

PC women top Winthrop, draw Radford

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Five days after a near-miss upset of Radford in the regular-season finale, the Presbyterian College women's basketball team will get another chance to knock off the Highlanders - only in a much more important circumstance.

The Blue Hose, seeded ninth in the Big South Tournament, knocked off No. 8 Winthrop Tuesday night, 64-52, at Winthrop Coliseum in Rock Hill. The victo-

ry was PC's first in three meetings with Winthrop this year, and improved the team's record to 7-23.

Because of the victory, Presbyterian earned a shot at Radford, the top seed and defending tournament champion, in Thursday's quarterfinal round - at Radford. A victory would put the Blue Hose into the semifinals for the third time in four years and would easily be the biggest since the program went to Division I in 2007.

The victory also marks the fifth

time in six years the Blue Hose have won at least one game in the conference tournament. The only season PC did not win a tournament game was last year, when High Point beat PC in the quarterfinals with a 3-pointer at the final buzzer.

In Tuesday's victory Salina Virola helped lead the charge with her ninth double-double of the season, scoring 18 points and gathering a program-record 18 rebounds. Trinity Johnson tied a season high with 24 points.



Photo by Nick Herman

STILL GOING — Crews work at Wilder Stadium during a rain storm Monday afternoon as renovations continue toward a target of August 1 for the completion of the new gating and entry way. The Clinton boys' varsity soccer team is playing its games at Presbyterian's Martin Stadium during the renovation work. Retaining walls have been built at the site, footings are being dug, and fencing will soon follow before the entry ways are finished.

CHS softball falls from unbeaten ranks

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

After opening the season with six straight victories, the Clinton Red Devils ran into a buzzsaw Tuesday night at home, suffering their first loss of the season in the process.

Union County scored the game's first six runs before tacking on seven more over the final three innings, overwhelming an error-prone Clinton squad for a 13-1 decision in Clinton. The loss dropped Clinton to 6-1 on the season.

The Red Devils had eight errors in the game, which did nothing to help the cause of pitcher Kamryn Akins as she was handed the loss. Akins allowed 13 runs, five earned, on nine hits and six walks, striking out six. She allowed two homers to Union County's Bailey Betenbaugh, who finished with six RBI.

PREPS Baseball

Greenwood 4, Laurens 2 (Tuesday): Tanner Smith had three hits and an RBI for the Raiders, while Jalen Bragg singled and had an RBI, but it was not enough to pick up a victory over the host Eagles.

Boiling Springs 8, Laurens 6 (Wednesday): The Bulldogs picked up two runs in the seventh inning to turn back the Raiders, who fell behind 4-0 through the top of the third innings.

Heath Bragg had three hits, Jalen Bragg homered and had three RBI, and Kobe Williams picked up two hits for Laurens.

Union County 10, Clinton 0, 5 innings (Tuesday): The Red Devils were held to two hits, including a double from Griffin Fuller, while the Yellow Jackets had 19 hits and blew away Clinton.

Blake Smith suffered the loss for

Clinton, allowing seven runs on 12 hits in 1 1/3 innings. Caleb Riddle went the final three innings, allowing three runs on seven hits and one walk.

Shannon Forest 8, LA 0 (Wednesday): The Crusaders were held to six hits in a home loss.

Dawson Foster had two hits, both singles, while Cal Robertson, Reles Littleton, Jonas Smith and Clarence Bartoli each had one hit. Thomas Lowry suffered the loss, allowing five runs (two earned) on four hits and three walks. Lowry struck out six.

Golf

Clinton second: In a three-team meet at Woodruff, the Red Devils finished in second with a score of 168 strokes. Woodruff (154) was first, and Union County (174) was third at Three Pines Country Club.

Zoe and Sofia Carles each shot 38 to lead Clinton, while Phoebe Carles shot 43 and Javi Carles rounded out Clinton's top four with a round of 49.

Soccer

Clinton boys 1, Union County 1; UC wins on penalty kicks (Tuesday): Each team scored in the first half, with Gavin Kiley scoring on a right-footed shot in the 25th minute to give the Red Devils their only lead. Union County scored soon after to eventually force a tie, and then won 3-2 in penalty kicks.

Clinton girls 5, Union County 4 (Tuesday): Clinton rallied from two goals down in the final 13 minutes of regulation to knock off the Yellow Jackets.

Skylar Rehwinkel had a hat trick for Clinton, while Abby Collins and Madison Bagwell each scored once.

Boys' tennis

Clinton 6, Broome 1 (Wednesday): Clinton swept all

five singles matches and took the No. 1 doubles match to secure a home victory over the Centurions. Ike Waldron (No. 1 singles) and Connor Donley (No. 2) each won their matches without dropping a game, while Anders Orr (No. 3) and Hayden Minor (No. 4) only dropped one game each. The duo of Waldron and Donley also won their No. 1 doubles contest 8-0.

Track and Field

Laurens quad (Tuesday): In a four-team meet at K.C. Hanna Stadium, the Raider boys and Red Devil girls were too much for the rest of the competition as they won their respective meets.

Laurens' boys took first place (103 points), Abbeville followed with 52, Clinton was third (39), and McCormick was fourth (26).

In the girls' meet, Clinton was the overall winner with 79 points, followed by Laurens (41), McCormick (31), and Abbeville (18).

COLLEGE Scores only

Softball: PC 5, Savannah State 4, 8 innings (Tuesday)

Baseball: PC 13, Kennesaw State 5 (Tuesday); KSU 7, PC 3 (Wednesday)

Lacrosse: Richmond 20, PC 2 (Tuesday)

Golf: PC T-15th at Palmetto Intercollegiate at 892 (Tuesday)

10-run sixth sends Laurens past Rams

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Cassidy Plaia sure knows how to follow instructions.

"I literally just told her to go end it right there," Laurens Head Coach Michaela Smith said. "One of the other coaches said she walked up and said she'd hit this home run and end this thing."

She did. Even though it didn't have quite the same drama as a game-winning, walk-off homer, it was a walk-off, game-ending grand slam that Plaia smashed to center field in the bottom of the sixth inning that put the finishing touches on a 10-run frame and gave the Raiders a 13-0 victory over the Westside Rams in Laurens. The game ended there due to the 10-run mercy rule.

Laurens is now 2-1 overall, but 2-0 in region play. The team's only loss was to Clinton.

Plaia's homer capped a 4-for-5 day, with a single, two doubles, and the slam. She scored three times and drove in six runs.

Octavia Johnson added three hits, while right-fielder Michaela Smith had three hits, scored twice, and two RBI.

Laurens, which had been held to three runs through the first five innings, exploded in the sixth against Westside starter Elizabeth Rich. Laurens sent 11 batters to the plate, collected six hits, had two players hit by a pitch, drew one walk, and had one batter reach on an error.

The inning started with Vanessa Harshaw being hit by a pitch and stealing second before Plaia doubled her in to make the score 4-0. Johnson followed with a run-scoring double of her own and, after the next two batters reached to load the bases, Smith singled in two runs to push the lead to 7-0.

Laurens re-loaded the bases when Rachel Delio walked and, after a fielder's choice led to one out, an error at short pushed another run in and re-loaded the bases. Harshaw added a run-scoring single to center to extend the lead to 9-0, leading to Plaia's smash on a

1-0 pitch. Rich took the loss, allowing all 13 runs (earned) on 16 hits and one walk. She did strike out five.

Rachel Delio picked up the victory for Laurens, going the distance. She allowed just two hits and struck out 11 in another fine performance for the star hurler.

"She does a really good job of coming out and getting us ahead in the count, most of the time, getting us ahead in the inning," Coach Smith said. "As long as she's doing her job on the mound, we typically stay in any game."

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