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The Laurens County Advertiser Extra

South Carolina's Award-Winning Weekly Newspaper

SPORTS

Laurens Majors rolls to state bid

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Two games, two victories and a District 1 title in hand, the Laurens Majors Little League All-Star baseball team can now set its sights on a hurdle that has proven highly challenging over the previous few years - state.

Laurens completed a two-game sweep of Easley Tuesday night to win the district playoff series at Laurens City Park. Laurens won the first game, 12-2 in four innings, then followed up with a 15-0 victory in Game 2 of the series.

Game 1 was originally set for Monday, but suspended in the top of the fourth inning due to thunderstorms. That game was completed Tuesday evening before the originally-scheduled Game 2 was played.

Game 1: Laurens scored a single run in the top of the first inning on a solo homer from Coleman Coker, then turned up the offense in the third with a seven-run outburst. Buster Harris had a two-run single in that inning, as did Kamron Pittman, to help boost the rally. Laurens scored its other three runs on a walk, a passed ball, and an error.

Laurens then tacked on four more runs in the top of the fourth inning, all with nobody out. Coker had a two-run triple to push Laurens to a 10-1 lead, then was immediately followed by a two-run homer by Harris to reach the mercy-rule margin of 12-1. That homer, however, proved to be the last play of the game Monday before heavy rains swamped the field and forced the game to be completed Tuesday.

Once the game resumed Laurens had its rally end after four batters, then gave up a single run in the bottom of the second before getting a strikeout with two out and the bases loaded to avoid the game being extended into the fifth inning.

Game 2: Laurens let one scoring chance slip by the boards in the bottom of the first inning, but it didn't let its next two chances slip, winning the game in three innings.

Laurens got its first runs in the second on a two-run single from Jackson Humphries. After an infield hit from Nirah Brown and an RBI double from Coker (which was preceded by a passed ball that brought in a run), Harris came through with a two-run homer to push the lead to 7-0.

After retiring Easley in order in the top of the third, Laurens came back with an eight-run third that triggered a 15-run mercy rule. Josh Goodwin had a two-run double to help spark the inning, while Coleman and Dee Suber each had run-scoring hits. Jared Willard had the final RBI of the inning when he grounded out to third with one out.

Laurens will play in the state tournament, beginning July 20 when it plays either Irmo or Tega Cay-Fort Mill in Summerville.

Clarification: In a recent story on the Laurens 10-Under Little League All-Star team, it was stated only the champion of the District 1 tournament would advance to state. As it turned out, the runner-up — Laurens — will advance to state after all.

Laurens will play in Pool B of the tournament, which begins July 5 with a game against Irmo Gold. Laurens will have games against Barrier Island, Tega Cay-Fort Mill and Northwood Blue in pool play. The Pool A and Pool B winners will meet July 10 for the championship.

Dixie Youth

Clinton AAA: The Clinton AAA Dixie Youth team advanced to the district finals with a 11-1 victory over Starr-Iva, then completed a perfect 5-0 trip and earned a state tournament with a 10-5 victory over Batesburg-Leesville Wednesday night.

Dalton Williams had three hits and three RBI, Talan Campbell (two RBI) and Aiden Price (two RBI) and Cameron Finley (one RBI) each had one hit, and Owen Glenn walked twice and scored three runs.

Campbell allowed one run on two hits on the mound, walking three and striking out six.



Photo by Nick Herman

BUSTING LOOSE — Laurens' Buster Harris celebrates after hitting a two-run homer in the bottom of the second inning Tuesday against Easley. Laurens won both games in the best-of-three district championship series to advance to the state tournament, which takes place later next month.

Williams walked only one and struck out three when he pitched.

In Wednesday's championship game Clinton used a five-run first inning to take the lead over B-L, then responded with two more runs in the top of the second to build a six-run lead. Clinton kept up the offense in the third, adding a single run, then pushed home its final two runs in the fifth inning.

Owen Glenn led the offense with four hits and two RBI, while Rhett Gilliam had two hits and three RBI. Aiden Price added two hits.

Zack Lawson gave up three runs on 10 hits and two walks, striking out two, and was the winning pitcher for Clinton. Teammate Dalton Williams allowed two unearned runs, but did not allow a hit or walk. He did strike out one.

The state tournament will be held at the Anderson Civic Center, starting July 13 at 9 a.m.. Opening ceremonies for the tournament will be held the day before.

Clinton O-Zone: Edgefield ended Clinton's run to the state tournament with a second loss Tuesday, 13-0 in four innings, to exit the postseason in Abbeville.

Clinton's offense was held to four hits in the game - singles by Lee Malone, Tushawan Richardson, Kason Copeland, and Jayon Glenn - while Clinton committed four errors on defense.

LDHS names Chavis as hoops coach

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Laurens will have a new boys' head varsity basketball coach next season.

Ryan Walker resigned his post with the Raiders to take a job at North Myrtle Beach High School, and former LDHS assistant Joshua Chavis has been elevated to head coach, according to District 55 Athletic Director Ed Murray.

The announcement was made in a release Thursday. Walker leaves the Raiders' program after two years as the head coach.

"Coach Walker has moved our program forward over the past two years and we will miss his leadership, but we understand the need to put family first," Murray said. "We wish Coach Walker the best in his new role and we know Horry County is getting a great addition to their programs."

In the same announcement Murray said Chavis, a former Division-I basketball player at USC Upstate and assistant with Laurens High last year, will take over as the Raiders' head coach. Chavis has previously been a head coach in AAU Grassroots Basketball with the Upward Stars Southeast National Adidas Gauntlet Program. Chavis had also been an assistant at both the prep and collegiate levels before joining the Raiders' staff last year. Chavis also was head coach of the LDHS JV team.

"I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to lead the basketball program," Chavis said. "I am looking forward to building on the relationships I have already made with these young men, and the opportunity to make new (relationships)."



Photo by Nick Herman

KNOCK IT DOWN — A Clinton defensive back plays a deep ball during Tuesday's 7-on-7 passing camp at Laurens High.

AREA GOLF Piedmont Juniors, held Monday at Greenwood C.C. Boys

7-9: 1. Carter Riddle, 23; 2. Aiden Bragg, 24; 3. Wells Calhoun, 28. 10-12: 1. Landen Still, 43; 2. Cameron Addis, 44; 3. Maddox Lee, 51. 13-14: 1. Spence Hagood, 37; 2. Trave Meredith, 43; 3. Josh Brown, 54. 15-18: 1. Alex Stevenson, 36; 2. Christian Davidson, 40; 3. Elliott Kinney, 41.

Girls

7-9: 1. Hannah Carles, 37; 2. Talulah Wilson, 37. 10-12: 1. Mia-Gloria Carles, 49; 2. Katherine Gunnells, 54; 3. Ella Brown, 63. 13-18: 1. Phoebe Carles, 38; 2. Clair Lewis, 46; 3. (tie) Randi Allen and Hayden Harrison, 50.

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JUNIOR LIFEGUARD

JULY 1-3 • 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
AGES 12-15 • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

This course will teach water safety and introduce participants to the duties and responsibilities of a lifeguard. It will build a foundation of knowledge, attitudes and skills in preparation for the American Red Cross Lifeguarding course.

JUGGLING

JULY 1-3 • 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
AGES 7-12 • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

Juggling offers an opportunity for youth to learn unique skills that combine both athleticism and artistry. This camp encourages individual and group achievement with potential for growth in dexterity, confidence and friendships!

ULTIMATE FRISBEE

JULY 9-11 • 6:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.
AGES 12-21 • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

Ultimate Frisbee is an exciting, non-contact team sport that is a fast-paced game where players develop sharp throwing skills, stamina and agility!

BABYSITTING

JULY 16-18 • 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
AGES 12-15 • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

This camp is designed to teach the fundamentals of safety and child care. It will provide instruction on treating basic first aid emergencies, performing choke-saving procedures, handling fire and safety emergencies, age-appropriate activities and telephone techniques.

ARCHERY

JULY 23-25 • 9:00 A.M.-11:30 A.M.
AGES 7-15 • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

Ready, aim, fire! Campers will learn the basic skills of archery, shooting targets, and learn styles of shooting. The camp will be instructed by Ed Prescott. Spaces are limited for this camp!

SOCCER CAMP

JULY 29-AUG. 1 • AGES 5-9 9-11 A.M.
AGES 10 & UP 6-8 P.M. • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

GOAL! Take your soccer skills to the next level! Campers will participate in soccer drills to improve their skills in passing, dribbling and shooting! This camp will be held at Collyar Park.

ADULT/TEAM ARCHERY

JULY 30-AUG. 1 • 6:00 P.M.-8:30 P.M.
AGES 15 & UP • Y MEMBER \$50/NON-MEMBER \$60

Take your archery skills to the next level with your friend! Join this camp and participate in field archery, focusing on shooting at life-sized models of game! No range-finders allowed.

CAMP REGISTRATION DUE THE FRIDAY BEFORE THE WEEK OF CAMP

Financial assistance is available (YMCA members and non-members) for those who complete the application and qualify prior to registering for camp.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 984-2621 • www.lakelandsymca.org