

Lions edge out Trojans for regional title



Dahja Price races around the track toward a second-place finish in the 200-meter dash. Photo by Chris Campbell

Girls' track team wins championship, boys finish third at home

By Joseph Haney

Half of a point may not seem like much, but for Louisa County's girls' track team, it was the difference between being crowned regional champions and finishing in second place.

"We've been on the short end of the stick a number of times," Lions' coach Jerry Cutright said. "It's good to be on the plus side of things."

The Lions scored a total of 135.5 points throughout the Virginia High School League Region 4B championship meet held at Louisa County High School on May 21. Midlothian's team scored 135 points for a close second-place finish, and Hanover rounded out the top three with 116.5 points. The

win marks the first time that Louisa's girls' track team has beaten the Trojans at the regional level.

The Lions earned several top place finishes throughout the meet to help them earn their winning score. Dahja Price won the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.38 seconds and finished second in the 200-meter dash, coming in at 26.38 seconds.

Price also ran on Louisa's winning 4x100 relay team along with teammates Daizhane Hunter, Neisha Ragland and DaShay Shelton, and placed second in the long jump with a distance of 17 feet, four inches.

Ahteara Winn led the field in the high jump with a winning height of five feet, while



Ahteara Winn attempts to clear the bar in the high jump competition, working her way to a first-place finish.

See Title on B-4

Chiefs overwhelm Lions

Boys soccer shut out in regional outing

By Chris McCotter

The Lions' boys' soccer team ended its season in the Virginia High School League Region 4B tournament, falling to the Monacan Chiefs 7-0 on May 21

Lack of substitutes was an issue for the Lions, with several players unable to compete due to injuries.

Senior Mason Godek, did his best to rally his defense in the face of a swift and relentless attack from the Chiefs. He was assisted by fellow defenders sophomore Tommy Shultz and junior Mitchell McCotter.

Seniors Trent Barlow and Ethan Labelle, driving forces on Louisa's offense, saw limited playing time due to injuries. Taking their place were Emmerson Velazquez, Dan-

iel Green and Andrew Estes who had been pulled up from Louisa's JV team for post-season play.

Monacan's first goal came five minutes into the game when Eli O'Kuinghtons scored on Louisa goal keeper Leo Torres. Torres managed to stop a number of shots by the Chiefs, but a combination of speed, power and precision passing proved too much.

The Lions held the Chiefs to that one goal for most of the first half, but a goal from Matthew Natale with 14 minutes left on the clock opened the flood gates.

The Chiefs added three more goals before halftime, including a penalty kick from Immanuel Akpeme at the two-minute mark, to give Monacan a 5-0 halftime lead.

Akpeme notched a hat trick at 30:26 in second half. The Lions defense kept the Chiefs out of the goal for the majority of the rest of the game, with the Chief's final goal coming with just under three minutes left to play.

Lions leave runners stranded

Miss key hits at regional opener in Midlothian

By Joseph Haney

Louisa's softball team traveled to Midlothian High School to begin its post season play, taking on the Trojans in the opening round of the Virginia High School League Region 4B tournament. The Lions came up short 4-1, bringing the 2019 season to a close.

The Lions had runners in scoring position in both the second and third innings, loading the bases in the latter, but were unable to capitalize. The Trojans got on the scoreboard in the fourth inning with a pair of runs, then added two more in the fifth to take a 4-0 lead.

Louisa caught a break in the top of the seventh. Jerri Lynn Shull led off with a single. After advancing to second and then third on two separate passed balls, she crossed the plate on a sacrifice fly from Saniya Jones for the Lions' lone run.

"We stranded too many runners," Lions Coach Susan Sharpe. "But, overall, I'm pleased with the season. They've come a long way this past year, and we don't have any seniors so we get to do it all again next year."

Shull tallied two hits for the Lions. Jones and Olivia Chenault each added one.



Emily Hall puts the ball in play during the Lions' Region 4B tournament game against Midlothian on May 21.

"Overall, I'm pleased with the season. [The girls] have come a long way this past year, and we don't have any seniors so we get to do it all again next year."

- Susan Sharpe, coach



Lions' midfielder Isabella Rocha takes control of the ball during Louisa's regional tournament match against the Midlothian Trojans on May 21.

Trojans too much for Lions

By Joseph Haney

Louisa's girls' soccer team traveled to Midlothian High School on May 21 to take on the Trojans in the first round of the Virginia High School League Region 4B tournament. The Lions lost 7-0, bringing their 2019 season to an end.

The Trojans took command of the game in the first half, putting up five goals before the halftime break. They added two more in the first 20 minutes of the second half, and Louisa's defense kept them out of the net for the

remainder of the game as goalie Anna Filipkowski tallied 23 saves. The Lions struggled to gain traction on offense throughout the game.

Injuries have plagued the Lions all season, culminating in the fact that they had only one substitute for the regional game.

"I'm proud of my girls for completing the game," Lions head coach Holly Verbos said. "They went out and played with hustle and heart, and that's all you can ask of somebody when you don't have anyone to [give them a break] and you're down...I'm glad we finished strong."



High Point Marina Fishing Report

Bass
Fish are off the beds, but they are staying in fairly shallow water gorging themselves with small bait and spawning blue gills. Now is the time to be throwing poppers, buzzbaits or any type insect bait will work. Bass are also chasing faster moving baits such as crankbaits, swimbaits, and Wacky Worms. This is a great time for suspending jerkbaits. Anglers are also using Duo

Shad #59, Senkos, and Mega Bass lures. The fish will gradually move deeper now that hot summer like days have arrived.

Striper
Most of the fish have settled from the power plant up past the splits to the bridges. Fish shallow in low light, deeper in bright light. Most fish will stay in the upper water column 5-12' early then move deeper in the afternoon. Fish have been found as deep

as 25' in some areas. Sassy shad, sea shad, KT Slab (tooth-ache) spoons, as well as live bait are producing many nice fish. Trolling has also been very effective, using rigs, Manns Stretch 20 and Cordell Redfins or DD-22.

Crappie
Their spawn is over, but bluegill/sunfish spawn is beginning. Live worms and very small poppers will do the trick around boat docks and bulk heads. Crappie are re-schooling and moving to deeper structure and bridges. Minnow and 2" grubs will produce some nice slabs.

Water temps in the low 80's

Gators race to victory in home meet

Outswim FAST in final meet before championships

By Joseph Haney

The Louisa Gators closed out their regular season on July 17 with a home meet against the Fluvanna Area Swim Team. A late afternoon thunderstorm delayed the start of the meet, but didn't slow the Gators down as they went on to win, outscoring FAST, 502-381.

Several Gators earned individual wins. Danielle Delawder led the field in two events in the girls' 11-12-year-old age group, winning the 100-meter individual medley and 50-yard breaststroke races.

Alison Soriano also brought home a pair of first-place finishes, winning the 100-yard individual medley and 50-yard backstroke races in the 13-14-year-old age group. Lauren Dessent also scored a win in the 100-yard individual medley, winning in the 15-18-year-old age group.

The Gators' girls' team had four more individual wins, two in the breaststroke and two in the backstroke. Josie Pearson won the 50-yard breaststroke in the 11-12-year-old age group while Brynn Straley won the event in the 15-18-year-old group. The winners in the backstroke were Eleanor Pekary (13-14-year-old) and Elliot Moreno (11-12-year-old).

The boys' team had similar success throughout the meet.

Gavin McClellan continued to lead the field in the eight-and-under age group, scoring wins in the 25-yard freestyle, backstroke and butterfly races. Taylen Soriano, competing in the 11-12-year-old group, also scored a trio of wins, finishing first in the 50-yard breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke races.

Reece Reidelbach (six-and-under) won a pair of races, finishing first in the 25-yard freestyle and backstroke races. Dyllan Hartman also garnered a pair of wins for the Gators in the 15-18-year-old age group's 50-yard freestyle and butterfly events.

Other winners for the boys' team include Patrick Moore (11-12-year-old) in the 100-yard individual medley, Rett Delbridge (15-18-year-old) in the 50-yard breaststroke, and Ronan Shaw (9-10-year-old) in the 50-yard backstroke.

The Gators also won five of the meet's six relay races.

"Our kids swam hard and we are looking forward to the championship meet this week," Gators' Coach Debra Bickley said.

The Gators close out their season this weekend with the Jefferson Swim League Championship meet July 26-27 at University of Virginia's Aquatics and Fitness Center in Charlottesville. Races begin at 11 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.



Taylen Soriano races to a first-place victory in the boys' 11-12-year-old 50-yard breaststroke race during the Louisa Gators' final home meet of the season on July 17.



Above: Mary Ashton Grose competes in the girls' 15-18-year-old 50-yard freestyle race at the July 17 meet.

Below: Michael Moore races down the pool in the boys' six-and-under 25-yard freestyle race.



Seth Van Benschoten takes a breath during the boys' 13-14-year-old breaststroke race at the Betty J. Queen Intergenerational Center pool on July 17.



Lake Anna Fishing report



mum size requirement.

BASS

Largemouth bass anglers have been doing well using topwaters just about all summer. When the fish won't hit a popper or Super Spook over a hump, around points and along shoreline willowgrass, it's time to drop back and fish shaky worms in brush and deep rocks. Retrieving a crankbait over up lake rocky points can also be productive. Don't overlook schooled bass on bait in the down lake region over open water humps and in the backs of select creeks.

CRAPPIE

Lake Anna crappie are around shade. They don't have to be 25 feet deep to find this. Bridge pilings, rocks, docks and brush piles all offer this thermal refuge. Try a small crankbait on light line that dives 10 feet around up lake rocks for the largest crappie of the summer. Otherwise, it's small minnows under slip bobbers for the best results.

Lake temps upper 80's to low 90's

McCotter's Lake Anna Guide Service

STRIPERS

For the strippers, anglers should expect the larger fish to remain between the first two bridges and the marinas. The mouths of main lake creeks like Mitchell, Pigeon, Marshall and Ware are common hotspots. Trolling, spooning and fishing live bait on downlines has been excellent and should continue. Trollers have been doing the best using Redfins, DD22s, and umbrella rigs. The Toothache spoon is the best jigging lure. Big gizzard shad have replaced blueback herring as the top live bait. Depths to look for striper range from 25-35 feet. There will be more and more surface action in the morning and late afternoons but most of these fish will be under the 20 inch mini-

“Our kids swam hard and we are looking forward to the championship meet this week.”

Debra Bickley,
Louisa Gators Coach

Louisa Major All-Stars try for state title

By Joseph Haney

Louisa's Major All-Star baseball team represented District 14 in the Virginia Little League state tournament in Abingdon last weekend. The tournament opened with a round-robin-style pool play round beginning on July 19.

Louisa took on District 13 champions Coeburn Little League in their first game.

After a slow first inning, Louisa found their groove and battled to an 11-6 win.

From there, the team went on to face Fairfax Little League, the champions from District 10. Louisa struggled to build momentum on offense throughout the game. They got a boost in the fifth inning with a three-run homer from Ian Taylor, but still came up short 7-4.

Louisa played their final

game on July 21, taking on Cave Spring American Little League from District 12. Louisa again faced solid defense, falling 5-1.

"We just kept hitting the ball right to people," Louisa Team Manager Maurice Holland said. "We couldn't find the gap and that makes it hard."

Holland had specific praise for Ethan McGehee, who Holland said "pitched

his heart out" against Cave Spring.

Louisa ended the pool play round with a 1-2 record and didn't advance to the second round of the tournament. Even so, Holland said that the team had a good time at the tournament.

"The whole experience of being there, away from home, with the team was really fun for them," he said.



Senior Olivia Grubbs has been a key part of the varsity volleyball team since her freshman year.

Killing it on the volleyball court

Four-year starter leaves her mark on the team

By Joseph Haney

It takes a special talent to earn a starting position on a high school varsity team, and even more to maintain that position for four seasons, but that's exactly the kind of talent that senior Olivia Grubbs brings to the Lions' volleyball team.

Grubbs first developed an interest in volleyball when she was in seventh grade after watching one of her cousins play in a high school game.

"I absolutely loved it," she said. "There was so much going on and it looked so fun."

Grubbs joined the high school's JV team in her eighth grade year, but soon set her sights on the varsity team, setting a goal to make the team for her freshman season.

"It was one of those goals where you're not sure if you'll be able to achieve it because it's crazy, but it might happen," she said. "It was kind of a surprise for me, but I felt like I was working hard in the off-season, so I was excited."

During her tryout, Grubbs showed volleyball coach Rachel Green what she was capable of and what she could bring to the team.

"She just had a quiet confidence that she showed us and has maintained for the entire four years I've coached her on the varsity team," Green said. "And not just a quiet confidence, but a quiet leadership. She works hard in every practice, in every play [and] in every part of the game."

Her work paid off as she not only earned a position on the varsity team, but quickly became one of their key players. A four-year starter, Grubbs has played, by Green's estimate, "every minute of every game" during her varsity career with only a few exceptions.

"Next year will not be the same, no matter what," Green said. "With Olivia, you just get a solid player that can shake off a mistake and know that the ball's going to come again, and [she] can fix it. And her mistakes are very few...She's one of the smartest players I've ever coached."

Grubbs has proven to be a force to be reckoned with for the Lions, both on offense and defense. Throughout her varsity career, she's tallied 390 digs, 326 kills and 96 aces.

"I think she gets pretty underrated because she's not the tallest and can't jump as high as some of the other girls, but she's learned to compensate for that with smart play," Green said.

Stepping up as the youngest player on the team her first
See Grubbs on B-3

Lions sting Hornets at home

Extend unbeaten streak with 35-14 win

By Joseph Haney

The Lions continue to reign supreme, winning their 25th straight regular season game on Oct. 4 with a 35-14 victory over the Orange County Hornets.

The win also marked the Lions' 11th consecutive victory over the Hornets in the annual Battle of the Gordonsville Tastee Freeze.

The Lions got on the scoreboard first, but it took most of the first quarter to do it. After failing to make it out of their own territory on their opening drive, Louisa's defense forced a three-and-out and took over on their own 30-yard line. Freshman quarterback Landon Wilson connected with senior Xavien Hunter for a 9-yard pass to move the ball pass midfield, then found Hunter again a couple plays later for a 35-yard throw, moving the Lions to scoring position on the 4-yard line.

Senior Jarett Hunter came up with the score, the first of four he would have throughout the night, on a 2-yard



Jarett Hunter maneuvers around Orange's defense during the annual Battle of the Gordonsville Tastee Freeze. Hunter ran for 158 yards and scored four touchdowns for the Lions.

push two plays later. Senior Saun Williamson kicked the extra point for the Lions, giving them a 7-0 lead with 24 seconds left in the quarter.

The Hornets had a response ready, though, as Paul Poirier returned the Lions kickoff just short of midfield. Jaylen Alexander found an opening on the first play of the drive to get the ball well into Louisa's territory, and quarterback Walker Johnson connected with Jireek Washington for a 30-yard touchdown pass. Kyle Taylor's kick was good, tying the

score 7-7 as the first quarter ended.

The Lions didn't waste time in responding, with Kalup Shelton breaking loose from the Lions' 44-yard line for a 56-yard scamper to the end zone. Williamson put the extra point away to boost the Lions' lead to 14-7 with just over 11 minutes left in the half.

Louisa's defense held Orange to another three-and-out on their next drive, setting the Lions' offense up for another success. Starting on their own 20-yard line, the Lions

See Sting on B-3

Lions fight to the end at home

Battle Patrick Henry through close sets, shut out Black Knights in The Den

By Joseph Haney

The Lions' volleyball team stepped out of the Jefferson District on Oct. 7 for a home game against the Patrick Henry Patriots. Louisa battled throughout the night, but ultimately fell 3-1.

The first two sets of the game opened with back-and-forth lead changes before the Patriots surged ahead. The Lions kept fighting, pulling back late to narrow the gap, but coming up short both times, 25-17 and 25-19.

Things turned around for the Lions in set three, with Louisa taking a 7-2 lead early and making it stand for a 25-14 victory. The Lions carried that momentum into the fourth set, staying within striking distance of the Patriots. After tying the score several times, the Lions took a late 23-22 lead, but the Patriots were able to close it out from there to win the game.

See Fight on B-3



Kylie Robinson pushes the ball over the net during the Lions' home game against the Charlottesville Black Knights on Oct. 3.

Field hockey powers through district challenges

By Joseph Haney

The Lions' field hockey team took on a pair of Jefferson District rivals last week, hosting the Charlottesville Black Knights and playing the Albemarle Patriots on the road.

Louisa hosted Charlottesville on Oct. 3, falling 6-0. Caroline Sampson had 16 saves in goal for the Lions, while Amelia James added five. Shayla Holliday tallied a pair of defensive saves and Kayla Gibbons added one.

The Lions sent a few attacks toward the Black Knights' goal, with Kendall Hyer firing off three shots and Lydia Gillespie adding two.

"The last time we played Charlottesville, the score was a lot different, and not in our favor," Louisa head coach Meredith Williamson said. "This time around, we kept to our marks tightly and prevented them from scoring as many goals. The girls were able to transfer the ball from defense to offense using

skills we have worked on in practice. It is awesome to see them applying that information to the games on the field."

The Lions faced an equally tough struggle on the road against Albemarle on Oct. 1, as they were shut out by the Patriots 6-0.

Sampson tallied 15 saves in goal, while James had four. Elizabeth Rosson earned a defensive save for the Lions.

"The players are starting to make the adjustments they need to on the field, which is translating to more intense and competitive game play for us and our opponent," Williamson said. "Unfortunately, their progress is not reflected in the score all the time. I was really proud of the way they played."

The Lions traveled to Orange County on Oct. 8 to take on the Hornets. Results were unavailable at press time. They return to The Jungle on Oct. 10 to host the Monticello Mustangs. Varsity action begins at 7 p.m.

Louisa golfer scores third trip to state tournament

By Joseph Haney

For the third consecutive season, Zane Moore will represent Louisa County High School at the Virginia High School League Class 4 state golf tournament.

Moore, who finished in a three-way tie for state runner-up honors last season, earned the trip to states at the Region 4B tournament on Oct. 7. Moore shot a 72 to finish third overall.

"Zane has had a great year and this is something he should really be proud of," Lions head coach Neal Moubrey said. "He's really making a name for Louisa golf on a state level. He earned second place in the state last

year, so this year the goal is hopefully bringing the title home to Louisa."

Moore was the only member of the Lions' golf team to qualify for the regional tournament. The Lions competed at the regional sub-tournament on Oct. 1. Moore carded a score of 80 to lead the team.

Price Straley shot 88 in his final match and Evan Straley carded 94. Perry Hopkins completed Louisa's team score with a 109. Nate Feagans also played for Louisa, shooting 110 for the day.

The VHSL Class 4 state golf tournament begins at 8 a.m. at the Williamsburg National Golf Course on Oct. 14.



Zane Moore