

# sports

## BRIEFS

### YMCA hoop results

In Biddyball action, Correll Insurance (MVPs Mark Lyons and Ayron Strong) played Blakely Funeral Home (MVPs Caleb Upchurch and Tanner Wheelchel) and the Elk's Lodge (MVPs Mason Solomon and Joey Larsen) played the Ruppe Rental Nets (MVPs Zach Rogers and Mason Jolly).

In intermediate league action, Ace Hardware Bulls (MVPs Cody Bailey and Jordan Crocker) defeated the Village School (MVPs Mariah Skinner and John Skinner), and Hamrick's Kids (MVPs Heath Mullinax and Samantha Stepp) defeated Clearview Window Tinting (MVPs Andy Benton and Trent Solomon).

In the Youth Division, Sanders Bros. (Josh Sereno and Clay Childers) defeated Timken (MVPs Camron Farley and Nicholas Wells) and Daddy Joe's (MVPs Dylan Stepp and Hasten Mullinax) downed Cline Brandt and Kochenower (MVPs Makayla Wilson and Brett Ward).

### Clemson athletes post record GPAs

Clemson's athletes have set a record with a 2.87 grade-point average for the fall semester.

School officials say Clemson's 15 sports program also had the most athletes named to the President's List in a semester.

The football team had a 2.53 grade point average — its third best on record and best ever for a fall semester.

The baseball team had a 2.76 grade point average, and the men's basketball team had a 2.41 GPA for the semester.

Six Clemson teams had grade point averages of 3.0 or better.

The women's soccer team had the top team GPA at 3.32. The men's tennis team was the best among the men's programs with a 3.24 GPA.

### O'Neal on the trading block

Shaquille O'Neal is prepared for the Miami Heat to trade him, a confidant of the 14-time All-Star center told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

O'Neal's associate, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to reveal anything publicly, indicated a move could be imminent.

"Shaq thinks something will happen," the associate said.

The Miami Herald reported earlier Tuesday that the Heat are in "serious and ongoing" trade negotiations with the Phoenix Suns. A Heat spokesman said the team had no comment, and several Suns officials didn't immediately return phone calls from The AP.

The Herald report said the Suns would send Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to Miami in exchange for O'Neal, who is averaging a career-low 14.2 points and has been sidelined for the past two weeks by a lingering hip injury.

### Clemens repeats denial under oath

Roger Clemens' most meaningful denial of drug use so far was also the most well-guarded.

The star pitcher gave a sworn deposition for about five hours to congressional lawyers behind closed doors Tuesday, addressing his former personal trainer's allegations. And this time, Clemens was under oath.

"I just want to thank the committee, the staff that I just met with. They were very courteous," the seven-time Cy Young Award winner said, wearing a pin-striped gray suit instead of a pin-striped New York Yankees uniform. "It was great to be able to tell them what I've been saying all along — that I've never used steroids or growth hormone."

Tuesday's deposition was the first time Clemens faced legal risk if he were to make false statements. Home run king Barry Bonds, another player linked to steroid use, was indicted in November on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice for telling a grand jury in 2003 that he didn't knowingly take performance-enhancing drugs.

## Young Wildcats look to next season

By LARRY HILLIARD  
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Blacksburg coach Travis Miller is already looking forward to next season.

The youthful Wildcats, whose roster consisted of a freshman, four sophomores and seven juniors, fell to Chesnee 68-42 to close out the regular season on Tuesday.

"We have no seniors, so everybody will be back plus we have some Jayvee players who will move up," Miller said. "We have a lot of

work to do."

Blacksburg shooting guard Josh Elmore went down with an injury in the second quarter against the Eagles. At the time, the Wildcats trailed by only nine at the half.

"Elmore's injury really messed up our rotation," Miller said. "It was a close game



TRAVIS MILLER

when he went out."

After the break, the Eagles stretched their lead to 12 points.

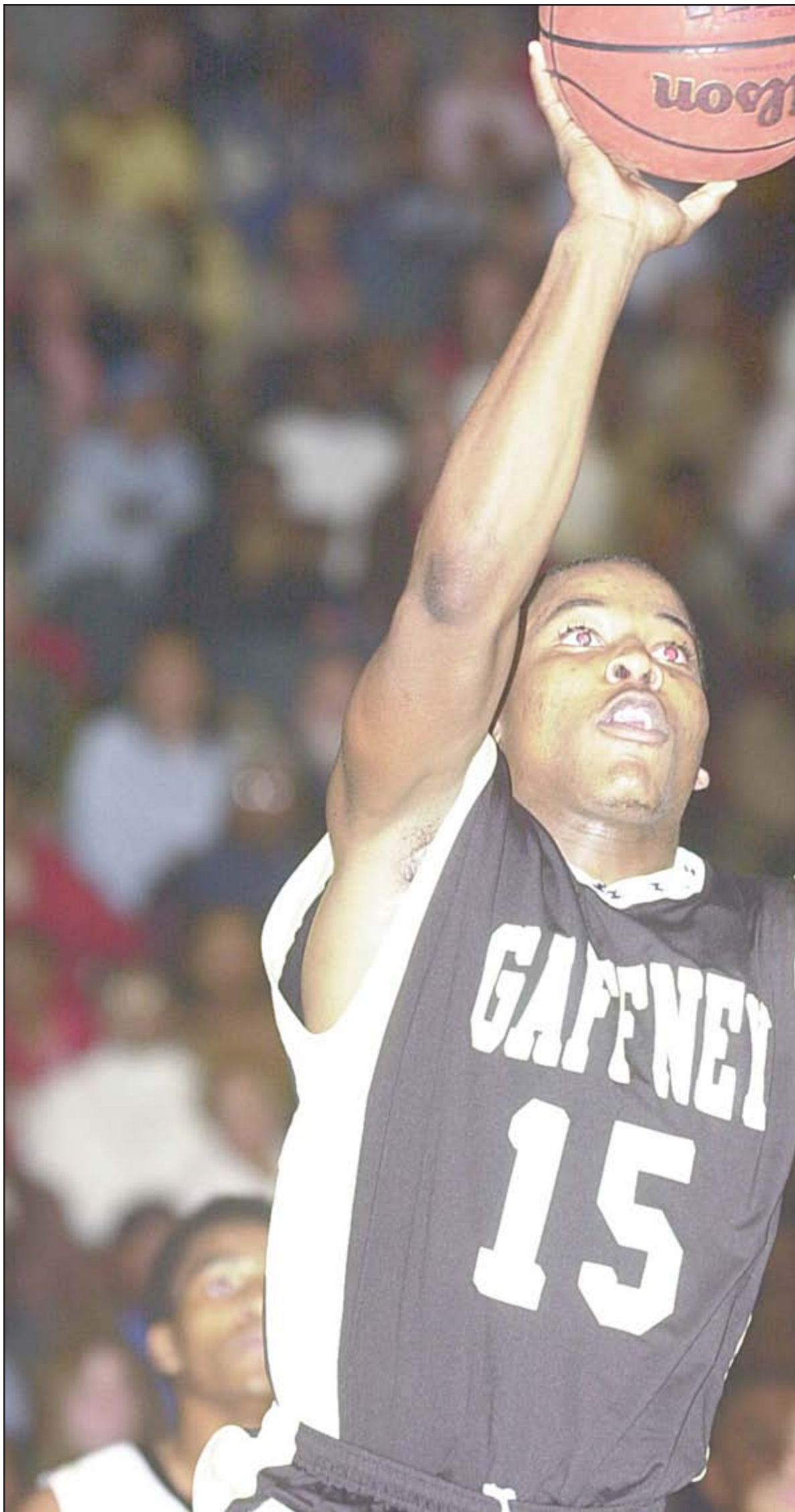
In the fourth quarter, the shorthanded Wildcats ran out of steam.

Rashad Earls had a team-high 14 points and Dean Craig added nine for the Wildcats.

Chris Portis had 19 points for the Eagles.

One of the players Miller will be counting on next year is freshman J.J. Lattimore, who saw significant action on Friday, scoring six points.

"The kids really played hard," Miller said. "I am really proud of their effort."



Ledger photo by LARRY HILLIARD

Gaffney's Robert Butler, shown driving to the basket earlier this season, scored 10 points in a regular-season ending loss at Hillcrest on Tuesday.

## Hillcrest dumps Indians

By LARRY HILLIARD  
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The Hillcrest Rams reminded Gaffney why they are region champions on Tuesday.

Steadman Short had 16 points and Corey Anderson added 13 to help the Rams beat the visiting Indians 68-50.

The Indians, who drop to 6-6 in the region after losing five of their final six region matchups, need Dorman to beat Spartanburg on Friday to qualify for the playoffs. If the Cavs win on Friday, the Vikings and Indians would finish with 6-6 marks. But the Indians hold the tiebreaker edge over Spartanburg, which lost to Byrnes 61-56 on Tuesday.

"We need help now," Gaffney coach Mark Huff said. "It would come down to a tiebreaker on points since we split head to head."

Poor shooting plagued the Indians again on Tuesday. Gaffney made just six of its 30 field goal attempts in the first half. For the game, the Indians shot a season low 25 percent. In a loss to Mauldin on Friday, Gaffney shot 38 percent from the floor.

"We didn't shoot the ball very well," Huff said. "(Hillcrest's) big kids made us alter our shots. We missed a lot of close in shots. You have to be able to score and we aren't able to do that. Hillcrest is very athletic. We'd go up to shoot and they would block it. They must have had five or six blocks."

The Rams led by as many as 23 points in the second half before the Indians went on a spurt to cut the deficit to 12 with 2:30 left to play.

The Indians tried to stop the clock by sending the Rams to the foul line, but Hillcrest hit their free throws to seal the win.

The game was close throughout the early going. Leading 13-11 at the end of the first quarter, the Rams opened the second quarter on a run to lead 30-18 at the half. They increased their advantage to 50-29 at the end of three quarters.

Ty Dawkins had 11 points and Robert Butler and Eddie Jefferies also added 10 to lead the Indians.

Gaffney was expected to meet Blacksburg to close out the regular season on Friday, but Blacksburg High officials cancelled the matchup.

### OUT OF THEIR OWN HANDS

■ The Gaffney Indians need help to make the playoffs. Gaffney, which finished the region at 6-6 after losing five of their final six region games, need visiting Dorman to beat Spartanburg on Friday to make the playoffs.

## Gaffney boxer a knockout in debut

By JOE HUGHES II  
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Gaffney native John Bradbury made the most of his professional debut last Friday in the hills of West Virginia, stopping Ohio talent John Milan in the opening round of a light heavy-weight bout.

While Bradbury was able to take his show on the road, his goal is to be able to show his stuff in front of the home crowd. He may soon get his chance.

Bradbury is currently working under Simons Promotions of Morgantown, W. Va., who has proposed hosting future bouts in Gaffney.

"The prospect of hosting an event in Gaffney

is something we are definitely open to," Steve Simons of Simons Promotions said. "He is a good fighter and I enjoy working with him and those with him."

"(Bradbury) has been waiting for the opportunity to fight in his hometown and show everyone what he's got," Bradbury's manager Tuck Swanger said. "Lord willing, he will get that opportunity."

Simons was impressed with the fighter's debut in which Bradbury knocked his opponent to the canvas twice before a referee stepped in to stop the contest. Also working in the local's favor is that he performed so well on a card stacked with some of the promotion's other up and coming stars.

"I could not have asked for anything better,"

Bradbury said. "I could have knocked him down earlier but I wanted to show the crowd some of what I have."

"We saw a lot in his debut that tell us he is going to be a good boxer," Simons said. "But there still is a lot of work to do."

Coming up for the local talent are two more fights within the next eight weeks in Charleston and Morgantown, W. Va.

During this time, Simons said he is trying to find a good time to come to Cherokee County and survey possible opportunities to host an event.

"At this time, things are practically booked up until June," Simons said. "But this is something we would like to do at some point... so we will see."