

# Laurens SB unable to catch 96

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

One day after an 8-1 victory over the region-rival Greenwood Eagles kept the Laurens Raiders' softball team atop the Region 1-5A standings Tuesday, the Raiders found themselves on the short end in an 8-5 loss Wednesday against Ninety Six in a non-region contest.

Ninety Six opened up a 5-0 lead through the top of the fourth inning Wednesday night, and were able to hold off a late Laurens comeback, pulling out the victory. Laurens' defense again was a trouble spot in the loss as the team committed seven errors.

Laurens scored once in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings and tallied two runs in the seventh to close the gap. Laurens brought the tying run to the plate with two out before Madison Wilson stuck out to end the game.

Rachel Delio suffered the tough-luck loss for the Raiders, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and six strikeouts. Delio went 2-for-4 at the plate with two doubles, scoring once. Kauree Munyan, who homered in the victory over Greenwood, had two hits and two RBI. Octavia Johnson added a double as part of a two-hit day, drove in a run and scored a run. Cassidy Plaia scored twice for Laurens.

**Clinton 12, Newberry 3 (Wednesday):** Kamryn Akins tossed a three-hit shutout as the Red Devils won on the road.

Akins walked two batters and struck out nine for Clinton, which scored single runs in the fourth and sixth, sandwiching a two-run fifth. Akins helped her own cause with a triple and two RBI, while Hunter Benson had a solo homer and scored twice.

### PREPS Baseball

**J.L. Mann 4, Laurens 1 (Tuesday):** The Raiders were held to just two hits in a road loss to the Patriots.

Kobe Williams and Zach Faulkner each had singles, while Nick Robertson had the team's lone RBI on a sacrifice in the top of the second inning.

### Golf

**Clinton third (last Thursday):** In a three-team meet at Broome, the Clinton Red Devils finished third, shooting a combined 232. Clinton went into the match without several of its usual players due to a family illness.

Matthew McKittrick led the Red Devils at 52, Justin Snead followed at 58, Landon Steele shot 59, and David Wilke rounded out Clinton's scorers at 63.

Garrett Alexander shot a medalist round of 37 to lead Union County, which won with 165 strokes. Broome followed at 198.

### Boys' tennis

**Greenwood 7, Laurens 0 (Tuesday):** The Raiders had another tough go of things against the Eagles, suffering a shutout loss.

The No. 1 doubles team of Murphy Rush and Will Adams won the most games of any team or individual against the Eagles, grabbing five in a pro-set match.

**Christ Church 4, Clinton 2 (Wednesday):** Clinton suffered its first loss of the season Wednesday in a non-region contest with Christ Church.

Ike Waldron (No. 1 singles) won in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5, while Hayden Minor (No. 4) rallied from a set down to win his match, 3-6, 6-3, 10-7, but Brandon Campbell was unable to close out his match at No. 5 singles, falling in three sets. It was the closest the Red Devils came to winning a point the rest of the day.

Clinton (7-1) hosted Mid-Carolina Thursday.

### Girls' soccer

**Clinton loses in PKs (Monday):** Clinton and Dixie played to a 4-all draw Monday before the Red Devils eventually lost in penalty kicks.

Clinton got a first-half goal from Madison Bagwell, then added a pair of goals from both Bagwell and Reese Lawson in the second half to grab a 3-1 lead, only to see Dixie rally back to score twice in the second half to force OT.

Clinton fell behind in the second overtime until Bagwell tied the game in the final two minutes of the second OT period for a hat trick. The goal also led to penalty kicks, with Clinton falling 9-8.

**Clinton girls 2, Newberry 0 (Wednesday):** The Red Devils clinched a postseason berth with a shutout of Newberry on the road.

The Red Devils (9-4 overall, 4-2 region) got goals from Emma Pinson and Abby Collins in the second half to secure the victory, and guarantee they can finish no worse than third place.

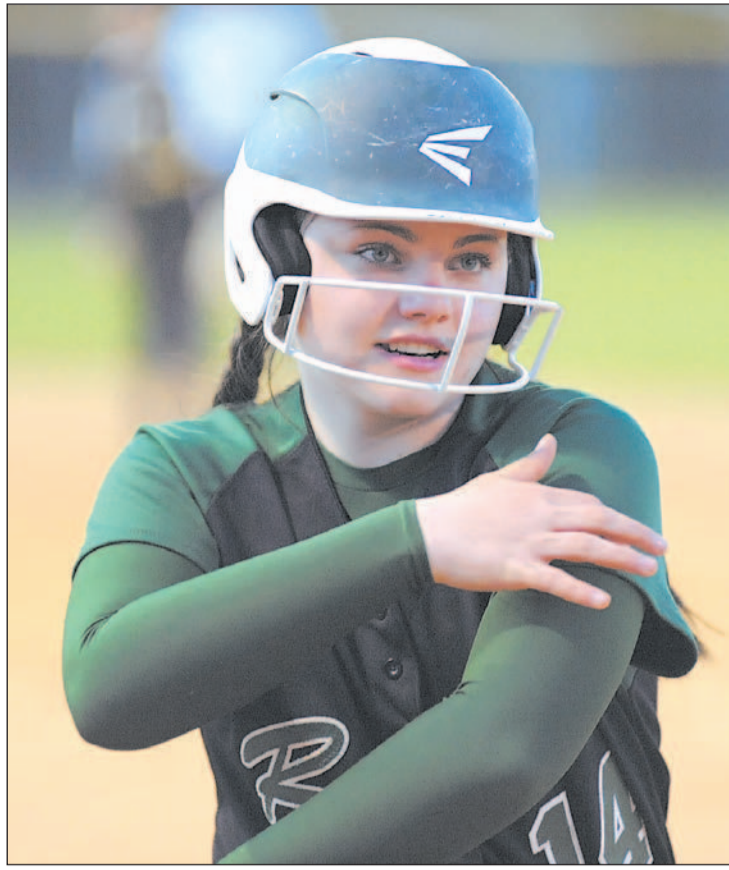


Photo by Nick Herman

**FIRST PLACE** — Even though the Laurens Raiders' softball team lost a non-region game Wednesday night, Macayle Revis and the Raiders were sitting in first place in the Region 1-5A standings heading into a Friday game at Westside.

### COLLEGE Baseball

**Georgia Southern 10, Presbyterian 5 (Tuesday):** Presbyterian held a 5-2 lead before the Eagles scored eight runs in the bottom of the eighth inning to knock off the Blue Hose in Statesboro, Georgia.

Tyler Martin had three hits to lead Georgia Southern, while Noah Ledford had two hits and three RBI, and Steven Curry scored twice and drove in two runs as well in the victory.

Jackson Dean suffered took a no-decision for PC despite four scoreless innings. Dean allowed five hits and struck out one. Grayson Stoneking suffered the loss, allowing four runs (three earned) on three hits, striking out two.

PC (11-18) hosted a weekend series with UNC Asheville, starting Friday.

### Softball

**Charleston Southern 8, PC 3 (Wednesday):** Lindsay Harris homered and had two RBI, but the Blue Hose had their struggles continue in a loss to CSU - the team's ninth straight overall.

Courtney White had two doubles as part of a three-hit game, driving in one run, and Jonnie Petree had two hits for PC (10-29-2). Pitcher Taylor Ward took the loss, allowing four runs (three earned) on four hits and one walk, striking out one, in one full inning. Ward faced two batters in the second, not recording an out, before being replaced.

### Men's tennis

**UNC Asheville 4, PC 3 (Wednesday):** The Blue Hose picked up the doubles point to start their road match with the Bulldogs, but Asheville rallied back to win four singles contests and take the overall victory.

Max Benson (No. 2) and Oscar Alvarez (No. 3) each won their singles matches, with Alvarez winning his in three sets.

### Women's lacrosse

**Radford 25, PC 3 (Wednesday):** Sarah Marshall, Kelly Hyman and Sophie Krist all scored goals for PC (1-11 overall, 0-2 Big South), but the Highlanders scored the final 17 goals of the game and rolled to victory.

### Men's golf

**PC at Wofford Invite (Tuesday):** Presbyterian tied for 14th with Appalachian State at the Wofford Invitational, held in Spartanburg. PC shot 47-over as a team, including a team-best round of 294 in the second round.

Cole Patterson had the top three-round total for the Blue Hose, shooting 221 (t-31st) at the par-72 course. Included in Patterson's scores were a 3-under 69, which featured an eagle on the par-5 1st hole and par-4 11th, along with four birdies.

# PC success leads to eventual turnover

Welcome to the big time of mid-major men's college basketball, Presbyterian College.

After six straight years where the scoreboard mostly saw your team on the short end of the stick and ended with at least 20 losses each time, your Blue Hose found their way to an historic season that ended with an 83-66 loss to the Marshall Thundering Herd in the CIT Quarterfinals.

But what comes with success for mid-major programs is the bright light of a bigger, yet still, mid-major program. That happened immediately after the Blue Hose were eliminated from tournament play, and the result is head coach Dustin Kerns is no longer the head coach at Presbyterian. He is now the coach at Appalachian State. The Mountaineers introduced Kerns as their new top man Friday in Boone, North Carolina.

The departure of Kerns should not be a surprise to anyone. If you can win 20 games at a program the size of Presbyterian, bigger schools are bound to come calling. It would've frankly been more of a surprise had Kerns turned down Appalachian State and stayed in Clinton another year, but Kerns made what was the best move for his family - and his career - to go up to Boone.

Kerns' departure is also an illustration of the reality that a program like Presbyterian faces. The better he does, the more likely he is to leave.

The departure of Kerns is one of many changes coming to the program after the best season



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since the Division I transition in 2007. Davon Bell, who was named to the All-Big South second team in his senior season, is currently fourth nationally in assist-turnover ratio (3.32, through March 29). Francois Lewis, an All-Big South Honorable Mention, finished second on the team in scoring in his final season in Clinton, too. Both Bell and Lewis, along with Ethan Kay and Maleek Catchings, are out of eligibility and are about to move on to the next phase of their lives. And as they leave, the four combined to take about 37 percent of the scoring offense with them.

The departure of those players is not leaving the Blue Hose with a bare cupboard, though. J.C. Younger, currently a junior, will likely be back after a season that currently places him 11th nationally in 3-point percentage (44.0). Romeo Crouch, a sophomore who shot 40 percent from 3-point range, and freshmen Chris Martin, Kody Shubert, Cory Hightower and Big South Freshman of the Year Adam Flagler (team-high 15.9 points per game) are expected to all come back next year as well.

But the Presbyterian program is now at a fork in the road. In 2017 the Blue Hose were at a similar spot when long-time

head coach Gregg Nibert exited. The Blue Hose had to make a change then, and in doing so brought in a coach who changed the culture of the program and built a team that believed it could challenge whoever they played. That helped the team go to 11 victories last season and 20 victories this season.

Now, with the departure of Kerns, the Blue Hose must find the right coach to lead the team as it hopes to maximize its talent again and make another potential run at postseason play. If the Blue Hose were to miss on their next head coach and the program were to take at least one step backward, the momentum the program built off last year's team will be erased.

And if it is erased, the days of 20-loss seasons and transferring stars such as Desean Murray, a former Big South Freshman of the Year who left after his freshman campaign for Auburn and the brighter lights of the SEC, could be back.

Turnovers are the tough part of being a mid-major basketball program. Now Presbyterian realizes those turnovers aren't only limited to what happens between the lines.

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