

COULD COLEMAN SPRINT TO NCAA TITLES?

Bridgewater College freshman and former Kettle Run track star Adalia Coleman is ranked third nationally in the 100 meters at 11.83 and sixth nationally in the 200 at 24.42. Named South/Southeast Region Track Athlete of the Year, Coleman next competes in this week's NCAA Division III championships in Ithaca, N.Y.

SPORTS



PHOTO BY DAVE HENRICKSON

Highland got goals from Lainey Mulkerin, Amanda Dale, Olivia Simmons and Soleil Harris to defeat Covenant 4-1 in Saturday's VISAA Division II girls soccer state championship in Glen Allen. Coach Reynolds Oare's amazingly young team featured 10 freshmen and just one senior.

SAY HI TO ANOTHER HIGHLAND STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Simmons-led Hawks' girls soccer team routs Covenant 4-1 to win third straight title

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Did Highland have the best girls soccer team in VISAA Division II heading into Saturday's state final against Covenant?

Yes, coach Reynolds Oare believed, but he didn't want to tell his girls that.

"I never said it to the girls, but it was win or bust. We were the best team. If we didn't win the title it would be very upsetting," said Oare. "It would have been a big-time upset if we'd gotten beat."

There was never a question of that as the top-seeded Hawks (14-2-1) scored 30 seconds

into Saturday's championship game in Glen Allen and rolled from there, overwhelming No. 2 seed Covenant 4-1 to secure the sixth title in program history.

Highland has now won three state girls soccer titles in a row, and six total, recording wins in 2019 and 2018 to go with titles in 2016, 2007 and 2006.

"This was a high octane team for sure," said Oare, noting the star qualities of senior Olivia Simmons, a Purdue University recruit who finished with 27 goals and 21 assists, and junior Lainey Mulkerin, who had 25 goals and 11 assists.

See **STATE CHAMPS**, page 27

Highland girls soccer roster

Ashley Herzog, freshman; **Sarah Blackmore**, freshman; **Paige Yung**, freshman; **Ava Duszynski**, junior; **Amari Randall**, freshman; **Isabella Ormiston**, junior; **Chloe Killinger**, sophomore; **Lainey Mulkerin**, junior; **Emma Turner**, sophomore; **Kaelyn Lunglhofer**, 8th grade; **Alexis Conlin**, junior; **Madeleine Siebel**, freshman; **Ainsley Colgan**, freshman; **Olivia Simmons**, senior; **Amanda Dale**, freshman; **Addie Chacey**, freshman; **Monique Emond**, freshman; **Soleil Harris**, freshman.
Coaches: Reynolds Oare (head), Mark Miller, Ronnie Ross.
Manager: Olivia Devening.



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Ryan Fiel (right) and the Cougars (5-3) ended a three-game losing streak by edging Fauquier 2-0. After facing James Wood Tuesday, they close at Liberty Friday.

Near-goals haunt Falcons in 2-0 boys soccer loss to Kettle Run

Canterbury drills game-winner in 56th minute

By Billy Marin
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Soccer can lead to some cruel outcomes, as Fauquier learned Friday night at Kettle Run.

In a game that looked even to the naked eye, the Cougars' boys beat their local rivals 2-0, breaking free from a scoreless game with two second-half strikes, including the game-winner by Ethan Canterbury off a volley in the 56th minute and another by Garrett Ritter soon after.

Fauquier hit the post and failed in a one-on-one with the Kettle Run goalie, while Kettle Run also missed several good opportunities.

The end result was that the Cougars were more clinical.

"At halftime we said to ourselves, 'Alright, we're still in this,' and we took that opportunity to take control

of the game. When you have a group like we've got, where the players can figure out what changes to make themselves, that makes it easy for me," Kettle Run coach Phil Roper said.

Kettle Run improved to 5-3 and closes the regular season with James Wood on Tuesday and Liberty Friday in a rematch of a game the Eagles won 2-0 on May 12.

Fauquier fell to 1-5-2, with Sherando Tuesday and Culpeper Friday.

"We created enough chances to get something from the game. It just didn't happen, we couldn't find the back of the net," said Falcon coach Chase Davenport.

Canterbury's goal rescued the Cougars on a night when potential goals were left unconverted.

See **BOYS SOCCER**, page 26

GIRLS LACROSSE REPORT

Kettle Run edges Liberty 13-12 to take over second place

By Fred Hodge

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

As the Region B girls lacrosse schedule heads into the stretch run, the county's three teams seemingly fall into separate categories.

Kettle Run finds itself in second place in the current standings after absorbing its first regional loss, 14-10, at James Monroe. Kettle Run, 4-1 in region play and 5-2 overall, is hot on the heels of 4-0 George Mason, but Culpeper and Eastern View are breathing down the Cougars' necks at 4-2.

"I'm proud of the way the girls have worked this season," said Kettle Run coach Dana Newton. "We still have some tough games remaining, but I'm looking forward to seeing them rise to the occasion."

Kettle Run rallied from a late two-goal deficit in a recent back-and-forth contest with Liberty for a narrow 13-12 decision. The Cougars tallied two goals in the final three minutes, with the game-winning score coming with 73 seconds to play.

"Our team stuck with the game plan, overcame some adversity in the first half and started to control the ball better in the second half," Newton said. "We never gave up."

Morgan Mahoney was the high scorer, with Aubrey Kearns, Carleigh Wood, Kaitlyn Jones, Jordan White and Maria Gaytan also joining the scoring parade.

The Cougars then pounced on the extremely youthful Fauquier Falcons in a 17-3 win, as nine players reached the scoring column.

Two Eagles reach milestones

Liberty coach Amy Lacey was disappointed with the narrow Kettle Run loss, as the Eagles could not hold onto several leads.

Liberty stands at 3-3 in region play, 5-4 overall.

"We were up 6-4 at the half," Lacey began, noting Kettle Run needed less than two minutes to tie after in-



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JAKUM

Fauquier sophomore Elena Fackenthall runs upfield with Kettle Run defender in hot pursuit. The Cougars are 4-1 and battling George Mason (4-0) for first place, with Liberty at 3-3.

termission. "We answered back with three in a row, then they scored four in a row...and the seesaw continued."

Gretchen Thomas and Abby

Keller both scored four goals for Liberty.

Despite that loss, Lacey had two reasons to celebrate the next game.

Region B standings

George Mason	4-0
Kettle Run	4-1
Culpeper	4-2
Eastern View	4-2
Liberty	3-3
James Monroe	3-4
Brentsville	0-4
Fauquier	0-6

This time, Liberty was the team with the better second half against Eastern View. The Cyclones took a comfortable 8-4 into halftime only to witness an 8-2 second-half run by the Eagles, who pulled out a 12-10 victory.

Coach Lacey also was excited to see two players record a pair of statistical breakthroughs. Senior goalkeeper Emily Markley moved past the 200 save mark for her career with 10 stops. At the other end of the field, fellow senior Gretchen Thomas continued her season-long scoring tear and surpassed the 100-goal milestone with her six scores.

Liberty posted a 17-7 non-league home win Monday for a successful Senior Night. Thomas (six goals), Keller (five) and Alaina Marek (three) top the victors' scoring list. Keller and Alex Palizzi handed out three assists each.

Falcon growing pains

Perhaps no team in the county this year has had to endure a baptism by fire like the Fauquier girls squad.

Coach Ken McInnis has only two players with prior varsity experience, and the 2020 season cancellation means almost no junior varsity experience either.

"More than half of my team won't be eligible for a driver's license for two years. Throwing 14-year-olds into a varsity contest is the very definition of baptism by fire," McInnis said, as the 0-7 team strives to gain confidence, skills and game awareness.

See **LACROSSE**, page 27

Fauquier's Davenport: 'We couldn't find the back of the net'**BOYS SOCCER**, from page 25

"We were moving the ball really well in the second half. We have great team chemistry, on and off the field, and that allowed us to score our goals," Canterbury said.

The Kettle Run front line of Garrett Ritter, J.T. Brumagim, and Josh Umanzor, and attacking midfielder Canterbury combined with one-two passes to get around the defense, and then using blistering pace to create shooting opportunities. Umanzor had two shots from inside the box in the first ten minutes. But neither materialized, and the first half remained wide open.

Kettle Run pressed high and on numerous occasions won the ball in the final third. Fauquier struggled early to build the ball from the back, and the Cougars' swarming was effective

at creating chances high up the field.

Even as Kettle Run looked the smoother in possession, Fauquier had the better goal-scoring opportunities in the first half.

Senior forward Tony Cortes saw the first chance in the 14th minute, but a great save from Kettle Run goalie Luca Jontz denied him. The rebound to Andy Calderon was skied over. In the 28th minute, Nate Hensley found Cortes behind the defense with a lobbed through ball, but Cortes' shot hit the crossbar and skimmed out of play.

"Tony Cortes did a really good job making runs behind the center backs and letting Connor (Mollberg) and Nate pick him out. Most days he'd finish one of those, but it just wasn't falling today," Davenport said.

In the 56th minute, Kettle Run won possession off a scuffed Fau-

quier punt, prompting Canterbury to work the ball out wide to Umanzor. Umanzor beat his man and whipped the ball into the box, where Canterbury confidently stroked the first time volley into the net.

Immediately following, Fauquier gave up possession in the middle of the field, prompting Ritter to beat two men with a cut inside before outrunning the Fauquier center back and finishing with the outside of his right foot into the far right corner in the 59th minute.

In the space of three minutes, Fauquier's tight defensive effort collapsed in the time it would have taken to take a quick visit to the concession stand.

With ten minutes left, Fauquier mounted a desperate effort to get back into the game.

In the 78th minute, Fauquier for-

ward Andrew Wilvert intercepted a pass from Kettle Run goalie Luka Jontz, and nearly scored. From outside of the box as he fell over, Wilvert poked it back with the ball hitting the inside of the post and rolling back across the goal before being desperately cleared by a Kettle Run defender.

"We did a great job keeping up the morale and to keep fighting till the very end. We had the attitude that if we keep creating chances eventually one of them will go in. It just happened that tonight none of them did," said Falcon senior captain Conner Mollberg.

In the 79th minute, Fauquier created another opening with a long throw-in falling to the feet of Cortes just outside of the six-yard box, but Jontz of Kettle Run fell on it before Cortes could set his feet.

'High octane' Hawks win 6th state title with six freshmen starters, one 8th grader

STATE CHAMPS, from page 25

"The duo of Simmons and Mulkerin were a very dangerous tandem. And there were a lot of other quality players around them. Simmons is an awesome player, awesome girl, awesome leader," said Oare.

Highland came into the game on an absolute roll after burying North Cross 6-0 in Friday's semifinal and eliminating Veritas 5-0 in the quarterfinals on May 18.

Highland, which routed Covenant 6-0 two weeks before the state final, immediately raced in front Saturday. Covenant sent the opening kickoff downfield, but Highland played it forward with freshman Amanda Dale creating an opening for Mulkerin to score a lightning fast goal less than a minute into the game.

"She just got behind the defense. That was huge," said Oare.

Simmons' spectacular skills set up the Hawks' second goal about 15 minutes in. The attacking midfielder took a ball and beat the Covenant defense up the left side and slotted a pass across the goal mouth, which Amanda Dale hammered home. "Olivia did everything but score. She's made a lot of great plays like that all year," said Oare.

Up 2-0 at halftime, the Hawks scored twice more in the second half to celebrate a dominating win.

Freshman Soleil Harris split two defenders, played the ball into the box to freshman forward Ainsley Colgan, who sent it over to Simmons to make it 3-0. "She hit it one time, it was a laser beam by Olivia," said Oare.

Highland's final goal was set up by freshman Ashley Herzog's corner kick, which Harris volleyed home.

Although it was the sixth state title by the Highland girls soccer program, and third in a row, only two Highland players had been part of the Hawks' last previous title in 2019: team captain Alexis Conlin and Isabella Ormiston.

"That's what made it so special. Ninety-nine percent had never done



PHOTO BY DAVE HENRICKSON

Although she played just one full season at Highland due to club duties and the pandemic, Purdue-bound senior Olivia Simmons will go down as one of the school's greats.

it," said Oare, whose squad carried 10 freshmen and an eighth grader.

Although she's been at Highland four years, Simmons is a star club player in her first full season for Highland after 2020 was canceled by the pandemic after two games. "She's always humble, had a blast with the girls, and worked tirelessly to help the team be successful. She's been awesome," said Oare.

Named co-Delaney Athletic Conference Player of the Year, Simmons was the only senior on the 18-member roster. The fresh-faced starting group also included one eighth grader, six freshmen, two juniors and one sophomore.

Other all-DAC first team picks were Mulkerin, Harris, Herzog, freshman Madeleine Siebel and sophomore Chloe Killinger.

Although COVID problems hit Highland in the winter, Oare said no Highland program had a positive COVID test this spring. "We were tested twice a week and wore masks until early May (when the state officials loosened restrictions)," said Oare, who is Highland's middle school athletic director.

Improving Falcon girls getting baptism by fire

LACROSSE, from page 26

Fauquier has only one senior, but her presence reverts the Falcons from playing a more equitable JV schedule.

"There has been frustration at all levels," said McInnis. "What it boils down to, when you're on varsity you are expected to know how to play the game, and you've probably had experience at the JV level or some other avenue.

"I still get that 'Are you really going to put me in?' look in some of their eyes when their name's called to take the field."

McInnis said concepts are starting to sink in, but the overall techniques still are not up to the standard varsity level. He stressed the growth

in skills will require dedication and more time once the season ends.

"Lacrosse is not just a seasonal sport. Picking up the stick the day before tryouts doesn't help anyone," McInnis stressed, saying the players need to play on travel or other teams and do individual work at other times.

"Next year, without a doubt, should be better. It will depend on how badly the girls want it," he continued, noting he sees flashes of the future.

"We've started out pretty good in a couple of games, and I saw vast improvement in the first five to 10 minutes," the coach stated "Then the other teams start scoring and confidence is shaken. They just need experience."

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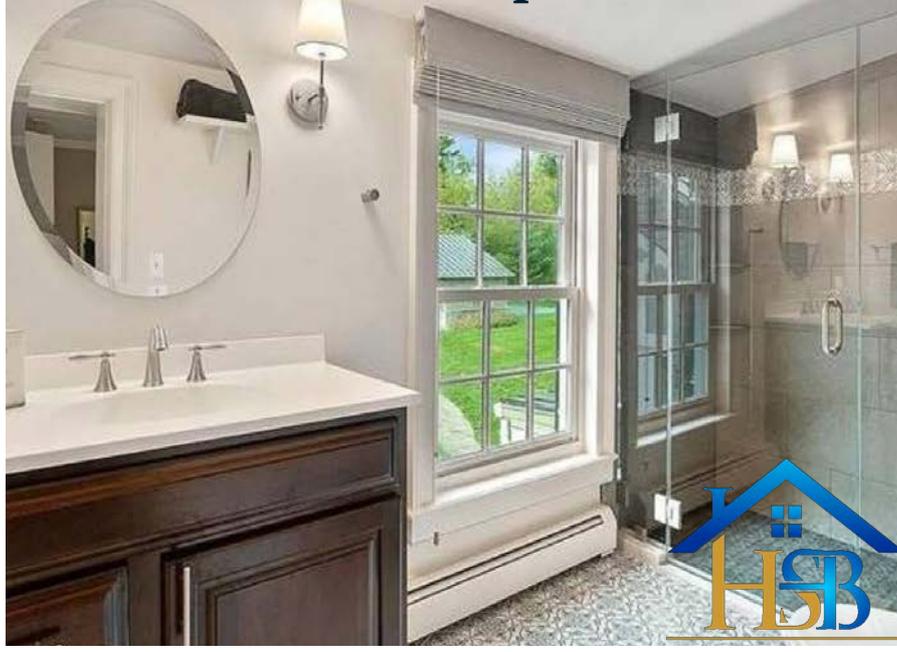
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The baseball gods don't shine on Hawks

Leading most of game, Highland falls in state final, 7-6

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Highland wanted to be the team dogpiling in celebration at the pitcher's mound Saturday.

Instead, the top-seeded Hawks were frustrated in their bid to win their first VISAA Division II baseball title, losing to traditional power and No. 2 seed Greenbrier Christian 7-6 in the championship game at Shepherd Stadium in Colonial Heights.

Coming in with an arsenal of NCAA Division I-bound players, the Hawks played like the top dog all year, and seemed poised to win with George Washington University-bound ace Ed Wagner on the mound.

While not in complete control, the 6-foot-6 Wagner produced a gritty effort, going five innings and allowing four earned runs with five strikeouts, and leaving with his team ahead 5-4. "Ed Wagner was a program changer in his three years for us. I'd give him the ball again. It played like we wanted it. He did not have his best stuff, but he competed. That's what Ed does," said Highland coach Micah Higgins.

The Hawks scored in five of the seven innings and led 2-0, 3-0, 4-3, 5-3 and 5-4, but could never break it wide open. Greenbrier won it with three runs in the top of the sixth to lead 7-5. Highland scored once in the bottom of the sixth and had the tying run at second in the bottom of the

seventh, but could not score.

"This group is special in so many ways," said Higgins. "They love each other each and every day. That trumps the game score. Life-long relationships is what we strive for. Highland baseball has never been hotter."

It was Highland's second straight loss in the title game. In 2019 they eliminated Greenbrier in the semis but lost the final to Miller School. "This was Greenbrier's 14th state title and they've had multiple pro players," added Higgins. "It feels good to compete with people like that at the top of the heap. We want to stay there."

The game was an engrossing back and forth duel. The Gators, decked out in blue and orange like the University of Florida, got in deep trouble numerous times with multiple errors, but managed to keep it tight despite trailing.

Down 2-0, Greenbrier coach Patrick Nichols pulled starting pitcher Bailey Matela quickly in the second inning, and backup James McCrady went the rest of the way, allowing three runs (two earned) in 5 2/3 impressive innings.

With eight hits, five walks and numerous Gators' errors, Highland reached base frequently, but made key mistakes that killed potentially big innings.

The Hawks had a runner picked off second in the second and hit into a



COURTESY PHOTO

Despite a frustrating loss in Saturday's state final, coach Micah Higgins' talent-laden Highland baseball program had its finest season, going 24-6.

hard-luck double play to end the third when runner Blake Cuddington was called out on a popup slide into second resulting in an automatic out at first.

But perhaps the biggest regret was not scoring in the fifth when Highland, nursing a 5-4 lead, loaded the bases with no out, but scored no runs when John Noah Lukonis was thrown out at the plate on a fairly deep flyout to right field after leaving late.

"Some things did not go our way. It's not easy. That's baseball, man. We love the sport," said Higgins.

Greenbrier responded with a huge bases-loaded double by Joey Allen to the base of the left-center field fence in the top of the sixth to clear the bases for a 7-5 Gators' lead.

That hit came off Cuddington, but the loss went to Jackson Gimbel, who walked three batters to open the sixth.

Greenbrier also had a three-run home run from Ethan Ott to tie the

game at 3-3 in the top of the third. "They got six runs on two swings," lamented Higgins about the Gators' two huge hits.

Highland's hitting star was Cuddington, who had a two-run single in the first and RBI single in the third, long double in the seventh, and finished 3-for-3 with a walk and hit by pitch.

"Cuddington was clutch all week. That's him all year. He was the best in the big moments," said Higgins.

Griffin Carroll had an RBI single in the second. Nate Dulevitz tripled to right-center in the sixth and scored on Connor McAuley's RBI groundout to make it 7-6.

Despite the disappointment, the Hawks finished 24-6 and returns another loaded squad next spring. "In the grand scheme, we're so fortunate and blessed to be able to play 30 baseball games this year," said Huggins.

Winebarger silences Kettle Run as Falcons get revenge, 3-2

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Kettle Run and Fauquier have both made the Class 4 state baseball tournament within the last five years, and make regular visits to regionals.

With both programs in the thick of the Northwestern District race, postseason thoughts of glory are not unrealistic this season, especially in a crazy, late-starting, COVID-affected year.

Both Fauquier and Kettle Run have solid pitching, strong position players and are under sound

management with Falcon coach Matt O'Saben and Cougar coach Ty Thorpe.

"I think we're both getting quality pitching. It comes down which team can put together enough offense to put together a win. Pitchers are ahead of hitters all year. In the post-COVID situations the hitters are behind," said Fauquier's O'Saben.

Entering the final week of the regular season, both are 5-3 and tied for third in the Northwestern District. The district tournament runs June 1 and June 3. Due to the format it's possible both local teams could make it to the regionals again,

although Millbrook (8-0) and James Wood (7-1) have been the best teams so far.

Last Friday's second Falcon-Cougar showdown in a week showed how close they are. Fauquier got revenge for a 4-0 loss on May 17 with a 3-2 win behind the lights-out pitching of Falcon sophomore Owen Winebarger.

Fauquier went 10 innings over the two games before finally scoring against Kettle Run, and were helped by some Kettle Run infield mistakes last Friday.

But the lefty Winebarger was the story, assuredly controlling multiple pitches. He was never hit hard in recording nine strikeouts, including five caught-looking. "Owen did what Owen does. He commanded the strike zone in and out and up and down. He kept them off balance," said O'Saben.

Starter Harrison Yergey, a junior righthander, was also impressive for the Cougars, striking out seven Cougars in his six innings, before giving way to Zac Gimon, who struck out the side in the seventh.

Kettle Run took a 1-0 lead in the second on infield singles by Chase Rogers and Yergey and a solid RBI single to center by Peyton Mehaffey to score Rogers.

Northwestern District baseball standings	
Millbrook	8-0
James Wood	7-1
Kettle Run	5-3
Fauquier	5-3
Sherando	4-4
Culpeper	2-6
Liberty	1-7
Handley	0-8



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Evenly-matched Fauquier and Kettle Run split two well-played games last week. The regular season concludes this week with Fauquier hosting Culpeper Thursday and Kettle Run visiting Liberty Friday.

See **BASEBALL**, page 29



So far no one in the Northwestern District has stopped slugging pitcher Skye Corum (left) and the Fauquier softball team. Corum has six home runs.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

It's not if, but when Falcons will explode

Fauquier softball improves to 10-0 with 17-1 win over Kettle Run

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Tick, tick, tick, tick.

Older television crime dramas often featured story lines involving time bombs wired to analog clocks that built tension. Unlike digital clocks, when the explosion would take place was not always evident.

Still, it was a matter of when, like the Fauquier High softball team.

The latest example came Friday at Kettle Run in a battle of the Northwestern District's top two clubs. The score stood at 1-1 entering the top of the third inning when the Falcon bomb exploded.

Fauquier scored six times to fuel a 16-run outburst over three innings in a 17-1 five-inning win to move to 8-0 in Northwestern District play and 10-0 overall. Kettle Run fell to 6-2 in the standings.

Fauquier coach Erika Lamper said her players constantly advise each other on what they see at the plate.

"They do a good job of adapting quickly...adjusting on the fly," said Lamper. "We have teams throwing every pitcher they have at us even if it's a five-inning game."

The Falcons amassed 18 hits in the latest victory. Mikayla Gilmore recorded four singles and drove in four runs, while Payton Swart and Meredith Wayland both had three hits. Helena Lovell, Meghan Har-

Northwestern District softball standings

Fauquier (8-0), Kettle Run (6-2), James Wood (6-2), Millbrook (4-4), Sherando (4-4), Liberty (3-5), Culpeper (1-7), Handley (0-8)

rington and Skye Corum had two hits apiece, and Emma Carter recorded three RBIs.

Harrington struck out nine batters in five innings, allowing three hits. Kettle Run's Abby Boldt had two of the Cougar hits to one by Delaney Lail.

Both teams had collected important league wins three days earlier.

Fauquier had 14 hits and led 10-1 after four innings in a 10-5 win over visiting James Wood. Corum smacked her sixth home run of the season, a three-run shot in the first. Lovell, Wayland and Gilmore all registered three hits.

Kettle Run built an early lead at Sherando only to see the Warriors score three times in the bottom of the sixth and twice in the seventh to send the game into extra innings. Boldt then blasted her second homer of the game in the top of the eighth inning for a 6-5 win.

In other action, Liberty downed Handley, 15-3, and Fauquier routed John Champe, 15-0, as Harrington and Corum combined for a five-inning no-hitter.

BASEBALL, from page 28

Fauquier tied it at 1-1 in the third on Ethan Hall's single to right to score John Bynaker, who walked with two outs and reached second on a wild pitch.

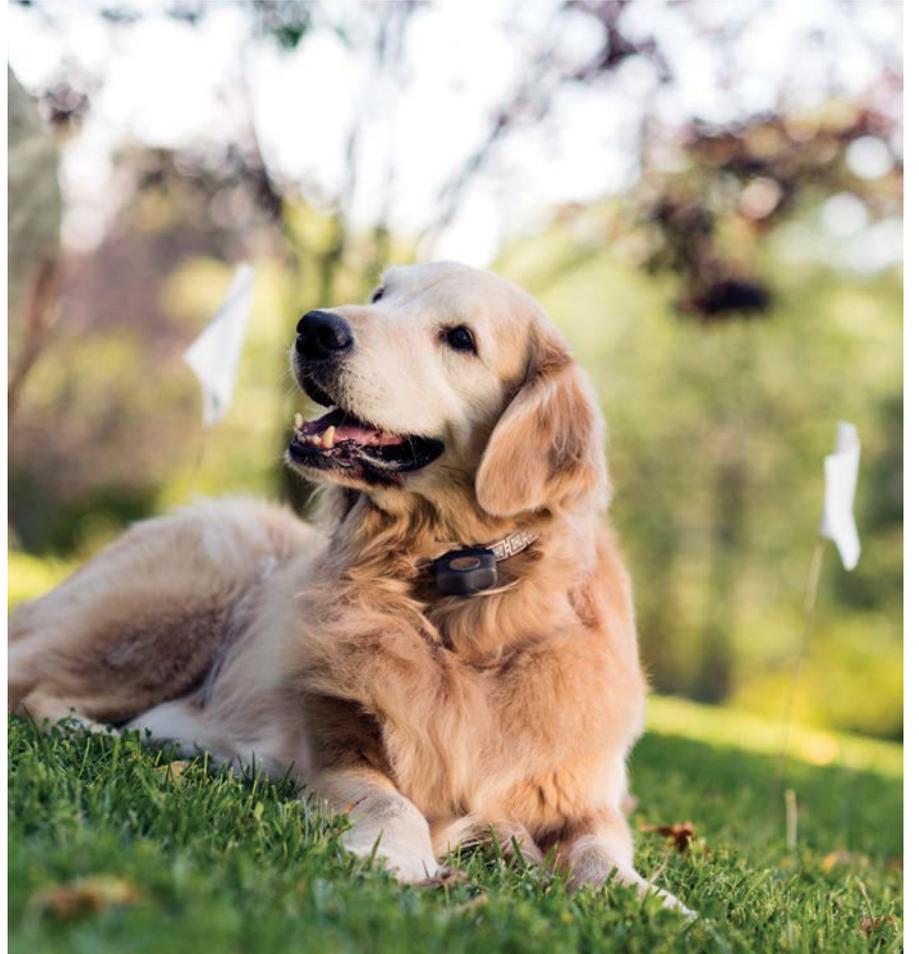
Kettle Run regained the lead at 2-1 in the third when Matthew Twomey walked, stole second and scored when Collin Palmer's grounder up the third baseline got under the glove of the Falcon third baseman.

The Falcons got their two winning runs in top of the fourth on some shaky Kettle Run infield defense. Blaine Smith's double up the

right field line scored Braedy Peck, who had reached on an error. Smith scored on the next play from second when another infield grounder was misplayed.

Winebarger got Kettle Run in order in the fourth, allowed only a single to Twomey in the fifth, and faced just three batters in the sixth due to a double play.

In the bottom of the seventh, Me-haffey led off with a single up the middle on the first pitch, but was caught stealing on a rifle throw by Fauquier catcher Grayson Kramer. A popout and strikeout ended the game.



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Better late than never

96th running of the Virginia Gold Cup closes out spring steeplechase season

By Betsy Burke Parker
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The Virginia Gold Cup races ditched the traditional first Saturday in May this year for the last; organizers were banking on the fact that pandemic constraints would continue to loosen as the summer approached.

And the thousands of spectators expected to attend the sold out May 29 event are grateful.

Gold Cup is one of the first steeplechase meets, worldwide, to be able to allow spectators in more than 14 months. Tailgate spaces will once again encircle the Great Meadow racecourse near The Plains for the 96th running of the event established in 1922.

Post time is 12:30 p.m. for the first of nine races. The four-mile, \$50,000 Virginia Gold Cup headliner anchors the day as fifth on the card.

The feature attracted 10 – all at level weights of 165. There's no parimutuel wagering at Gold Cup this spring, but the honorary nod as morning line favorite goes to the formful Mystic Strike. The Pennsylvania shipper won his last two timber starts – the May 1 Middleburg Hunt Cup and the May 15 Radnor Hunt Cup. Trainer Todd McKenna said the Florida-bred son of Smart Strike has proven himself over the Gold Cup's four-mile distance, winning the four-mile Pennsylvania Hunt Cup in 2019 and 2020. He was a dull sixth in the 2019 Virginia Gold Cup, his only time over the Great Meadow timber, but McKenna said he thinks Mystic Strike has found his stride this season.

Dolly Fisher's Schoodic won the 2019 International Gold Cup, 3 ½ miles over the same course. He fell in the April 10 My Lady's Manor stake, but was close-up second to Renegade River in the Willowdale Cup earlier this month. Current leading trainer, and recent Racing Hall of Fame inductee, Jack Fisher trains Schoodic for his mother.

Middleburg's Kinross Farm sends out Great Road, recent maiden winner at Willowdale. The



PHOTOS BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

Upland Partners' Mystic Strike, right, has won two timber stakes this month, and Saturday aims to add a third. He's favored to win the 96th Virginia Gold Cup off the powerful performance in the May 1 Middleburg Hunt Cup, shown here. Road To Oz, left, is among nine challengers.

West Virginia-bred will be ridden by Teddy Davies, 16, the son of trainer Joe Davies.

Rounding out the field are Bruce Fenwick's Daddy In The Dark – fifth in the 2018 Virginia Gold Cup, Road To Oz, Flaming Sword and Jaleo.

The hurdle feature – the \$50,000 grade 3 Semmes memorial handicap – attracted seven, including Riverdee's Gibralfaro, winner of the grade 3 handicap at the International Gold Cup meet in 2018. He was fourth in the Semmes last spring.

Highweight at 158, Irv Naylor's Bedrock, carries 10 to 16 pounds more than his rivals. A \$260,000 yearling purchase in England, Bedrock won at Newbury as a 2-year-old then was sent over hurdles at 4. He won impressively at Warwick and Bangor, then twice in Ireland at 5. Bedrock was imported to the U.S. in time for 2019 summer racing at the major tracks, but he failed to impress: he was sixth in the grade 1 Smithwick in August and eased in the grade 1 Lonesome Glory a month later at Belmont Park.

Rounding out the field are stablemate Chief Justice, Jackie Ohrstrom's Arch My Boy, Galway Kid, Brianbakescookies and Anticipating.

Cross-country 'chase specialist Invocation has won four of the last five steeplethons run on the circuit, including at both Great Meadow meets last year. The Mark Beecher-trained French-bred threw in a clunker at Radnor over timber on May



Leading apprentice rider Skylar McKenna, right, has the call on Royal Ruse in the four-mile Gold Cup stake.

15, but the trainer hopes the near-black gelding will return to form over the varied course he's proved he relishes on Saturday.

The undercard includes maiden, maiden claiming, allowance and ratings hurdles and a card-closing Virginia-bred turf race.

The races will be livestreamed free online. For entries and a direct livestream link, go to nationalsteeplechase.com.



Bruce Fenwick's Daddy In The Dark, second from right, was fifth in the 2018 Gold Cup.

HORSE BRIEFS

OATLANDS MEMORIAL DAY RIDE THIS SUNDAY

The U.S. Trail Ride equestrian group hosts a benefit ride this Sunday, May 30 at historic Oatlands south of Leesburg. Riders may select from self-guided trails of four or eight miles, with lunch served afterwards. Go to ustrailride.org to register.

JUMPER SHOW AT GREAT MEADOW SLATED MAY 31

Memorial Day marks the Casanova Warrenton Pony Club benefit jumper show in the Fleming Farm arena at Great Meadow near The Plains. Divisions range from poles for young horses and riders to modified. Entry information is at casanovawarrentonponyclub.org.

PIEDMONT FOXHOUNDS SUMMER SERIES STARTS JUNE 5

The Piedmont Foxhounds host a summer trail series. The June 5 ride moves off from Bloomfield in Round Hill, the June 12 ride from Buttonwood near Middleburg, the June 19 ride from Welbourne near Middleburg and the June 26 ride from Corotoman near Upperville.

All rides begin at 9 a.m. Call the hunt monitor for more: (540) 592-7199.

POLO NEWS

Twilight Polo returns to Great Meadow Saturday, June 5, with evening arena matches starting at 6 p.m.



PHOTO BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

A new field series run by Virginia United Polo begins at Great Meadow on June 12 and runs through the summer.

A new field series hosted by Virginia United Polo begins June 13 at Great Meadow.

Leesburg's Morven Park hosts Saturday evening polo starting on July 17.

Find details on all three clubs on their respective Facebook pages.

LOCAL DOG GOING FOR WESTMINSTER WIN

Gainesville veterinarian Dr. Scott Dove and wife Ceil welcomed another championship for their Scottish Deerhound breeding and showing operation when Foxcliffe Claire Randall Fraser won the Central New Jersey Hound Show last week. Claire also won the prestigious National Dog Show earlier this year, teeing up

her participation in the Westminster Kennel Club show June 12-13 at the historic Lyndhurst estate in New York.

The Doves won the first-ever Westminster Best in Show title from the hound group with their Foxcliffe Hickory in 2011. Claire Randall Fraser is a granddaughter of Hickory.

Professional handler Angela Lloyd of Amisville shows the Foxcliffe dogs.

Westminster will be live streamed online and televised on the Fox network.

TRAIL RIDE AND MORE FROM OLD DOMINION

The Old Dominion Hounds will host an open trail ride on Sunday, June 6 from Tanner Branch Farm near Orlean. The two-hour ride starts at 9

a.m. followed by a potluck lunch.

ODH is having a party at the Copper Fox Distillery in Sperryville on June 12, and hosting a golf tournament in Front Royal on June 19.

Find more information at theolddominionhounds.com.

UPPERVILLE UPCOMING

The June 7-13 Upperville Colt and Horse Show will be open to the public, and free to attend, say show officials. The 168th show is oldest in the nation, founded in 1853.

Featured events include the \$30,000 Upperville American Standard National grand prix Thursday evening, a \$37,000 FEI CSI4* power and speed stakes Thursday afternoon, the \$73,000 FEI4* Upperville Welcome Stakes Friday at 2 p.m., the \$25,000 USHJA International Hunter Derby Saturday at 4 p.m. and the \$213,300 FEI4* Upperville Jumper Classic Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

Leadline classes, side-saddle and a Wall of Honor induction ceremony are in the main arena Saturday, with a Horses and Horsepower auto show planned Sunday.

The Upperville show was newly recognized as a "green horse show" for the group's dedication to recycling, using a digital prize list, erosion control, local sourcing, composting and having the grounds in conservation easement. More is online at uppsville.com.

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THREE BRENTSVILLE TEAMS STILL ALIVE

Two Brentsville teams play at home Wednesday at 6 p.m. in Northwestern District Class 3 semifinals. No. 2 seed Brentsville softball hosts No. 6 William Monroe and No. 5-seeded Brentsville girls soccer hosts No. 8 George Mason, which upset No. 1 James Monroe 2-0. No. 3 Brentsville baseball is at No. 1 William Monroe.

WWW.FAUQUIER.COM



TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL

Kettle Run pole vaulter Colleen Schaner cleared 11 feet to take second at regionals last Wednesday at Fauquier High, thus booking her ticket to Saturday's Class 4 meet. Fauquier, Liberty and the Cougars will have a strong contingent at states, held in Lynchburg.

RUNNING FAST, FLYING HIGH AT FALCON FIELD

FHS girls take second at region track meet, host of Cougars, Eagles also make states

By Fred Hodge

SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Performing at Fauquier High's Falcon Field proved a boost to local track athletes at last Wednesday's Class 4 Region C track meet.

Fauquier qualified in 13 events for this Saturday's state meet, with Kettle Run (eight) and Liberty (four) also sending prospects on to the big stage at Liberty University this weekend.

Fauquier's girls finished second as a team, winning five events, with Kettle Run's girls fourth.

Loudoun Valley was just too strong, winning both titles.

Falcons Sydney Trussell and Stephanie Robson each won two events, and Kettle Run had three gold medalists in Alden Williams, Nia Rogers and Becca Harkness.

The depth of good performances and amount of state qualifiers left coaches pleased. The top four individual finishers and top four relay teams made states.

"On the girls side, we had a couple of people who stepped up and had a good day. There were a couple of people who didn't have a good day," Fauquier coach Quentin Jones said. "Overall, that's what teams do, help out one another."

Kettle Run's Myraida Davis was another happy local coach. "We are particularly proud of our girls team for placing fourth overall," Davis began. "Almost everyone ran their best time for the season, which is not only extremely difficult to do on a hot and humid day like we had.



Cassidy Scott (left) and Julia Crowther (right) helped the Falcons take second in the 1,600-meter relay in 4:12.97.

Mining for gold

Fauquier senior Sydney Trussell won the 100 meters in 12.80 seconds, later adding the 200 title in 22.62. Fellow senior Stephanie Robson captured the triple and long jumps titles, recording best leaps of 36 feet, eight inches (triple jump) and 16-11 (long jump).

Fauquier also won the girls 3,200-meter relay in 9:41.82, as Aubrey Fernandez, Abby Gray, Cassidy Scott and Kiki Wine combined to win by more than 20 seconds.

Kettle Run accounted for the county's other gold medals. Cougar Nia Rogers was the top shot putter at 37-11, and Becca Harkness was the only girl to break one minute in the 400-meter dash at 59.48. On the boys side, Alden Williams ran

to first in the 200 (22.81) after an earlier bronze medal in the 100 (11.07).

Lots of silver and bronze

County athletes amassed five silver medals for the day. Fauquier's Fernandez was second in the open 400 (1:00.37) before combining with Julia Crowther, Kiki Wine and Cassidy Scott for the 1,600-meter relay runner-up slot in 4:12.97. Jackson Schreher cleared 12 feet in the boys pole vault for his silver.

Kettle Run's Colleen Schaner took second in the girls pole vault (11-0), with Liberty's Matthew Paratore, Aiden Niedich, Sam Rodman and Jacob Phelps placed second in the boys 3,200 relay in a school record 8:09.46.

Cougar Lauren Carpenter headed a lengthy list of county bronze medalists with third-place runs in the 200 (26.71) and 400 (1:00.65). She joined teammates Ashley Nickerson (pole vault, 10-6) and the 4x800 quartet of Harkness, Kendall Schlueter, Kaiya Stone and Rachel Grant (10:02.57), who established a new school record.

See **TRACK**, page 25

REGION TRACK TEAM SCORES

Girls: Loudoun Valley (131), FAUQUIER (107), Handley (63), KETTLE RUN (60), Culpeper (56), James Wood (43), Tuscarora (34), Heritage (30), Loudoun County (29), Sherando (26), Dominion (21), Millbrook (15), LIBERTY (12), Park View (10), Broad Run (5)

Boys: Loudoun Valley (153.5), Handley (88), Loudoun County (75), Dominio (58), FAUQUIER (49), Culpeper (46), James Wood (39), Tuscarora (34), LIBERTY (23), Heritage (22), Broad Run (20.5), KETTLE RUN (16), Sherando (14), Millbrook (13).

ONE RUN IS ALL THEY NEEDED

Falcons nip James Wood 1-0 for district softball title

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Usually after scoring one run, the Fauquier High softball team keeps pummeling the scoreboard.

Not last week as the Falcons slipped past James Wood 1-0 in the Northwestern District championship game on June 8.

While Fauquier's murderous row of hitters was struggling, star pitcher Meghan Harrington was on, striking out 12 in a masterful win that allowed the Falcons (15-0) to host Dulles District runner-up Loudoun County in the Class 4 Region C semifinals.

"Once you get to the postseason, one run can make the difference," said Falcon coach Erika Lamper, whose Falcons won it with an unearned run in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Added Lamper, "We didn't play up to our potential as far as hitting the ball but found a way to manufacture a run. That's the way it's going to be the rest of the season."

Falcon Emma Carter reached base on an infield error to open the decisive inning, then moved to second on a wild pitch and continued to third when the catcher was slow to react. The throw to third actually arrived first, but Carter was safe with a crafty slide to the outside of the bag.

Haley Saulsbury walked, but was cut down on a steal attempt for the first out, leaving Carter at third.

Sophomore Katie Harrington then delivered the key blow.

With a one ball, one strike count, she sent a sharp ground ball past the first baseman, who was playing shallow for a possible play at the plate. The ball went



Fauquier's 16-0 season has been fueled by great pitching, prodigious hitting and sound defense. The Falcons celebrated after beating James Wood 1-0 in last Tuesday's Northwestern District title game and followed that up with a 7-3 win over Loudoun County in Monday's region semifinals. A berth in the state tournament beckons if the Falcons beat Tuscarora in the region final Wednesday at FHS at 6 p.m.

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

into right field, scoring Carter.

"I went up there with 'See the ball, hit the ball' in mind," Harrington said, adding she was not looking for any particular pitch.

"She had been throwing inside to me," Harrington said. "The pitch was outside so that's why I went to right field."

Izzy Evans then walked before a called third strike and a flyball ended the inning.

James Wood mounted its first true threat with two outs in the top of the sixth.

Sadie Kittoe sent a sinking drive down the right field line that Harrington could not reach and rolled to the fence. Harrington recovered quickly, as Kittoe made a wide turn around third toward home before Colonel coach Todd Baker recalled her.

Falcon Meghan Harrington then registered a strikeout to end the threat.

James Wood had one more opportunity in the seventh when Caitlyn Shutts walked with one out, advanced on a wild pitch and moved to third on a grounder to the right side. Harrington then fanned Cadence Rieg with a called third strike on the inside of the plate to end the game and ignite the Falcon celebration.

"I'm just so happy for this team. They have worked so hard and totally deserve this championship," said Lamper.

Fauquier finished with three hits. Besides Katie Harrington's game winner, Helena Lovell singled in the first inning and Meghan Harrington in the second.

Five-run third inning puts Falcons one win away from states

Fauquier eliminates Loudoun County 7-3 in region semis

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Typical Fauquier Falcon softball.

A scoreless game through two and one-half innings, then the bottom of the third arrives and BOOM.

A walk, four hits and a long sacrifice fly later, the Falcons led visiting Loudoun County 5-0 in the Class 4 Region C semifinals en route to a 7-3 victory in a game called after five innings due to multiple lightning delays totaling one hour, 50 minutes.

Now 16-0, the Falcons are one victory away from returning to the Class 4 state tournament for the first time since 2016.

Standing in the way is Dulles District champion Tuscarora (14-1) in Wednesday's region final at FHS at 6 p.m. Tuscarora downed James Wood a 10-0 in a five-inning mercy rule semifinal on Monday. Tuscarora won the Dulles title by beating Loudoun County 1-0 in the title game.

"It's only to get tougher from here," Fauquier coach Erika Lamper said. "One pitch at a time," she stressed.

Monday's Falcon win saw a lot of traffic on the basepaths in the early innings with no runs.



Falcon Brooke Owens (left) was thrown out at third in the first inning, but later scored Fauquier's first run in Monday's rain-shortened 7-3 Class 4 Region C semifinal win over Loudoun County. At right, Princeton-bound winning pitcher Meghan Harrington was typically tough Monday.

Fauquier squandered chances in the first inning when a runner was cut down trying to steal third with no outs and on a line drive double play in the second with no outs.

But Falcon pitcher Meghan Harrington also escaped danger as Loudoun County put runners on second and third with one out in the second but stranded both. In the third, slugger Bizi Manni, who'll attend

Division I Mount St. Mary's, ripped a powerful shot to center field with two runners on, but right at Falcon Meredith Wayland to end that threat.

While a bit frustrated with the inability to score, Lamper felt it was too early to worry.

"That's why you play seven innings. Our girls, once they get their timing, they are ready to go," she said with a smile.



TIMES STAFF PHOTOS/COY FERRELL

Catcher Helena Lovell walked to open the third inning, with Brooke Owens entering as the courtesy runner. Payton Swart then sent a high towering drive off the left center field fence for a run-scoring triple, as Owens raced home standing just ahead of a swipe tag. Mikayla Gilmore followed with a single under the second baseman's glove to score Swart and make it 2-0.

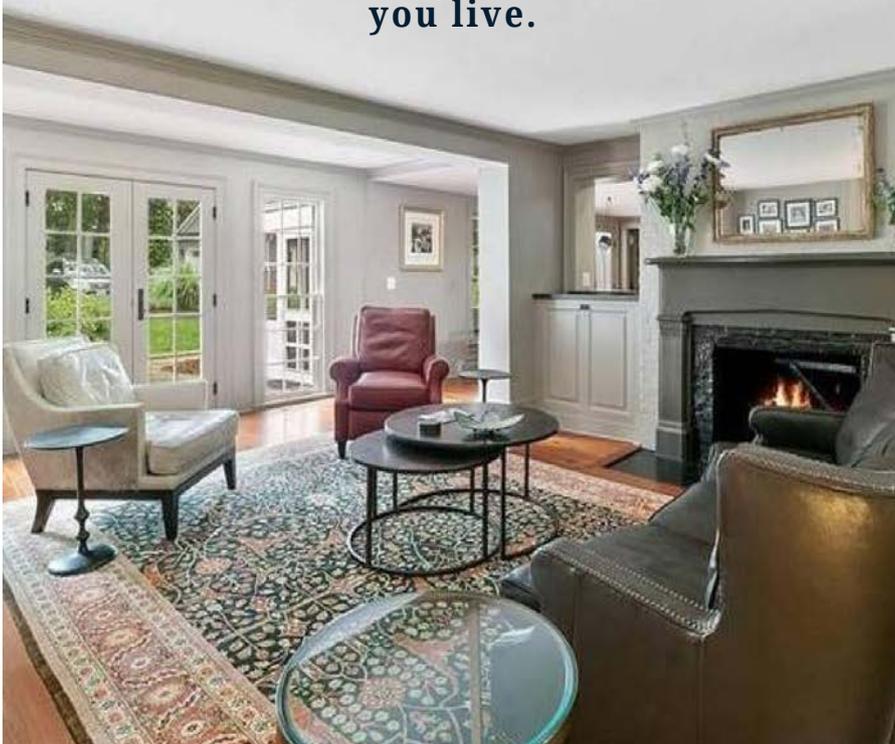
See **SOFTBALL**, page 24



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Kettle Run girls lacrosse advances to semis, Eagles ousted

By Fred Hodge
 SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Five goals by Aubrey Kearns and four from Jordan White propelled host Kettle Run to a 17-4 girls lacrosse win over Brentsville on June 9 in the opening round of the Region B tournament.

Kettle Run is the lone county team to advance as No. 4 Liberty fell to No. 5 Eastern View 15-13 and Fauquier did not play, citing insufficient personnel.

The No. 3 seeded Cougars (6-4) seized command from the start, said Kettle Run coach Dana Newton. "Brentsville usually comes out strong, but we were able to control the draw controls early and set the tone for the game," Newton said.

Kettle Run maintained possession for long stretches and the attackers took advantage as seven players scored in the rout. Morgan Mahoney recorded three goals, Carleigh Wood two and Maddie White, Ashby Rodgers and Kaylee Neam once. Goalie Abigail Beattie had six saves.

The win sends Kettle Run to a rematch at No. 2 Culpeper, a pairing coach Newton likes despite a 14-9 loss to the Blue Devils a week earlier. "We are excited to be moving on to the semis," Newton said. "Even more because we get to play Culpeper again. They are a skilled team, but one I feel we are capable of beating."

Eagles fall to Eastern View

The Liberty-Eastern View quarterfinal tilt was very similar to an early-season meeting when the Eagles rallied for a 12-9 win after trailing 8-4 at halftime.

This time, Eastern View built a 10-5 halftime lead by scoring five straight goals after an early 2-2 tie.

"Because we had been in this position with Eastern View before, the girls knew it wasn't over," said LHS coach Amy Lacey. "We made some adjustments on the draw and on defense. It definitely helped in the second half."

After intermission, Liberty went on a 7-2 tear in the first 15 minutes. Gretchen Thomas found the net three times, with Abby Keller and Alaina Marek in the surge for a 12-12 deadlock with nine minutes, 48 seconds to play.



PHOTO BY JOSHUA JAKUM

Kettle Run goalie Abigail Beattie made six saves in last week's comfortable 17-4 region quarterfinal win over Brentsville. The Cougars (6-4) faced Culpeper in Tuesday's semis.

The game remained tied for more than five minutes before the Cyclones notched two goals in 32 seconds to lead 14-12 with 3:50 to go.

Liberty's Thomas cut the score to 14-13 with less than two minutes to play, but the rally attempt would fall short as Eastern View scored with 19 seconds to go to clinch the win.

"I'm very proud of the team," Lacey said, pointing out the large senior contingent made the moment emotional.

"But after the tears there were smiles," Lacey continued. "They put their heart into it, left it all on the field, played as a team, and never gave up. That's all a coach can ask for."

Thomas led the Eagle scorers with five goals to three each by Alex Palizzi and Keller and two for Marek. Emily Markley posted 12 saves in goal. The team finished 6-5 overall.

Falcons withdraw

Fauquier withdrew from the tournament because the squad had only eight confirmed girls available out of 21 team members for the tournament. Many of the missing players said their families had pre-planned trips, based on the school calendar and had not factored possible post-season play into plans.

The Falcons ended 0-10.

SOFTBALL, from page 23

Skye Corum's double put Gilmore at third and set the stage for Meghan Harrington's pop fly into shallow right center, which tipped off the diving center fielder's glove for a sliding double and a 3-0 lead.

Meredith Wayland's long sacrifice fly outside the left field line plated Corum to make it 4-0. Izzy Evans, running for Harrington, capped the scoring at 5-0 on Emma Carter's ground out.

"They feed off each other. When one gets started, they all were cheering their team and each other," said Lamper.

In the Falcon fourth, Katie Harrington was safe on a dropped fly ball, moving to second on Swart's one-out single. Gilmore's hard ground ball to second went through the fielder's legs to score Harrington for a 6-0 lead. Swart scored on the play on a second error for a 7-0 margin.

Loudoun County did not die as Callie Keys doubled with one out and scored on Madison Miller's single to make it 7-1. Then the impressive Manni crushed a long drive over the left field fence for a two-run homer to make it 7-3.

Fauquier went three up, three down in the bottom of the fifth. The lightning soon arrived and never left.



Fauquier's fearsome boys lacrosse squad faced George Mason in Tuesday's region semis, with Liberty at Kettle Run. TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

WHO'S IT GONNA BE?

Potent Fauquier, Kettle Run and Liberty boys lacrosse squads vie for one spot at states

By Billy Marin
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

After 1½ months of boys lacrosse, Fauquier, Kettle Run and Liberty face a crucible moment.

With a spot in the Class 4 state tournament on the line this week, No. 2 seed Kettle Run (7-2) hosted No. 3 Liberty (7-3) in one Class 4 Region B semifinal after both won quarterfinals last week.

After a first round bye, No. 1 seed Fauquier (7-1) hosted No. 5 George Mason in the other Tuesday semi. The district final is Thursday with the winner advancing to states.

Although rust could be an issue for a talented Fauquier team that hasn't played June 3, motivation should not be a problem. The Falcons see states as their destiny.

"We have to stay focused and humble because the only way we can meet our goals is to continue to take it one game at a time," said coach J.B. Tippet, whose squad beat all three semifinalists in the regular season, including Tuesday's foe

George Mason 23-11.

To make states, Kettle Run has to get by Liberty, and then probably Fauquier.

"Oh yeah, we would love to play Fauquier Thursday for our shot at revenge," said Kettle Run's Logan, whose Cougars lost to FHS 19-6 on May 20. "But we've got a game to play Tuesday night, and so do they, so we've got to take care of that first."

Kettle Run defeated Eastern View 12-8 in a quarterfinal ended four minutes into the fourth quarter due to storms. Games can be called after three quarters if one team is up by more than three. The game was earlier delayed almost an hour in the second quarter.

"We had the game mostly in control, we just couldn't pull away because they were fighting so hard. Credit Eastern View, they played their hearts out that game," Kettle Run coach Brian Logan said.

Liberty, which beat Culpeper decisively in their quarter, 16-5, and is led by star middle Keegan Shipe, is not to be overlooked. Kettle Run edged the Eagles 17-11 in the regular season.



Fauquier's boys 1,600-meter relay snatched a state berth with a surprise third place finish. Anchor leg Aidan Stanton holds baton flanked by Peter Paccassi (left) and Hans Burch (right). TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

TRACK, from page 22

Placing third for the Fauquier boys were Henry Burke (300 intermediate hurdles, 41:07) and the 1,600 relay unit of Burke, Josue Salamanca, Schreher and Aidan Stanton (3:29.34). Alyssa Robson (long jump, 16-9.5) and Scott (800, 2:22.75) were bronze medalists on the girls side.

Rodman was Liberty's lone third-place athlete, turning in a 1:57.68 for the 800 meters.

Maya Turner was Liberty's lone

girl state qualifier with her 12.3 second 100-meter sprint for fourth in the event.

For the Eagle boys, Paratore, Phelps, Neidich and Rodman set a new school standard of 8:09.46.

Others earning the region's final state berth in their specific events were Fauquier's Peter Paccassi (800, 4:27.81), Cassie Mason (pole vault, 7-0) and Alyssa Robson (triple jump, 34-3). Harkness of Kettle Run placed fourth in her 800 race at 2:22.86.



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Upperville Horse Show winner strategy: 'Jump clear, jump fast'

By Betsy Burke Parker
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

International rider Jordan Coyle knows that Hanoverian show jumper Ariso is fast. Coyle also recognizes that the muscular gray is a jumping machine, a little quirky, and sometimes it feels like he's sitting on a rocket rather than a horse.

But in Sunday's headline \$213,300 Upperville Jumper Classic CSI**** that capped off the 168th Upperville Colt and Horse Show, Ariso pulled it together for a flawless performance to take the prestigious victory. Ariso turned in two perfect rounds to best a power-packed field of 32 that included Olympic champions, World Cup winners and Pan American Games medalists.

Upperville's own Alison Firestone Robitaille finished second with Lima 47, while Samuel Parot of Chile aboard Dubai were third.

The main jumping arena at Salem Farm just east of town was circled with enthusiastic fans for the classic, co-sponsored by Ethel M. Chocolates and Lugano Diamonds. Show management opened the gates to spectators for free at the week-long event, a little reward for their patience and support through the cancellation of the 2020 show due to Covid.

Just three jumped clear in the first round to return for the timed jump-off, fewer than course designer Marina Azevedo hoped for, but the elite trio provided more than enough excitement over the shortened second course.

Parot returned first in the jump-off with his Holsteiner gelding Dubai, clear in 42.78 to set the standard.

Coyle said he had a simple strategy entering the ring after Parot. "Jump clear, jump fast," he deadpanned. "(Ariso is) a big horse, a very fast horse, but the best thing about him, he's very careful" not to hit the light, painted rails with his hooves or knees. Coyle asked Ariso to flatten



out and really gallop to the last fence, leaving a stride out and shaving a full 3 seconds off Parot's time.

The crowd roared when Upperville native Robitaille entered the ring with Lima 47, last to go and with a chance to win her first hometown classic.

Robitaille acknowledged she was pretty eager to be best in front of her fans and family.

"It was his first (four-star level) class, so I was a little more conservative on the final line," she said of the Oldenburg stallion. Lima was faster through the first half of the course, but Robitaille held for the extra stride on the final line, breaking the beams in 41.17 and leaving Coyle to win.

Ariso earned \$77,000 for owner Stella Manship's Elan Farm in North Salem, New York.

Robitaille was second, Parot third. Azevedo was pleased with the testing track, part technical related distances, part optional striding according to the riders' exact track from fence to fence.

"I worked hard to have a great result," said the native of Brazil and her nation's first international course



PHOTOS BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

Ireland's Jordan Coyle and Ariso were accurate over two testing courses to win the \$213,300 jumper classic on Sunday, the last day of the 168th annual Upperville Colt and Horse Show.

designer. "I was hoping that we would have five or six clear rounds, but we only had three.

"More (jump-off riders) would be more exciting to watch, but this was a great class."

Three horses turned in double-clear rounds; nine had four faults

– a single dropped rail – in the first round.

Ariso previously won the prestigious HITS Million in Ocala, Florida in March. He was double-clear and fastest to win Thursday's Welcome Stakes, making the Upperville classic the duo's third international win in three months.

The winners

Coyle, 28, is a native of Derry in Northern Ireland. He's from a family of equestrians – younger brother Daniel also shows at the international level. Coyle began his career with Smyth Sport Horses in County Tyrone, moving to the U.S. in 2017.

He's based at Elan Farm north of New York City and with more than 30 FEI-rated show jumping events, he's ranked in the world's top 75 riders.

See **UPPERVILLE**, page 28

Junior rider Mimi Gochman completed a rare championship double, tying with herself as overall junior hunter champion. Gochman won the small junior championship with Catch Me, left, and the large junior championship with Commentary, right.

PHOTO BY ALY SHAFFER



Upperville Horse Show winner strategy: 'Jump clear, jump fast'

UPPERVILLE, from page 26

Ariso's sire, Casall, represented Sweden in the 2012 London Olympics. Ariso is a pure Holsteiner, double-registered as a Swedish Warmblood. He started his show career at age 7 in his native Sweden with rider Henrik Trapper in 2018.

Ariso shifted to the U.S. with Irish professional David O'Brien for the 2019 season, showing at the five-star level at Tryon before purchased by Elan Farm and moving to Coyle's barn for the 2020 season.

"This horse has been a bit of a puzzle, a work in progress," Coyle said of the still-evolving partnership. The riders before him had Ariso outfitted in an array of strong bits, but to little result. "The (athletic talent) was always unbelievable, but after five jumps you had no steering, no control. It was like riding a rocket."

Coyle worked closely with World Champion show jumper Dermott Lennon, and, together, they determined the critical key to Ariso. "I don't train him, that's how I train him," Coyle explained his unorthodox plan with the sensitive stallion. "I don't ride him much at all (between shows.) Just hack him out around the countryside, and do a couple training gallops a week (to maintain fitness.)" but no drills, no flatwork figures, not much jumping for practice.



PHOTOS BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

Two young equestrians take a break and check their cell phones between events.

Coyle also switched Ariso to a hackamore-combo bit, a soft snaffle in the horse's mouth plus a long-shanked leverage noseband for added control through a completely different pressure point. "The last six months, he's turned the corner," Coyle said. "When I got him, he was very difficult to ride and he is getting easier. I am very excited to see what the rest of the summer holds."

Best of the rest

The 168th Upperville show – the nation's oldest, received rave reviews from exhibitors and spectators, though show management admitted the enormous event was an exercise in patience after 24 months away from competition.

"It was the biggest one ever," said manager Tommy Lee Jones. "We put in 77 more stalls than ever before, and I think they're saying there were 2,500 horses here."

"Devon (another AA-rated hunter-jumper competition, in Pennsyl-

vania) was canceled, and Spruce Meadows (an AA show in Calgary, Canada) was canceled. That concentrates everybody here at Upperville.

"But everybody is in a really good mood to be here at all."

Middleburg-based Evan Coluccio and Balmoral's Pritchard Hill captured the overall grand hunter championship with the greatest number of points in rated divisions. Scott Stewart was named leading hunter rider.

In the competitive hunter breeding division, best young horse honors went to Susan Tice Grossmann's Renaldi, a 2-year-old Oldenburg colt handled by Drew Taylor for his Keswick-based owner-breeder. Virginia Horse Shows Association champion yearling last year, Renaldi beat out 3-year-old colt class winner Alls Well for the title.

Mimi Gochman was overall junior hunter champion, times two, tying for the grand championship with her small junior champion Commentary and large junior division champ Catch Me.

In the two-round \$25,000 international hunter derby, Michael Britt-Leon and Private I beat 27 other entries over the testing course. "What I find at this horse show is that it's full of the greatest of greats," Britt-Leon, based in Alpharetta, Georgia, said of the Upperville aura. "It was a great course with great riders and great horses. That's what makes it so fun – we all put the pressure on each other."

Complete results are available at horseshowsonline.com. A full Upperville show history, archival photos and more, are at uperville.com.



*I am pleased to announce the marriage of my son **Tyler Morgan Miklovic** who took his bride, the former **Miss Taylor Lynn Mathews**, as his wedded wife after a long postponement of their ceremony while selflessly serving in their respective medical roles as frontline providers throughout the novel coronavirus pandemic.*

In their formal religious event the couple exchanged their vows in the company of many friends and loved ones during the beautiful spring evening of Saturday, May 22, 2021 in the gardens of Bedford Columns, in Bedford, Virginia. The glowing bride was presented by her father, Jeffrey Wilson Mathews. The bride's white floor length sheath gown with a cathedral length train created a stunning appearance as she was escorted down the aisle to her pastor, the expectant groom, the groom's younger brother, and a warm contingent of bridesmaids and groomsmen.

The groom's education began at The Hill School in Middleburg, Virginia in the fall of 1998. In 2019 he received his M.D. degree from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine in Richmond, Virginia. In 2014 he graduated from Virginia Tech after completing a B.S. in biological sciences and a B.S. in psychology, where he also served as President of the Xi Omega Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. His bride, an R.N., received her B.S. from the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing during the challenging early period of the pandemic.

The groom's mother, Deborah Lynn Napier, Esq., and her sons are direct descendants of American Patriots who served during the American Revolutionary War. Richard Luttrell served with the Fauquier Militia. Richard Jenkins served with the Culpeper Minute Men. Later, Rappahannock County became the home place of their maternal line.

This couple's public service continues our family's unbroken generational sacrifices in non-career U.S. military positions. Capt. and Mrs. Tyler M. Miklovic, M.D. will continue to make their home near the Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center in Texas, where Capt. Miklovic serves his country as a member of the Medical Corps of the United States Army.



Warrenton's Caitlyn Scott partnered her My Lullaby to win the competitive Virginia Pony Breeders Association division. The 4-year-old mare by Farnley Triton was bred by Scott's mother, Tina, at Snow Meadow Farm.

THE BLAKE CORUM SHOW

Fauquier County product Blake Corum continued his stellar play for the No. 6-ranked Michigan football team (7-0). The sophomore running back ran 19 times for 119 yards and two touchdowns in a 33-7 win over Northwestern.

Fauquier Times | October 27, 2021

SPORTS

WWW.FAUQUIER.COM

TOO MANY COUGAR HEROES TO COUNT

Lang, Robinson, feisty defense lead Kettle Run over Handley 47-34

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

With its ground-and-pound attack, the Handley offense can wear grass fields to the nub.

The Judges have a titanic 250-pound back in Stephen Daley to bludgeon and overrun defenders. And complementary backs in Deonte Trammel and Emerson Fusco to gash defenses with slashing runs, often off effective misdirection. Plus, quarterback Davion Butler can hurt you with his arm.

"This is the best Handley team I've seen in my six years here," said Kettle Run coach Charlie Porterfield, whose Cougars (8-1, 5-0 district) posted a season-defining 47-34 win over the Judges last Friday.

Handley (7-1, 3-1) came in undefeated and allowing 9.1 points per game, but the Cougars slowed the Handley running game and more than matched it with a dynamic run-pass attack that saw standout quarterback Beau Lang throw for 215 yards and four touchdowns and run for 115 yards. Lang had lots of help from teammates Colton Quaker, Jacob Robinson, Jordan Tapscott, Peyton Mehaffey and Abram Chumley.

"It was a great night. It was Senior Night. It was the two best teams. I was telling them you do not get to play in situations like that very often," said Porterfield.

Kettle Run cemented first place in the Northwestern District with one game left against Sherando (4-4, 2-2) on Nov. 5. "We're all excited. This was a stepping stone to winning the outright district title, hosting a home playoff game and competing for a regional championship," said Porterfield.

See **COUGARS**, page 30



PHOTO BY RANDY LITZINGER

In a showdown game anticipated for almost a month, Kettle Run continued their mastery of Handley with an electrifying 47-34 win on Senior Night. That's Nick Hunt (left) and Abram Chumley jumping for joy. Kettle Run amassed 504 total yards of offense in improving to 5-0 in district play.

EAGLES SUFFER HEARTBREAKING OVERTIME LOSS

TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Freshman quarterback Austin Mawyer (No. 9) had a strong game, but Liberty fell to 0-7 with a 39-38 overtime loss to Millbrook. The Eagles visit against Handley (7-1) Saturday and host Fauquier (2-7) on Nov. 5 in the Bird Bowl.

Bidding for first win, Liberty falls 39-38 after leading most of game

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

You can replay the game a million times in your head and the final painful result will never change for Liberty.

Heart-breaking, frustrating, depressing, regrettable all describe how Millbrook continued the Eagles' winless season with a 39-38 overtime victory Thursday in Bealeton.

"I mean, we let them hang around too long. They made one more play than we did," said Liberty coach Travis Buzzo, whose team fell to 0-7 and 0-4 in the Northwestern District with two games left.

Liberty is having perhaps its least successful season since the school opened in 1994.

"Am I happy at this moment? No, there is so much more they can achieve. Right now they don't know where their talent can take them," said Buzzo.

"Five plays in the last four games

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

KETTLE RUN (8-1): Bye
LIBERTY (0-7): Saturday at Handley (7-1)
FAUQUIER (2-7): Friday HOME vs. Sherando (4-4)

have changed games. If we could change four plays we'd have three wins," said Buzzo, referring to winnable games against Culpeper, Sherando and Millbrook.

The Eagles were also competitive for much of the game in losses to Mountain View, Kettle Run and James Wood.

Facing the previously winless Pioneers, now 1-7, Liberty had the upper hand most of the game, building an early 24-10 lead, but several regrettable mistakes helped Millbrook recover as the game turned into an exciting dogfight in the second half.

After Liberty took a 38-31 lead in overtime, the Pioneers scored on a 10-yard touchdown run by Joaquin Canada on first down, then boldly went for a two-point conversion.

See **LIBERTY**, page 33



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Gang-tackling by an active Cougar defense prevented Handley's Stephen Daley from ruining Kettle Run's Senior Night.

PHOTO BY RANDY LITZINGER

Cougars excel on Senior Night

COUGARS, from page 29

Kettle Run dominated the second half with four touchdowns. They controlled the ball over long periods of time with lengthy drives in building a 20-point lead.

With Handley leading 20-19 at halftime, the game turned on the opening play of the third quarter on a huge defensive hit and fumble caused by blitzing cornerback/linebacker Jacob Robinson.

Robinson flew in on Handley's Butler, jolted him in the back with linebacker Peyton Mehaffey recovering at the Handley 10-yard line. "It was a great call by (defensive coach Delmar) Christian. Jacob has a knack for blitzing and timing the snap count. He is so long and fast," said Porterfield.

On first down, Mehaffey ran into a hole on the right side, and looked stopped at the 4-yard line before getting swept into the end zone by a pack. He completed his 10-yard run standing up, with Ella Slevin's kick giving the Cougars a 26-20 lead.

Although the entire second half remained, it was a huge momentum swing.

After stopping Handley's next series, Kettle Run went 67 yards in five plays as Colton Quaker bounced outside after being hit on the line, and scored on a 40-yard run to increase the lead to 33-20.

After Handley closed to 33-27 on a 72-yard pass from Butler to Jacob Duffy, Kettle Run went 65 yards in 10 plays to make it 40-27. The drive was mostly pass as Lang completed four passes for 66 yards, including a 28-yard TD strike to Abram Chumley, who crossed the field, then hit the sideline to score.

"It was a route we had set up. It's a slower developing play but Beau stood in the pocket with Handley's rush, which is the best we've seen this year," said Porterfield.

Kettle Run's lead reached 47-27 when Quaker scored on a 5-yard TD run with 6:03 left in the game. Handley quickly made it 47-34 on a 50-yard TD pass with 5:43 left, then stopped Kettle Run's next drive.

Taking over with 3:13 left from its own 11, Handley's drive was ended by a Robinson interception and the Cougars ran out the final 2:12 to celebrate a signature victory.

So many heroes

Kettle Run's defense limited Handley's deadly run game by gang-tackling Kent State-bound star

Kettle Run-Handley football year-by-year

2009: Handley 31-0
2010: Handley 37-7
2011: Kettle Run 34-0
2012: Kettle Run 34-0
2013: Kettle Run 17-3
2014: Kettle Run 27-13
2015: No game
2016: No game
2017: Kettle Run 37-6
2018: Kettle Run 28-21
2019: Handley 27-22
2020: KR 48-14, KR 39-21*
2021: Kettle Run 47-34
*Played in 2021
Kettle Run leads 9-3

Daley, who is also a terror at defensive end.

Kettle Run became the first team to hold him without a TD. While Daley gained 96 yards and hurt the Cougars in the first half, the second half was different.

"They have a lot of big, thick athletes, guys you cannot tackle individually. You have to be gang-tackling. It takes three or four guys to get Daley down," said Porterfield.

"Our linebackers Mehaffey and Quaker were there to be the extra guy and Ethan Tabit played lights out until he tweaked his knee. Josh Witte went in there and got us out of that game at a high level."

Offensively, the Cougars had too many heroes to count, led by Lang, who completed 19 of 24 passes for 210 yards and four TDs.

"We had so many multiple people contributing. We had four different guys carry the ball and four different receivers catch balls. Everybody contributed. We made huge catches on third down to continue drives," said Porterfield.

A Brentsville High transfer, Lang played "a tremendous game, his best yet," said Porterfield. "Beau played big-time ball. He's gotten better each week. His dad is a coach, his brother's a coach and his other brother played. He always has a calm, posed demeanor. No situation is ever too big for him," he added.

Robinson caught eight passes for 82 yards, including a clutch 13-yard TD on fourth down from Lang with 42 seconds left in the first half. Robinson also had a 17-yard TD run in the first quarter, an interception and the game-altering forced fumble.

Quaker, Tapscott, Chumley, Mehaffey and Andrew Strickland all had monster contributions, too.

'WE ARE VERY EXCITED'

Kettle Run cheer wins district title, Liberty also makes regionals

By Peter Brewington
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The Kettle Run competition cheer squad has gotten red-hot at the right time.

The Cougars won their last three competitions over a seven-day period, including last week's Northwestern District title at James Wood.

The squad, along with Liberty, hope to keep clicking at Wednesday's Class 4 Region C meet at Park View High. "We are VERY excited for our shot at going to the state championship this year," said Kettle Run coach Katrianna Tapscott.

The Cougars won the district title with a season-best 226 points with zero deductions to finish ahead of James Wood (204) and Liberty (199.5), which both also qualified for the Class 4 Region B tournament. Sherando (199), Millbrook (194.5), Handley (191) and Fauquier (172) were next.

The top two teams at regions move on the Class 4 state meet Nov. 6 in Richmond, so Liberty and Kettle Run could both make it.

Tapscott said her Cougars' squad is one of the most athletic in school history, performing several challenging routines.

Led by high-flying sisters Rinna and Raeden Hoskins, Kettle Run has 10 out of 15 cheerleaders tumbling.

"It's the highest number of total tumblers since I became the head coach in 2016," Tapscott said.

"We have three roundoff back handspring full-twisting layouts and a standing double back handspring full-twisting layout, which are the most elite tumbling skills that can legally be done in high school," said Tapscott.

Kettle Run's surge has come at the right time.

"Our first couple of competitions were not our best performances and we have turned that completely around," said Tapscott, citing wins in The Hawk Challenge at Skyline, where the Cougars won their division and the entire competition. Kettle Run also won the Falcon invitational recently.

Coach Tapscott said this season is a welcome one after a frustrating, pandemic-marred 2020 season, which was held earlier this year.

Kettle Run overcame injuries to place second to champion Liberty at the 2020 district meet, held in the spring, then took second at regionals, but did not make it to states due



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Wednesday is a big night for the Kettle Run and Liberty cheer squads as they compete at the region meet trying to secure one of the two spots at the Nov. 6 state meet. The Cougars won last week's district meet with Liberty third, just ahead of Sherando.

to the tighter playoff fields that only included the region champion.

Kettle Run's squad includes seniors Raeden Hoskins, Kellie Wright, Mykayla Brown, Emma Hopkins, Amanda Martin and Julia Garcia and junior Kaley Frazier.

The sophomores are Rinna

Hoskins, Rebecca Zaslow, Nolle Hopkins, Amaya Holmes and Maddie Patton. Also on the team are freshmen Dayton Quinn, Heidi Kling, Alexis Rappach and alternates Carlee Spagnolo (junior) and Camden Snider (freshman).

IT'S CASSIDY IN RUNAWAY

Fauquier's Scott wins district girls cross country title by wide margin

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Go out hard early and take command.

That was the strategy Fauquier harrier Cassidy Scott planned to use Saturday in the Northwestern District cross country championship meet.

Her script worked to near perfection, as the Falcon sophomore blitzed the 60-girl field to capture the individual gold medal by a 37-second margin over Millbrook's Madison Murphy, the defending district champion. Scott won in 18 minutes, 7.2 seconds.

"She told her dad (assistant coach Mark Scott) she was thinking she wanted to get out and go after it," Falcon head coach Quentin Jones said.

Fauquier had run on the same Kernstown Battlefield course near Winchester one week earlier, but was seven seconds faster this time. "She looked so much stronger in this race. She took control," said Jones.

Scott's dad was stationed in a wooded section of the 5,000-meter course and provided an additional stimulus. "He told her 'You've got to roll now,' and she got away (from everyone). She did a great job," Jones said.

Scott and her Falcon teammates also earned a Region 4C team berth by placing third. The Liberty boys were fourth and also made regions as a team. James Wood won both the girls and boys



COURTESY PHOTO

Led by champion Cassidy Scott, Kiki Wine, Mackenzie Hodul, Eva Del Gallo and Meme Merchant, the Fauquier girls cross country team took third at last Saturday's district meet.

team crowns. Millbrook's Nicholas Hayden won the 67-runner boys race in 15:51.

The top four teams and first 15 individual finishers next race in the Class 4 Region C meet on Monday, Nov. 2 at Great Meadow. The girls compete at 10 a.m. and boys at 10:30.

The Class 4 state meet is Nov. 13 at Great Meadow with the top three region teams and top five individuals not on the three advancing squads making it.

Also qualifying individually for regionals are Fauquier's Peter Paccassi (6th, 16:22) and Kettle

Run's Owen Mullins (13th, 16:46). On the girls side, Liberty's Kayla Lopez (11th, 20:15) and Maya Turner (12th, 20:17) and Kettle Run's Kendall Schlueter (15th, 20:25) also made it.

Girls team champion James Wood recorded a 39-54 margin over runner-up Millbrook, followed by Fauquier (68), Sherando (78), Handley (133) and Kettle Run (138).

Liberty had only four girls running, one fewer than the required five for a team score.

James Wood needed to win a tiebreaker for the boys title. The Colonels and Handley both had 40 points, so the scorers had to factor in the sixth-place finishers. James Wood's No. 6 runner placed 21st to 32nd for Handley's.

Third place Millbrook (68) and fourth place Liberty (115) were the other team qualifiers, followed by Fauquier (133), Kettle Run (148) and Sherando (172).

Kiki Wine (9th, 20:06) was Fauquier's No. 2 girl after Scott, followed by Mackenzie Hodul (16th, 20:32), Eva Del Gallo (21st, 20:54), Meme Merchant (29th, 21:43), Julia Crowther (46th, 22:46) and Natalie Phillips (52nd, 23:27).

Owen Rogers (16th, 16:59) and Cole Hoffman (18th, 17:15) paced Liberty's run to their regional berth. The LHS pack of James Lacey (25th, 17:44), Aidan Neidich (26th, 17:46) and Peter Rummel (30th, 17:59) enabled them past Fauquier for the final team slot.

See **CROSS COUNTRY**, page 32

Home court, tactical moves help Kettle Run volleyball end Fauquier's season

Liberty's boys earn ticket to cross county regions

CROSS COUNTRY, from page 31

Lincoln Taylor (43rd, 19:12) and Jacob Phelps (60th, 19:53) rounded out the top seven.



COURTESY PHOTO

By taking an aggressive strategy, Cassidy Scott won the district meet by 37 seconds.

Beside Paccassi, Fauquier's top seven boys included Nick Warren (27th, 17:47), Jonas Reutzel (29th, 17:59), Joe Frisk (36th, 18:13), Evan Hunter (37th, 18:22), Julian Major (38th, 18:33) and Josh Burke (41st, 18:47).

Joining Schlueter for the Kettle Run girls were Maria Gaytan (24th, 21:01), Sarah Martin (35th, 22:25), Emily Dever (45th, 22:43), Alyssa Julatron (48th, 22:50), Madison Schitttig (53rd, 23:54) and Kaiya Stone (54th, 23:56).

Beside Mullins, other Kettle Run boys included Noah Lenkey (22nd, 17:29), Tyler Young (33rd, 18:05), Sean Kersey (40th, 18:40), Kyle Beard (42nd, 18:54), Ethan Martin (43rd, 18:59) and Aiden Hill (51st, 19:17).

The other two Liberty girls were Natalie Taylor (31st, 22:07) and Alaina Marek (40th, 22:33).

FINAL DISTRICT STANDINGS	
1. Millbrook	12-0
2. James Wood	10-2
3. Sherando	7-5
4. Kettle Run	5-7
4. Fauquier	5-7
6. Handley	2-10
7. Liberty	1-11



TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

Jubilant Kettle Run beat Fauquier Monday in the district quarterfinals, setting up a showdown at No. 1 Millbrook.

Kettle Run made tactical changes, sending two blockers to slow potent Falcon middle hitter Skyler Furr. Another was to use decoys to draw the attention of the Falcon blockers away from the intended Cougar hitter.

"This is something Fauquier had not seen from us," Howard said.

In the opening set, Cougar Haley Balgavy's six-point service broke a 10-10 tie for a 16-11 lead, Teammate Madison Perino added three more points on the team's next service for a 20-12 bulge en route to the 25-17 win.

Fauquier led 5-1 early in the second set before Kettle Run took a 10-9 edge. Fauquier then pulled away to win 25-21.

The Falcons built an 8-2 third-set advantage, but Kettle Run's Mia Jones forced a tie at 8-8 with five unanswered points. Cougar Mattie Heflin later placed her team into the lead for good at 15-11 with her five-point service run, and the Cougars won 25-20.

Fauquier again failed to hold a lead in the fourth set,

See **VOLLEYBALL**, page 33

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

That luck of the draw may have been the single most important factor in Monday night's Northwestern District quarterfinal volleyball encounter between Kettle Run and Fauquier.

Although the teams split home games and tied for fourth place in the regular season, the Cougars hosted on the basis of a preseason pill selection.

Kettle Run (9-9) won Monday, eliminating the Falcons, 25-17, 21-25, 25-20, 25-23, to move into Tuesday's semifinal round at regular-season champion Millbrook, which had a bye.

The Falcons had leads in the final three sets but could not hold on in the third and fourth frames.

In other action, No. 2 James Wood delivered a 25-15, 25-16, 25-15 blow to No. 7 Liberty, which finished 5-12 overall. No. 3 Sherando quickly dispatched No. 6 Handley, 25-12, 25-19, 25-15. Those winners will meet in the other semifinal bracket.

"After our practices on Friday and Saturday, I felt that we were as ready as we were ever going to be tonight," Cougar coach Mike Howard said.

TOURNAMENT BRACKET

Monday's quarterfinals: No. 1 Millbrook, bye; No. 4 Kettle Run d. No. 5 Fauquier 3-1; No. 2 James Wood d. No. 7 Liberty 3-0; No. 3 Sherando d. No. 6 Handley 3-0

Tuesday's semifinals: No. 4 Kettle Run at No. 1 Millbrook; No. 3 Sherando at No. 2 James Wood
Thursday's championship at higher remaining seed



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The *Fauquier Times* is a direct descendant of Warrenton's original newspaper, the Palladium of Liberty, first published in 1817. Today, the *Fauquier Times* and its sister publications are locally owned by Piedmont Media LLC. The *Fauquier Times* is published weekly on Wednesdays; the *Prince William Times* publishes every Thursday. Piedmont Media also produces the magazine *InFauquier*, and websites Fauquier.com and Princewilliamtimes.com.

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'We left it all on the floor'

VOLLEYBALL, from page 32

as the hosts rallied from an 18-16 deficit with Jones' five points for a 21-19 margin. Kettle Run forced a side out to break a 22-22 tie before Heflin tallied the final two points for a 25-23 closing set victory.

"It was hard fought," Fauquier coach Jen Linthicum said of the season-ending loss. "We left it all on the floor."

Linthicum said the loud home crowd and momentum shifts were just a bit too much to overcome in the teams' third encounter this season. The Falcons finished 9-12.

Perhaps the most disheartening

element for her was the inevitable flood of Falcon tears shed after the final point of a season rocked with COVID-19 and other health issues that led to a parade of lineup changes that hurt consistency.

Kettle Run took a large step toward gaining the No. 4 seed with its 25-19, 25-14, 25-23 upset of visiting third-place Sherando Oct. 19 behind a withering service attack. The Cougars then knocked off host Liberty 3-1 two days later to ensure the home playoff match.

Fauquier was hoping it had clinched the No. 4 seed with its 25-22, 19-25, 25-23, 25-21 win at scrappy Handley the same night.

Liberty loses on 2-point conversion in OT

LIBERTY, from page 29

Millbrook quarterback Detric Brown got flushed out of the pocket looking to pass, rolled out to his right, and surged into the end zone for the winning points and Millbrook's first lead of the night.

On the plus side offensively, freshman quarterback Austin Mawyer continued to develop as a run-pass threat to complement Cody Owens' dynamic running. Tyler Caporaletti, Chase Oliver and Joey Triplett are a solid receiving unit.

Defensively, the Eagles slowed down the Millbrook running game and harassed Brown into a difficult statistical night.

"We're getting better every day on offense. It's shown the last two weeks," said Buzzo, who has noticed his young team progressing. "We are light years better than we were in the Culpeper game (on Sept. 17)."

In freshman Mawyer, Buzzo feels Liberty is developing a field general: "He is coming along great. He's taken that job."

The Eagles dominated the early going, taking a 7-0 lead just 44 seconds into the game. Noah Hall set up the Eagles at the Millbrook 40 with a big kickoff return. Mawyer hit Caporaletti for 16 yards, then ran 20 yards to the 4. Owens ran up the middle through a big hole for four yards for the TD.

The Eagles' defense stepped up, forcing two straight Millbrook three-and-outs, before the Pioneers scored on a 21-yard field goal by Patrick Sigler to make it 7-3.

Liberty drove 65 yards on its next possession to take a 14-3 lead on Joey Triplett's sensational catch in the back end of the end zone, then drove deep into Millbrook territory again.

But, in one of the game's key turning points, the drive ended with an interception on the Millbrook 25, and on first down Millbrook's Braden George took a short pass, eluded some Eagle tacklers and went 75 yards up the left sideline to make it 14-10.

Liberty answered with a 32-yard field goal by Nick Paratore, followed by an interception by Jaden Ulloa,

which led to a 2-yard run by Noah Chinault for a 24-10 lead with 2:43 left in the first half.

Millbrook closed to 24-17 at half-time as quarterback Brown scrambled and found Cohen Creswell for an 18-yard TD with 31 seconds left.

Liberty stopped two straight Millbrook drives in Liberty territory to open the third, but a costly Liberty turnover soon followed as Mawyer threw a pass to the right sideline to Millbrook cornerback Canada, who took the pass with no one nearby and sailed 15 yards into the end zone with the pick six to make it 24-24 with 5:38 left in the third.

"That one is on me. That was not a good play call at that yard-line," said Buzzo.

On its next possession, Liberty regained the lead at 31-24 when Mawyer hit Caporaletti on a 38-yard TD strike with 3:34 left in the third. The freshman rolled out, planted and found the junior a yard into the end zone.

Liberty recovered a Millbrook fumble at the Pioneers' 29 on the next sequence, but a fourth down conversion at the 25 failed. The Pioneers went 75 yards in nine plays to make it 31-31 on Brown's 32-yard TD pass to Chris Standen with 10:04 left in the fourth.

Liberty had three subsequent possessions, but could not score. They reached the Millbrook 26 on their final drive, but went backwards due to penalties.

Taking the ball first in OT, Liberty gained six yards on a Mawyer run, then reached the 3-yard line on a surge by Royce Hall. On third down, Mawyer rolled left and threw across his body to Caporaletti right at the goal-line for the TD.

Paratore's extra point made it 38-31 as the Liberty band struck a triumphant tune.

But Millbrook's quick TD, followed by a timeout to consider the two-point conversion, soon brought defeat as Brown rolled out and scored.

Leaving the game, several students were heard expressing their fears that Liberty could lose the Bird Bowl this year.

Rotary Club of Warrenton



The Rotary Club of Warrenton presents
the Second Annual Community Baby Shower
in conjunction with
the Fauquier Community
Food Bank & Thrift Store.

Back for a second year and building on the success of the 2020 Baby shower, There remains a distinct need for baby items. Social workers have experienced firsthand stories of struggling families forced to stretch their baby supplies by thinning formula and leaving their children in a wet or dirty diaper a little longer than they want. These choices of course have both short term and long term consequences

There is a definite need for non-expired baby formula as formula shelf lives are short and they have to keep their clients safe. Another big need is for baby food since many families start their children on adult food too early because they simply cannot afford baby food, which is formulated with extra vitamins and nutrients that babies need at such a young age.

In response to the great need, Rotary is holding a community "Baby Shower" drive on November 4th from 11:00am to 2:00pm. While all of the typical food bank items will be accepted, the Baby Shower is specifically focused on items such as non-expired baby food and formula, diapers of all sizes and brands, baby wipes, diaper cream and baby hygiene items which may be brought to The Gathering Place, 650 Alwington Blvd, Warrenton, VA 20186 (just past James G. Brumfield Elementary School).

In the spirit of 2021 and the surge of online shopping, there is also an Amazon Baby Registry where community members who would be more comfortable shopping online and having it drop-shipped directly to the Food Bank may do that too. Search Amazon registries for "Warrenton Rotary" under "baby registries" to find the registry and complete your transaction. The registry was designed for any budget, so community members could buy entire items, or contribute funds toward one.

Thank you
for your
Support!



Here is a QR Code directly to the Amazon Baby Registry.



Falcons earn top seed for district field hockey tournament

Championship set for Wednesday

By Fred Hodge
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

The semifinal round of the Northwestern District field hockey tournament never got off the ground Monday. Lightning and heavy rains forced the postponements of both contests until Tuesday.

Fauquier (10-5-1) and Meridian tied for the top spot in the final regular-season standings, with the Falcons gaining No. 1 by a predetermined tiebreaker. The same procedure gave Kettle Run (8-6) the third seed over No. 4 Liberty (3-11).

The championship tilt is Wednesday at the higher remaining seed.

Meridian claimed at least a share of the top spot Oct. 20 with a 3-0 road victory over Liberty. After a 0-0 first half, the Mustangs controlled the ball for almost 13 of the third quarter's 15 minutes and scored twice in a four-minute span late in the period, then added an insurance goal with 5:02 left.

Liberty did not have a shot on goal for the first 23-plus minutes of the second half.

The Mustangs, however, had to await the result of the next day's Fauquier-Liberty encounter in Warren-



Liberty and Fauquier were rained out Monday and set for a pivotal Northwestern District semifinal on Tuesday, TIMES STAFF PHOTO/COY FERRELL

FINAL DISTRICT STANDINGS

1. Fauquier	4-2
1. Meridian	4-2
3. Liberty	2-4
3. Kettle Run	2-4

ton to see if they would share first place or hold sole possession.

Fauquier needed a win to tie Meridian, and the Falcons rose to the challenge with a 2-1 Senior Night victory.

Falcon Jackie Timberlake opened the scoring with 2:19 remaining in the second quarter off a penalty corner. Zofeya Maldonado inserted the ball to Timberlake atop the arc, and she sent a low, hard drive into the right side of the cage.

Fauquier opened a 2-0 lead with 6:24 to go in the third period off another corner opportunity.

Maldonado again sent the ball to Timberlake and moved to the penalty stroke line. Timberlake delivered a return pass to Maldonado, who turned to her right and advanced toward the goal. That move drew the goalkeeper to her, and Maldonado

slid a pass to Marjorie Davenport, stationed at the left post. She stuffed the ball in for the second and eventual winning goal.

The two-goal margin was nice, yet Brooke Settle, coach of the 10-5-1 Falcons, was not satisfied.

"I didn't think we came out as aggressive as I wanted us to," Settle said. "Even though we got the goals, there were a lot of mistakes we made. They weren't playing Fauquier field hockey."

"The major thing we need to do is make smart decisions. We have to use our space offensively," Settle said. "I think we had a little tunnel vision."

Liberty, now 3-11 overall, controlled more than 75 percent of second-half possession time, and the Eagles immediately resumed their pressure following Davenport's tally.

They forced three penalty corners, but came up empty handed. The urgency paid off when Sum-

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Semifinals: No. 4 Liberty at No. 1 Fauquier, ppd. to 10/26; No. 3 Kettle Run at No. 2 Meridian, ppd. to 10/26.

Championship: Wednesday, Oct. 27 at higher seed. A consolation game may be needed to determine the second regional berth since Meridian is a Class 3 school.

mer Butler controlled the ball in the center of the circle, eluding a double team with a move to her right. Butler fired a reverse stick shot into the right side to narrow the gap to 2-1 with 2:08 on the clock.

"I am pleased with how far we have come, and the strides that have been made by each and every team member," Liberty co-coach Erin Burton said.

She is ready to see her team rise up in the tournament. "The desire to win districts is strong among the team, because they know they have a fair shot at earning and winning the district title," Burton said.

"This will be our third matchup with Fauquier," she said of Tuesday's showdown in the district semis. "We will use what we have learned from the past two games to build on those areas where improvements can be made."

Kettle Run did not have a district game last week, but it finished its regular-season slate with a 5-3 win at Foxcroft to stand at 8-6.

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Gold Cup headed back to Tennessee

Drama-riddled International ends with first stakes win for Leipers Fork syndicate and their stable star, Tomgarrow

By Betsy Burke Parker
SPECIAL TO THE TIMES

Saturday's International Gold Cup headline feature went from a power-packed field of the nation's top timber stars to a lopsided match race and a lonely, 50-length victory for Tomgarrow and Tom Garner.

How it happened is quite a story.

The International Gold Cup anchored a rich day of racing Oct. 23 near The Plains. Thousands were on hand to watch the eight-race program at the popular pari-mutuel meet. Race co-chair Al Griffin said "everything about the day is perfect" before the races started, signaling a return to near-normal for the events center, the race circuit and the strong fan base. "We've been looking forward to this."

The 84th contest to capture the priceless King of Spain trophy promised to be one for the record books, Griffin said.

And it was. For many reasons.

Timber racing's current darling, Schoodic had pummeled the field in the Virginia Gold Cup five months ago over the same Great Meadow course, won the 2019 International Gold Cup and been nearly perfect over timber since. Schoodic was the one to beat.

Renegade River came into Gold Cup with cred, having beat Schoodic by a neck at Willowdale in early May. And then there was Storm Team, third, behind Schoodic, four weeks ago at Shawan, but Storm Team won the stake at Virginia Fall two weeks ago in what many considered the perfect set-up for the 3 1/2-mile race.

Tomgarrow has been chasing them – and nearly catching them – since making the hurdle-timber switch last November. Four times he's been second this term, including to Schoodic in the May 29 Virginia Gold Cup.

Stand Down, outrun in the 2018 International and unplaced in 30 months, was outsider in the elite field.

But stranger things have happened on the racecourse, so nobody discounted even the out-of-form Stand Down.

Drama was promised on the racecourse, but it started early in the day when Virginia Racing Commission veterinarians gauged morning-line favorite Schoodic slightly lame during their mandated pre-race health check. He was re-presented to the panel by trainer Jack Fisher

for a recheck a short time later, but further testing confirmed an uneven gait, and the horse was scratched.

This left confirmed front-runners Storm Team (Graham Watters up for Fisher) and Renegade River (Parker Hendriks) free to tangle for the early fractions without the expected pressure from the famously strong-paced Schoodic.

"They were going a good pace, strong and steady," said Tomgarrow's jockey Tom Garner. Garner said he'd wanted to keep Tomgarrow "handy," just off the pace, and he was sitting just where he wanted to be in the first mile. Stand Down (Eddie Keating) ranged a few lengths behind Tomgarrow.

As the field rounded the bend and entered the homestretch on the first of three circuits, Storm Team met the fifth fence perfectly, jumping boldly and gaining two lengths on Renegade River. Watters steadied and straightened the chestnut gelding, angling slightly to the right for the approach to the timber jump in front of the stewards' stand. Keating tapped Renegade River on the shoulder to reengage the battle and followed him to it.

The problem with their strategy? They were headed toward the wrong fence.

Lying third with a clear view of what was happening, Tom Garner recognized the mistake. He tugged urgently on Tomgarrow's left rein so his horse didn't follow the leaders off course.

"I knew what they'd done as soon as I saw it," Garner explained later, saying he'd walked the course and studied the map to confirm that the correct sixth fence was actually a few dozen yards to the left of the jump Storm Team was headed to. "My lad, he did everything right. He wanted to follow them, no doubt, but he stayed honest, and he was pretty bold once we had to step it up and (take the) lead" when Storm Team and Renegade River were pulled up, disqualified for going off course.

Tomgarrow led, Garner said, with increasing confidence, putting almost a fence between him and Stand Down by the time he stopped the clock at 7:34 1/5.

"My heart sank for (the connections of) Storm Team and Renegade River" when she saw the riders' confusion at the sixth jump, said trainer Leslie Young. "You know, that's horse racing. You do everything right and a mistake like that chang-



PHOTO BY BETSY BURKE PARKER

Tom Garner and Tomgarrow, no relation, draw off for a 50-length score in the featured International Gold Cup. It was Garner's third win on the card, putting him at the top of the riders' table with three weeks to go in the season.

es it all. You know, the same thing happened to us with Andi'amu." Andi'amu had veered off course, to the wrong jump, in the 2020 Virginia Gold Cup, followed closely by Storm Team. Both were disqualified.

Watters was unwilling to comment on the incident after the race, saying he "has to talk to the stewards" in an official debriefing, along with Keating, at the end of the day. "Simple, we were off course," he allowed, without elaborating on what caused the confusion.

Garner said he thought it could have been the bright sun that came out from behind the persistent cloud cover that marked the rest of the day as the feature got underway. The homestretch is oriented to the west-southwest, so the afternoon sun shines straight down the straightaway.

"You hate it that's the way it happened, but we'll take it," said Mark McMillan, part of the Leipers Fork Steeplechase syndicate that owns the winner. "I mean, who doesn't want to win a Gold Cup. That's been on my bucket list for years."

McMillan and syndicate partner Mark George are both from Nashville, Tennessee, and they said they're tickled by the Tennessee link to the King of Spain trophy. The solid gold King of Spain trophy was first offered at the old Grasslands Downs just south of Nashville, Tennessee in 1930. "We're bringing it back home," joked George. "Yeah, that was a crazy race. All I knew was that two horses were right, and two horses were wrong" when they split up after the fifth jump.

"I hoped Tomgarrow was right."

It was the first stakes win for Leipers Fork Steeplechase, named for the small village south of Franklin where several other syndicate members live.

The rest of the card

Irv Naylor's highly regarded Bedrock, an eight-time winner in Europe, delivered a powerful 7 3/4-length victory in the grade 2 \$75,000 Ferguson memorial hurdle handicap.

Rider Gerard Galligan handled the 8-year-old for trainer Cyril Murphy and his Maryland connections. Bedrock rated off the early pace set by Iranistan, rallying in the top of the stretch to draw off for Galligan's second win on the day.

Silverton Hill's Bodes Well (Garner) gave a jumping-clinic performance over the varied course for the win in just his second steeplechase start. Trainer Leslie Young said she prepared the Irish import for the different jumps he'd find in the specialty division by schooling him over big grids and sending him to Olympic three-day event champion Boyd Martin's farm, near hers in Unionville, Pennsylvania, to practice jumping up and down an earthen bank and to learn to gallop into, through and out of knee-deep water.

"He'd never done any of that," Young said. "He was running over hurdles in mid-September, and he made the switch three weeks later, just beat at Virginia Fall (in a cross-country race.)"

"He's a real clever horse, just wasn't the stakes-level over hurdles. I didn't want to be 'filling races' and running for place money. He's brave and smart, and made the conversion super easy."

The win, one of two for Young on the day, gave her the lead heading into the last three weeks on the National Steeplechase Association season. Garner won three to take command in the riders' race. Complete results and more photos are at nationalsteeplechase.com.

Steeplechasing returns to Virginia at the Nov. 6 Montpelier Races in Orange County.