BEYOND THE GAME WITH ALLIE HOVIS

Written by Eric Savage, Ardrey Kell High School

Walk into an Ardrey Kell High School Women’s soccer game and one of the first players you will notice is a 5’6 forward swiftly striding across the field. The dynamic soccer player is Allie Hovis, one of the leaders for the Knights. Allie is out front on offense with her speed, senior leadership, determination and powerful right leg.

Under the direction of head coach Jeff Mercado, Allie leads a very talented group of girls on the field. The Ardrey Kell Women’s soccer team, ranked 2nd in the preseason state rankings, look to capture a state title this spring after coming up short last year in the state championship game.

Allie is the daughter of Gary and Michelle Hovis. She started playing soccer at the age of ten and the rest is history! Allie was named All-Conference, All-Region, and All-State last year. She was also named Ardrey Kell’s Most Valuable Player. Allie has been a member of the Olympic Development Program State Team for three years. She also looks to continue to lead the Knights in scoring again this year after posting a solid 21 goals and 14 assists as a junior last year.

All of this success on the field, allowed Allie to sign a college scholarship offer to play soccer for The Brevard College Toros. The super competitive forward can’t wait to play college soccer, but first she wants to help the Knights take care of some unfinished business.

“In order for our Ardrey Kell women’s soccer team to make it back to the state championship, we must play as a team, take each game one at a time, and play hard throughout every game,” Allie said. “Something that we as a team can improve on from last year would have to be communication and leadership. Those are vital parts of being a successful team, without those key components we couldn’t accomplish our team goals.”

Look for Allie to play a key role for the Knights this year as they work hard to achieve their goal of a state championship. She knows her role for the season.

“My role for this year, as well as my fellow senior classmates, is to encourage and lead on and off the field.”

Allie also enjoys spending time away from the soccer field. Her favorite subject in school is Forensic Science.

“The class is not only fun but very interesting, dealing with real life situations. Away from soccer I enjoy photography as well as trips to the mountains with family and my best friend. Although I love soccer I also just like to relax whenever I get a break from it.”

For the next three months, there will be very little relaxing for Allie Hovis. This energetic soccer player is on a mission to help The Knights win a state championship. The South Charlotte Sports Report wishes Allie Hovis the best of luck this spring.

Send your news and photos to: Tripp@southcharlottesportsreport.com

SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT
SPRING BREAK BASEBALL CAMP

Hosted by
Carolinbas Baseball Center
April 6-9
9:00am-12:30pm
Ages 5-13

The South Charlotte Sports Report invites all area baseball and softball players to the Spring Break Baseball Camp to be held at Carolinas Baseball Center, located at 325 Westinghouse Blvd.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS PRICE: $95.00
Professional Hitting, Pitching and Fielding Instruction for all levels.

To register for this special camp, please visit www.southcharlottesportscamps.com

See page 4

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Did one of your players just hit two home runs in a game? Do you know someone that has overcome obstacles to find success in youth sports? Do you have a student that has had great success in the classroom and in their sport? Know someone that just committed to play a sport in college? Did your child’s team just win a championship and you have a great team photo?
If you answered yes to any of these questions, I want to encourage you to share the good news with The South Charlotte Sports Report. We will put your news and photos to good use in our paper or online at www.southcharlottesportsreport.com.

The South Charlotte Sports Report is here to serve the youth and active families in our community. Help us share all the positive news on our children with the rest of the community.

Send your news and photos to: Tripp@southcharlottesportsreport.com

“Your source for Summer Camps”
WWW.SOUTHCHARLOTTESPORTSCAMPS.COM
IT’S OUR DUTY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES

Since forming the South Charlotte Sports Report nearly three years ago, my email box has become similar to a traffic jam around Times Square. Emails come in from all directions with all sorts of subjects, story ideas, team photos, advertising inquiries, award nominations and questions from parents about where their child can play a certain sport. It’s become very rewarding that through the publishing of The South Charlotte Sports Report, families have elected to seek my opinion on certain opportunities for their children. I always do my best to help the family out, many of them are new to the area, but some have been here for years and just need a little guidance.

Included in a recent email was a story about how a child was left out in the cold when someone lost sight of the true goals of recreational sports. Recreational sports are intended to provide opportunities for all children to participate and learn how to play their chosen sport. I feel certain that the mission statement of most youth organizations include the words providing opportunities.

An opportunity is all any of us can ask for, whether it be in sports or in life. With that opportunity, great things can happen. In sports, a child can become a successful athlete, he can earn college scholarship money or even play pro sports. A child can learn the value of teamwork and one day use that to rise to the top of a multi-million dollar company. A child can learn to manage their time and apply that to school where they may graduate with honors. With an opportunity in sports, a child can stay in a structured environment and away from small trouble that can one day lead to big trouble and a ruined life.

Never underestimate the role a coach can play in a child’s life. A child could end up with a coach that makes a huge impact and turns into a lifelong friend and mentor. A child could find a teammate then becomes their best friend for life. A child could learn the value of living an honest life through the use of good sportsmanship on the field.

When we take away opportunities we only hurt our greatest resource, our children. It is our duty to provide as many opportunities in sports and other activities as humanly possible. When we lose sight of their value, we hurt children and nothing positive comes from hurting a child.

The South Charlotte Sports Report is committed to providing opportunities for children, whether it be through our sports camps and other youth programming or through the publicity we provide for our advertisers that seek to expand opportunities for children. We are always here to listen to ideas and possibly partner on any programs that provide these opportunities. Give us a call or send me an email at Tripp@southcharlottesportsreport.com if I can ever be of service or if you have an idea you would like to work on together.

To those of you out there creating opportunities for children, we say Thank You!

Tripp Roakes
Publisher
South Charlotte Sports Report
Tripp@southcharlottesports.com
704-906-5466

HOLY TRINITY PLANS BULLDOG 5K RUN IN SOUTH CHARLOTTE

The Holy Trinity Catholic Middle School’s Athletic Association is sponsoring its first ever Bulldog 5k run on Saturday, April 25th at 8am. The family friendly community event will start and finish at St. Matthew School. Both schools are working together to make this a fun and successful event, while giving back to the community. The course will start off in the St. Matthew school parking lot and proceed south on Rea Road, then wind through the Raeburn, Reavencrest and Williamsburg neighborhoods before finishing back at St. Matthew’s. Proceeds for the run will benefit the HTAAN and Crisis Assistance Ministry of Charlotte. Crisis Assistance is a Mecklenburg County nonprofit that helps people facing evictions and utility disconnections. Last year, the agency helped 16,549 families keep a roof over their heads with the lights on. The agency also operates a Free Store that provides clothing and household items to people free of charge so they can spend their money on other basic essentials. To register for the race go to www.bulldog5k.com

PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT AT THESE LOCATIONS

Play It Again Sports
Community House Middle School
Cardillo’s
Dick’s Sporting Goods – Pineville
Dick’s Sporting Goods – Matthews
YMCA – Siskey Branch
Mathnasium
Southeastern Gymnastics
Steps N’ Motion – The Fountains
On Deck Baseball
Tokyo One Express
Extreme Ice Center
Dr. Sellers Orthodontics
La Strada Pizza
Weddington Activity Center
Baskin Robbins (Highway 521)
Nothing But Noodles
Athletic Republic
Mecklenburg Aquatic Club
Carolina’s Baseball Center
International Sports Center
Try Sports
Pet Essentials
Jesse Brown’s Adventure
Jersey Mike’s (Stonecrest)
CrossFit Charlotte
Lazer, Long and Savage
Grand Slam USA
Papa Johns – Camfield Corners
Teby Sports Medicine
Meridian Medical Group
Velocity Sports Performance
Quimby and Collins
Charlotte All-Stars
Omega Sports
Four Seasons Barber and Salon
Dunkin Donuts (Highway 521)
Lax Zone

Fitness For Women
Palone’s Pizza
Sports Connection Ballantyne
Peak Fitness Ballantyne
Sports Perf. Ctr. @ OrthoCarolina
Presbyterian Urgent Care – Blakeney
BP Station near Sinsey Y
Citgo Station near Col. Beatty Park
The Ice House
Port City Java (Downtown)
In the Game Athletics
Premier Soccer
Charlotte Running Company
Chiropractic Fitness
Sports Clips (Promenade)
Marvin Ridge High School
Marvin Ridge Middle School
Charlotte Catholic High School
Marble Slab Creamery (Waxhaw)
Movie Gallery (Waxhaw)
Bird Dentistry
Learning RX
Dr. Garden Dentistry
Robek’s Juice
Sports Clip
Run For Your Life
Sports Orthopedic
The Creamery
Baskin Robbins (Waxhaw)
Sam & Carlies Deli
Tutoring Club of Charlotte
Holly Trinity Catholic Middle School
The Q Shack
Plantation Park
The Bagel Bin
Charlotte Aquatics
Waxhaw Family Physicians

Call 704-906-5466 or email Tripp@southcharlottesportsreport.com and we will add your location to this list.

THE SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT….. HOMETOWN TEAMS...HOMETOWN KIDS… HOMETOWN PAPER

South Charlotte Sports Report
Covers the Active Children and Families of Our Community
The South Charlotte Sports Report is published twice a month by The South Charlotte Sports Report, 9901 Zackery Ave, Charlotte, NC 28277. Phone: 704-341-0086. The South Charlotte Sports Report is distributed free throughout our coverage area in neighborhoods and local businesses. If you would like copies delivered to your business for distribution to customers, call 704-341-0086. Paid subscriptions delivered by USPS are available for $59.00 a year. Payment may be made to South Charlotte Sports Report, 9901 Zackery Ave, Charlotte, NC 28277.

Story ideas and photo submissions are welcome for use on our website and in our newspaper, email to Tripp@southcharlottesportsreport.com. Advertising rates are available upon request.

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Covering the Active Children and Families of Our Community
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The South Charlotte Sports Report is excited to offer what we believe is one of the top cheerleading camps in the area. Our camp offers top level instruction for all ages! Whether your daughter has only watched cheerleaders or has traveled across the region in cheerleading competitions, this camp is designed to fit the needs of all levels of young cheerleaders!

Former Wake Forest University cheerleader and current Ardrey Kell High School cheerleading coach Caroline Beglin and her well trained staff of coaches provide excellent instruction for all campers. The coaches keep the focus on each camper and provide a wonderful week of instruction, all leading up to a special show for the parents at the close of camp.

The South Charlotte Sports Report Cheerleading Camp will provide campers the opportunity to develop and improve basic cheerleading skills in a fun-filled, positive learning environment. The camp features small group instruction with emphasis on individual and team cheerleading skills. Girls of all ages and ability will benefit from the camp, whether your camper is an experienced cheerleader or learning a routine for the first time.

If your camper is a middle school student looking to develop the skills needed to earn a position on her schools cheerleading team or a youngster looking to have fun with her friends at camp, the camp will help your daughter reach her goals. The camp has been developed with an emphasis on first class instruction, organization and more importantly FUN! Each camper will learn the latest techniques in a fun, low pressure environment from a former member of the nationally ranked Wake Forest Cheerleading Team!

Each day will consist of fundamental instruction, team building exercises and the development of cheerleading routines. On the final day of camp, parents will be invited to attend a special cheerleading performance by the campers!

Cost to attend the 2008 South Charlotte Sports Cheerleading Camp hosted by the Ardrey Kell High School Cheerleading Team is only $135 and registration is now open online. To ensure a quality experience for all campers, a limited number of spaces are available for the camp. Make sure to register early to guarantee your spot. We will accommodate all requests to keep friends together in the same group. It's important to note that this camp sold out last season, so make sure to reserve your spot early on!

CAMP LOCATION:
Elon Park Elementary School

CAMP COST:
$135 per camper

SIBLING DISCOUNT:
$120 per camper for two
$105 per camper for three
What were Reggie Bush and Adrian Peterson doing on their spring break?

Training.

FOOTBALL UNIVERSITY
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April 24-26, 2009

Nominate an Athlete Today to Attend the Nation’s Most Elite Technical Training Experience.

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OLDE PROVIDENCE PISTONS
ENJOY A SPECIAL SEASON

The 2008-09 winter basketball season was a very special one for one of the 8 and under Olde Providence Recreation Association teams. The Pistons were a team of boys who worked very hard both at practice and on their own to develop their skills. Their hard work and team-oriented play resulted in them compiling a very impressive 12-0 season and winning the OPRA 8-U tournament.

The team was lead by Connor Smith, Steven Gonzalez, Corey Schwartz, Jacob Bugica, Charles “Chip” Pinner and Bryce McLain. The team was coached by Mike Gonzalez and James McLain. Coach McLain commented that this team was special not because of the undefeated season, but because of their commitment to learning the fundamentals, getting in good physical shape and team-oriented play.

According to Coach McLain, Connor Smith was a great defensive player and readily accepted the challenge of always having to defend one of the other team’s better scorers. He was also a big part of the Pistons offense and the team ran many sets plays designed for him to score. Steven Gonzalez and Corey Schwartz were the point guards. They distributed the ball very efficiently during the season resulting in great assist/turnover ratios for both boys. Steven made many drives to the basket to score and Corey was deadly when left open for the mid-range jumper. Jacob Bugica, played the 2 and 3 spots. Whenever the team was in desperate need for a basket they would call on Jacob to run a pick and roll. Jacob perfected this play allowing him or his teammates to get wide open lay-ups most times. Chip Pinner and Bryce McLain were the team’s top rebounders. Bryce’s ability to get a defensive rebound and take the ball the length of the court, lead to many scores. Chip got great rebounding position and scored often with offensive rebounds.

During the course of the season these 6 boys became a great team and great friends. All of them continue to play basketball often. They have even been heard talking about trying to play as a team next year and going undefeated again.
SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT

SUMMER CAMPS

“Delivering positive camps to our community.”

We are pleased to announce a wide range of South Charlotte Sports Report Summer Camps. Our camps deliver quality instruction, a commitment to good sportsmanship, affordable enrollment fees, online registration and the strongest commitment to customer service in the area. We strive to deliver consistency in all of our camps. No matter the sport, South Charlotte Sports Report Camps will deliver a consistent experience from start to finish.

If you are a fan of The South Charlotte Sports Report newspaper, we believe you will also be a fan of The South Charlotte Sports Report Summer Camps. The same positive focus that you have come to expect from our newspaper is given to every one of our camps. We have searched hard to find the best instructors of the game in our area to share their knowledge with your children. We hope you will choose to camp with us this summer.

CAMP SCHEDULE

| APRIL 6-10 | SPRING BREAK BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CAMP |
| JUNE 15-18 | BASKETBALL CAMP # 1 |
| JUNE 15-18 | CHEERLEADING CAMP |
| JUNE 22-25 | VOLLEYBALL CAMP |
| JUNE 22-25 | BASKETBALL CAMP # 2 |
| JUNE 29-JULY 2 | ALL SPORTS CAMP AT VELOCITY SPORTS PERFORMANCE |
| JULY 6-9 | GIRLS ONLY BASKETBALL CAMP |
| JULY 27-30 | PRESEASON FOOTBALL CAMP |
| TBA | ALL SPORTS CAMP # 2 |
| TBA | BASKETBALL CAMP # 3 |

TO REGISTER FOR A SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT SUMMER CAMP, PLEASE VISIT
WWW.SOUTHCAROLINAFANSPORTSCAMPS.COM

OR CALL TRIPP ROAKES AT 704-906-5466
Look fast or you may miss the Jackson twins! Austin and Garrett Jackson are two of the top track performers for the Marvin Ridge Mavericks. The identical 18 year old twins belong to Steve and Debbie Jackson. The boys recently captured medals in the North Carolina High School Indoor Track Championship and are now pacing their way to victory in the outdoor season.

The senior runners each took a different path to the track. Austin swam as a freshman, played soccer and ran track as a sophomore and played football and ran track as a junior. His girlfriend was a runner and talked him into joining the team during the tenth grade.

“My favorite part about track is right when I cross the finish line, realizing the hard work I put into that few seconds was all worth it.”

Garrett has been an all-conference soccer player the last few years and followed the encouragement of his brother to join the track team.

“My brother, Austin encouraged me to try track, because he thought I had potential and wanted me to be on the relay team with him. I believed I have had a positive impact on the track team as a whole. My favorite part about track is finishing my races knowing all the hard work I put into practice, in the gym and at home paid off, all for a few seconds of pain in my life.”

Both boys had strong indoor seasons, Austin finished in second in state for the 500M event and fifth in the 300M run. He was also part of the 2nd place 4x400M relay. These honors go along with being named to Union County Middle Distance Runner of the Year last year as well as all conference, all region and all-state. He was also named MVP and Most Outstanding Runner last year for Marvin Ridge.

Garrett placed in the top ten in the 500M dash at the Eastern Challenge held at UNC Chapel Hill. He also placed 2nd at the state meet in the 4x100M relay and 5th in the 500M.

The runners have set lofty goals for the spring.

Austin aims to be a state champion in the 4x800M Relay, 400M dash and the 4x400M Relay. He also wants to help lead the boy's team to a state championship title. Beyond that, he would also like to place in the top 5 at the Nike National Meet in March for the 400M dash and the 4x400M relay.

“I will be participating in the 200M dash, 400M dash, and 800M,” said Austin. “I will be a part of the 4x200M Relay, 4x400M Relay and the 4x800M Relay.”

Garrett’s goals for the spring season are to finish first in all of his events for regionals, conference and the state meet.

“I want to qualify for the national meet in the spring and place in the top five. I will be participating in the 400M dash, 200M dash, 4x400M Relay and the 4x200M Relay.”

With their strong indoor season, both boys qualified to attend the Nike Indoor National Track Meet.

Adding to the story, the twins had a positive impact on the track considering what they went through as children.

Garrett’s goals for the spring season are to finish first in all of his events for regionals, conference and the state meet.

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With their strong indoor season, both boys qualified to attend the Nike Indoor National Track Meet.

Adding to the story, the twins both overcome a very large obstacle. At the age of eight, Garrett was diagnosed with Legg Calve Perthes Disease. This is a disorder of the hip. The disease occurs when the head of the thighbone (femur) deteriorates due to insufficient blood supply to the area. After the bone cells die, the body replaces them with new cells. In order for the bone to grow back as round as possible, he had to be in a wheelchair and use crutches for two years.

Austin was also diagnosed with the disease, however, before it was diagnosed he had already progressed and things were good. In their 40’s or 50’s they will need to have hip replacements.

It’s now very amazing for their parents to watch the success on the track considering what they went through as children.

Austin and Garrett also do quite well in the classroom, both boys carry 4.0 grade point averages!

The South Charlotte Sports Report salutes Austin and Garrett Jackson for striving to be the very best runners possible. Good luck this spring season!
At the beginning of every semester the call goes out from school districts across the country for volunteer tutors. This year was no different with many districts citing a severe shortage of tutors at all grade levels.

This tutor shortage, coupled with the recognition and support of tutoring in the No Child Left Behind Act, would seem to imply that “tutoring really does matter,” according to Tutoring Club founder and President Larry Schwartz. “At both the state and local level, we are seeing more demand for tutoring as an integral part of the education system. In some cases though, it’s just not happening fast enough,” he added.

US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings reported in the 2006 No Child Left Behind Government Guide that in a world where technological innovation and global competition are on the increase, there is a growing need to make sure children are prepared for the 21st century.

What can be done, how can you prepare your children for a competitive high tech future? Parents must realize education is a joint effort; the responsibility cannot lie simply with teachers in the classroom, and in many cases, tutoring needs to be a part of the education mix.

Parents need to watch for early warning signs of problems in school. “Sometimes it takes more than mom or dad telling their student to study,” said Schwartz, “many students today do not know how to properly study for upcoming exams.”

According to Schwartz, the most common signs of a struggling student are:

- Lack of motivation to go to school
- Homework frustrations, or not turning in homework
- Acting up in class
- Weak math skills
- Doesn’t like to read, will not read, or the inability to read at grade level
- (For more information on early warning signs, visit www.tutoringclub.com/signs.)

Parents should review homework, quiz and test grades, talk with their child’s teacher, and communicate daily with their child regarding homework and test scores. Parents need to find out if their child understands assignments, and recognize when children say, “I just don’t get it,” they may be telling the truth.

Contrary to the belief of some parents, there is no “math gene.” Success in math is based largely upon mastery of basic skills – and the critical period for establishing this foundation is between 1st and 8th grade. “If students fall behind during this period, their ability to grasp high school algebra is very problematic. The same is true for reading, the foundation for reading skills is laid from kindergarten to 3rd grade,” notes Glenn Blanco owner of Tutoring Club of Charlotte. “If that foundation is shaky, it can affect virtually every other learning skill that children need to acquire.”

Tutoring Club provides exclusive diagnostic tests that pinpoint the exact area(s) in which a child is struggling, then creates individualized lesson plans to address each student’s needs, as tutors work with the student, parents, and teachers to guarantee academic success. For more information visit www.TutoringClub.com.

Tutoring Club learning centers offer exclusive TutorAid programs that are guaranteed to improve individual skills in core academic areas, including Rx Reading, Amazing Math, and The Write Way. Through the TutorUp program, Tutoring Clubs also offer individualized instruction in high-school mathematics, and teach basic learning skills such as note taking, outlining, time management and test preparation for all standardized tests. For more information on Tutoring Club, visit www.tutoringclub.com or contact Glenn Blanco at 704-542-2322 or CharlotteNC@TutoringClub.com.
The CBC Cougars 11U Blue and Red baseball teams began on opposite sides of the brackets and met in the middle for a memorable championship game. With hard work and a strong commitment to fundamental baseball, two 11U squads from the same organization met for the championship of the Nations Baseball Grand Slam Championship in Gastonia, NC recently. The Red squad squeezed out a 4-1 win to claim the trophies!
South Charlotte Sports Report

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PREPARING FOR NEW SEASON, NEW RULES

All across America, local teams are lining up now for American Legion baseball. Local American Legion posts have sponsored teams since 1925. Here locally, we have teams representing Pineville, Charlotte, Newell and Union County. Players 17 and under in 2009 are eligible to play for the Senior Legion team and players 19 and under in 2009 can play for the Junior Legion Teams.

With new rules in place, eligibility is determined by high school and home address of each player.

All players who attend Providence High School, regardless of where they live, will be assigned to Pineville Post 337. Providence is Pineville's Post 337 base school.

All players who attend Myers Park High School, regardless of where they live, will be assigned to Charlotte Post 262. Myers Park is Charlotte's 262 base school.

All players who attend Butler High School, regardless of where they live, will be assigned to the Newell Legion team.

All players who attend Weddington High School, regardless of where they live, will be assigned to Union County Team #1.

Players not attending a base school are first assigned to the base school geographically closest to their primary residence when using MapQuest. Non-base school players not making the closest base school team, are allowed to try-out for the next nearest base school after being released by their original base school.

County lines do not restrict geographic distances. Same applies to State lines with the exception that an additional release is required.

The Pineville Junior Legion will have a Pre-Registration Meeting on Sunday, March 29th at Grand Slam, USA at 7 pm. Players who are 17 or under in 2009 are eligible to participate. Contact Phil Yotsey at 704 819-4331 for further information. Pineville Senior Legion will have a Pre-Registration Meeting on Sunday, April 13th at Grand Slam, USA at 7 pm. Players who are 19 or under in 2009 are eligible to participate. Contact Mike Edwards at 704 560-4133 or at mkwedwards@carolina.rr.com for further information.

Last season the Pineville Senior Legion team behind the bat and right arm of Jordan Darnell had a final record of 30-9. They finished the season as Co-Champions of the Eastern Division with Union County and also finished as Area 4 runner-up to Cherryville. The Pineville Junior Legion team finished the season 26-7, Eastern Division Champions and Regional C-Champions with Cherryville. Both teams were State qualifiers, losing to eventual State Champion Cary 2-1.

Games will begin in late May in extent through the first week in July. The Regional Tournament process begins in the first week in July, concluding with the State Tournament around the first week in August. For the Senior team, there are also a Regional and National Tournament during the month of August for the State Champion.

SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT

SAMANTHA GOSTLING HEADED FOR HOKIE COUNTRY

Samantha Gostling recently made a verbal commitment to attend Virginia Tech University on a full volleyball scholarship. Samantha, a junior, had a tough choice to make. She received full scholarship offers from several ACC and SEC Schools. Virginia Tech proved to be the best possible academic and athletic fit for the 6’-2” Outside Hitter.

Samantha attends Ardrey Kell High School and is coached by legendary Volleyball Coach Zoe Bell. Samantha also plays Club Volleyball for The Carolina Juniors Volleyball Club (CJV).

She comments on her decision.

“I looked at many colleges to see what type of school was a good fit for me. When I visited Virginia Tech I could see the family atmosphere of the school and volleyball team. The one thing I really liked was the huge town support. My step dad is an alumni but didn’t influence my decision at all. The coaching staff were very easy to talk to and they always made me feel very comfortable, as well as the volleyball girls. The Hokie stone makes the campus beautiful and gives it a feel at home vibe. When I visited Virginia Tech, I met with the academic advisors and athletic department staff. I started feeling very comfortable with everything about Virginia Tech. I discovered that the academic support offered to Student Athletes at VT is amazing.”

Like many top volleyball players, Samantha started playing the sport in middle school, eighth grade to be exact. She fell in love from the start and began to play club volleyball. The club opportunities allowed her to play nationally and become exposed to college coaches.

Rick Kiser is one of Samantha’s club coaches at CJV. “Samantha is a rare talent that only comes along once in a blue moon. There are lots of tall Volleyball Players but few that are athletic enough to play Volleyball at the Division I level. ACC Volleyball is very competitive and those schools have to recruit the best of the best. Virginia Tech is going to get one of the most talented and hard-working kids I have ever worked with. Beyond Volleyball, Virginia Tech is getting someone that has great character and is a wonderful person. Samantha will do great things for the Hokies. Congratulations to Virginia Tech, Samantha, Samantha’s Mom Bonnie and her Stepdad Luke.”

Samantha now has the college decision out of the way and can enjoy her final year of high school volleyball even more.

“I spent a lot of my weekends visiting different colleges and trying to decide which ones I liked and which ones I didn’t like. I’m relieved that I can settle down and enjoy this club season and prepare for a very exciting senior year at Ardrey Kell. Making the calls to colleges that I did NOT choose was the hardest part. I am very happy with my decision.”

The South Charlotte Sports Report congratulates Samantha Gostling on her decision to attend Virginia Tech University.
SOUTH CHARLOTTE SPORTS REPORT STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

BRYCE THOMPSON

Age: 16  
School: Providence High School  
Grade: 11th  
Parents: Chris and Vickie Thompson  
Words people use to describe me: Committed, confident and hard working  
Hobbies: Golf, kicking, video games and refereeing youth games  
I am most proud of: Leading the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) organization at Providence High, national rankings with high school football kicking and my SAT scores  
If I could donate $100,000: I would donate it to the United Way foundation and local homeless shelters in Charlotte  
Best advice I was ever given: “Don’t Give Up....Don’t Ever Give Up” by Jimmy V.  
Favorite Subject: Math  
Favorite Jersey #: 16

Athletic Accomplishments: Bryce is ranked nationally in the top 20 kickers (as high as 7) for the class of 2010 by the top rated kicking camp in the country. He was the starting place kicker for Providence High as a sophomore, junior and is looking forward to his senior year. Bryce has a 90%+ average on his extra points and kicked the game winning field goal in a driving rain for Providence’s first win in 2008/2009. Bryce had a 72 yard kick-off in a national kicking competition this past year at Charlotte Christian. His season kick-off average was 58 yards.

Bryce has received Division I college recruiting interest from North Carolina State University, Duke University and the University of Tennessee.

Academic Accomplishments: Bryce is and has been a A/B honor roll student throughout high school. He has excellent SAT scores with results in the upper 90 percentile of the math component. Bryce has traveled abroad (Holland) with the People to People Leadership program and has held high school leadership positions in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and student council.

LEAH QUANT

Age: 17  
School: Providence High School  
Grade: 12th  
Parents: Kim and David Quant  
Words people use to describe me: Tall (6’0’’), polite, friendly  
Hobbies: Year round softball, reading  
I am most proud of: Maintaining good grades while being very involved in sports and volunteer activities. I would donate it to an organization that works with special needs children. I would like to be a special education teacher after college.  
If I could donate $100,000: I would donate it to an organization that works with special needs children. I would like to be a special education teacher after college.  
Best advice I was ever given: Relax and have fun.  
Favorite Subject: Math  
Favorite Jersey #: 09, have worn this number in the summer since I was 9.

Athletic Accomplishments: Leah is one of the top softball players in the Charlotte region. Her list of honors on the diamond include: 2008 Charlotte Sports Report All-South Softball Team, 2008 Southwest 4A Conference Pitcher of the Year, 2008 All-State and All-District Selections, 2007 and 2008 All Conference Selections and 2008 and 2009 Providence High School Team Captain.

Leah pitched a perfect game in her first varsity start as a freshman. Next season she will attend Limestone College on a softball scholarship.

Academic Accomplishments: Leah is a member of the National Honor Society at Providence High School. She has maintained a 4.0 or above her entire high school career. Leah has already been accepted into the Honors program at Limestone College and awarded the Academic Dean scholarship.

To nominate a Student-Athlete, please email Tripp@southcharlottesports.com

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Each Athlete of the Week will receive a complimentary one month scholarship to Velocity Sports Performance for their achievement.
CHARLOTTE FLAMES WIN GOLDEN PUCK TOURNAMENT

The Charlotte Flames youth hockey teams followed up their January success at the Golden Puck Tournament with a first place win for the Squirt A (U10) team and a second place showing for the Bantams (U14) at Presidents Day Tournaments in Chesapeake, Virginia and Nashville, Tennessee, respectively.

The Bantams, coached by Mike Wilerdong, traveled solo to Nashville to compete with teams from all over the country. They were perfect in the qualifying round, beating two teams from St. Louis, and in the semi-final they triumphed over a Kansas City team to reach the final. In the championship game, they faced a tough Dallas team and kept it close but lost 2-1.

The Flames sent two PeeWee (U12) teams, in addition to the Squirts, to the President Cup Tournament in Chesapeake. The PeeWee A team made it as far as the semi-finals but it was the Squirts who brought home the championship banner for the Flames. The Squirts defeated teams from Virginia and West Virginia and suffered a loss to the Triangle Sharks (Hillsboro, NC) in the qualifying rounds.

The semi-finals brought the Squirt Flames face to face with the Sharks again and they came from behind to defeat them 3-2, playing the final minute with the Sharks on a power play but to no avail. In the championship game, the Squirts played the Greensboro Stars, the first seed who was undefeated coming into the final game. In the first period, Greensboro took the lead but the Squirts tied it up and the lead went back and forth until half way through the third period when the Flames took the lead which they never relinquished, winning the championship title 4-3.

“This team has performed well all season, placing third in the Annapolis Crabtown Tournament, and third in the Golden Puck Tournament. They wanted this win. They wanted to be number one. It was not only their skill, but their desire that won this,” said Ed Morris, head coach of the Flames Squirt A team.

Submitted by Mary Crotty on behalf of The Charlotte Flames.
GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP ESSAY WINNER

By Sam Kegley, 7th Grade, Community House Middle School

Sportsmanship is something that every sports player needs, but not all possess this quality. Players who don’t are sometimes called “sore losers” or “gloaters”. This refers to them gloating about their win or blaming their loss on other players or a “sore leg”.

What they need to understand is that when they win, they have tried their hardest and succeeded, and when they lose, they haven’t. For me, sportsmanship means accepting the loss and moving on. It also means pointing out the flaws in your playing, and also means pointing out the mistakes of another player. It’s there to improve your record...not to gloat about.

Sportsmanship can also mean that you do whatever your coach asks you to do. If he or she needs you to play a position you don’t like, or he or she needs you to sit the bench. You always need to be respectful of your coach.

Publishers Note: Sam’s essay was chosen as the winner of The South Charlotte Sports Report Good Sportsmanship Essay Contest. Sam has won a Free week at any of the South Charlotte Sports Report summer camps. For more information on our summer camps, please visit: www.southcharlottesports camps.com

Honorable Mention Awards also go out to: Vaishvi Jhaveri, Rohan Mehrotra and Megan Martin. Special thanks to Community House Middle School Teacher Sally Caddell for having the most essays entered from her class!

BEYOND THE GAME WITH ANDREW CAPECCI

I was basically new to it. My Dad played high school football in Chicago and encouraged me to try out during my 7th grade year, even though my mom was a little worried. I made the team. During my 8th grade year, I made the team again and played tight end. I broke my arm during the last day of try-outs, but I continued to play each game with a cast. I ran the short out routes and quick slants so I didn’t lead the team in receiving yards. I was very satisfied, although I didn’t win the offensive MVP award. I thought I had an unbelievable season.

Are you playing any other sports this year? I just finished basketball season at Jay M. Robinson. (Last year my best friend and I were the only two 7th graders to make all 3 sports teams: football, basketball, and track) Basketball is my best and favorite sport. I hope to continue playing basketball in high school instead of football. It has been a big choice to only focus on basketball, but it is my favorite sport and I believe that I am better at it. I also play basketball at MARA. I play my best in those games and have led my team in scoring. The last game I played at MARA, I had 14 points and 10 assists getting a double double. I will continue playing basketball and hope to play next year at Ardrey Kell.

What does the term Good Sportsmanship mean to you? Good sportsmanship means a lot to me. My basketball coach at Jay M. Robinson, Coach Edwards, is probably one of the best men I have ever met in my life. He was an incredible inspiration to everyone on my team and insisted on good sportsmanship. He was 21 years old and new to coaching. Coach Edwards was energetic, and we related to him because he was close to our age. I will never forget our last practice when he told us a great saying, “Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you respond to it.” It reminded us that whenever we come across something troublesome like drugs or alcohol, never to do them. It could affect your whole life. Also, it reminded us that if we get a bad call in a game, to respect the referee’s call. Even if the call was terrible, Coach reminded us that we shouldn’t respond by arguing and throwing a fit. Coach taught us many things about basketball, life and good sportsmanship, and he is the best basketball coach that I have ever had in my life.

What do you consider your greatest athletic accomplishment? “My greatest athletic accomplishment was probably making the basketball team my 7th grade year. When I was in 5th and 6th grade, I played MARA basketball. I was the worst kid on the team. I couldn’t dribble and couldn’t shoot. One game when we were shooting around in the pre-game, I made a shot and called “change!” A kid that had my ball told me something that I will never forget. He said, “You don’t need any change, because you aren’t gonna make the next one.” All of the kids laughed. I sat on the bench most of that game. I realized that if I ever wanted to do well in basketball, I was going to have to work hard. And that is exactly what I did. I practiced every day. I would run, shoot and go in for lay-ups at full speed. I went to many camps. I honestly believe that those camps are the reason I made my middle school basketball team. When I was at a camp, I met the other most important man in my life. His name Eddie Oates. I would meet with him and train, and he would help me with my shot. In those 2 years with Eddie’s help, I went from being this small, wimpy, little kid into being an athlete. I owe my basketball achievements to Eddie Oates.”

How well do you perform inside the classroom and what is your favorite subject? “I would much rather be outside shooting baskets or in the gym working out than sitting in school doing work. Trust me, though, school is the most important part of any kids day. Without an education in life, you cannot do anything. You can’t own a business or do anything with your life. You can’t even play high school or college basketball. Even though many kids would love to carry on their sport and go professional, the changes of that are slim. You always need a backup plan.”
THE Q SHACK COACH OF THE WEEK

ZACHARY BARJONA
MARVIN RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL
JV LADIES BASKETBALL COACH

Zachary Barjona has been chosen as the winner of The Q Shack Coach of the Week Award. Coach Barona led the Marvin Ridge High School Ladies JV Basketball Team to an outstanding season, recording just one loss along the way. The ladies enjoyed playing for Coach Barjona and learned a great deal about high school basketball from the coach.

Before being named as the Ladies JV Coach, Barjona served with former NBA Coach and Player Paul Silas and the Adidas Nation Junior National Basketball Team. Prior to that, Barjona was the associate Head Coach for the women’s basketball team at Cascade College and assistant coach for the men’s basketball team at Portland Community College.

With one season under his belt for The Mavericks, Coach Barjona is already hard at work to build an even stronger team next year.

Congratulations to Coach Zachary Barjona for being chosen as The Q Shack Coach of the Week!

To nominate your coach for this award, please visit The Q Shack or www.southcharlottesports.com. The winning coach will receive a $25 gift certificate to The Q Shack.

Located in The Providence Promenade
10822 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-542-5969

MARA 10U GIRLS WIN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 10U girl's MARA team coached by Kevin Mosteller, won the Girl's 10U championship for MARA, Old Providence, Mint Hill, and Porter Ridge Recreation Associations. These girls went 10-0 in the regular season and 16-0 overall.

The team had a great time and learned a lot from Coach Mosteller and also from assistant coaches Bob Carlton and Jim Haigh. The girls would also like to thank Morgan Mosteller for her support and for mentoring the girls.

Back Row (L-R): Head Coach Kevin Mosteller, Asst Coach Jim Haigh, Asst Coach Bob Carlton.
Middle Row (L-R): Katrina Hartley, Aleta Anderson, Carly Walker, Caroline Stathakis, Emily Willson, Jenny Carlton.
Front Row (L-R): Rachel Haigh, Courtney Sanderson
This year at Ardrey Kell, the swim team created a season that would prove to be one of their best yet. With a record number of swimmers qualifying for post season competition and numerous school records broken, this swim program has a lot to be proud of. Several awards were given out to key contributors at this year’s swim banquet. On the girl’s side, senior captains Ashley Wagoner and Marissa McJunkin were each awarded team MVP. On the boy’s side, Casey Kukielski was awarded team MVP. All three of these swimmers helped to create something to cheer for as Ardrey Kell traveled to post-season competition. McJunkin took first place in the 100 fly at the conference meet, while Wagoner finished first in the 200 free at conference and the 500 free at the regional level. All three were state finalists in at least one event. “I have realized that you can’t put a limit on anything” said Wagoner. “The more you dream, the further you get both in and out of the pool.”

Coaches awards were also given out to two deserving swimmers at the banquet. These swimmers showed hard work and dedication throughout the season, while setting a positive example for their teammates by displaying a good attitude and work ethic. Assistant coach Claire Nicholls awarded Miles Harbin with her award, while head coach William Keith awarded Ashley Gustafson with this honor. “I was thrilled to present the award to Ashley. Her dedication to her teammates, to the program, and to achieving her personal best is the true embodiment of the type of student-athlete I hope to represent this program. As a coach, there is not a moment that gives you more pride than to present such an award to a young person who is so deserving of recognition,” commented head coach William Keith.

Much of the program’s success at Ardrey Kell can be attributed to head coach William Keith and assistant Claire Nicholls. “These coaches worked hard throughout the season to take Ardrey Kell Swimming to the next level. While this years season proved to be a success, Coach Keith expects even more for next year. “Our goal for next season continues to be to build a program that is competitive in the water and one that represents the high standards of Ardrey Kell High School. We are working hard to continue the tremendous positive momentum we have generated over the past two years. While our focus in the water will be working to continue rising in the Southwestern 4A, out of the water we are committed to building a program that is a positive influence on each team member that is a part of it.”

With continued hard work, dedication and positive momentum, the Ardrey Kell swim program expects next year to be even better than this past season. For swimmers at Ardrey Kell, the competition, friendships, and expectations for success all add up to a program each athlete is thankful to be a part of.

The South Charlotte Sports Report would like to congratulate the Ardrey Kell Swimming Team on its efforts this past season, and wishes these swimmers great success in the years to come.

— Written by Jen Rosene, Ardrey Kell High School
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Coach Tripp Roakes

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