

## Woodruff victory ends CHS playoff bid

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

With their Region 3-3A schedule complete, all the Clinton Red Devils' baseball team could do was wait – and hope for a Mid-Carolina victory over Woodruff Wednesday night that would propel Clinton into the playoffs.

It didn't happen, and Clinton ended its season Wednesday night with a 5-4 non-conference loss at Greenwood.

Meanwhile, Woodruff rallied from an early two-run deficit against Mid-Carolina Wednesday night and picked up a 4-2 victory in the final game of the Region 3-3A season. The victory not only allowed Woodruff to clinch a playoff spot, but eliminated Clinton in the process.

Had Mid-Carolina won the game Wednesday it would've forced a one-game playoff between Woodruff and Clinton for the final spot in the Class 3A playoff field.

Clinton had done its part to stay in the postseason hunt Tuesday night, getting a 10-3 victory over region rival Newberry at home. Clinton Head Coach Tom Fortman said the Red Devils put themselves in a hole where they had to depend

on somebody else to get to the playoffs. The Red Devils nearly avoided this predicament when they lost 8-7 to Mid-Carolina Friday, scoring five runs in the seventh inning but coming up one run short.

There were no such problems Tuesday night in the final game of the home slate for Clinton as the Red Devils scored the game's first seven runs and pulled away to a comfortable victory. Clinton pushed home four runs in the bottom of the first and three more in the second in support of Caleb Riddle.

Riddle started the game and went two scoreless innings, allowing just two hits and striking out one. He gave up a pair of singles – one in each inning – to account for the only runners Newberry got on base against Riddle.

Clinton was willing to take one for the team – or, in this case, the Red Devils took four of them – as four batters were hit in the bottom of the first inning. The fourth one, Wilson Wages, forced in the final run of the first inning. Glavin Alexander had the biggest hit of the inning when he had a two-run single to right that, at the time, made the score 3-0.

"With this group of guys it's

about playing loose and having fun. You could see it. When they play loose, they make things happen," Fortman said. "We played strong defense tonight, we got to mix our pitchers in, and the offense got going early."

Chance Ewell, who had missed more than a week due to an injured back, was on the mound again against the Bulldogs, going 1 2-3 innings. Ewell only allowed one hit, but did give up two runs and two walks, striking out three, before he was lifted in the fourth.

Davis Wilson went the final 3 1/3 innings, allowing a run on three hits and two walks, striking out three.

Griffin Fuller sparked the Red Devils at the plate, driving in three runs, while Riddle and Alexander each had two hits.

**Greenwood 5, Clinton 4 (Wednesday):** In the final game of the regular season Clinton's Blake Smith and Glavin Alexander each had two hits, but Greenwood scored three runs in the bottom of the third inning to take the lead for keeps.

Austin Long went four innings for Clinton in the loss, allowing four runs on eight hits and one walk. Jaylin Alexander went the last two innings in relief, allowing one run on one hit and two walks.

## Ferrell realizes his coaching dream in return to Presbyterian College

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

When Quinton Ferrell got into coaching basketball, he took out a notecard and wrote down a goal – to be a Division-I head coach by the age of 35.

With his hiring Thursday as the new head coach at his alma mater, Presbyterian College, the now 33-year old Ferrell has achieved his goal.

"It's extremely exciting," Ferrell said Monday in his new office inside the Templeton Center. "It's a dream come true to be a Division I head coach."



Quinton Ferrell

Ferrell is no stranger in Clinton. As a player, he helped the Blue Hose qualify for the 2006 NCAA Division II Tournament - the last postseason berth of any kind before this year's team made the CIT field. Ferrell led the PC program in assists and steals in the final two years he played for the Blue Hose. He was named Most Valuable Defensive Player twice.

Once his days as a player had ended, his calling turned to coaching. Ferrell said he got into coaching because of the great relationships he had with former coaches from age 9 all the way until his days playing for Gregg Nibert at PC. Right after he graduated, Ferrell joined Nibert's coaching staff and stayed on through 2012. He helped lead the program through much of the transition to Division I and also had a hand in recruiting Khalid Mutakabbir and Al'Lonzo Coleman - currently the Nos. 1 and 2 career Division I scorers in program history.

Through his early years of coaching, Ferrell said a piece of advice he received from Nibert

came his first year and had to do with being able to coach the top players on the team hard. That advice runs parallel with his philosophy of being a player's coach, but one who is willing to hold everyone to a high standard.

"That's always stuck with me," Ferrell said. "Your best player usually has pretty good standing and status in the locker room. If you can show the guys that you're willing to get on him and coach him hard, hold him accountable to a high level, it trickles down to everyone else and they follow suit."

Ferrell was a player who was respected by his peers and teammates, and that made it easy to transition over to coaching and have the respect of the players who were now his charges. Since taking the job at PC, he has received messages of support and congratulations from current College of Charleston Head Coach Earl Grant, Clemson Head Coach Brad Brownell, and Texas Head Coach Shaka Smart - as well as a host of former teammates from his days in Clinton.

"I got a lot of teammates, former students who went here with me, who are really excited about me being the head coach," Ferrell said. "That was pretty neat."

Ferrell hopes to continue the program's upward trajectory that former head coach Dustin Kerns helped build up in his two years at the helm, and hopes to make the Templeton Center a home-court advantage for his team. His ultimate goal would be to bring a Big South Championship to Clinton and get the Blue Hose to the NCAA Tournament - something he did as an assistant with the College of Charleston in 2018. That year the Cougars won the Colonial Athletic Association Tournament and earned a No. 13 seed in the Midwest Regional against Auburn.

After leaving PC as an assistant, Ferrell spent one season at both The Citadel and Army as an assistant before taking on a similar role at College of Charleston in 2014.

Ferrell and his wife, Kimberly, have two children.

## PC women's tennis upset by Asheville

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

An impressive 2019 women's tennis season for Presbyterian College came to a sudden end Thursday afternoon in Radford, Virginia, as the Blue Hose were upset in the quarterfinal round of the Big South Tournament.

PC, seeded No. 2 in the tournament, lost 4-2 to No. 7 UNC Asheville. The Blue Hose ended their season with an overall record of 17-7. UNC Asheville advanced to Thursday's semifinal round where it took on No. 6 Radford.

The Bulldogs took the opening point in doubles with victories in the No. 2 and 3 matches - the No. 1 match was unfinished. PC briefly rallied back to take a 2-1 lead after Beth Taylor (No. 4, 6-1, 6-4) and Tracy Johnson (No. 2, 6-4, 6-0) scored singles victories. Johnson's victory, however, proved to be the last one on the day as Asheville the final three singles matches that were played to a conclusion.

PC's Jessica Leeman (No. 5) was topped 6-4, 6-1 to tie the match at 2-all, then Sydney Patton fell at No. 1 singles, 6-4, 6-2, and Samantha Calias lost 6-2, 6-4 at No. 3 singles to give Asheville the final point it needed to advance.

Katie Thompson's match at No. 6 was left unfinished as Asheville had clinched the overall victory. Thompson was down 7-6 (6), 5-2 at the time the match was halted.

### COLLEGE Baseball

**Davidson 10, Presbyterian 8 (Tuesday):** PC's seven-game winning streak came to an end in North Carolina as a ninth-inning rally came up short.

PC scored three runs in the top of the ninth to close what had been a five-run lead to two, and had the potential go-ahead run at the plate with two out, but Jeremiah Boyd struck out swinging to end the game.

Zacchaeus Rasberry tripled, had three hits, and scored twice to help lead PC's offense, while Ashby Smith had three hits as well. Jimmy Marcelli drove in two runs.

Johnny Cook took the loss, allowing three runs on five hits in two innings.

### Lacrosse

**Gardner-Webb 20, PC 12 (Wednesday):** Gardner-Webb used a 6-1 scoring run in the second half to turn what had been a three-goal game into a 15-7 advantage, pulling away from the Blue Hose.

Sarah Marshall had four goals, while Natalie Barnett, Kara DiClemente and Madison Berg each had two for the Blue Hose (1-15 overall, 0-5 Big South), who play their last game of the season today (Saturday) against visiting Longwood.

### Softball

**Appalachian State 4, Presbyterian 1 (Tuesday):** PC scored an unearned run in the bottom of the second inning, but could not get any more runs across in a loss to the Mountaineers.

PC's offense was held to a pair of hits - singles from Jonnie Petree and Courtney White - and White scored the team's lone run after she reached on an error and later scored on a throwing error.

Taylor Ward gave up seven hits and three walks in the loss, striking out four.

### PREPS Baseball

**Easley 2, Laurens 1 (Tuesday):** The Raiders were held to just three

hits and gave up the eventual game-winning run in the top of the seventh in a loss at Ed Prescott Field.

Heath Bragg took a no-decision for the Raiders, allowing a run on four hits and three walks in 6 1/3 innings. Jalen Bragg took the loss, allowing a run on two hits and one walk in one-third of an inning.

**Laurens 4, Ninety Six 3 (Wednesday):** The Raiders scored twice in the bottom of the fifth to help rally from what was a 3-1 deficit and win their final home game of the regular season.

Heath Bragg drove in Jalen Bragg with the tying run in the bottom of the fifth, and Luke Willis singled to left center to bring in Christian Hill with the eventual game-winning run. Jalen Bragg finished the game with two hits, while Willis ended with a 3-for-3 performance at the plate - including two doubles.

Eric Jones picked up the victory, allowing three runs (all unearned) on five hits and four walks, striking out two, in 5 2/3 innings. Tanner Smith went the final 1 1/3 innings, striking out two, while not allowing any runs, hits or walks, to get the save.

Laurens wrapped the regular

season Thursday at Easley.

**Suspension overturned:** Garrett Addy was in line to be suspended for the two games against Easley and Ninety Six after he was ejected from Friday's game against T.L. Hanna, but the SCHSL overturned the penalty before Tuesday's game with Easley and no suspension will be enforced.

Laurens Head Coach Tori Patterson said he, Athletic Director Tommy Spires and the umpire from Friday's game all gave written statements about what took place when the penalty was appealed.

"I just stated that he did not do anything to deserve a suspension, and told them how great of a player and teammate he is," Patterson said. "Coach Spires pretty much said the same thing. I am guessing what the umpire reported was not enough for the ejection to hold. I am just pleased that they decided to overrule the umpire because Garrett definitely did not deserve to be ejected."

Addy had been originally ejected from Friday's game for arguing balls and strikes. He played in Tuesday's loss to Easley and in Wednesday's victory over Ninety Six.

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