

# Late HBP lifts Raiders

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders' baseball team improved its record to 2-2 on the young season with a 4-3, nine-inning victory over the Wade Hampton Generals Tuesday night at Ed Prescott Field.

Laurens, trailing 3-2 entering the bottom of the eighth inning, rallied back to take the lead when Nicholas Robertson scored on a wild pitch. After getting through the top of the ninth unscathed, Laurens pushed the winning run across when Robertson was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and nobody out. That forced in Zak Rice, who led off the inning with a single, with the game-winning run.

Jalen Bragg got the victory in relief of Robertson, going one inning of spotless relief, striking out two. Robertson went eight innings, allowing three runs on four hits and two walks, striking out 10.

Rice, Kobe Williams and Luke Willis each had two hits for Laurens.

**BHP 9, Clinton 1 (Tuesday):** BHP scored four runs in the second inning and five more in the third to pull away from a Clinton team that was held to just two hits.

Caleb Riddle suffered the loss, allowing eight runs (four earned) on seven hits, walking three and striking out three.

**Richard Winn 11, LA 1, 6 innings (Wednesday):** The Crusaders held a brief 1-0 lead after the top of the first, but Richard Winn's offense proved too tough to stop in the season opener for LA (0-1).

Clarence Bartoli had the only RBI for the Crusaders on a second-inning single, scoring Kyle Thompson.

Thomas Lowry was the losing pitcher for LA, allowing seven runs (six earned) on five hits and four walks. Lowry also struck out three.

**Prep track and field Laurens and Clinton at Hillcrest (Wednesday):** Both area track teams took part in a meet at Hillcrest High School, and each turned in solid results.

On the boys' side Laurens took second with 160.5 points, finishing only behind host Hillcrest (178). Clinton was third with 112 points. Laurens' Evan Prince took first place in the 800m and 1,600m, while Chase Gambrell was first in



Submitted Photo

**OFF AND RUNNING** — Laurens boys' tennis team aims to improve as the season gets into full swing.

the 110m, finishing just ahead of Tye Robertson.

As for the girls' meet, Clinton took third place (84) and Laurens was fourth (44). Laurens' was topped by Nadia Anderson, who was third in the discus and shot put. Andrea Choice was third in the 100m.

**Boys' tennis Wade Hampton 7, Laurens 0 (Tuesday):** The Raiders were swept at home by the Generals, who won all 13 sets contested.

Out of those 13 sets, Wade Hampton lost a total of seven games and won eight sets without dropping a game - including three 6-0, 6-0 victories.

**T.L. Hanna 7, Laurens 0 (Wednesday):** The Raiders had another tough go of it when they hosted the Yellow Jackets, getting shut out on their home court for the second straight match.

**Boys' soccer South Pointe 2, Clinton 0 (Wednesday):** Clinton was shut out at Presbyterian's Martin Stadium, giving up two goals in the second half - one in the 72nd minute, the other in stoppage time.

**COLLEGE Baseball**

**Presbyterian 6, N.C. Central 5 (Tuesday):** PC held a 5-0 lead after the bottom of the fourth inning, but had to thwart a late rally by the Eagles to reach 5-6 on the season.

Zaccaeus Rasberry hit his third homer of the season, driving in three runs, and Jonathan White doubled, had two hits, and drove in two runs to boost PC's offense. Clark Dearman earned the victory on the mound, allowing two runs on four hits and one walk, striking out three.

**Presbyterian 5, Wofford 4 (Wednesday):** Graham Mitchell singled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh, breaking a 4-all tie and getting to .500 overall (6-6) by beating the Terriers.

Mitchell finished with two hits and two RBI, while White had two

RBI and Nick Guimbarada had two hits and two runs scored. Johnny Cook won the game in relief, allowing two runs (none earned) one two hits, striking out two, in three innings. Colton Springs allowed a hit and a walk in a scoreless ninth for his second save.

**Women's basketball Gardner-Webb 67, Presbyterian 62 (Wednesday):** PC had three players score in double figures, but it was not enough to turn back the Bulldogs in Boiling Springs, North Carolina.

Trinity Johnson had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists for the Blue Hose (6-22 overall, 4-13 Big South), Shamani Stafford had 16 points, and Tess Santos added 13 points and seven boards.

Savanna Plentovich led Gardner-Webb with 22 points. PC wraps the regular season today (Saturday) against regular-season Big South champ Radford and opens the Big South Tournament Tuesday at Winthrop. PC has clinched the No. 9 seed.

**Men's golf PC at ECU Intercollegiate:** Presbyterian finished in 11th place at the ECU Intercollegiate, held at Brooke Valley C.C. in Greenville, N.C.

Cole Patterson led PC with a tie for 30th (228), scoring nine birdies in the tournament. A.J. Nolin tied for 37th (231), Charlie Tate tied for 58th (238), Weston Sanderson tied for 62nd (240), and Brody Boston finished 65th (242).

# Red Devils keep going, drop Laurens

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

The Clinton Red Devils' softball team is not looking too far ahead as the 2019 season enters the early stages. The next game is the most important game.

That strategy, along with strong pitching and defense, has helped the Red Devils get out to a 5-0 start after Wednesday's 7-1 victory over Laurens. The defense had just one error in the game, while starting pitcher Kamryn Akins went the distance and stymied Laurens' hitters for nearly the entire game.

"Kam did great. She continued to get better, and she was able to mix them up and keep them off balance with various pitches," Clinton Head Coach Ryan Caughman said. "When she's on, she's tough."

Akins was on against the Raiders, using an array of off-speed pitches and accuracy targeting of the inside part of the plate to frustrate Laurens' batters time and time again. Akins finished with 12 strikeouts, including two stretches of at least three straight.

Akins' toughest spot came in the first inning, when the Raiders put up an early run after Cassidy Plaia, who led off with a single and later stole second, moved to third on a sacrifice bunt from Octavia Johnson and scored on a wild pitch to Kauree Munyan. But the threat was snuffed out two batters later when Rachel Delio hit a sharp shot to center, only to have Maddy Burton throw to second and force out Bre Posey.

Clinton quickly took the lead from Laurens in the bottom of the first, scoring three times. The big blow came when Maddi Wood doubled home both Burton and Hunter Benson with one out. A.G. Cross added a run-scoring single later in the inning to make it 3-0.

Wood turned in a strong game at the plate to spark the Clinton offense. She went 3-for-3 with a double, triple and a solo home run. She scored three runs and drove in four. She was the only batter to have more than one hit for Clinton.

"The kids are playing so well. It's a team that just gels together," Caughman said. "Huge team win, a lot of people contributing, we're

playing with a lot of confidence. And that's huge."

Laurens, in comparison, had six hits - two from Plaia to lead the team.

"They out-hit us one through nine. There's no doubt about it. They hit the ball well," Laurens Head Coach Michaela Smith said. "We didn't."

Delio suffered the loss for Laurens, allowing seven hits and five earned runs, striking out five.

Both teams were back on the field Friday night as Laurens hosted Greenwood and Clinton traveled to Whitmire.

**Laurens 11, Wade Hampton 2 (Tuesday):** The Raiders played the night before the rivalry game with Clinton, rolling on the road against the Generals.

Rachel Delio went the distance for Laurens, allowing two runs (both unearned) on two hits and three walks. Delio struck out eight.

Cassidy Plaia doubled as part of a three-hit night, scoring twice and driving in one. Michaela Smith had a hit, three runs scored and drove in two.

# Radford rallies, ousts PC from tourney

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

The Presbyterian College men's basketball team saw its run in the Big South Tournament come to an end Thursday afternoon - and likely saw its post-season hopes end with it.

Presbyterian cut a 13-point Radford lead to as little as three in the late stages of the second half, but a 3-pointer by Travis Fields with about 90 seconds to go proved to be the difference-maker as the Highlanders, the No. 2 seed and defending conference tournament champion, eliminated No. 7 Presbyterian, 84-76, in the quarterfinal round. The loss leaves PC at 18-15

overall and dimmed hopes of an invitation to one of two lower-level postseason tournaments - the CBI or CIT. The pairings for both tournaments will come out after the NCAA Tournament and NIT pairings are announced on March 17.

It was a back-and-forth affair in the first half against Radford, but PC tood advantage of its early 3-point shooting. After hitting a tournament-record 21 shots against UNC Asheville on Tuesday, PC came back with eight 3-pointers in the first half and held a 37-34 lead at the break.

Radford, however, erased the lead in the first 2 minutes, 8 seconds of the second half as it

scored eight straight points to go up 42-37 and force a timeout by PC. From there the Highlanders never trailed again.

J.C. Younger, who tied the tournament record with eight 3-pointers Tuesday, could not find his touch against Radford. Younger was held to 2-for-6 from 3-point range and finished with six points.

Adam Flagler, the Big South Freshman of the Year, scored 20 points to lead PC, while Francois Lewis had 19 points and Davon Bell had 11 in what was likely the final collegiate game for both players.

Ed Polite Jr. had 21 points for Radford, leading four players in double figures.

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