



Submitted Photo

SHINING BRIGHT — The Clinton varsity girls' soccer team may be in its first year of competition, but that hasn't stopped the Red Devils from guaranteeing a third-place finish in the region standings - and, with it, a spot in the state playoffs later this month.

CHS varsity girls' soccer shines in 1st year

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

When the 2019 girls' soccer season approached, Clinton Head Coach Scottie Benson said one of two things would happen. One scenario was the Red Devils, who were in their first-ever varsity season, would not win a game all year but not be worse for wear since they were learning the game. The second was the team, being so athletic and fast, would do well enough to make the playoffs.

The Red Devils have worked themselves in the latter category, having already clinched a trip to the Class 3A playoffs in their first year as a varsity program. Through Tuesday's game against Woodruff, Clinton sat at 9-6-1 overall, 5-4 in Region 3-3A, and had wrapped up third place in the region standings. That means the team will be a No. 3 seed in the playoffs and open postseason play in two weeks with a road game.

It's quite an accomplishment for a program that, in two years, went from having a player or two on the boys' varsity team, to forming a JV team, to fielding a varsity team of its own.

"Two years ago we hadn't played soccer before," said senior Kailey Suber. "It's pretty impressive to me."

The team finished last year, in JV, at .500, and Benson said the players improved every game. The moment he realized everything clicked was when the team played Emerald in a scrimmage - the same Emerald team that it split two regular-season meetings with this year. When the JV team played Emerald's varsity team a year ago, Clinton pitched a shutout.

Emerald was one of many teams the Red Devils faced a year ago as it jumped to varsity play, but the familiarity helped ease the squad into this season. Emma Pinson, another senior on the Clinton roster, said the team has done better than it thought it would've this year.

"I don't think it was as scary since we played them before," Pinson said. "We knew they would be harder (to beat) and we got an idea of how they play."

Stepping up to the varsity level was a challenge not just for the players but also for the coach. Not having coached soccer before last season, Benson noted it was a challenge simply learning the game. To help he went to a number of camps and clinics, along with his players, and learned many of the drills the team uses to prepare for their matches.

The third senior is Chelsea Hill, who has already signed with Converse College for next year. Hill is returning from an ACL injury last season, and admitted that the injury has limited her ability to do the kind of cuts on the field that she did before.

But Hill is happy to be back on the field with her teammates, including the seniors, whom she shared time with on the cheer-leading squad.

"I've loved it. We've always been on a team together," Hill said.

On the field the Red Devils have certainly been led by a host of players. Among them is sophomore Madison Bagwell, who is the fastest player on the team. Along with her growing confidence, she has improved her striking, becoming the team's leading goal scorer with 10 entering last week.

Fellow sophomore Danni Rios has worked her way as a defensive player from a reserve role last year into a starter who rarely exits the field, and junior Reese Lawson has shown a high amount of flexibility in her play - going from playing offense to defense, then back to offense.

Another key player is sophomore goaltender Ella Cooper, who stepped in after Tania Contreras graduated last year. Contreras is back this year, though, as the coach of the JV team, which is also having a suc-

cessful season.

"She stepped up this year and she's a natural striker," Benson said of Cooper. "She's fantastic in the net but she loves playing the field and I get her out of the net every time I can."

With just two weeks until the playoffs begins, Clinton is looking to try and build some momentum for a postseason run. But this year's success has already piqued other girls' interest in joining the team next season, which the squad hopes will go a long way toward building a successful program for years to come.

PC tabs Ferrell as new hoops coach

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Presbyterian College has found its man to lead the men's basketball program following the departure of former coach Dustin Kerns, and in doing so it is reaching back to a former Blue Hose to lead the way.

PC named Quinton Ferrell, a member of the 2005 Division II NCAA Tournament team and part of the Blue Hose's two 20-victory seasons during his four years on the team, as the 19th head coach in program history Thursday. He replaces Kerns, who left last month to take on the role of head coach at Appalachian State.

"I am truly honored to return to my alma mater and lead the men's basketball program," Ferrell said. "I look forward to continuing to move the basketball program forward and building a championship level program both on and off the court."

Ferrell was an assistant for

the past five seasons at College of Charleston, where he had responsibilities in recruiting, scouting and development of perimeter of players. He was promoted to lead assistant for last season, when the Cougars went 24-9 and posted victories over Rhode Island, Memphis and VCU - the latter of which qualified for the NCAA Tournament as an at-large team.

College of Charleston made the NCAA Tournament the year before after winning the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament, going 26-8. The Cougars drew a No. 13 seed in the Midwest Regional and were eliminated in the first round by Auburn.

"Quinton (Ferrell) has worked extremely hard for this opportunity over the years and paid his dues," CoFC Head Coach Earl Grant said. "He is really good at all aspects of the game. He has proven to be a great recruiter and is gifted in developing talent."

Before his time at College of Charleston, Ferrell served

stints as an assistant at Army (2013-14), The Citadel (2012-13) and at PC (2007-12).

Ferrell faces a lofty challenge as he returns to Clinton, taking over a program that boasts its best season since moving up to Division I in 2007. The Blue Hose won 20 games for the first time since the transition this past season and advanced to the quarterfinals of the CIT before losing to eventual champion Marshall.

Ferrell graduated from PC in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He and his wife, Kimberly, have two children - Qaiden and Keziah.



Quinton Ferrell

The Laurens County Advertiser
Largest circulation in the county

PREMIER PORTABLE BUILDINGS

Buy or Rent to Own New & Used

Financing Available No Credit Check

• New & Used Cabins & Storage Buildings
• 1 & 2 Car Metal Carports & Garages

Lowest Prices in Town • Free Delivery

Call Eddie Hall 684-1210

2 Locations to Serve You:
Little River Trading Co., 211 Hillcrest Dr., Laurens • Hwy 221 S., Cold Point

WWW.PREMIERBUILDINGS.US

THOMAS MECHANICAL
HEATING & COOLING • REFRIGERATION

Get ready for summer! Schedule your HVAC tune-up now.

CALL THOMAS MECHANICAL 864-681-4247

We install, replace and repair Carrier, Lennox, Trane, Rheem, Goodman, Heil, Tempstar, Intertherm, Nordyne, Ruud, Payne, American Standard, Bryant, Coleman, and York air conditioning and heat pumps at the most reasonable rates around. CALL TODAY!

What Can CBD Do For You?

THE REMEDY DISPENSARY

Smoking Accessories
Flowers ★ Bath Bombs
Drops ★ Much More!

216 A Fleming Street, Laurens • 864-715-0056
Located inside Laurens Gun & Pawn Shop

Lakeside Country Club

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Join Now Thru April 30, 2019

YOUNG ADULT (30 & younger) \$80 mo.
SINGLE ADULT \$110 mo.
FAMILY \$120 mo.

Membership includes Reduced Cart Fees, Club Tournaments and Pool Access.

Some Restrictions Apply. Call for Details or Questions.
LOCATED OFF HWY. 76 BETWEEN CLINTON & LAURENS
682-3614

Roundup

Continued from Page 4

Kara DiClemente, Megan Dreyer and Sophie Krist each scored once for the Blue Hose in their loss to the Eagles. PC is now 1-13 overall, 0-4 in the Big South.

Cheer
PC at NCA Nationals (Tuesday): Presbyterian finished eighth in the Intermediate All-Girl Division I competition out of 13 teams, earning a score of 90.2917%, in Daytona Beach, Fla. This was PC's first cheerleading team competition on any level.

Saint Joseph's won the Intermediate All-Girl Division I title at 96.2583%, followed by Kennesaw State and Maine in second and third, respectively.

Baseball

Continued from Page 4

error. I thought we should've got at least one there, for sure."

Jalen Bragg had three hits while Smith (three runs) and Luke Willis (two RBI) each had two hits.

Richardson led Clinton's offense with three hits while Quarles, Griffin Fuller and Riddle each had two hits.

Laurens looked to ice a home playoff game in the district opener as it faced T.L. Hanna Thursday. Clinton faced a daunting stretch of region games that started with Woodruff Thursday, Mid-Carolina Friday and Newberry Tuesday. Clinton, Fortman noted, would likely make the playoffs if it were to win out in region play, and could make the playoffs if it were to go 2-1.

Clinton has played all three teams once this season, and has posted victories over Mid-Carolina and Newberry.

NORTHSIDE TOWING

WE ALSO OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

- Tire Changes
- Lockout Assistance
- Winch Outs
- Jump Offs

*Free if child is locked in vehicle

23 1/2 HOUR

CALL 864-681-4869

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
AGES 7-14

REGISTER NOW!
\$60 INCLUDES JERSEY

Laurens Recreation Girls Volleyball

Registration Held Daily at

Registration Ends April 24
All Practices and Games at The Ridge Starting April 29

THE RIDGE AT LAURENS
319 EXCHANGE DRIVE • LAURENS

For more info visit The Ridge or call 681-7275

Dr. McCartha & Dr. McClary
ORTHODONTICS

Specializing in Braces and Invisalign for Children, Adolescents, Adults

Temporomandibular Joint Treatment

FOR FREE CONSULTATION CALL
833-4343

Conveniently located behind Laurens County Hospital
www.mccortho.com

LAURENS COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION BANQUET

Thursday, April 25 • 6:30 p.m.
The Ridge at Laurens • 301 Exchange Drive, Laurens

2019 INDUCTEES

William Hill
Bill Hogan
Lonnie Pulley
Phil Rogers
Clovis Simmons

Tickets \$25

Purchase in advance at Laurens YMCA and Clinton YMCA, Farm Bureau in Laurens & at The Ridge on the day of the event.
Catered by Lee's BBQ

www.laurenscountysportshalloffame.com