

SPORTS

LA baseball swept away

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Laurens Academy Head Baseball Coach Luke Tollison said he wanted his players to get into the playoffs in order to get experience this season. The Crusaders got that experience, and with a young team returning next season there is hope the team can build off of this year's trip and go further in 2020.

The Crusaders lost in five innings to two-time defending SCISA Class A champion Dorchester Academy, 13-2 in Tuesday's Game 2 of a three-game first-round series. With the two-game sweep, Dorchester advances to the Class A semifinals.

LA had four errors in the contest, which helped score five unearned runs for Dorchester Academy.

"All year our defense has been the defense we could count on, and it just let us down the last two games," Tollison said. "But it happens - it's baseball."

Thomas Lowry went the distance for LA, allowing eight earned runs on 11 hits and two walks, while also striking out three. Rhett Mizzell earned the victory for DA, allowing two runs on five hits and three walks over four innings. Mizzell struck out three.

Chase Way pitched the final inning, striking out one.

Dorchester Academy, made up of mostly juniors and seniors, used its experience to jump out to a 5-0 lead through 2 1/2 innings, but LA responded to the rally with two runs in the bottom of the third to close the gap. Cal Robertson brought in the first run with a grounder to short that plated Dawson Foster. Noah Moore then followed with a single to center that brought in Lowry.

But Dorchester Academy put the game out of reach in the top of the fourth by scoring six times to grab an 11-2 lead. DA then posted two more runs in the top of the fifth to go up by the eventual final margin.

LA was set down in order in the bottom of the fifth to end the game.

The Crusaders made the playoffs despite a brief stretch that nearly knocked them out. Back-to-back losses to King and Newberry Academy generated a point where, in Tollison's eyes, the team could've folded. Instead the Crusaders fought, and they made the playoffs.

"That's what I was most proud of - we had two tough losses where we could've folded the season, but we never did," Tollison said.

PREPS Boys' soccer

Carolina 5, Clinton 1 (Tuesday): The Red Devils' trip to the state playoffs proved to be a short one as they were ousted in the first round.

Carolina used two free kicks before halftime to score the opening goals of the game, then added a third goal in the second half before J.P. Snelgrove tallied Clinton's only goal of the game after Snelgrove got in back of the Carolina defense. The Trojans then tallied two more goals to finish off the contest.

Softball

Richard Winn 19, LA 4 (Tuesday): Blair Quarles doubled and had an RBI for the Crusaders, while Mattie Noffz singled for LA's only other hit in a loss to the Eagles.

Julia Marlett took the loss, allowing nine earned runs on six hits and 10 walks. Marlett struck out one.

Girls' golf

LDHS practice starts Monday: The Laurens Raiders girls' golf team will open its spring practice schedule Monday at Lakeside Country Club.

Practice will be held each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through May 30. No golf experience is necessary to come out, but proper golf attire is required.

All girls who live in District 55



Photo by Nick Herman

END OF THE SEASON — Thomas Lowry and the Laurens Academy baseball team were ousted from the 2019 SCISA Class A playoffs after being swept by Dorchester Academy.

and are rising seventh graders (current sixth graders) can play for the team. There will not be any try-outs or cuts.

For more information, contact Laurens Head Coach Jim Iacuone at jiacuone@laurens55.org, or call 681-3630.

AREA SPORTS Fishing

Local fisherman nets recognition: Laurens' David Spearman caught an Arkansas Blue catfish recently that was big enough to earn a parchment signed by Gov. Henry McMaster.

Spearman's catch, a 51-pound catfish, was registered for the Santee Cooper Trophy Five Award Program, which is a lifetime program designed to recognize sportsmen who make a trophy catch of game fish from the Santee Cooper Lakes.

Golf

Greenville golfer can't quite hit \$1 million shot: Greenville

golfer Bryan Fowler took the top spot with the closest to the pin during the recent Million Dollar Hole in One Shootout, held by the Laurens Electric Cooperative, but did not claim the grand prize.

Fowler was within 14 feet of the hole on his shot and won \$1,000. Steven Eckstein was second and won \$500, while D.J. Bowman won \$250 for third.

If a golfer had hit an ace on their shot, they would've won the grand prize of \$1 million.

Rolling S Seniors

April 22 — Front Nine: Jack Cobb and Skip Phillips, +3; Back Nine: Rick Bump and Donnie Thacker, +4.

April 24 — Front Nine: Bill Bishop and Donnie Thacker, +5; Back Nine: Bishop and Thacker, +6.

April 26 — Front Nine: Rick Bump and Oran Sprouse, +3; Back Nine: Lonnie Thacker and Nate Hart, +3.5.



Photo by Nick Herman

STILL GOING — Clinton boys' tennis player Ike Waldron remained undefeated on the season after winning his No. 1 singles match Tuesday against Seneca in the second round of the SCHSL Class 3A playoffs in Clinton.

Clinton tennis finds path to playoffs' third round

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

It was not a cakewalk, but the Clinton Red Devils boys' tennis team got the job done in Tuesday's second round of the SCHSL Class 3A playoffs against Seneca - and earned another home match in the process.

Clinton took home four of the six singles matches to score a 4-2 decision over the Bobcats, advancing to the third round Thursday afternoon against West-Oak, which upset Chapman in the second round, 4-3. The result means Clinton was to host the third-round contest by way of its No. 1 seed. West-Oak is a No. 2 seed from its bracket.

"It was a good match. It was not easy - I don't care what the score says," Clinton Head Coach Clovis Simmons said.

Ike Waldron started the surge for the Red Devils at No. 1 singles, rolling to a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Levi Leard. Waldron, who has not lost a match all season for the Red Devils, won the first 11 games of the match before Leard finally held his own serve and forced Waldron to serve out the match. Prior to that, in the opening set, Waldron took firm control when, with Leard serving at 40-15, Waldron rallied and broke serve to go up 4-0 as a forehand from Leard went into the net.

Leard, however, rallied back in the fifth game and gave Waldron the only difficulty he had the entire match. Waldron was facing double break point at 15-40 before utilizing a pair of quality serves that Leard couldn't return to get back to deuce. On the deuce point Waldron's serve was sent wide of the far sideline, to the right of Waldron, allowing for a hold of serve to go up 5-0.

Waldron, who has been able to improve his once-weaker backhand, has been more aggressive this year. He's also been more of a leader in the No. 1 singles position after recent graduations put

the sophomore at the top spot. From all indications Waldron has relished that role.

"This year, instead of having a leader as a senior, I'm one of the oldest," Waldron said. "I have to take up the leadership position, which is a lot different."

The No. 2 and 3 singles players, Connor Donley and Anders Orr, each won their matches in straight sets. Donley defeated Samuel Goodroe, 6-0, 6-2, while Orr was a 6-1, 6-3 victor over Joseph Burgess.

"They definitely were the better tennis players, but the better tennis player doesn't always win," Simmons said.

That point was proven at No. 4 singles, even though Clinton's Hayden Minor was able to show he was the better player at the end of the match. Minor dropped the first set against Sergio Gonzalez, 6-0, before rallying back to win the next two sets, 6-3 and 10-4 - the third set being a match tie-breaker. Simmons said that, while Minor did lose the first set in a shutout, he was getting better toward the end of the first set. When Minor started the second set off, Simmons said he was where he needed to be at the start - fueling his comeback.

Clinton is working toward a potential third-straight state finals appearance after having lost in the championship round the previous two years. Waldron was a member of both of the previous state finalists with the Red Devils, and that experience has helped wipe away the nervousness that comes with opening the playoffs. Waldron said he's "kinda used to it now."

Editor's Note: Log on to www.laurenscountyadvertiser.net for results of Thursday's match with West-Oak.

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