

sports

BRIEFS

Blacksburg to hold reception for Moss

Blacksburg will hold a reception for new football coach Mickey Moss at the Blacksburg Community House on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.

Local hoop league begins signups

The Giving Back Organization is signing up students (boys and girls) ages 5 to 18 for the Free Spring/Summer Basketball Program.

Applications can be picked up at: The Boys and Girls Club, Sage Sport or WFGN 1180, and must be turned in by April 25.

For more info contact Stan Crosby 864-487-9733; Eddie Palmer, Sr. 864-489-9255; or Johnny Sarratt, Sr. 864-425-0628

Summer hoop league registration continues

Registration is continuing at SageSport, the Boys and Girls Club and the Recreation District for the Cherokee County Summer Youth Basketball League. The league is for boys and girls ages 5 to 17. You also can signup by calling Chris Dewberry at 488-9596 or Laymond Dewberry at 425-5860.

Tech One improves to 3-0 on season

In Major League action, Tech One improved to 3-0 with an 18-11 victory over Hamrick Mills.

Clay Snipes, Andrew Pennington and Jake Morgan combined for the win.

Trailing 5-0 after three innings, Brooke Hope got things going by legging out a run on a hard-hit ball.

Tech One then added nine more runs in the fifth.

Morgan was 3 for 4 with four RBIs, while Evan McCurry and Hope each were 2 for 4 with a pair of RBIs and Jacob Gibson, Jay Baxter and Pennington all had two hits and an RBI.

Wizards rout Cavaliers

LeBron James was serenaded with chants of "over-rated!" as he stood at the free throw line late in the third quarter, the latest humorous twist in an ongoing saga that had somehow snared, yes, believe it or not, one of his son's favorite rappers into a front-row seat near the basket.

James couldn't help but laugh. He was so distracted he missed the free throw. Didn't really matter. By then, the Cleveland Cavaliers were trailing by 28 points, a stunning reversal from Game 2 to Game 3 in their first-round series against the Washington Wizards.

Maybe it was the new hairstyles sported by four Wizards players. Maybe it was the presence of Soulja Boy. Maybe it was sight of Colin Powell in a "White Out" T-shirt. Or just the comfort of being home. Or the inspiration of having Gilbert Arenas in the starting lineup, even though he limped out of the game in the first half.

Actually, there were plenty of reasons the Wizards routed their playoff nemesis, 108-72 in a Thursday night party at the Verizon Center. DeShawn Stevenson, who started the "overrated" talk and invited Soulja Boy to the game, had a "can't-feel-my-face" 19 points.

Fund-raiser for Red Cross Saturday

Gaffney Fire Department and Westlane Bowling Center will hold a No-Tap bowling tournament Saturday to raise funds for the Cherokee County American Red Cross.

Any individual, organization or businesses is invited to enter a team of four persons. Cost is \$120 per team and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams. Handicaps will be established during the tournament.

In No-Tap format, nine pins knocked down with the first ball counts as a strike. Lane times are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Signup forms are available at Westlane Bowling Center. Call the center at 489-1716, or the fire department at 487-8516, for more details.

Cougars, Fusser stop Indians 3-0

Gaffney gets just two hits off York ace in district playoff loss

By LARRY HILLIARD
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Maybe the Gaffney Indians played some other York Cougars in the preseason tournament in February.

The York team the Indians faced Thursday

played nothing like the one they defeated 19-2 in the Frank Roach Memorial preseason tournament.

Division I prospect Zac Fusser allowed just two hits as the Cougars beat the visiting Indians, 3-0, in the opening round of the District 3 playoffs.

Gaffney now will meet the loser of the White Knoll/Westside matchup on Saturday. If the Indians travel to Westside, the game will begin at 3 p.m.

Michael Hughey had the only hits for the Indians. The Indians mounted just one threat off Fusser when they had runners on first and second in the fourth inning but couldn't push a run home.

Gaffney starter Bobby Jackson, who gave up eight hits and struck out four in four-plus

innings, pitched well to win against most pitchers. But Fusser isn't most pitchers.

The Indians rocked an injured Fusser in the preseason game. This time, Fusser was throwing heat.

"He threw it up there tough," Owens said. "He had a good game. We just couldn't catch up to it. We had some opportunities to get a rally. But he just shut the door."

Tyler Wilson replaced Jackson in the fifth and tossed two scoreless innings of relief.

"Bobby threw well for us," the Gaffney coach said. "York just got some timely hits. Tyler came in and did a good job."

Cameron Culp is expected to get the start when the Indians face elimination on Saturday.

"We just have to rally back and win three games now," Owens said.



Ledger photo by LARRY HILLIARD

Gaffney's Julie Sarratt rounds third on her way to score in the fifth inning against Lancaster on Thursday. The Lady Indians now will meet Wren in second-round district playoff action today.

Gaffney shuts out Lancaster

By LARRY HILLIARD
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So much for Gaffney High softball coach Kelly Ellis' concern with her team's recent lack of offense.

The Lady Indians pounded out 10 hits and pitcher Julie Sarratt did the rest, allowing just one hit in a 5-0 victory over Lancaster in the opening round of the district playoffs on Thursday.

"I'm happy with the way we hit the ball," Ellis said.

The offense came from an unexpected source - Katie Patterson, who ignited the Lady Indians with a triple and double.

"Katie got us going," Ellis said.

The Lady Indians advance to play at top-seeded Wren today.

Leading 1-0, the Lady Indians had chances to add to their advantage but stranded a runner in scoring position in the second and third innings.

In the second inning, Patterson tripled but couldn't score. An inning later, Sarratt doubled and advanced to third but was stranded there.

The Indians finally got the key hit in the fourth when Patterson and Hillary Key stroked back-to-back doubles to make it 2-0. After Key moved to third on Cameron Crocker's single, she was caught off base and was thrown out trying to score.

The Lady Bruins threatened in the top of the fifth, advancing a runner to third but Campbell made a running grab of a popup in shallow left center to end the inning.

The Lady Indians scored three times in the bottom of the fifth to put the game away. Lana Ward led off with a triple before Ashley Mabry executed a picture-perfect suicide squeeze to score her. Mabry went to second on the throw home and went to third on Sarratt's single. Megan Standridge then delivered a sharp single to score Mabry and Sarratt.

The other story of the game was Sarratt's pitching. She allowed just one hit - a single in the third inning. She also struck out seven.

"She was powerful," Ellis said. "She had all her pitches working. She kept their power hitters off base."

Sarratt also was a force at the plate with a double and pair of singles.

Ellis said today's game will be a test. Wren is ranked No. 1 in the coaches poll.

"We have to hit the ball because they have a good pitcher," Ellis said.

LADY INDIANS AT WREN

■ The Lady Indians battle No. 1 seed in the coaches' poll Wren today.

Liberty downs Wildcats in district opener

By SCOTT POWELL
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LIBERTY - The Blacksburg baseball team will fight for its playoff survival this weekend after a 5-2 loss to Liberty on Thursday.

Blacksburg travels to face Ninety-Six on Saturday at 6 p.m. in the district playoffs. The winner will get another playoff game on Monday.

Blacksburg took a 2-0 lead in the first inning on an RBI single by Dustin Byars and a sacrifice fly by Chase Norman.

Leadoff batter Ashby Pruitt was hit by a pitch and advanced to second on a single by Will Raines.

Pruitt scored the Wildcats' first run on Norman's sacrifice.

After a double by Brent Humphries, Byars lined a single to score Raines.

Liberty's Matt Whitworth hit a 2-run homer off Byars to tie the game at 2 in the first.

Liberty added single runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Byars was the start-



TOBY ELLIOTT

ing pitcher for Blacksburg, giving up four runs in five innings of work. Norman came on in relief and finished the game.

Timely hitting proved to be the difference in the game.

Liberty had 12 hits while Blacksburg could only manage six hits in the contest.

Blacksburg had a runner on third with one out in the second inning, but could not score.

The Wildcats were unable to convert a bases loaded situation in the fifth inning and had runners in scoring position in two other innings but couldn't get the deficit.

"We couldn't get the timely hit when we needed it," Blacksburg baseball coach Toby Elliott said. "Hopefully, we can bounce back against Ninety-Six on Saturday."