

Laurens Academy girls continue undefeated streak

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Another game, another victory for the Laurens Academy girls' basketball team.

The Crusaders got 17 points from Ruthie Moore and 13 points from Taylor Campbell Tuesday night, helping to fuel the Crusaders to a 53-27 road victory over Cambridge Academy.

Moore scored 15 of her 17 points in the first half, while Campbell added 11 of her 13 points in the same half as LA jumped out to a 27-point first quarter, and eventually led 35-3 at the half. LA's defense allowed Cambridge to shoot 1-for-16 from the field in the first 16 minutes.

LA boys 65, Palmetto Christian 30: In another road contest, the Crusaders rolled on offense with double-digit scoring in each quarter as they picked up the victory in Greenwood.

Joshua Moore had 26 points to lead all scorers for the Crusaders, while Noah Moore added 18 points.

Clinton splits: In a road double-header Tuesday the Red Devils' boys picked up a 59-48 victory, while the girls suffered a 54-28 loss.

In the boys' victory, Jahleed Cook had 19 points to lead all scorers, while Vilo Boyd added 12 points and Zay Hurley scored 11.

As for the girls, Savanna Campbell tallied six points and Ashlyn Abercrombie had five to lead the way, but Emerald proved too tough to stop.

Brewer Middle 36, Laurens boys 35 (Tuesday): Laurens outscored Brewer 12-8 in the fourth quarter, but it was just not enough to complete a comeback

from down five points entering the final stanza.

Isaiah Craig had 11 points and Devon Reid scored 10 points for Laurens.

Brewer Middle 29, Laurens girls 18 (Tuesday): Nadia Anderson scored eight points to lead Laurens, while Angel Johnson had four and the trio of Nya Anderson, Johndelyn Grant and Samaurai Williams each had two points.

Newberry 35, Hickory Tavern boys 22 (Wednesday): Josh Cureton scored 12 points and Preston Mahon had six, but Hickory Tavern couldn't avoid falling to 6-2 overall and 3-1 in Little River Conference play as it was outscored 22-10 in the first half.

Hickory Tavern girls 37, Newberry 19 (Wednesday): Ranyia Jackson scored 16 points and Kinya Foggie added 10 for the Lady Panthers, who remain unbeaten at 8-0 overall, 4-0 in the Little River Conference.

PREPS

Laurens falls twice (Wednesday): In a trip to Dorman the Raiders lost head-to-head matches against both host Dorman (56-16) and Nation Ford (41-36).

In the Dorman loss, Laurens got a pinfall from Andrew Shelton (285) and a major decision from Damien Ladd (120), while both Amaury Jalik Dendy (182) and Christopher Jackson (195) won by decision.

Laurens, in the loss to Nation Ford, got pinfalls from Dendy, Jackson, Caleb Reid (170), Will Pontoon (220) and Nathan Hamby (285) while Lucas Tatham (106) won by forfeit.

COLLEGE

Wrestling
PC names director: Mark Cody, former head coach at both American University and the University of Oklahoma, was named Monday as the first director of wrestling for Presbyterian College. The college is adding the program next year as part of its campus strategy.

Cody led the Sooners to four top-13 finishes in Norman, where he coached from 2011-16. The Sooners, who finished 10th in 2014, had 10 All-Americans and three national finalists - including two nationals champions (Kendric Maple in 2013, Cody Brewer in 2016).

In Cody's final year at American (2011), he led the Eagles to a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Championships, and saw six wrestlers qualify for the national tournament. The program also had three All-Americans, and posted a team GPA of 3.48.

Cody and his wife, Holly, have four sons - George, Charlie, Henry and Norman.

Softball

PC releases 2018 schedule: The Presbyterian College softball team announced its 2018 schedule last week, featuring four in-season tournaments, a spring break visit to Jacksonville, Fla., and games against six teams that made the NCAA Tournament last season.

"When putting together our schedule, my first priority is to ensure that our squad is prepared and ready for conference play," PC Head Coach Britne Stubbs said. "We have done just that."

PC plays 17 of its first 19 games away from Clinton, with the only two coming against Furman on Feb. 14. Former PC outfielder and assistant coach Shelby Petik is now

an assistant coach with Furman.

The team opens Feb. 9-11 with the Coastal Carolina Tournament, and will feature a contest with NCAA Tourney-participant St. Francis. UNC Greensboro, Iowa State and host Coastal Carolina will also take part in the event.

When the team heads to Florida for the spring break Osprey Classic/Dolphin Invitational March 2-4, PC will face Middle Tennessee State, North Florida, Virginia Tech, Jacksonville, and wrap the round-robin play with a second match against MTSU.

This year's Big South Tournament will be held May 9-12 at Radford.

Men's basketball

Williams aids Coker victory: Former Laurens Raiders' basketball player LaDarius Williams scored a career-high 20 points off the bench Wednesday, including 11 after halftime, as the Coker Cobras held off Tusculum in a South Atlantic Conference contest, 100-97.

Williams, who has played in 11 games this year for Coker, is averaging 5.5 points and 3.0 rebounds per game.

Chase Brewington, a former Laurens Academy Crusaders' player, did not score in the game and only had 1 minute of playing time. Brewington is averaging 1.5 points per game this season.

AREA GOLF

Fore Club Seniors, Monday at Star Fort

First Flight: 1. Jim Cogburn, +2; 2. James Davis, E.

Second Flight: 1. Jimmy Tucker, +6; 2. Larry Jenkins, +4; 3. Ronnie Davis, +3.

Closest to the Pin — No. 4: Kenny Fleming, No. 7: Mike Funderburk, No. 12: Ron Moseley.

USGA gets it right by eliminating viewer calls

Remember the game show, "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?" Remember the Phone-A-Friend lifeline, where you could call someone to get help when you didn't know something about 15th-century art but your friend happened to be the one person who studied it in college and listened?

The U.S. Golf Association has had something of a reverse Phone-A-Friend for years where fans watching a tournament at home could call in and tattle on a golfer who made a mistake - no matter how small it was - and get the golfer penalized. It gave the fans power they should never have and never have had in any other sport.

Those days are blissfully over. Starting Jan. 1 the USGA and the Royal & Ancient Golf Club, based out of St. Andrews in Scotland, will not accept any calls from any fans watching their tournaments if they see something that appears to be a violation. This will apply to all tournaments, including majors. The PGA, LPGA, PGA Europe, Ladies Europe and PGA of America will have one person assigned to monitor the telecasts in case any issues pop up.

Fans have been calling in to tournaments likely since the advent of television golf, but the moment that may have proven to be the final straw came this year during the LPGA's ANA Inspiration Tournament, which is one of the five major tournaments on its tour. Lexi Thompson, who was leading the tournament at the time in the final round, was on the ninth hole when someone e-mailed the organization, saying Thompson had messed up the day before by miscalculating her ball on



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the 17th hole by, at best, an inch. The result? She was penalized four strokes - two for misplacing the ball, two for signing an incorrect scorecard. Thompson forced a playoff after losing her lead, but lost the playoff. The ruling cost her \$150,000 and her second major championship.

Sports on television are meant to be watched for enjoyment, not for us to be at-home referees who determine the outcome of a tournament, or game, because we saw something that the officials running the tournament missed. With all the cameras on the events nowadays it's hard to miss something someone does because there's likely a camera watching it in the first place.

How would you feel if the Super Bowl's outcome was reversed because of something everyone in charge of the event missed but a fan on their couch saw and e-mailed the NFL about? How about the World Series? The Final Four? The College Football Playoff? Sports are meant to be enjoyed by the fans, and if you aren't in charge of replay or rules interpretations for the league or event itself your input is not necessary.

Golf is taking a stand to put the at-home galleries back in their place as viewers - not participants. No more Phone-A-Friend. And that's their final answer.

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