

**ORLEAN'S HANNAN RUNS 4:54 MILE**

Ithaca College senior Parley Hannan of Orlean clocked a time of 4:54.81 in the mile this month, the top female NCAA Division III mark this season by nearly 10 seconds.

**DISTRICT SWIM MEET IS SATURDAY**

The Northwestern District swim meet is Saturday at the Warrenton Aquatic and Recreation Facility at 6 p.m.

Fauquier Times | January 29, 2020

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# FURR MAKES HAWKS MORE FRIGHTENING

## Surging Highland boys overpower Seton 64-54, lead DAC at 6-0

By Jeff Malmgren  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Caleb Furr found himself too far underneath the basket with five seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and missed a pair of layups from difficult angles.

No problem, the Highland School junior shot the ball almost flawlessly over the previous 31 minutes last Thursday at Seton to finish with a team-high 17 points as the Hawks won a huge showdown game 64-54 in Seton's packed little gym in Manassas.

Highland (16-2) improved to 6-0 in the Delaney Athletic Conference with their 54th consecutive DAC regular season win, with second-place Seton (12-6) at 5-1.

Playing in a Hawks uniform for the fifth time after transferring mid-season from Bishop Walsh in Cumberland, Maryland, Furr is the Hawks' second-tallest player at 6-foot-7. The junior made all three of his 3-point attempts against Seton and offers a new weapon to the guard powerhouse of senior Zion Hanberry and junior point Angelo Brizzi.

"Just when you think you've done a great job stopping their other scorers, the ball goes out to him (Furr) and he makes it look easy the way he shoots the ball," Conquistadors coach Dan Vander Woude said.

Brizzi, who has offers from more than 15 NCAA Division I teams, and Furr played together at Fauquier High. Brizzi transferred to Highland before his sophomore season and Furr switched to Bishop Walsh that

**"I feel like we've built this thing over the last couple years to the point where we've got a puncher's chance to get into the state semifinal. And once you get there, you never know what happens."**

BRIAN HOOKER  
Highland coach

same year, re-classing from a junior to a sophomore.

Now they've reunited as juniors to play for a team with VISAA Division II state championship aspirations. The Hawks made the state quarterfinals the last two seasons (both losses).

"It's a better opportunity on the court, and playing with one of my best friends is a lot of fun. I think we've got a lot of big things coming in the future," Furr said.

"The goal is the state championship," Brizzi said. "That's it. It's more realistic than last year. You just [need to] put together one good run. Our team's capable of that. Anything can happen."

Despite just two returnees from last year, the Hawks have an enviable starting lineup that features Patriot transfer Yusef Salih, a junior guard, and Paul VI transfer Roman Barshow, a sophomore forward, as well as sophomore forward Zach Hayes, Hanberry and Brizzi.

Brizzi didn't lead Highland in scor-



PHOTO BY DAVE HENRICKSON

Caleb Furr and Yusif Salih rejoice during Highland's recent 100-82 win over Hargrave Military. The 16-2 Hawks look unstoppable in the DAC so far, but face a key rematch with Seton Feb. 6 in Warrenton.

ing Thursday for one of the few times this season, but he still finished with 15 points, a game-high seven assists, as well as five rebounds and three steals.

Hanberry added 10 points, four steals and four rebounds while Hayes had eight points, five rebounds, three steals and three assist, with Salih contributing six points, five assists and four rebounds.

Nearly 300 people crammed into Seton's cozy gym with fans filling the gym's bleachers, entrance-ways and various overlooks, such as a theater stage and staircase platform.

John Paul Vander Woude finished with a game-high 23 points as Seton's leading scorer this season, but second-leading scorer Andrew Nguyen had only 11 points with Jack Vander Woude adding 11 and no other teammate scoring more than five.

The Conquistadors scored only 54 points after averaging 80.4 per game during the five-game winning streak they built prior to Thursday.

The Hawks caused some problems for Seton with a 2-1-2 full-court press, but they used that sparingly. Highland more often played a lot of man-to-man half-court defense, and the Hawks communicated incredibly well in it, swapping their responsibilities between players almost seamlessly to sometimes create the feel of a zone defense.

"Defense, it's one of our biggest focuses every day in practice," coach Brian Hooker said. "I'm not sure how many teams [Seton has] faced that defend the way we defend. ... It's just a little bit tougher when there's a guy in your face, there's always an extra bump, there's always an extra hand [in the way]. That just wears on teams."

## Big win has Liberty boys rising in standings; Fauquier looms Friday

By Peter Brewington  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

After a disappointing loss to Kettle Run, the Liberty Eagles roared back with two straight boys basketball wins, including Friday's eye-opening 73-67 upset of first place Millbrook.

"To come in here and face an 8-0 team, a great team that hasn't lost in

2020, that's a huge win for us," Liberty coach Pat Frazer told the *Winchester Star* after the Eagles improved to 5-4 in the Northwestern District and handed Millbrook (8-1) its first loss.

Russell Morton scored 20 points as the Eagles

### Standings

Millbrook	8-1
James Wood	6-3
Handley	6-3
<b>LIBERTY</b>	5-4
<b>FAUQUIER</b>	4-5
Culpeper	4-5
<b>KETTLE RUN</b>	3-7
Sherando	1-9



sprinted to a 43-32 halftime lead, built the margin to 17, then held on for dear life as Millbrook came back.

Five games remain before the district tournament Feb. 13, 18 and 20.

Next up for Liberty is a high-stakes rematch with Fauquier (4-5) Friday at Liberty at 7:30 p.m. Fauquier has won two straight entering this week. Liberty won the first meeting 64-55.

Fourth place Liberty (5-4) faced last place Sherando (1-9) Tuesday, while fifth place Fauquier (4-5) faced No. 1 Millbrook (8-1) and seventh place Kettle Run (3-7) met second place James Wood (6-3).

For Liberty, life is good again.

After falling to Handley 51-43 on Jan. 14 and Kettle Run 57-52 on Jan. 17, "We were in dumps," said Frazer. But the Eagles overcame an early 11-point deficit to beat Warren County 65-54 on Jan. 22, then took down Millbrook.

Liberty also plays Brooke Point this Thursday as part of a three-game week.

Derrick Brooks and the Eagles are gearing up for an important rematch with Fauquier as part of Friday's girls-boys doubleheader in Bealeton starting at 6 p.m.

PHOTO BY RANDY LITZINGER

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# MASTERFUL FISHER LEADS FALCONS TO STATE TITLE NO. 3

Senior wins record fourth wrestling title, Camarca, Richards also win gold, as do Eagles' Barrett, Dupill

By Jeff Malmgren  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

After the slap, Sam Fisher won in a snap.

As has been the custom during his unrivaled career with Fauquier High's wrestling team.

Fisher became the first four-time state champion in Fauquier County wrestling history Saturday, which helped the Falcons win the third team state title in county history – all over the past six seasons for the Falcons – by beating runner-up Great Bridge 170.5-164 in the Class 4 tournament at Tuscarora High in Leesburg, while Liberty placed third with 139 points.

Fisher scored Fauquier High's final points by pinning Amherst's Josh Brooks in 68 seconds during the 182-pound title match for the quickest victory of the finals.

Just before the beginning of that bout, Fisher stepped onto the mat and ferociously slapped the hand of his father, Fauquier coach Doug Fisher. That's a pre-match tradition that the son and father have shared for four years, and it's often a reliable barometer for how well Sam Fisher will perform.

"There are times he gets me like, 'Woof.' I mean it's bad," Doug Fisher said of his stinging hand. "Then



PHOTOS BY DEBORA FRANKLIN

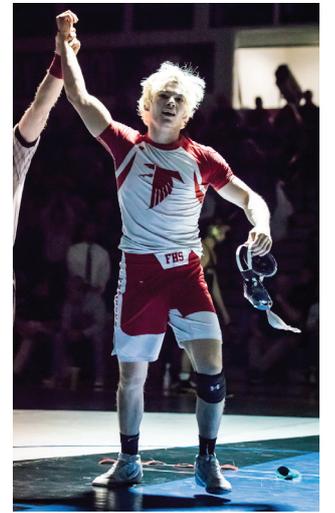
Fauquier surged to the state title thanks to huge performances from its three state champions: Sam Fisher (left) at 182 pounds, D.J. Richards (above) at 126 and Gino Camarca (below) at 138.

I'm like, 'Oh, this [opponent] is in trouble.'

"It wasn't bad tonight," the coach said Saturday. "One out of 10, that was a three. ... But I'm pretty calloused by now."

That hand slap almost always leads to a victory for Sam Fisher, a Virginia Tech recruit who will soon graduate with an incredible 172-24 career record. He pinned all four of his state opponents this weekend in a cumulative 8 minutes, 47 seconds, which

See **WRESTLING**, page 14



## Kettle Run's Maranto earns three medals in state swim

By Jeff Malmgren  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Kettle Run set three program records Saturday and combined with Fauquier to claim eight state medals at the Class 4 swim meet at SwimRVA in Richmond.

Falcon Isabel Robey led all local swimmers with a third-place medal while Nick Maranto amassed three medals as Kettle Run's boys finished 13th with 77 points. Blacksburg won with 303 and Fauquier took 16th with 42.

In the girls competition, the Cougars placed 16th with 43 and the Falcons finished 21st with 23 behind champion Monacan (276 points).

Kettle Run advanced to the finals in 11 events and Fauquier advanced in six with Robey swimming the girls 100-yard backstroke in 57.48 seconds to place third. Erin Kerrigan took fifth in the girls 500 freestyle in 5 minutes, 5.53 seconds and sixth in the 200 free in 1:56.13 to break two of her own program records. She also placed 11th in the 400 free in 3:48.75 with Megan Fallin, Emma Craddock and Peyton Talomie and 15th in the 200 medley relay in 1:55.38 with Craddock, Talomie and Fallin.

Talomie did not advance to the finals in the 100 fly, but she broke her own record by finishing in 1:09.65 to place 17th.

Maranto added a sixth-place finish in the boys 100 breaststroke in 1:00.42 with seventh-place finishes in the 200 individual medley (1:58.91) and 200 medley relay (1:41.64) with Fallin, Ben Adams and Nathan Kim. Kim also took 10th in the 50 free (21.83) and 100 free (49.28) with Adams 15th in the 500 free (5:05.44).

For Fauquier, Jake Goldman placed fifth in the boys 100 butterfly in 52.88, sixth in the 200 IM in 1:56.34 and 12th in the 200 free relay in 1:32.07 with Bobby Slater, Brady Working and Tyler McAndrew. Robey also finished 10th in the 50 free in 25.13, while McAndrew took 12th in the 100 free in 49.44.

## 'It clicked' Upstart Kettle Run boys make regions

By Josh Dorsey  
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Countless teams in sports history started slow, didn't scare anyone, then abruptly peaked at the right time.

After losing four starters and their coach from a regional playoff team, Kettle Run started 1-6 and was considered an afterthought in the Northwestern District boys basketball race, but lo and behold, they're joining Millbrook in the regional playoffs.

The Cougars lost to Millbrook 47-34 in the Northwestern District tournament final on Feb. 20, but their season isn't done, with a Class 4 Region C semifinal Tuesday at Loudoun County.

"It seemed like it clicked in everybody's head how special this can be," senior guard Drew Tapscott said. "Ev-



FILE PHOTO

A late season surge helped Kettle Run snatch a region berth from rivals such as James Wood, Handley, Liberty and Fauquier.

Everybody bought in and we got on a roll."

The No. 6-seeded Cougars entered the final having won seven of nine and making school history with a 47-45 win over the No. 2-seeded Handley in the semifinals.

"As a player I never beat Handley and as a coach I finally got one," said Kettle Run coach Christian Yancey. "They can say they are the first Kettle Run team to beat Handley."

Kettle Run also upset No. 3 James Wood 49-45 in the quarters.

Against Millbrook, Kettle Run

scored just four points in the first quarter, all by Tapscott, and trailed 23-14 at the half.

Kettle Run got an early 3-pointer from Jacob Robinson in the third quarter and used it to spark a 9-2 run to pull within two points.

Tapscott, who led the Cougars with 16 points, put fear into the packed crowd in Winchester before Millbrook eventually pulled away in the fourth quarter.

"They are hot at the right time," said Millbrook coach Robert Harris. "They have one heck of a guard in Drew Tapscott. He is fantastic. They play hard as heck."

"It is good to be peaking," Tapscott said. "We got a reality check tonight but it is good to happen now instead of in regionals on Tuesday."

"Everyone is buying into the coach and it is a different atmosphere," said senior Trevor Yergey. "I don't think this is a big setback"

"We have found our groove," Yancey said. "We will go back in the lab, start blasting music, start shooting and watch some film."

## Richards wins at 126, Camarca wins at 138

WRESTLING, from page 13

gave him seven pins in nine postseason matches this month with technical falls of 23-8 and 20-5 as he also claimed the Region 4C and Class 4 Northwestern District championships for the fourth consecutive seasons.

In similar historic fashion Saturday, Mason Barrett became Liberty's first two-time state champion by winning at 120 pounds while 132-pound teammate Colin Dupill became the Eagles' first freshman state champion.

Also earning state medals for Liberty were Bryan Contreras (152 runner-up), William Winegardner (138 runner-up), Jovon Mitchell (145, third), Caleb Swinson (160, fifth) and Royce Hall (170, fifth).

For Fauquier, D.J. Richards won the 126 championship and Gino Camarca won the 138 title with a 160 runner-up in Eric DeWald. Also earning state medals for the Falcons were Ben Bell (fourth, 195), Casey Burr (fourth, 285), Reece Kuhns (fifth, 120) and Thomas Heisler (fifth, 220).

So Fauquier claimed its seven consecutive top-seven finish at state with 14 consecutive top-nine placements, including the Class 4A title in 2015-16 and 2014-15 with Doug Fisher winning his third title Saturday.

"I was really happy," Fisher said. "Of course your first one is something [special], but the second one we kind



PHOTOS BY DEBORA FRANKLIN

Liberty 120-pound star Mason Barrett (above) won his second state title and Eagle freshman Colin Dupill broke through big with a title at 132.

of had the same [wrestlers] and sort of felt destined for that. This one's a whole different feel – really special [after] we had a lot of struggles in a lot of different areas midseason."

The Falcons didn't win a regular season tournament until late January, but that lone victory gave them some needed confidence, which then increased when they won the Class 4 Northwestern District and the Region 4C titles.

"Honestly, I didn't think our team had it in us until these last few weeks where we were just pushing as hard as we could," Camarca said. "It's incredible."

### MORE FHS, LHS WRESTLING ONLINE

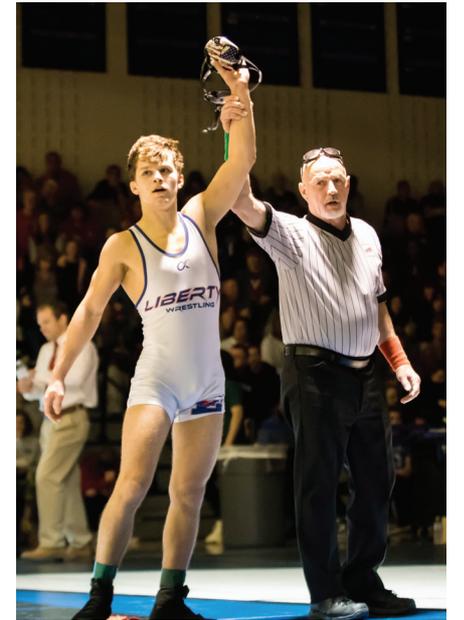
Look for more interviews and coverage of Liberty and Fauquier wrestling at [fauquier.com](http://fauquier.com).

Sam Fisher agreed. "Halfway through the year, I honestly would not have put us up there in the top four" among Class 4 teams, he said. "This last month the whole team kind of committed.

"I'm so proud of the team," he said. "It's awesome to be a part of that effort."

Fisher helped spark the Falcons' improvement by insisting they log an extra practice session at 6 a.m. most mornings before school during the postseason. That served as a supplement to their afternoon practices.

"He finally stepped up and became the vocal leader and just took owner-



ship of the team completely," Doug Fisher said of his son. "Honestly, that was probably the hugest thing."

As a dominant wrestler, Sam Fisher previously relied mostly on a lead-by-example approach, but he improved his leadership skills late this season.

"A lot of seniors on this team, he's really good friends with," Doug Fisher said, "and he had a hard time holding them accountable when they didn't put the effort in that they needed to.

"When he started holding people accountable," Fisher said, "they responded well."

So the Falcons built an early 84-82.5 lead Friday over Great Bridge during the first session of the state

See WRESTLING, page 15

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Spring games can begin Monday, March 16 in baseball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis, softball and outdoor track.

**SPRING SPORTS PREVIEWS**

Look for Fauquier, Liberty and Kettle Run spring sports previews in the next three issues of the *Fauquier Times*.

**SPORTS**

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**“I walk on the street in Puerto Rico and people know me ... I love playing for them.”**

JAZMON GWATHMEY



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jazmon Gwathmey, 27, was a legend at Liberty, helping the Eagles win the 2011 state title. Now she's acclaimed in Puerto Rico for helping the women's national basketball team qualify for the 2020 Olympics.

# MUY BIEN, JAZMON

## Former Liberty star helps Puerto Rico women's basketball make Olympics

By **Jeff Malmgren**  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Living in Italy the past few weeks, Jazmon Gwathmey has found some unexpected free time to further appreciate the historic moment she helped give Puerto Rico in early February.

Gwathmey, a 2011 Liberty High graduate, was arguably the most important player for the Puerto Rico national team that earned the first women's basketball Olympics bid in the island's history during the FIBA Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Bourges, France, Feb. 6-9. But Gwathmey, 27, couldn't celebrate that unprecedented accomplishment back in Puerto Rico due to her prior commitment to Fila San Martino di Lupari, a professional team in Italy.

So Gwathmey, whose mother, Iris Campos, was born in Puerto Rico, went from that FIBA tournament back to Italy. Shortly thereafter the coronavirus spread enough for San Martino to cancel some of its games, as Italy has reported the most coronavirus cases outside of China and South Korea.

Nearby, Japan announced Tuesday it was considering postponing the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, scheduled to begin July 24.

"I'm a little concerned. ... I'm just aching to play," said Gwathmey, a 2016 James Madison University graduate who spent three seasons playing in the WNBA.

Only 16 days after the FIBA tournament, the WNBA's Connecticut Sun signed Gwathmey to a training camp contract after she last played for the Indiana Fever in 2018.

But even the cancellation of the 2020 Games wouldn't negate the pride she feels from giving Puerto Rico some international recognition as an Olympic qualifier.

"I love playing for them," she said of the national team, which she's been a member of for two years. "The country itself is excited for us."

Puerto Rico entered FIBA group play as the lowest-ranked team in the four-team France pool, but Gwathmey's team upset Brazil 91-89 in overtime Feb. 6, spreading smiles and happy tears across the faces of many of Puerto Rico's players.

Brazil lost its next two games to officially clinch Puerto Rico's first Olympic bid, which had profound meaning after the island's recent tribulations.

Puerto Rico continues to feel significant aftershocks following a 6.4 magnitude earthquake Jan. 7, which happened with the island still recovering from devastation caused by Hurricane Maria in September 2017.

"Puerto Rico itself has been through so much," Gwathmey said. "They get punched and punched, and get up and get punched again, and get up and get punched again, and get up again."

"So it's something we wanted to do so bad for Puerto Rico," she said of qualifying for the Olympics. "We

wanted to make them happy. That's why [all the players] were so emotional" after beating Brazil.

In that game, Puerto Rico trailed 65-55 early in the fourth quarter before forcing overtime at 83-83. Gwathmey played 43 of the 45 minutes and finished with 15 points, eight rebounds, three steals and two assists.

"I just remember being so exhausted," she said. "Then the final buzzer went off and I was just relieved, and that was the best feeling ever."

"We knew we were underdogs and we worked so hard start to finish," she said.

Puerto Rico entered as the No. 23 team in the FIBA rankings with Brazil at No. 15, while No. 2 Australia beat Puerto Rico 100-74 Feb. 8 and No. 5 France

won 89-51 Feb. 9.

Gwathmey ended up as the fourth-leading scorer in the Bourges group with 17 points per game, and she tied for second with 2.3 steals per contest, adding 5.3 rebounds per game.

That made Gwathmey one of five players named to the pool's all-star team. She received a trophy at center court with the likes of Australia's Liz Cambage, one of the WNBA's top players.

"I didn't even know there was an all-star team," Gwathmey said with a laugh. "They just pulled me to the

side and told me to stand there."

She also didn't have many memories from actually playing those three FIBA games, but she later watched highlights to truly appreciate her performance after receiving great feedback from her father, William Gwathmey.

"I blacked out," Jazmon Gwathmey said of playing in France. "I hit tunnel vision and I just went for it. I wasn't thinking about anything. It felt good being able to play like that and clearly it gets my name out there more."

Despite her time in the WNBA and as one of the best players in JMU history, Gwathmey is honored to play for Puerto Rico's national team.

"For a country it's thousands and thousands and thousands of people. We're very prideful of that. I walk on the street in Puerto Rico and people know me, and it's four hours from one side of the island to the other side," she said. "When I go home [to Virginia] nobody knows me there" on a grand scale.

Before joining San Martino's team in Italy during mid-January, Gwathmey played internationally in Spain and Australia.

Her playing career has taken her to South Korea, Hungary and Portugal, among other countries.

She's enjoyed vacationing in Dubai and Maldives after never traveling outside the United States prior to 2016.

"I've seen a lot of different places, which is pretty cool," Gwathmey said. "It has its perks for sure, but the down [side] is you're away from family and friends."



Jazmon Gwathmey