck out 11 batters. "You don't find many games with pitching performances like that," Page said about the Brunswick-Midway game.

Columbus County and Stanly

County's first round game also provided highlights to spectators. With the score tied at two, Columbus County's Justin Batchelor scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to win.

"You don't think in those first day match ups you're going to get a sterling ball game," Kings Mountain YMCA Director David Ozmore said. "To this point it was the best played baseball game in the tournament. It just so happened it was the first day," Ozmore said last Wednesday.

The YMCA was in charge of this year's Dixie baseball tournament.

• The number of North Carolina teams has grown from

See Tourney, 4B

► www.clevelandregional.org



Some people would go around the world to beat cancer.
"I was lucky to have Blumenthal Cancer Center just down the road."

LaLisa Carpenter, a young 35-year-old wife, mother of three, RN at Cleveland Regional Medical Center and part-time UNCC student, found a knot on her neck last year. She knew she needed a biopsy immediately.

The diagnosis was Hodgkins lymphoma and LaLisa became a patient at Blumenthal Cancer Center at Cleveland Regional Medical Center, an affiliate of the prestigious Blumenthal Cancer Center at Charlotte's Carolinas Medical Center.

There, Dr. Warden L. Woodard III prescribed chemotherapy and radiation for her early-stage disease.

"I had worked with Dr. Woodard a little," she says, "and was really impressed with him. I was confident that I would get the care I needed."

"The doctors at Blumenthal Cancer Center also practice in Charlotte, so they know what's being done there and at other big hospitals and they do the same thing here. You're just closer to home."

LaLisa also liked the cancer center itself. "It has its own entrance and the staff was very receptive to my kids coming in when I'd get chemotherapy. They were great to them and my husband."

Today, tests show LaLisa is cancer-free. She has resumed exercising and is regaining her strength, and she works one day a week at Cleveland Regional's maternity center.

LaLisa is grateful that Cleveland Regional offers top-quality cancer care. "You couldn't get any better care in Charlotte. And with chemotherapy, there are lots of times you don't feel like making that long trip."

Cancer treatment doesn't have to be a long, lonely journey for you and your family. Because Blumenthal Cancer Center at Cleveland Regional is right here at home.



Cleveland Regional Medical Center
Carolinas HealthCare System
201 E. Grover Street, Shelby • 704-487-3000

► www.clevelandregional.org

Run Your Ad in Our
Classifieds and Get
Money for All Your
Unwanted Items.
Call 704-739-7496

We would like to thank the following for sponsoring the
KM 9-10 Year Old All Stars

Who played ball in Biscoe, NC for 10 days and became the

2001 NORTH CAROLINA STATE CHAMPIONS

- Alice Faye at WKMT
- Amity Finance
- Bell's Clean-All
- Butler's Auto Service
- C&C Cooling/Heating
- Central Barber Shop
- Chastin Fence
- Chemical Foote Corporation
- City of Kings Mountain
- Cotton Gin
- Cutting Up Hair Salon
- Dellinger's Jewel Shop, Inc.
- First Union
- Green Acres Lawn Services
- Griffin Drug
- John's Collectibles
- Kerns Trucking
- Kings Mountain Florist
- KM Pawn
- Love's Fish Box
- Manor Insurance
- McDonalds
- McGinnis Department Store
- Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hollifield
- Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Burton
- Mr. & Mrs. Ken Smith
- Mr. Wesley Blanton
- Nell Randle at Classic Stitchin'
- Parker's Amoco
- Pizza Hut
- Ray's Quick Stop
- Scism & Son
- Scissor & Smith & Co.
- Subway
- Tex Source
- Timms Furniture
- Tom's Family Mart
- Travel Matters
- Weaver's Body Shop
- Wendy's
- YMCA