

sports

BRIEFS

Wren tops Gaffney wrestlers

Jared Barnhill (180 lbs.), Randy Hopson (152 lbs.) and C. Perry (215 lbs.) won by pin but it wasn't enough as the Gaffney wrestling team fell to Wren on Thursday, 45-35.

Joseph Evans (103 lbs.) and Michael Watts (160 lbs.) won by decision and Brian Sullivan (130 lbs.) won by forfeit for the Indians.

Vikings down Gaffney jayvees

In junior varsity action on Friday, Spartanburg beat Gaffney, 67-49. No other details were available.

GHS track team begins practice

The Gaffney High Track and Field teams (boys and girls) will be practicing at Gaffney Middle School each afternoon at 4 p.m. Any boy or girl (7th through 12th grade) interested in participating in track and field should come to Gaffney Middle and speak with either Coach Davis or Kevin Hammett.

Miami rallies to defeat Clemson

Jack McClinton shook off his shooting woes and helped Miami snap a losing streak.

Mired in a 2-for-14 funk, McClinton hit three consecutive 3-pointers over a 1:21 span late in the game as Miami rallied and defeated Clemson 75-72 Sunday afternoon.

McClinton finished with 16 points for the Hurricanes (15-4, 2-3), who broke a three-game losing skid.

"Coach (Frank) Haith always tells me that if I'm open to keep shooting," McClinton said. "Having that from my coach and getting the opportunity to play like that really helps me out in the long run and at the end of the game I got the looks and I knocked them down."

McClinton's first 3-pointer with 2:28 cut Clemson's lead to 63-60. He tied the game with his next three-pointer with 1:52 left.

After James Mays' dunk with 1:25 remaining put Clemson ahead, 65-63, McClinton answered with his third 3-pointer with 1:07 left, giving Miami the lead for good, 66-65.

"Jack is our guy and Jack knows we got confidence in him," Haith said.

Lance Hurdle converted two free throws with 50.5 and 31.7 left, increasing Miami's lead to 70-65.

After Brian Asbury and Demontez Stitt traded free throws with 26.6 and 25.3 left respectively, Stitt's field goal with 16.3 remaining cut Miami's advantage to 72-69.

Rodriguez turns in 2nd resignation letter

More than two weeks after he was sued over a \$4 million buyout clause in his contract at West Virginia, Rich Rodriguez turned in a second resignation letter, claiming university president Mike Garrison reneged on a deal to reduce and possibly eliminate that clause.

Jeffrey Wakefield, the school's attorney in the case, denied Friday that such a promise was made.

The letter obtained by The Associated Press and bearing Rodriguez's name is an indication of the tack his legal defense will take when he files a response to that lawsuit in U.S. District Court. The deadline is Feb. 4.

Rodriguez resigned with a one-sentence letter on Dec. 18 for the coaching job at Michigan, touching off a bitter public dispute in which each side has accused the other of lying. The latest letter is dated Jan. 10.

"President Garrison made no agreement to reduce or eliminate the buyout clause," Wakefield told the AP. "The agreement between Mr. Rodriguez and the university is that which is set forth in the contract, and the terms of the contact are clear and unambiguous."

"And it's important to note," he added, "that Mr. Rodriguez had the benefit of counsel representing him as well as a financial agent throughout the negotiations leading up to the signing of the contract."

Indians make decision on college

By LARRY HILLIARD
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Gaffney's J.B. Shippy will remain an Indian. Shippy has made a verbal commitment to the Newberry College Indians, according to Gaffney High coach Phil Strickland.

Shippy, who was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl after leading the Indians in tackles with 126, also was considering Liberty.

Shippy may have some company at Newberry. Gaffney center Joe Ben Frye is also considering Newberry along with Presbyterian College.

Tight end David Dewberry, who was selected to play in the North-South All-Star Game, will likely attend a junior college in California, Strickland said.

Safety Johnny Woods, who joined Dewberry at the North-South game, will likely attend Georgia Military Junior College.

Shrine Bowl offensive lineman Kevin

Brockman is also leaning toward a junior college, according to the Gaffney High head coach.

Defensive lineman Levor Ross has expressed an interest in Pikeville College, a NAIA school. Former Gaffney High Shrine Bowl defensive back Kelin Morris is currently enrolled at Pikeville.

Players' verbal commitments become binding on Wednesday, Feb. 6.

"We should have at least three or four signing on that day," Strickland said.



Ledger photo by LARRY HILLIARD

Gaffney center Bubba Wright shoots over a Spartanburg defender during second-quarter action on Friday. Wright had 10 points in the Indians' win over the host Vikings.

Gaffney gets past Vikings

By LARRY HILLIARD
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This time, the Spartanburg Vikings couldn't hold off their rivals.

Jeff Brown scored 18 points and Jazz Palmer added 16 to help the Gaffney Indians rally from a 12-0 hole to beat Spartanburg, 81-76, Friday and snap a 3-game region losing streak.

The victory avenged a 10-point loss earlier this month. In that game, the Vikings raced to an 11-point first-quarter lead.

On Friday, the Indians (14-5, 5-4) got off to a start reminiscent of the first encounter, turning the ball over on five of their first seven possessions and falling behind 12-0.

Unlike the first meeting, however, the Indians stormed back to tie the game at 23 at the end of the first quarter. Reserve Johnny Woods was big during the spurt, quieting the Spartanburg crowd by hitting three 3s. Woods finished with 15 points.

"I know who will be our first player off the bench," Gaffney coach Mark Huff said. "I know (Johnny Woods) will be our supersub. We know he brings energy and he plays hard."

The Indians also did a better job this time on Spartanburg center Omar Sanders, who was held to only 15 points after scoring a game-high 27 points and 18 rebound in the first game.

"We wanted to crowd him around the 3-point line," Huff said. "We wanted to take that away from him."

Woods and Brown also did a good job of both-ering Sanders when he got the ball near the basket.

Gaffney improves to 5-4 in the region and pulls within a half game of Spartanburg, who drops to 5-3.

Huff said the win re-energizes a team that appeared to be fading.

"The kids are really excited in the locker room," Huff said. "This was a team win. Coming after what we had to deal with, this is a tribute to our kids."

After Zycorrian Robinson, who scored a game-high 29 points, pulled the Vikings within 76-74 with 1:18 left to play, Spartanburg couldn't convert on two chances to tie the score.

Brown then made four straight free throws to extend the Indians' lead to 80-76 with :10 remaining.

"I just told the kids I was as proud as I could be," Huff said. "Now we have to carry this over to next week."

Bubba Wright added 10 points for the Indians, who travel to Boiling Springs on Tuesday.

In girls varsity action, the Lady Indians dropped to 4-5 in the region with an 83-53 loss at Spartanburg.

Keisha Leach had 18 points and Tierra Phillips added 15 for the Lady Indians.

Spartanburg outscored the Lady Indians 21-4 in the second quarter to break the game open. Tierra Young scored 21 points and grabbed 28 rebounds to pace the Lady Vikings.

Wildcats go cold from field in loss to Carolina

By LARRY HILLIARD
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Blacksburg boys basketball coach Travis Miller has seen this before.

The Wildcats played tough defense but struggled offensively - again - this time in a 49-33 loss

at Carolina on Friday.

The Wildcats remain winless in the region.

Blacksburg pulled within 9-8 in the early going but couldn't muster a point in the second quarter to trail 19-8 at the half.

Carolina extended its lead to 12 in the third quarter. The Wildcats responded with a spurt to close within 40-33 with three minutes remaining.

But Blacksburg went scoreless the rest of the way.

"We played great defense and we are holding people," Miller said. "We just can't convert on the offensive end. We get good shots. But they aren't falling."

Blacksburg will host the Broome Centurions on Tuesday.

Lady Saints edge Belmont Abbey to improve to 6-4

STAFF REPORTS

The Limestone women's basketball team earned its sixth Conference Carolinas' win Saturday afternoon with a 74-67 victory over the Crusaders of Belmont Abbey.

Senior Lindsey Kyle led the Saints with 19 points and seven rebounds. Limestone improves to 11-9 this season and 6-4 in Conference Carolinas' play, while Belmont Abbey dropped to 12-5 overall and 8-3 in league play.

Monica Adams recorded her third

double-double of the season with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Ariel Lyons added 10 points, 4 assists and 3 steals. Tiffany Jones added 8 points and Addie Graves contributed 7 points and 7 rebounds.

For the Crusaders, Marie Marquez

led all scorers with 25 points. Asha Hardaway chipped in 14 points and 8 rebounds.

In the first half, the Crusaders scored first with a made free-throw.

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