

SPORTS

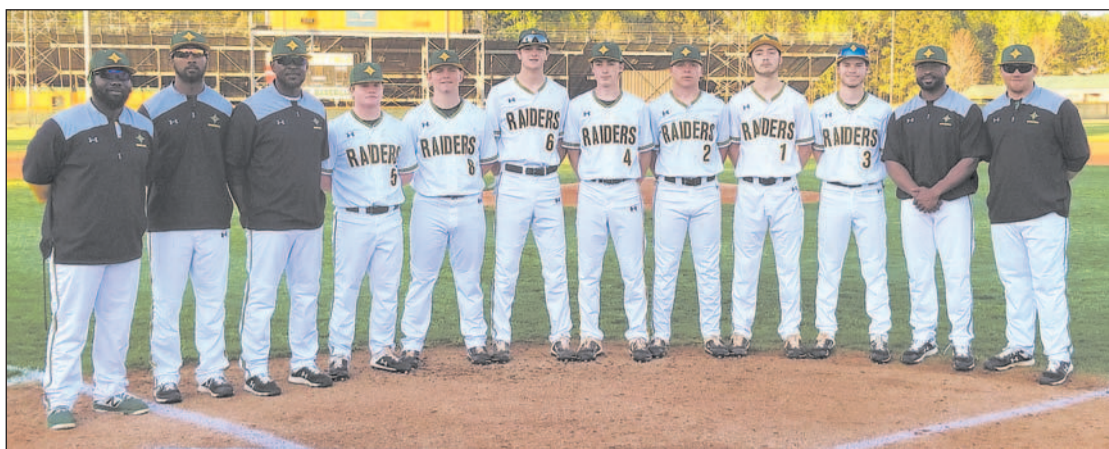


Photo by Nick Herman

TAKE A BOW — Laurens' baseball senior class poses with the coaching staff before the start of Wednesday's non-region contest with the rival Clinton Red Devils.

Laurens' SB stopped by Woodmont

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders' softball team ran into a steady offensive attack Wednesday night as it played host to the Woodmont Wildcats on Senior Night, suffering a loss that puts the Region 1-5A title up for grabs with just a week left in the regular season.

Woodmont scored four runs in the third, fourth and fifth innings to push past the Raiders with a 14-6 victory. The loss prevented the Raiders from taking a firm grasp of the region's top spot, and puts more significance on the team's final region games as Laurens looks to solidify its standing at the top of the region.

Cassidy Plaia did all she could on offense for Laurens, doubling twice in a four-hit game, scoring three times and providing an RBI. Octavia Johnson doubled, had three hits and drove in two runs while Trinity Daniels had three hits (including a double), scored once and drove in one.

Although she struck out seven for the Raiders, Rachel Delio had a rough go of it in the circle, giving up 14 runs (nine unearned) on 12 hits and three walks.

PREPS Boys' tennis

Clinton 5, Woodruff 1 (Tuesday): The Red Devils' steady march toward another regional title continued with their victory over Woodruff. Clinton moved its overall record to 9-1 with the win, and is now 7-0 in the Region 3-3A standings.

Clinton swept all five singles contests to win its match against the Wolverines, with Ike Waldron (No. 1), Connor Donley (No. 2), Anders Orr (No. 3), Hayden Minor (No. 4) and Brandon Campbell (No. 5) all picking up points. Orr and Campbell each won their matches without dropping a single game, while Minor lost only one game.

Christ Church 6, Clinton 0 (Wednesday): The Red Devils

were handed just their second loss of the season when they were shut out by Christ Church.

Minor (No. 4) and Campbell (No. 5) were the only two players to pick up sets in their matches, but lost each his match in three sets.

Soccer

Woodruff 6, Clinton girls 3 (Tuesday): The Wolverines, who last year advanced to the Upper State final in Class 3A, scored three goals in each half to knock off the Red Devils — including two penalty kicks and an own goal by Clinton.

Madison Bagwell scored two goals in the first half and Abby Collins added one in the second half for Clinton.

The Clinton JV team lost its game, 2-1, getting a goal from M.C. Dailey.

Providence Athletic Club 1, Clinton boys 0 (Wednesday): Providence scored the game's only goal in the 75th minute to knock off Clinton at home.

COLLEGE Softball

PC swept (Tuesday): The Blue Hose's recent struggles continued in a road sweep by the Eagles as PC lost 2-0 in Game 1 and 9-5 in Game 2.

Taylor Ward took the loss in Game 1, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks, striking out one. Casey Gerhard had two of PC's four hits.

In Game 2 the Blue Hose got a homer from Gerhard, along with two RBI, while Jonnie Petree (two runs) and Ansley Wilbanks each had two hits.

Sarah Ramsbottom suffered the loss, allowing five runs on seven hits and five walks in 5 1/3 innings. She struck out one.

Winthrop 5, PC 0 (Wednesday): The Blue Hose were held to just two hits as the Eagles completed the sweep, sending PC's record to 10-32-2 overall, 0-15 in the Big South.

Ward suffered the loss for PC, allowing four runs on four hits in

three innings. She walked three and struck out one.

Baseball

PC 7, Wofford 6, 10 innings (Wednesday): Jimmy Marcelli hit a go-ahead single through the left side in the top of the 10th inning, and Jonathan White added an RBI double for an insurance run as PC completed a season sweep of the Terriers.

White finished with two hits, two runs scored and three RBI. Marcelli and Nick Guimbarda (two RBI) had two hits each as well. Johnny Cook picked up the victory in relief for PC (15-18), giving up two runs on three hits and three walks in one inning of work. He struck out one.

PC adds game: Presbyterian added a game to its schedule Tuesday, picking up a road game with the Clemson Tigers on May 7. The game will start at 6 p.m., and will be broadcast on ACC Network Extra.

The game marks the 12th meeting in the series.

Women's tennis

Gardner-Webb 4, PC 3 (Wednesday): In a match that went nearly 4 hours the Blue Hose ended up on the short end against the Bulldogs in the final regular-season contest for PC. The Blue Hose moved to 7-2 in the Big South and are the No. 2 seed for next week's conference tournament.

PC won the doubles point by taking the No. 1 and 3 matches. Tracy Johnson (No. 2) and Jessica Leeman (No. 5) provided two singles wins but the Blue Hose could not pick up a victory in any other match — including the No. 4 singles match, where Beth Lacey had to retire in the third set.

The Big South Tournament starts Tuesday.

Women's lacrosse

Winthrop 17, PC 4 (Wednesday): Sarah Marshall,

■ See Roundup page 5

LDHS, CHS face different playoff fates

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

According to Laurens Head Baseball Coach Tori Patterson, his Raiders aren't playing their best ball of the season but they are "pretty dang close," following Wednesday's game against rival Clinton at Ed Prescott Field.

The Red Devils, meanwhile, were likely on the razor's edge as they returned to region play Thursday, likely needing a big surge at the end of the season to make the postseason.

Jalen Bragg had three hits, Luke Willis drove in two runs and Kobe Williams went five innings to get the victory as the Raiders pulled away from the Red Devils, 10-2, for their 12th victory this season.

"Every time Kobe pitches, he's going to throw strikes," Patterson said. "As long as we make the routine plays behind him, we'll be fine."

Williams received strong support from a defense that not only committed just one error in the game but also made the plays that snuffed out any potential big Clinton rallies.

Williams went five innings, allowing two runs on six hits and one walk, striking out three, to get

the victory. Eric Jones and Jalen Bragg each went an inning in relief, combining for three hits allowed. Bragg struck out two in the seventh to help wrap the game.

Laurens got off to a strong start against Judson Watkins, scoring twice in the bottom of the first. Jalen Bragg singled in the first run of the inning and Williams' sac fly brought in the second run. After Clinton scored one run in the top of the third on a ground-ball from Kimon Quarles, Laurens responded with three runs in the bottom of the third. The big play came on a run-scoring single by Williams, putting Laurens up 5-1 by the end of the inning.

Clinton had its chances to mount rallies, aside from its single runs in the third and fourth innings, but let golden opportunities slip away. The Red Devils got a two-out single from Konnor Richardson in the first but he was left stranded. Caleb Riddle singled with one out in the second but he was tagged out on his way to second as part of a 4-3 double play to end the inning.

While Clinton did score a run in the fourth to get within 5-2 on a ground out by Glavin Alexander, the Red Devils left runners on

second and third when Austin Long struck out to end the inning.

Another big missed opportunity came in the top of the fifth. The Red Devils got back-to-back infield hits to start the inning but a pop-up by Nicholas Perkins, Zak Rice throwing out Quarles as he tried to steal second and a grounder by Richardson to Williams, who tagged the runner out along the first-base line, snuffed the rally out.

"We didn't execute," Clinton Head Coach Tom Fortman said. "We made some baserunning mistakes. We made some fielding mistakes. It's frustrating at this point in the year."

One defensive lapse that hurt came with one out in the bottom of the sixth. Heath Bragg's slow grounder to short allowed both Bragg and Tanner Smith, who was on first after a single, to make it safely to their bases. That left runners at first and second with one out, instead of potentially one runner on base with two out. Laurens turned the beneficial break into a four-run inning that put any thought of a comeback on ice.

"We've got to be more aggressive there," Fortman said. "I'm not sure if that was a communication

■ See Baseball, page 5

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