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# SPORTS

## Prep athletic programs hold annual banquets

By Nick Herman  
Sports Editor

The unofficial end to the spring prep sports season arrived this last week as various teams and programs held their end-of-year banquets.

Laurens Academy was among them, highlighting the accomplishments of a season that saw two teams win state championships. The LA girls' basketball team went 29-3 to advance to the team's third straight championship game, and capture its second straight SCISA Class A title.

Ruthie Moore was among the players highlighted for the girls' basketball team, being named the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP). She was also named MVP for the volleyball team, but the highlight of the night came when she was announced as the newest member of the Laurens Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. She is the third girls' basketball player to be recognized, joining Katie Culbertson and Taylor Campbell.

LA's cross country team also won a state championship this past season, the program's first-ever championship in the sport. Audrey Noffz and Blair Quarles were selected as the team's co-MVPs, Ivy Codington was named the team's Most Improved Player, and Penelope Kerber was tabbed as the Coaches Award winner.

### LA Awards

Varsity Football - MVP: Thomas Lowry. Defensive MVP: Diamonte Grant. Offensive MVP: Charlton McCall. Coaches: Reles Littleton.

Volleyball - MVP: Ruthie Moore. Hustle: Katelyn Suttles. Ecclesiastes 4:12 Award: Florence Mitchell.

Coaches: Kinsley Atkins.

Football Cheer - Kerington Armstrong. Most Dedicated: Brantley Armstrong. Most Improved: Callie Meyerholtz.

Boys' Basketball - Offensive MVP: Noah Moore. Defensive MVP: Dawson Foster. Comeback: Diamonte Grant. Toughness: Thomas Lowry.

Girls' Basketball - MVP: Ruthie Moore. Coaches: Reagan Williamson. TNT: Florence Mitchell. Coaches: Blair Quarles.

Baseball - MVP: Dawson Foster. Defensive MVP: Thomas Lowry. Offensive MVP: Cal Robertson. Coaches: Noah Moore.

Sporting Clays, Boys - Most Improved: Hunter Mullinax. Highest Average: Reles Littleton. Coaches: Jonas Smith.

Sporting Clays, Girls - Highest Average: Lindsey Burroughs.

Cross County, Boys - Co-MVP: Andrew Codington and Jonas Smith. Most Improved: Caleb Howard. Coaches: Devin Sampson.

Cross Country, Girls - Co-MVP: Audrey Noffz and Blair Quarles. Most Improved: Ivy Codington. Coaches: Penelope Kerber.

Softball - Crusader Award: Mattie Grace Noffz. Golden Glove: Hannah Stribling. Slugger Award: Blair Quarles. True Grit: Julia Katherine Marlett.

### Clinton banquet

Clinton's sports banquet last Tuesday recognized both athletes from the spring sports, but from basketball as well.

Girls' Track - State champion, shot put: Keria Dendy. Field MVP: Dendy. Track MVP: Quiana Suber. Most Improved: Devoinna Walker. All-region: Aaliyah Johnston



Photo by Nick Herman

**HONOREES** - Laurens Academy's top athletes from the 2018-19 athletic year were recognized at the recent banquet.

(4x100m, 200m, 4x400m), Maya Smith (4x100m, 100m), Suber (4x100m, 400m), Patience Adams (4x100m, 4x400m), Walker (4x400m), Deasia Boyd (4x400m). Record-breaker: Paige Trent (1,600m, 5:45.80). Region 3-3A Girls' Track Coach of the Year: Paige Drisgula.

Boys' Track - Field MVP: P.J. Bluford. Track MVP: Titus Hood. Most Improved: Kevin Caldwell. Region Field Athlete of the Year: Bluford.

Golf - MVP: Phoebe Carles. Sportsmanship: Justin Snead. All-Region: Sofia Carles. All-State: Phoebe Carles. All-County: Phoebe Carles and Sofia Carles.

Boys' Tennis - All-Region: Ike Waldron, Connor Donley, Anders Orr. All-State: Waldron. Region 3-3A Player of the Year: Waldron. Tennis Singles Invitational Participant: Waldron. MVP: Waldron. Sportsmanship: Brandon Campbell. Kevin Donald Adams Award: Anders Orr. Region 3-3A and NFHS State Coach of the Year: Clovis Simmons.

Athletic Training - Student Athletic Trainer of the Year: Allisah Williamson. JV Cheerleaders - MVP: Haley Wood.

Varsity Cheerleaders - MVP:

Tytajha Robinson. Carolina Sease Award: Caleigh Jacks.

JV Girls' Basketball - Hustle Award: Grayson Taylor.

Varsity Girls' Basketball - MVP: De'Shanti Watts. Most Improved: Dana Kinard. Sportsmanship: Latoria Johnson. All-County and All-Region: Watts and Terriauna Bennett.

JV Boys' Basketball - Hustle Award: Kaleb Richardson.

Varsity Boys' Basketball - MVP: J.D. Payne.

Sportsmanship: Titus Hood. Most Improved: Ahmari Bates. All-County: Payne, Bates, Bluford. All-County Player of the Year: Payne. All-Region: Payne, Bates. All-State: Payne.

JV Girls' Soccer - Hustle: M.C. Dailey.

Varsity Girls' Soccer - MVP for Attacking: Madison Bagwell. MVP for Defense: Ella Cooper. Sportsmanship: Ceci Perez. All-County: Reese Gowan, Cooper, Bagwell, Kailey Suber, Reece Lawson, Ava Machione, Abby Collins. All-Region: Bagwell, Collins, Lawson.

JV Boys' Soccer - Hustle: Shane Nelson.

Varsity Boys' Soccer - Offensive MVP: Parker Duncan. Defensive MVP: Hamp Barnes. Sportsmanship: Cameron Nichols. All-County:

J.P. Snelgrove, Duncan, Juan Lawson, Gavin Kiley, Sam Tiller, Riley Freeman, Barnes.

All-Region: Duncan, Lawson.

Varsity Softball - All-County: Hunter Benson, Kam Akins, Maddi Wood, Madison Burton. All-Region: Akins, Wood, Benson, Grayson Taylor. North/South participant: Benson. Sportsmanship: Beth Wiggins. MVP and All-State: Benson. All-County Coach of the Year: Ryan Caughman.

JV Softball - Hustle: Ella Adair, Kate Wages.

C-Team Baseball - Hustle: Zach Fortman.

JV Baseball - Hustle: Jack Carroll.

Varsity Baseball - MVP: Konnor Richardson. Cal Gault Award: Qua Quarles and Glavin Alexander.

Sportsmanship: Blake Smith. All-Region: Griffin Fuller, Richardson.

Betty and Louie Webb Booster Club Scholarship Winners: Brooks Seawright and Adaline Stephens.

Female Athlete of the Year: Savanna Campbell.

Male Athlete of the Year: Konnor Richardson.

### Laurens softball

The Laurens Raiders' softball team held its end-of-season banquet last Monday, recognizing the best players of the 2019 campaign.

Trinity Daniels, Rachel Delio, Vanessa Harshaw, Cassidy Plaia and Michaela Smith were named to the all-region team for head coach Michaela Smith, while Plaia was named to the all-state/all-star team. Daniels, Harshaw, Delio, Plaia and Kauree Munyan were also named to the all-county team, with Plaia named Player of the Year (POY).

As far as the team awards, Harshaw won the leadership award, Daniels the team spirit award, Plaia the offensive POY award, and Smith the defensive POY award.

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