

# SPORTS

## LACROSSE TEAMS SWEEP STATES



Times-Mirror Photos/Jeff Vennitti

Above, Dominion head coach Diane Traynor and Ashlyn Hickey embrace following the Titans' 15-11 victory in the Virginia Class 4 girls' lacrosse championship game.

Right, a steady rain could not slow Riverside's celebration after the Rams defeated E.C. Glass 12-4 in the Virginia Class 4 boys' lacrosse final Saturday in Salem to claim their second state title in the last three seasons.



**CLASS 4 GIRLS LACROSSE:  
DOMINION 15, W. ALBEMARLE 11**

### Cohesion keys Titans' title run

BY JASON S. RUFNER  
Special to the Times-Mirror

The Dominion Titans claimed the first girls' lacrosse state championship in school history Saturday with a 15-11 victory over Western Albemarle in the Virginia Class 4 grand finale.

The Titans (18-2) saw their opponents edge out to an early 5-3 lead as rain constantly poured over Salem High School in southwestern Virginia. But a sudden 7-0 outburst gave Dominion a 10-6 advantage by halftime.

The teams traded goals throughout the second half, and the Titans emerged with the program's first state title in its 16 seasons.

"We've really set a very consistent culture and tone for our program over the past few years," Dominion head coach Diane Traynor said. "We have had the same vision for the program — to be state champions — and everyone has had to buy into that vision."

To see themselves as state champs, the

**DOMINION**, page 29

**CLASS 4 BOYS LACROSSE:  
RIVERSIDE 12, E.C. GLASS 4**

### Rams win second crown in 3 years

BY JASON S. RUFNER  
Special to the Times-Mirror

Riverside High School's boys' lacrosse program has only existed for four seasons but they've won state championships in half of them. The Rams claimed their second in a 12-4 rout Saturday over E.C. Glass at Salem High School.

A constant rainfall didn't hold the Rams (18-2) back from taking control of the title tilt early, as the senior-laden front line of Taylor Musa, Daniel Maltz and Mitchell Pehlke powered Riverside to an 8-2 halftime lead, fed by Evan Park's strong effort in the face-off circle.

Glass had no second-half answer for the Rams. Maltz finished with a game-high four goals, while Pehlke and Musa combined for five more.

Nick Worek, head coach of the Rams' program since inception, gave credit to his assistants for their game planning, and to his seniors for their steady influence.

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**CLASS 5 GIRLS LACROSSE:  
FREEDOM 11, ATLEE 10**

### Eagles repeat as champions

BY JASON S. RUFNER  
Special to the Times-Mirror

The Freedom Eagles defended their state title of a year ago by winning it all again, edging Atlee 11-10 in the VHSL Class 5 girls' lacrosse championship Saturday at Douglas Freeman High School in Henrico.

The Eagles (18-4) saw their opponents score two goals with 10:30 remaining, taking a 10-9 lead. But the remainder of the game belonged to the girls from South Riding.

One minute after Atlee took the lead, sophomore midfielder Lindsey Ahn tied things up again, charging in close from a free position.

Five minutes after that, sophomore attacker Allison Ohri delivered Freedom's go-ahead goal, emerging from a triple-team defense to race across the crease and fling in a left-handed shot.

Atlee, who finished runner-up to the Eagles in last year's state tournament, got two more chances to even the score. But

**FREEDOM**, page 28

**CLASS 5 BOYS LACROSSE:  
BRIAR WOODS 9, ATLEE 8**

### Falcons complete perfect season

BY CARL LUKAT  
clukat@loudountimes.com

Despite entering the Virginia Class 5 boys' lacrosse championship game undefeated with an average margin of victory of more than 10 goals per game, Briar Woods head coach Marty Young knew his team would face a stern challenge from Region 5B champion Atlee.

"They have one of the best programs in the state and we have a ton of respect for them. It should be an epic state championship game," Young said following Briar Woods' 19-7 state semifinal win over John Champe.

Atlee provided that challenge Saturday at Douglas Freeman High School in Henrico, leading 5-2 early in the second quarter. Briar Woods was able to overcome the rare deficit to put the exclamation point on the best season in program history.

The Falcons (22-0) scored four unanswered goals to close the first half and open

**BRIAR WOODS**, page 30

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Photo Courtesy/Woodgrove H.S.

The Woodgrove Wolverines capped their final season of competing in Class 4 by winning the 2019 Virginia State girls' soccer championship.

# Woodgrove goes distance to win state crown

In all-Loudoun final, Wolverines top Raiders in overtime

BY CARL LUKAT  
clukat@loudountimes.com

Unfinished business. That's been the focus of the Woodgrove High School girls' soccer team throughout the 2019 season after the Wolverines lost to Blacksburg 1-0 at home in the state quarterfinals last year.

Woodgrove put the final touch on completing that task on a rain-filled Saturday at Roanoke College.

Playing reigning state champion Loudoun County for the fifth time this season, Woodgrove junior Liz Marcheschi scored off a rebound from junior Rachel Castro's well-placed lob shot approximately one minute into overtime to lift the Wolverines to a 1-0 victory in the Virginia Class 4 state championship game.

"Before the overtime, we said 'let's forget about who we are playing, what it's for and let's just go out and play our game and attack.' That's what we did and we were able to score a goal in about a minute," Woodgrove head coach Pat Manno said.

The Wolverine defense — led by senior center backs Rachel Chatfield (team MVP) and Delaney Boyer — did not allow a goal through 170 minutes of play in the state semifinal and championship games. Freshman goalkeeper Xanthe Bergel recorded the shutout.

All five games between Woodgrove and Loudoun County went to overtime. Following two regular-season ties, Woodgrove won the Dulles District and Virginia State championship games in overtime while Loudoun County claimed



Times-Mirror/Jeff Vennitti

Woodgrove players celebrate around the Virginia Class 4 championship trophy after defeating Loudoun County 1-0 in overtime.

the Region 4C title in penalty kicks.

"These games have been so even," Manno said. "During the season, both teams had leads at different times. Both teams scored late to tie games up and send them into overtime. In this game, there were spurts when we controlled the game and there were spurts when they controlled the game."

Due to finishing second behind

Loudoun County in the district standings and falling in the regional title game, Woodgrove (20-2-3) played all five of its regional and state playoff games on the road. Manno is proud of how his players responded to the challenge.

"They worked so hard through adversity and just kept going," Manno said. "To be able to maintain focus and come out

and play their best soccer says a lot about these students. I'm just thrilled that we were able to win this."

Woodgrove is moving up to Class 5 next school year due to the school's growing student population. The Wolverines have won three state titles (2019, 2013, 2012) since the program's inaugural season in 2011.

## SPORTS

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“By the time we got to the regional finals and won, we knew we had come together enough to be competitive at the next level.”

**FREEDOM HEAD COACH RICHARD DESOMMA**



Photo Courtesy/Briar Woods H.S.

The Briar Woods Falcons overcame a stern challenge from Atlee to complete an undefeated season and repeat as Virginia Class 5 boys' lacrosse champions.

### FREEDOM from page 26

freshman goalie Alora Davis came up with saves on the Raiders' final two shots, keeping Freedom in front.

The Eagles' offense held possession of the ball as the clock expired on the game's last two minutes.

Ohri finished with a game-high four goals, while junior midfielder Emily Maier tossed in two and assisted on two others. The Eagles took only 15 shots to score 11 goals.

Defensively, Maier and senior defender Megan Pelletier corralled Atlee star Kate Miller throughout the contest. Freedom held Miller to a season-low three goals.

In net, Davis turned in a 12-save effort.

For veteran head coach Richard Desomma, this year's Eagles edition was markedly different than the Freedom team that won the 2018 state crown.

“On our starting lineup we had six returning varsity players and six new to varsity-level lacrosse,” he said. “It was a rebuilding of the whole team. Our girls steadily improved, both individually and as a team.”

“By the time we got to the regional finals and won, we knew we had come together enough to be competitive at the next level.”



Photo Courtesy/Freedom H.S.

The Freedom Eagles scored the final two goals of the Virginia Class 5 girls' lacrosse championship game to defeat Atlee 11-10 and secure their second consecutive state title.

**SPORTS**

**DOMINION** from page 26

Titans had to get past rival Riverside, the champions of the Dulles District, in the state semifinals. They did, with a 10-8 win that avenged the Rams' 16-14 defeat of Dominion during the regular season.

That set the stage for the state championship, in which Dominion's youth came out to play.

Early in the championship contest, Traynor installed sophomore Tierney Schaible in the draw circle, resulting in series of offensive possessions for the Titans. Schaible teamed with fellow midfielders Jessie Lee, a junior, and Ashlyn Hickey, a freshman, to "begin to dominate the game," Traynor said.

Freshman Mya Brock and junior Katherine Eberhardt helped propel the Titans' offensive attack, winning draws and showing patience on offense. Senior goalie Katie Petersen backstopped the Dominion defense while holding Western Albemarle at bay.

Traynor credited freshmen Hickey and Molly Battaglia for playing "way beyond their years in a state title game" with a "combination of aggressive play and composure."

Late goals by Brock and Battaglia solidified the state championship victory for the Titans.

"Overall, all parts of our game started to come together and we felt confident in our play," the head coach said. "Confidence



Photo Courtesy/Dominion H.S.

The Dominion Titans defeated Western Albemarle 15-11 to hoist their first-ever Virginia Class 4 girls' lacrosse championship trophy.

and composure on the field leads to good things happening."

Traynor noted the cohesion her team had demonstrated throughout the season,

mixing established upperclassmen with a host of newcomers.

"We had so much talent this year, but talent only wins when you put it all to-

gether in a total team effort," she said. "Our younger players were embraced by our upperclassmen, which allowed them to step in and become instant impact players."

**RIVERSIDE** from page 26

"Just tremendous," he said. "From defensive staff to offensive staff, figuring out their tendencies. E.C. Glass is championship-level, so hats off to them. But it came down to our seniors leading our younger guys, showing them how to go down there and handle the whole thing. Our kids were locked on the entire time."

The head coach noted the play of his junior face-off specialist.

"Evan Park is one of the best in the state and he did a great job of neutralizing their guy, Matthew Gallagher, who's also one of the best. We didn't give up any breaks to Gallagher and I thought that made a big difference."

It was raining from the moment the team got off the bus until the Riverside players jubilantly raised their latest trophy. But from the outset, Worek saw his team pick up ground balls off the wet grass and start fast breaks with snappy passes.

Worek said the Rams' sole two setbacks of the season were instrumental in spurring them on, helping define this championship season.

"Two years ago we went 20-0 and never really had to battle adversity," Worek recalled. "This year, we had an early-season loss [14-12 on March 26] to Briar Woods, a fantastic program, and we had to learn from that, make corrections to our young defense.

"Then we played at Dominion against a great team, didn't play our best and lost [13-11 on May 3]," he continued. "It was a gut check at that point. I think the team realized we could be better than we were.



Photo Courtesy/Riverside H.S.

The Riverside Rams controlled play from the start on their way to a 12-4 victory over E.C. Glass in the VHSL Class 4 boys' lacrosse championship game.

From that point on our defense stepped up huge. We gave up an average of 3.8 goals over those next eight games."

The Rams proceeded to sweep through the playoffs with an average margin of 10.3, including triumphs over Dulles rival Dominion in the region final [10-7] and state semifinal [11-4].

As the championship showdown was the Rams' first game outside Northern Virginia, Worek noted that smooth logis-

tics helped Riverside's cause.

"From getting buses to accommodations, it makes a big difference when you're traveling four and a half hours down there," Worek said. "Thank you very much to our administration for that."

The head coach reflected on his roster's six seniors, the first four-year class in program history, who graduate with an overall record of 66-9 and two state crowns.

Worek pointed out that Musa grad-

uates as the No. 1 goal-scorer in the history of Virginia high school boys lacrosse, Maltz counts among the all-time leaders in assists and is signed to play at Maryland, while Pehlke has signed with Ohio State.

"It's been like that for four years. They laid the groundwork to put our program on the map," Worek said. "I couldn't ask for anything better. It's going to be tough to see them go, but their legacy will carry on because of what they did."

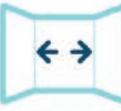
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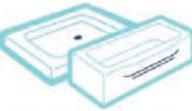
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Times-Mirror/Tavan Smith

Senior midfielder Justin Rutkowski and the Briar Woods Falcons overcame a 5-2 deficit to defeat Atlee 9-8 in the Class 5 championship game.

### BRIAR WOODS from page 26

the second to build a 6-5 lead and held on for a 9-8 victory to secure their second consecutive state championship and third in the last four years.

Briar Woods, who rolled past Potomac District rival Stone Bridge 16-9 in last year's state final, also defeated Atlee by one goal in the 2016 state title game.

On Saturday, it was senior goalie Tyler Twomey and the Falcon defense that stood strong when it mattered most.

After Atlee (17-2) found the back of

the net five times in the first 14 minutes of play, Briar Woods limited Atlee to just three goals during the final 34 minutes of regulation.

Seniors Danny McMinn, Will Pompilio, Aaron Casteel, Ryan Young and junior Ryan Nixon were first-team all-region performers for Briar Woods this year.

Marty Young, the Region 5C Coach of the Year, describes the 2019 Falcons as "far and away the best team we've ever had at Briar Woods."

Briar Woods will enter the 2020 season riding a 40-game winning streak.

## VARSITY Scoreboard

### VHSL STATE SCOREBOARD SATURDAY, JUNE 8

#### ■ CLASS 4 FINALS

**Boys lacrosse**  
Riverside 12, E.C. Glass 4

#### **Girls soccer**

Woodgrove 1, Loudoun County 0 (OT)

#### **Girls lacrosse**

Dominion 15, Western Albemarle 11

#### ■ CLASS 5 FINALS

**Boys lacrosse**  
Briar Woods 9, Atlee 8

#### **Girls lacrosse**

Freedom 11, Atlee 10

### FRIDAY, JUNE 7

#### ■ CLASS 4 SEMIFINALS

**Girls soccer**  
Woodgrove 4, Jamestown 0  
Loudoun County 5, Midlothian 0

#### ■ CLASS 5 SEMIFINALS

**Boys soccer**



Times-Mirror/Jeff Vennitti

Sophomore Tierney Schaible was a major force in Dominion's state title win.

Mills Godwin 3, Freedom 2 (OT)  
Deep Run 3, Briar Woods 0

#### **Girls soccer**

Deep Run def. Stone Bridge (4-2 in PK)

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# SPORTS

## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW



Running back KJ Lewis returns for his senior season at Woodgrove after earning second-team all-state honors as a junior.

Times-Mirror/Doug Stroud

## New season, new coaches, new team in Loudoun

BY JASON S. RUFNER  
Special to the Times-Mirror

Surveying the local football landscape entering the 2019 season, the one constant appears to be change.

Newness abounds around Loudoun's 16 public high school football programs — including the fact that there are 16, with the Tigers of Independence High School now on the prowl.

Additionally, new head coaches lead six other schools: Dominion, Freedom, Heritage, Loudoun Valley, Rock Ridge and Woodgrove. Park View returns to the varsity mix in 2019 after playing a JV only schedule last season.

Woodgrove moves to Class 5 after conquering Class 4 last year as state champion. Riverside is also on the move, joining

Woodgrove in Class 5. Broad Run and Tuscarora shift from Class 5 to 4, while the John Champe Knights become Loudoun's first-ever Class 6 program, competing against Virginia High School League's largest schools.

Even Stone Bridge, perhaps the state's most consistent winner, features new looks on offense and defense, according to the Bulldogs' 20-year head coach and program architect Mickey Thompson.

With so much new this season, it's time to take a closer look starting with the Class 5 schools that form the Potomac District.

### CLASS 5 POTOMAC DISTRICT

It's not only last year's state title that gives Woodgrove Wolverines head coach Derek Barlow confidence heading into their first season in Class 5. It's that Barlow has been there before.

"I vividly recall being at Stone Bridge and moving up to 5A in 2005. Buzz among coaching circles was that we would struggle," he said.

Barlow and Thompson disagreed.

"Mickey basically said, 'Football is football and I don't care where you put us, we'll win.'" Stone Bridge won 12 games that year.

Woodgrove won 11 last year to claim the Virginia Class 4 crown and enters Class 5 with seven returning defensive starters, including linebacker Price Williams Jr., who is getting interest from the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt, and Georgia Tech commit Jared Behrens, an outside linebacker transfer from Flint Hill.

Barlow, who assisted for seven seasons under Woodgrove's just-retired head coach Mike Skinner, said he expects defense to carry the Wolverines early.

He looks to develop an offense with a new quarterback and a new set of offensive linemen. Brett Johnson transfers after starting multiple seasons as Heritage's QB, backed by returning running back KJ Lewis.

Developing depth will be the Wolverines' biggest challenge as a new Class 5 program, Barlow expects.

"I found the only big difference in jumping up to 5A is depth. Less teams play kids both ways," he said.

Depth doesn't figure to be a problem for Woodgrove's new Potomac District rival, the Stone Bridge Bulldogs.

"I'm a little more excited this year than I've been in probably 10 years, maybe 15 years. There are a lot of changes, a lot of new stuff happening," Thompson said. "A lot of great players with great attitudes."

Thompson raved about his arsenal of

## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

skilled players, including running back Jared Cole, a University of Massachusetts commit, and wideout Tai Felton, who's receiving heavy college interest.

At QB is junior Billy Wiles, who Thompson says has the "it" factor.

"Billy's play gets better under pressure," Thompson said. "Guys have confidence in him. He's the total package that every coach wants leading his team."

Danny Garrity and Jonathan Miles return as offensive line starters.

Eight Bulldogs so far hold college offers, while they seek to put Stone Bridge back in the state finale. The Bulldogs have made state championship games in three of the last four and nine of the last 14 seasons.

Thompson hinted at new schemes on both his famous single-wing offense and on defense, with first-year coordinator Billy Rice.

"I'm excited to see what this will produce," he said. "We're focused on the end product and developing players to get where we need to go at the end. We've been there many times, we need to get there the right way this time."

Like Stone Bridge, the Briar Woods Falcons sport new coaches under second-year helmsman Daniel Bruton. Defensive coordinator Seth Alberts moves from Dominion, while former Washington Redskin Reggie Evans coaches inside linebackers.

Junior Evan Rutkowski will contribute at "all three levels on defense, receiver, H-back, running back and backup quar-



Times-Mirror/Doug Stroud

Coach Mickey Thompson has guided Stone Bridge to the state championship game in nine of the last 14 seasons. The veteran coach is eager to see what his team can accomplish this season. "I'm a little more excited this year than I've been in probably 10 years, maybe 15 years. There are a lot of changes, a lot of new stuff happening. A lot of great players with great attitudes."

terback," Bruton said.

At QB is returning starter Christian Greene, a junior who can pass or run. He'll work behind a mostly new offensive line.

Once a playoff mainstay, the Falcons haven't won more than four games since 2014. Bruton is determined to get Briar Woods back.

"Our goal is to play at least 11 games this year," he said. "I love coaching these kids. They are intrinsically motivated and want to be good."

The Freedom Eagles seek the program's first winning campaign as former

offensive coordinator Zach Barnisky takes over as head coach.

Cole Singer returns as starting offensive lineman and linebacker. Tyler Knapp is back at defensive back, and competes for the QB job with returning starter Alec Maggio.

With an increase in off-season participation, Barnisky said the motto for the Eagles is to "TAKE FL19HT."

Veteran coach Paul Barnes of the Potomac Falls Panthers has a stable of senior leaders, including QB Leo Burns, LB Will Misch and WR Jalen Coker, a Holy Cross commit. They're among the Panthers'

seven returning defensive and eight returning offensive starters.

"One thing that really stands out is this team's work ethic," he said. "The camaraderie among the team is fantastic."

Barnes said his team is faster than ever and features depth along both lines.

"For the first year since I've been head coach, I feel our depth is not going to be a problem," he said. "This is probably the most complete team we've had."

Since the Riverside Rams were born five years ago, they've upped their wins from zero to two to four to eight, earning their first playoff spot last year.

Founding head coach Brian Day says the Rams are ready for the jump to Class 5.

"As the school has grown, so has our talent base," Day said. "We want to become a program who year in and year out is challenging for championships."

Riverside returns seven defensive starters including all-region DB Jack Selman, and six offensive starters including multi-year starting OL Ryan Turner. Dominion transfer AJ Darr starts at QB.

"We don't have any big star recruits, but we have a good group of kids who are hungry to win and prove themselves."

Coming off a one-win campaign, the Rock Ridge Phoenix welcome new head coach George Masten, who took George Marshall from winless to district champion in four years.

FOOTBALL, page 28

**Football is like life. It requires perseverance, self-denial, hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and respect for authority.**

**– Vince Lombardi**

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Times-Mirror/Doug Stroud

Broad Run quarterback Mitch Griffis runs through a wide gap into the end zone for a touchdown during a 2018 regular season game. After winning the Potomac District title last year, the Spartans are expected to be a force in the Class 4 Dulles District in 2019.

#### ■ BRIAR WOODS FALCONS

**Town:** Ashburn  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Daniel Bruton  
**2018:** 3-7, tied for fifth in Potomac

#### ■ BROAD RUN SPARTANS

**Town:** Ashburn  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Matt Griffis  
**2018:** 11-2, district champions, two playoffs wins

#### ■ DOMINION TITANS

**Town:** Sterling  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Drake Woodard  
**2018:** 3-6, tied for fourth in Dulles

#### ■ FREEDOM EAGLES

**Town:** South Riding  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Zach Barnisky  
**2018:** 0-10, eighth in Potomac

#### ■ HERITAGE PRIDE

**Town:** Leesburg  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Joe Cockerham  
**2018:** 5-5, tied for fourth in Dulles

#### ■ INDEPENDENCE TIGERS

**Town:** Ashburn  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 3B  
**Coach:** RJ Windows

#### ■ JOHN CHAMPE KNIGHTS

**Town:** Aldie  
**District:** Cedar Run  
**Region:** 6B  
**Coach:** Jason Dawson  
**2018:** 6-5, tied for second in Potomac

#### ■ LOUDOUN COUNTY RAIDERS

**Town:** Leesburg  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Tony Rayburn  
**2018:** 9-2, second in Dulles, one playoff win

#### ■ LOUDOUN VALLEY VIKINGS

**Town:** Purcellville  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** David Bishop  
**2018:** 1-8, tied for fourth in Dulles

#### ■ PARK VIEW PATRIOTS

**Town:** Sterling  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Josh Wild  
**2018:** 2-8 at JV level

#### ■ POTOMAC FALLS PANTHERS

**Town:** Sterling  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Paul Barnes  
**2018:** 5-6, tied for fifth in Potomac

#### ■ RIVERSIDE RAMS

**Town:** Leesburg  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Brian Day  
**2018:** 8-3, third in Dulles

#### ■ ROCK RIDGE PHOENIX

**Town:** Ashburn  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** George Masten  
**2018:** 1-9, seventh in Potomac

#### ■ STONE BRIDGE BULLDOGS

**Town:** Ashburn  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Mickey Thompson  
**2018:** 12-3, region champions, state finalists

#### ■ TUSCARORA HUSKIES

**Town:** Leesburg  
**District:** Dulles  
**Region:** 4C  
**Coach:** Brandon Wheelbarger  
**2018:** 8-4, tied for second in Potomac, one playoff win

#### ■ WOODGROVE WOLVERINES

**Town:** Purcellville  
**District:** Potomac  
**Region:** 5C  
**Coach:** Derek Barlow  
**2018:** 11-2, district champions, region champions, state champions

## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

**FOOTBALL** from Page 27

### CLASS 4 DULLES DISTRICT

Much might be expected of the Broad Run Spartans, given that they won 11 games and the Potomac District last year and are in the Class 4 Dulles District this year.

Add multi-year starting QB and Wake Forest commit Mitch Griffis, returning WRs Jake Busser and Romy Miner, and returning LBs Kesean Dyson and Chaz Allison, and 10-year head coach Matt Griffis likes the potential.

"We expect the offense to be productive," the coach said, noting that 1,000-yard rusher Tim Baldwin transferred away, but a plethora of talent remains. "It should be a fun year. Our kids have tremendous football IQ which allows us to [do] some things offensively that this area has never seen, scheme-wise."

Broad Run held opponents to an average of 5.7 points in last year's regular season.

"We had a great season on defense last year and feel this group has the potential to be just as good," Griffis said.

Like Broad Run, the Tuscarora Huskies move from the Potomac to the Dulles with an established record of success and a roster loaded with returning starters.

Second-year head coach Brandon Wheelbarger returns 15 starters, noting "our best players are also our hardest workers."

Ethan Gick is back as a dual-threat QB, while twin brother Noah is a pass-catching tight end receiving college interest. Wide-out Jevonn Gilyard is a home run hitter, and sophomore RB Bryce Duke brings a 4.5-second 40-yard sprint and good vision to the field, Wheelbarger said.

Junior defensive lineman Matei Fitz already owns the Huskies' career sacks record. Placekicker Max Skirkanich has college-level accuracy and range.

"I'm excited about the team we have," Wheelbarger said.

Excitement describes what new head coach Drake Woodard brings to the Dominion Titans. The 28-year-old was Rock Ridge's defensive coordinator last year after a five-year stint coaching at Shenandoah University.

He'll work with a squad that brings experience along the lines, headed by 6-foot-7, 285-pound Jimmy Christ, a University of Virginia commit. Wide receiver Trey Hayes is the primary offensive threat.

"We define success by starting fast, finishing strong," Woodard said. "If we're able to display a relentless approach to the start of every practice, workout, and game, then have an attitude to fight until the clock hits zero, we'll be happy with the result."

Like Woodard, Joe Cockerham of the Heritage Pride is a former college coach now debuting in Loudoun's high school ranks. He was on staffs at five universities and three high schools before taking over the Pride.

Heritage boasts plenty of wide receiver talent, Cockerham said, led by senior Aalijah Smith and juniors Christian Contreras and Max Jannes. Senior Alex Preble lines up at RB or slot WR.

Junior Collin Bridge is a two-way contributor as inside linebacker and left tackle. Defensively, the Pride are led by fourth-year starting LB Garrett Griffin and senior cornerback Loic Ndjongoue.

"We'll be a young football team, therefore our success will be defined by the ability to continue to improve each and every day," Cockerham said.

The Independence Tigers may be the newest program in Loudoun, but they're led by a man with 30 years of coaching experience.

RJ Windows takes the reins after coordinating Stone Bridge's defense in his most



Times-Mirror/Rick Wasser

Potomac Falls receiver Jalen Coker catches a touchdown pass during his junior season. Coker, a Holy Cross commit, will be counted on for his senior leadership this year on what coach Paul Barnes describes as "probably the most complete team we've had."

## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

recent stint. He noted Independence saw 80 players come out for football, letting the program field varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams from the get-go.

Having no seniors pleases Windows.

“What’s great about these kids is they’re all coming back next year,” he said. “We haven’t even had a season with them and we know we get them for [at least] two seasons.”

From the county’s newest school to its oldest, the Loudoun County Raiders racked up nine wins last year, losing only to eventual state champ Woodgrove. Veteran head coach Tony Rayburn hopes the season proves pivotal.

“We have potential with the kids coming back to be successful and competitive again,” he said.

Linebackers will be a defensive strength, with returners Willie Stringfield, Noah Lokey and Luke McAllister. Offensive producers figure to be returning wideouts Tariq Sims, Joseph Groves and sophomore Jimmy Kibble.

Rayburn said County’s schedule is tougher this season than last.

“It will be a challenging year, but we have to be ready as every game is a big game,” he said.

County’s traditional rival, the Loudoun Valley Vikings, have a new coach in David Bishop. He has 15 years of experience and will lead Valley’s defense himself.

Six-foot-5 defensive end Cooper Thunell rushes the QB from the edge,



Times-Mirror/Rick Wasser

Tariq Sims is one of several play-makers that Loudoun County will feature in 2019. The Raiders have the potential to be successful again this season following a nine-win campaign in 2018.

while senior Antwain Stokes anchors the secondary. Linemen Mason Raymer and Nate Collora show adept footwork despite both weighing around 300 pounds.

As a certified strength trainer, Bishop likes to join players in the weight room.

“I try to model the importance of pre-

paring your mind and body for this game,” he said.

The game is back at Park View after a one-year hiatus from varsity football. Josh Wild enters his 16th season overall as a football coach with a rebuilding project.

The Patriots went 2-8 in JV last year, with more than half the roster new to the sport. The team participated in various off-season camps and weight training.

“Things are really looking good across the board,” Wild said. “We’ve had a really good offseason. We’re happy with where we are at this point.”

### CLASS 6 CEDAR RUN DISTRICT

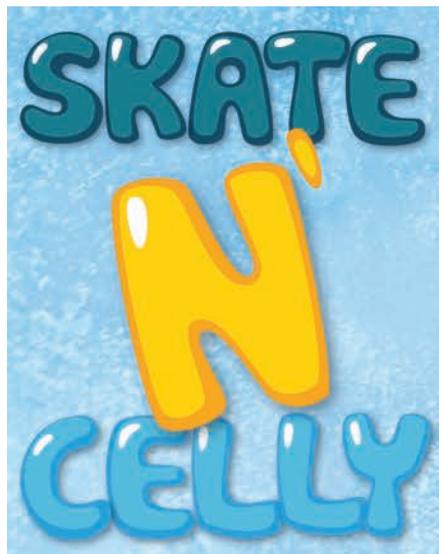
Other than Independence, perhaps no team will experience more newness than the John Champe Knights. Champe moves to Class 6, becoming the first Loudoun program to compete at that level.

“Each week will be new and exciting,” said head coach Jason Dawson, leader of the Knights since their 2012 inception. Champe’s schedule features seven teams they’ve never played before.

Zack Jackson returns as QB, along with top target WR Tyler Savage, an East Carolina commit. The Knights will rely on rising talent from a JV squad that went undefeated last year.

“We have always said here at Champe we just want the chance to compete who, when, and where has never mattered.”

Carl Lukat contributed to this story



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  - Balloon Artist
  - Face Painting
  - Dunkin Donuts Street Cruiser
  - Live DJ
  - Dunk Tank to sink your favorite coaches and General Managers!
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  - Inova Blood Drive
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## 2019 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PREVIEW

## LOUDOUN'S 2019 FOOTBALL TEAM SCHEDULES

All games are 7 p.m. unless noted

**BRIAR WOODS FALCONS**

Sept. 6 Home vs. Dominion  
Sept. 13 Home vs. John Champe  
Sept. 20 Away vs. Rock Ridge

Sept. 27 Home vs. Tuscarora  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Riverside  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Woodgrove  
Oct. 8 Home vs. Freedom  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Stone Bridge  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Broad Run  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Potomac Falls

**BROAD RUN SPARTANS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Tuscarora  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Brooke Point  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Dominion  
Sept. 28 Home vs. Urbana (Md.), 1 p.m.  
Oct. 4 Home vs. Loudoun County

Oct. 11 Away vs. Loudoun Valley  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Churchill (Md.), 6:30 p.m.  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Heritage  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Briar Woods  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Stone Bridge

**DOMINION TITANS**

Aug. 29 Away vs. Potomac Falls  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Briar Woods  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Broad Run  
Sept. 20 Home vs. Woodgrove

Sept. 27 Home vs. Rock Ridge  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Jefferson (W.Va.)  
Oct. 18 Home vs. Heritage  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Loudoun Valley  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Loudoun County  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Tuscarora

**FREEDOM EAGLES**

Aug. 29 Away vs. Rock Ridge  
Sept. 6 Home vs. Independence  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Loudoun Valley

Sept. 27 Away vs. Stone Bridge  
Oct. 4 Home vs. Potomac Falls  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Park View  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Briar Woods  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Riverside  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Woodgrove  
Nov. 8 Away vs. John Champe

**HERITAGE PRIDE**

Aug. 29 Away vs. Riverside  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Kettle Run  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Millbrook  
Sept. 20 Home vs. Fauquier

Sept. 27 Home vs. Jefferson (W.Va.)  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Loudoun Valley  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Tuscarora  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Dominion  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Broad Run  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Loudoun County

**INDEPENDENCE TIGERS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Skyline  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Freedom  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Warren County  
Sept. 20 Away vs. Riverside

Sept. 27 Away vs. Osbourn  
Oct. 4 Home vs. James Wood  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Loudoun County  
Oct. 18 Home vs. Loudoun Valley  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Park View  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Rock Ridge

**JOHN CHAMPE KNIGHTS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. B.T. Washington, 6 p.m.  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Westfield  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Briar Woods

Sept. 20 Home vs. Potomac Falls  
Sept. 27 Home vs. Osbourn Park  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Stonewall Jackson  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Osbourn  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Battlefield  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Patriot  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Freedom

**LOUDOUN COUNTY RAIDERS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Fauquier  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Millbrook,  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Riverside

Sept. 20 Home vs. Loudoun Valley  
Sept. 27 Home vs. Warren County  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Broad Run  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Independence  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Tuscarora  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Dominion  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Heritage

**LOUDOUN VALLEY VIKINGS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Woodgrove  
Sept. 6 Home vs. Riverside  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Freedom  
Sept. 20 Away vs. Loudoun County

Sept. 27 Away vs. Brentsville  
Oct. 4 Home vs. Heritage  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Broad Run  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Independence  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Dominion  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Tuscarora

**PARK VIEW PATRIOTS**

Sept. 6 Away vs. Falls Church  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Manassas Park

Sept. 20 Home vs. Bishop Ireton  
Sept. 27 Away vs. Washington (W.Va.)  
Oct. 4 Home vs. Armstrong  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Freedom  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Rock Ridge  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Thomas Jefferson  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Independence  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Manassas Park

**POTOMAC FALLS PANTHERS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Dominion  
Sept. 6 Home vs. Tuscarora  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Battlefield  
Sept. 20 Away vs. John Champe

Sept. 27 Home vs. Riverside  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Freedom  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Rock Ridge  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Woodgrove  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Stone Bridge  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Briar Woods

**RIVERSIDE RAMS**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Heritage  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Loudoun Valley,  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Loudoun County

Sept. 20 Home vs. Independence  
Sept. 27 Away vs. Potomac Falls  
Oct. 4 Home vs. Briar Woods  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Stone Bridge  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Freedom,  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Rock Ridge  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Woodgrove

**ROCK RIDGE PHOENIX**

Aug. 29 Home vs. Freedom  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Woodgrove  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Woodbridge (Del.)  
Sept. 20 Home vs. Briar Woods  
Sept. 27 Away vs. Dominion

Oct. 4 Home vs. Stone Bridge  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Potomac Falls  
Oct. 18 Home vs. Park View  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Riverside  
Nov. 8 Away vs. Independence

**STONE BRIDGE BULLDOGS**

Aug. 30 Away vs. Centreville  
Sept. 6 Away vs. James Madison  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Brooke Point  
Sept. 27 Home vs. Freedom

Oct. 4 Away vs. Rock Ridge  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Riverside  
Oct. 18 Home vs. Woodgrove  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Briar Woods  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Potomac Falls  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Broad Run

**TUSCARORA HUSKIES**

Aug. 29 Away vs. Broad Run  
Sept. 6 Away vs. Potomac Falls  
Sept. 13 Away vs. Woodgrove  
Sept. 20 Home vs.

Musselman (W.Va.)  
Sept. 27 Away vs. Briar Woods  
Oct. 4 Away vs. Stafford  
Oct. 11 Away vs. Heritage  
Oct. 25 Home vs. Loudoun County  
Nov. 1 Home vs. Loudoun Valley  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Dominion

**WOODGROVE WOLVERINES**

Aug. 29 Away vs. Loudoun Valley  
Sept. 6 Home vs. Rock Ridge  
Sept. 13 Home vs. Tuscarora  
Sept. 20 Away vs. Dominion

Sept. 27 Away vs. Musselman (W.Va.)  
Oct. 11 Home vs. Briar Woods  
Oct. 18 Away vs. Stone Bridge  
Oct. 25 Away vs. Potomac Falls  
Nov. 1 Away vs. Freedom  
Nov. 8 Home vs. Riverside

# SPORTS

## ON COURSE FOR CHARITY

Nicklaus hits fairway, greets fans at Creighton Farms in Aldie

BY CASEY PAZZALIA

Special to the Times-Mirror

Throughout sports history, few figures have had the ability to reach anyone, regardless of age, race and status. Modern-day examples include athletes like Tiger Woods and LeBron James, guys with a presence that even non-sports fans recognize.

Before Woods and James, there was Jack Nicklaus, perhaps the best golfer to ever swing a club. Known as the Golden Bear, Nicklaus, to this day, is one of the most identifiable and revered athletes in sports.

Part of what's helped Nicklaus maintain this legacy beyond his time on tour is his never-ending philanthropy and constant presence in his sport. Often times, the two go hand in hand, and nothing exhibits this more than the Creighton Farms Invitational in Loudoun County, which Nicklaus hosts and participates in.

Now in its eighth year, the event takes place at The Club at Creighton Farms in Aldie, and benefits the National PKU (Phenylketonuria) Alliance and the Nicklaus Children's Health Care Foundation.

"I play about 20 rounds of golf per year," Nicklaus told me after addressing the crowd. "And I'd say probably 18 of them are at charity events. It's basically all I do."

"Barb and I started our foundation 15 years ago," Jack said, referencing his wife Barbara. "We've raised a little over \$100 million dollars doing these kinds of events. It's rewarded a lot of kids and that's what we like about it."

The Creighton Farms Invitational, which also featured a fireside chat with Nicklaus and host Charlie Rymer on Sunday, raised more than \$1.2 million (to split between the two charities) during the three-day event, according to event organizers. Roger Clemens, a 7-time Cy Young award winning pitcher, and several current PGA players also participated in the charity event.

"PKU is a pretty rare disease and when we started this event, their research budget was about \$100,000 a year," Nicklaus said. "Each year, we're able to give them six times the research budget."

While Nicklaus was eager to talk about the charity aspect of things, he also opened up about golf and his career, specifically. When I asked which current golfer on tour reminded him the most of himself, he de-



Photos Courtesy/Creighton Farms Invitational

Above, Jack Nicklaus and Roger Clemens roamed the fairways at The Club at Creighton Farms in Aldie for the eighth annual Creighton Farms Invitational charity event. Below, Jack Nicklaus prepares to swing during play at the Creighton Farms Invitational.

livered a crowd-pleasing answer.

"Tiger, more than anybody," he answered quickly. "The way he wills [the ball] sometimes to get what he needs it to do, I felt like I willed it, too. I admire Tiger a lot—the way he plays and his work ethic."

Nicklaus, who owns the record for major championships at 18, also noted that he spends a lot of time mentoring younger players.

"About 30 are members of The Bear's Club," he said, referencing his personal golf club in Jupiter, Florida "I see them all the time. I spent quite a bit of time with Rory [McIlroy] over the last couple of weeks. Justin Thomas, occasionally with Rickie [Fowler], occasionally with Dustin [Johnson]."

"Brooks [Koepka] is not a member," he quipped. "I don't know if Brooks practices!"

Our session ended a few minutes later and Nicklaus stood up to leave. Before exiting with his team, he made sure anyone who wanted a handshake or a picture left satisfied.

Truly, if you take away the majors and the cultural significance, Nicklaus was just a regular guy in a polo enjoying the summer sun. The way you see him on television is the same way he is in person, and I'm quite certain that's gone a long way in keeping his legend alive.



## SPORTS

# Loudoun South concludes spectacular run

LSLL wins twice in first trip to Little League World Series

BY CARL LUKAT  
clukat@loudountimes.com

Loudoun South's magical run through the District 16, Virginia State and Southeast Region tournaments extended all the way to the doorstep of the United States final of the 2019 Little League World Series.

Before bowing out to eventual Little League World Series champion River Ridge (Louisiana), Loudoun South made plenty of noise in winning two of its first three games.

Justin Lee, Liam Thyen and Chase Obstgarten combined to pitch a no-hitter and Brady Yates belted a two-run homer in the fifth inning to lead the Southeast champions to a 3-0 victory over New England Region champion Barrington (Rhode Island) to open the World Series on Aug. 16.

Lee delivered Loudoun South's second no-hitter in as many games two days later against Midwest Region champion Coon Rapids (Minnesota).

The Southeast champions also excelled offensively, scoring three runs in the first inning, five more in the second and three in the third inning to bring the 10-run mercy rule into effect after just four innings for an 11-0 win.

Thyen drove in five runs, highlighted by his bases-clearing double to start the scoring in the first inning. The top four in Loudoun South's lineup — Obstgarten, Yates, Lee and Colton Hicks — combined for eight hits and nine runs scored.

As Virginia's first entry in the Little League World Series since 1994, Loudoun South finished the 16-team tournament with two wins and two losses.

Opening the LLWS with back-to-back no-hitters and being just one of four teams to win its first two games, Loudoun South



Times-Mirror Photos/Brett R. Crossley

Loudoun South Little League players Brett Triplett, Brody Harris and Kian Henson sit together prior to the start of a Little League World Series game against Central East Maui on Aug. 22 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

clearly made its presence felt in Williamsport.

"We talked to the kids about the fact that they are not going to understand how important these two weeks have been [by] next week, next month or probably next year," Bowden said.

"But when you are 25, 30, I think they will look back every year and watch the Little League World Series with a lot more passion, a lot more interest," Bowden continued. "And be like 'we were there and we did well.'"

## LOUDOUN SOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE

### ■ PLAYERS

Michael Bowden  
Matt Coleman  
Noah Culpepper  
Brody Harris  
Kian Henson  
Colton Hicks  
Justin Lee  
Chase Obstgarten  
Joe Ross

Liam Thyen  
Brett Triplett  
Chase Triplett  
Brady Yates

### ■ MANAGER

Alan Bowden

### ■ COACHES

Brian Triplett  
Keith Yates



Colton Hicks slides into home plate to score one of Loudoun South's 23 runs during the LLWS.

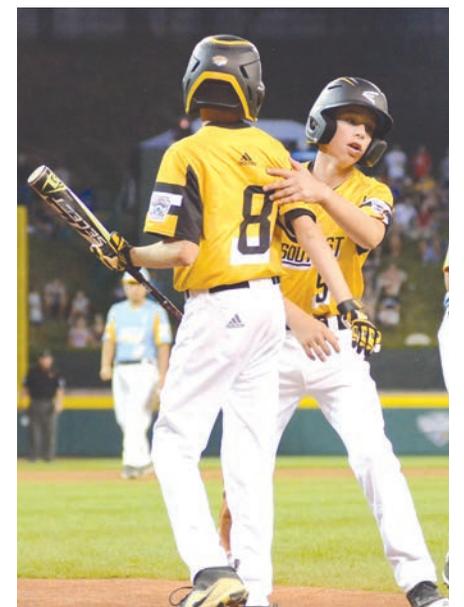


Times-Mirror/Carl Lukat

Justin Lee struck out six batters in pitching a no-hitter against Coon Rapids (Minnesota).



Matt Coleman focuses in on the action at home plate from the base path.



Liam Thyen, left, greets Colton Hicks at home plate after Hicks scored a run.

**SPORTS**

# Broad Run selects 2019 Hall of Fame class

**BY CARL LUKAT**  
clukat@loudountimes.com

Broad Run High School will host several events on the final weekend of September to recognize its 2019 Athletic Hall of Fame class, in addition to celebrating the school's homecoming and 50th anniversary.

Broad Run will induct the third class into its Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 27. A catered reception in the school cafeteria at 6 p.m., will be followed by the induction ceremony in the school auditorium at 7 p.m.

The ceremony will also include recognition of three Broad Run state championship teams: football (2009), girls soccer (2009) and softball (2009). A homecoming bonfire for current students/families and alumni is tentatively scheduled near the practice field beyond the football press box at 8 p.m.

Broad Run will host activities for its 50th year celebration on Sept. 28. A homecoming parade — starting at Farnwell Hunt Plaza — is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Festivities will continue outside the stadium, with food options available for sale, leading up to the Spartans' varsity football game against Urbana (Maryland) at 1 p.m.



Times-Mirror/Doug Stroud

Broad Run High School has a big weekend planned in late September for alumni and current students. The festivities conclude with Broad Run hosting Urbana in a varsity football game at 1 p.m. Sept. 28.

**2019 HALL OF FAME CLASS**

• Bruce Bornarth (Class of 1974)  
Track and Field, Cross Country

• Greg Canty (Class of 1976) Track and Field, Cross Country, Basketball  
• Jay Meadows (Class of 1979) Wrestling, Football  
• Debbie Besant (Class of 1986) Soccer, Softball  
• Rhonda Anderson (Class of 1990) Gymnastics

• Scott Schultz (Class of 1991) Baseball  
• Sean St. Clair (Class of 1993) Wrestling, Track and Field, Cross Country  
• Brandon Calderwood (Class of 1999) Wrestling  
• Jessica Olownia (Class of 2002) Softball  
• Karla Powell (Class of 2008) Softball

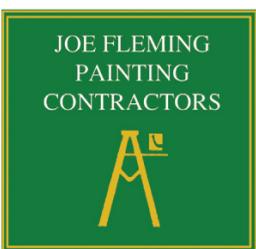
• Dolph Null (Coach, 1978-1992) Cross Country, Track and Field  
• Wayne Todd (Coach, 1977-1998) Baseball, Football  
• E. Wayne Griffith (1969-1996) Administrator, Coach  
• Craig Luhmann, Contributor  
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**SPORTS**



Photo Courtesy/Riverside High School

**RIVERSIDE PLACES FIRST AT 2019 LCPS GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Riverside Rams won the team title at the 2019 Loudoun County Public Schools Golf Championships with a four-player total of 293 on Aug. 14 at Algonkian Golf Course in Sterling. Sam Carollo (67), Rohan Saxena (74), Andrew Carlin (75) and Jack Gessaman (77) combined to lead the Rams to the first-place finish on the par 72 course. Led by low medalist Aidan Baron's 5-under par 67, Heritage placed second in the team standings with 296. Loudoun Valley (298) finished five strokes off the pace in third place, while Freedom (309) and Broad Run (311) rounded out the top five.

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**SPORTS**



Photo Courtesy/Guy Aceto

**TEAM CJR MARTIAL ARTS SHINES IN PAIR OF WORLD RATED TOURNAMENTS**

Team CJR Martial Arts in Ashburn competed in a pair of North American Sport Karate Association 6A World Rated tournaments this year: the Amerikick Internationals, May 17-18 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and the US Capitol Classics/China Open, Aug. 9-10 in National Harbor, Maryland. Team CJR, consisting of Shona Aceto, Jack Berg (team captain), John Blasdell, Mick Demcsak, Alex Garing, Emma Garing, Carly Kim, Chloe Kim, Krish Mallina, Jessi Mallina, Dima Marchenko, Abhinay Nampelly, Rishaan Pradhan, Dhanvanth Sairam, Shonu Sengupta, Tona Sengupta, Autumn Tzitzouris, Esha Venkat, Shreyaa Venkat, Lyra Wait and Coach Christopher Redford, claimed several first-place awards in weapons, forms and sparring, along with winning a grand championship in musical weapons.

*Thank you to everyone who made the 2019 season of Polo in the Park the #BestPartyInLoudoun!*

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