

Football makes unseasonable debut



The 2020-21 Fuqua School varsity football team charges through a lane formed by the school's cheerleaders just before the start of the season opener Friday, Feb. 26.

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FUQUA

After a 15-month hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, high school football returned to the Farmville area Friday night, Feb. 26, under some of the most unusual and challenging circumstances imaginable.

The gridiron action in this case was taking place at Fuqua School as the varsity Falcons hosted a defending champion eight-man football team from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina — the Halifax Academy Vikings. The Vikings won 14-8.

First of all, it was so strange to be playing football in late February. Even under the best circumstances of a team advancing to the state championship game in the fall, Feb. 26 would be three months deep into the offseason.

Secondly, the weather was a significant factor. It was reminiscent of playoff weather, featuring the coldness that seems to crop up all of a sudden in mid-November when the stakes of the games are higher than ever. But this time, it might have been even colder as it was combined with rain that was enough to soak a variety of different jackets, and the rain led to many fumbles on the field by both teams.

"That is either the coldest or the second-coldest game I've ever been a part of — ever," Fuqua Head Coach Ben Manis said.

He said he ended up giving his heavy jacket to one of the ball boys whose teeth were chattering at halftime.

Manis noted the players on the field weathered the cold

better, able to move around and focus on the game.

Thirdly, the game was unusual because it was the first-ever eight-man game Fuqua's varsity squad had ever played. The Falcons are used to the more traditional 11-man football in which there are 22 players at all times on a slightly wider field.

"It was just a very different feel for us on offense and on defense," Manis said.

Fourthly, Fuqua entered the game with only seven or eight preseason practices and no scrimmages. Manis said his teams usually enter the regular season with at least 28 practices.

This led to some atypical situations, like a conversation overheard on the sideline between Manis and one of his players. Manis asked his player, "What happened to you on that ox?"

The coach was referring to an animal code name for a play, and the player replied, "What's an ox?"

The crowd was also more sparse than it likely would have been without COVID-19 regulations, though faithful fans were still on hand, spread out among the stands under umbrellas, with some standing along the sides.

One thing that did not change was the presence and spirit of the Fuqua cheer team, which cheered throughout the game and even put on a halftime show.

Despite the difficult and unusual circumstances of the football contest, it was apparent — and Manis affirmed — that the Falcons gave it their all, performing admirably.



Fuqua senior Sabastian Cannady kicks off to start the varsity Falcons' season opener and first-ever eight-man football game.



Fuqua Head Coach Ben Manis gives instructions to junior quarterback Nate Reed in between plays.

Photos by Titus Mohler



Fuqua cheerleaders circle up during a break in the action Friday night, Feb. 26.

Who is guarding our city?

Farmville is a special place. It's the home of our church fellowship, a place with friends, a place to shop and dine, but our town, along with every other town across the country, feels vulnerable in several ways.

Let's address security of the soul and mind. Our local governing officials are doing a fantastic job in security against crime, but our true security comes from a greater source, one that many of us are out of touch with, true security is found in the Lord our God.

Psalm 127:1 says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain."

The COVID-19 virus is not stopped by highway checkpoints or security cameras and cannot be controlled by technology, it's invisible to the eye, it seems to go wherever it wants and still catches most

DEVOTIONAL

of us by surprise. In our lifetime we will never forget terms like; social distance, face coverings, vaccinations, school reopenings and lockdowns.

While all these efforts may be helpful, the question that begs to be asked is, have we forgotten God? Is the watchman keeping watch in vain? Who guards the city?

Yes, in many ways, we have forgotten God. Our own works have replaced faith in God. Determination has replaced trust in God, and social distance has ruined prayers to God.

Psalm 127:2 says, "It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; For He gives to His beloved in his sleep."

We will always remain vulnerable until we come to our Lord and Savior, Jesus

Christ. He will guard our mind from despair, replace fear with peace and can minister to the most important aspect of our humanity, our soul.

May your simple prayer of faith rise above the fears around us, and may the very spirit of the living God fill your heart with a peace that passes all understanding.

May the house be restored, to once again honor God, and may the city be guarded by God, through faith.

Let the COVID-19 pandemic complete the work God has intended, to wake up our city to the greatest need, a spiritual need of God. May prayers of faith ascend to the heavens, the doors of the church open up, and the good news of the Gospel ring loud and clear.

MARV FISHER is the pastor at Calvary Chapel Farmville and can be heard weekdays at 1:30 PM on 105.3 Equip FM radio. He can be reached at pastor@ccfarmville.org.



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McMakin: The Lancers' patient problem-solver

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

Kyla McMakin is the on-court leader of a major turnaround in the Longwood University women's basketball program that has unfurled across the last two-and-a-half seasons and coincided with the beginning of Rebecca Tillett's tenure as head coach.

The Lancers went 3-27 in 2018-19, Tillett's first season, but that merely seems like a table-setting year now.

The banquet officially began during the 2019-20 campaign, with Longwood going 12-18 overall, including 8-12 in the Big South Conference.

McMakin, then a true freshman guard, averaged 18.6 points, 5.2 rebounds, two steals and 1.7 assists per game to lead the way.

With 10 games left in the 2020-21 regular season, the Lancers are 8-7 overall and 7-3 in the Big South. This would currently give them a No. 3 seed in the conference tourney.

McMakin has continued to lead the way as a sophomore, averaging 18.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.7 steals across 15 games while shooting 88.1% from the free-throw line.

But like last season, McMakin's performances have been strengthened by standout play from teammates. This season, that includes junior forward Akila Smith, sophomore guard Anne-Hamilton LeRoy, red-shirt freshman guard Adriana Shipp and senior point guard Tra'Dayja Smith.

Longwood has gone from averaging 67.8 points per game last season to 70.2 points per game this season.

"I'm happy where we are," McMakin said. "I'm happy with how everything is going."

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unusual 2020-21 season in some ways. Instead of having played everyone in the conference once by this point, the Lancers have played half the league twice — in back-to-back games each time — to reduce travel.

Both Tillett and McMakin affirmed this schedule of back-to-backs has been hard on players' bodies, but McMakin noted the Lancers have kept in condition and kept the injury



Kyla McMakin

LONGWOOD

count low.

And Longwood has been bolstered by a freshman group full of confidence, which has impressed McMakin.

"That's how you really make a statement is being confident," she said.

After a remarkable freshman season of her own, McMakin has continued to inspire Tillett's confidence in her due to her continuing growth as a player.

"I think one of the neatest things about Kyla right now is just the maturity that comes with being a second-year college athlete," Tillett said.

"And of course, we relied on her heavily last year, so sometimes your development is sped up, right? When you play a ton of minutes as a freshman, your development gets a little bit of a head start.

"But I think the maturity in her game, the way that she looks at the game, the conversation she has with teammates or coaches around helping us win," Tillett said, "as a coach, I often get defensive if people think of her as only a scorer. She's so much more than that."

Tillett acknowledged that obviously she and her staff call a lot of plays for McMakin as a scorer, but people who are not on the inside of the program do not understand McMakin's mindset in those situations.

"She'll make the best play, and that doesn't always mean she's scoring it," Tillett said. "She's seeing what develops, and she makes that play. That's something so special from a coaching standpoint and (for) teammates too."

The coach noted that as the second half of the 2019-20 season developed, McMakin was gaining more and more



BENNETT SCARBOROUGH

Longwood University sophomore guard Kyla McMakin has found success by practicing patience on the court, letting the game come to her.

defensive attention, and this season, she started the year with it. Tillett has done her best to prepare McMakin.

"It starts in practice," McMakin said. "I'm guarded heavily. My coach tells my teammates, 'She doesn't get the ball,' basically, and that's very much game-like, so I practice that a lot, and it obviously helps me more in the game so that even if I am getting guarded pretty heavy — and there's some really good defenders in our league — I'm able to still produce and do what I can."

This is where making the best play can lead to starring moments for her teammates, which, in turn, gives McMakin more opportunities in the long run.

"The great thing about her other teammates elevating their offensive game (is it) makes it more difficult for the (defensive) schemes to work on Kyla," Tillett said. "So I think that's what we're about anyway is that we want to share the ball, and we want five women on the floor at all times that are dangerous to our opponent offensively."

"And I think that's been a positive for Kyla's game — the elevation of Akila's play, the continued consistency of Anne and (Tra'Dayja), and then you see in moments from Adriana Shipp, who's a redshirt freshman, of drawing some defensive attention as well."

But aside from selflessness and talented teammates, what is it about McMakin that has allowed her to be such a success at the college level? She certainly has not been able to lean upon the familiarity of a position. Though she is a 5-foot-11-inch shooting guard for the Lancers, she was something very different for the Ocean Lakes High School Dolphins in Virginia Beach.

"In high school, I think I was more like Akila, like a rebounder, finish (ing) around the basket, believe it or not," McMakin said. "I didn't shoot threes that well. I kind of had a different role in high school, and I was taller than most people, so I was around the basket more. And then coming to college, I'm honestly on the

smaller side."

She said she was lucky to make the adjustment.

Tillett said what makes McMakin so good can be found in parallels between the sophomore's academic and athletic careers.

"What some people might not know about her is she's a computer science major, which is a field that's dominated by men, and she was drawn to that field because she wants to be a minority female in that field who's really successful," Tillett said. "And I think Kyla just does not shy away from any challenge."

"Obviously those who have watched her play a lot have seen her hit really big shots, including the recent game-winner at Campbell (University), but plenty of other big shots that either get a run generated or keep an opportunity for us to stay in a game — she's done that for us a lot," Tillett said. "So I think she's a student of the game, and that's why I bring up the computer science piece. She's a great student in the classroom, and then you add to that she studies

the game of basketball and studies different players, and that always translates for student-athletes in the practice and the game setting."

McMakin agreed there is connective tissue between computer science and how she approaches basketball. She explained computer science largely involves problem-solving.

"What is going to work for (us) as a team in order for us to win is the same as what's going to work for this (computer) program to work," she said. "So there's definitely some connections with that. I do think problem-solving or the ability to overcome obstacles is what makes you really good at sports. I think that being able to do that academically and sports-wise helps me a lot."

McMakin also noted patience has been key to her success.

"I do think playing a game slower than what is actually going on helps me a lot," she said. "I think if I do rush, that's when I start to struggle. So just being calm and letting the game come to me is what's really helped me be successful scoring, defensively — just taking what I can get from the game and adapting to it instead of trying to just force what I can from it."

Though she's successful, she is naturally on the quest to get even better. With what remains of the 2020-21 season, she said she wants to improve her defense.

"I want to be a great player all around," she said, adding that her role model is the late NBA superstar Kobe Bryant. "He was very good on both ends. How he could defend a person and all that, I really want to be good at that."

With her team above .500 in the latter half of the regular season and looking like it could have a chance of winning the Big South and advancing beyond that, McMakin said the Lancers are confident and ready.

"We have a good team," she said. "We have a team full of scorers — like, literally a team full of scorers — and we're determined and ready to go."



MIKE KROPP | LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

In just a year and a half of play, Kyla McMakin has hit a lot of big shots for the Longwood University women's basketball team.



MIKE KROPP | LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY

Longwood University sophomore shooting guard Kyla McMakin has trained to deal with the defensive schemes she faces regularly from opponents.



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The Farmville Herald

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Friday, February 12, 2021

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Carter to retire after 20 years

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

Buckingham County Administrator Rebecca Carter has announced her plans to retire in June.

At the Monday, Feb. 8, Buckingham County Board of Supervisors meeting, Carter was recognized briefly for her recent appointment to the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) Finance Steering Committee.

Carter said the appointment was not a big deal, adding she had also been appointed to the Virginia Association of Counties Group Self-Insurance Risk Pool (VACORP) Supervisory Board.

In discussing her appointment to the supervisory board, Carter mentioned she had notified VACORP that she would be retiring come the end of June.

Tuesday, Feb. 9, Carter confirmed she would be retiring from the county administrator position June 30 after giving a six-month notice during a closed session in December.

Carter said she will no longer serve on VACo's Finance Steering Committee after June, but she will still be able to serve her VACORP board term, which actually began in late August 2020, until it expires Decem-

ber 2021.

Carter, who's been with the county since 1986, said she served as interim county administrator for Buckingham County several times before officially accepting the position in 1997. After more than 20 years in the role, Carter said she'd been considering retiring for a while and finally decided it was time to do so.

"At this time I do not have any 'plans,'" she said of her approaching retirement. "First I will try to catch up on things I have not been able to find time to do in many years."

Carter said the county administrator position will begin to be advertised in the next few weeks.



Rebecca Carter



DANIEL JORDAN

New LOVE sign at High Bridge

There is a new creative LOVEworks sign in Farmville, and it is located in High Bridge Trail State Park. Former Prince Edward County Tourism Coordinator Magi Van Eps commissioned Audrey Sullivan, of Red Door 104, to paint the sign, which is composed of a flexible tileboard secured to a plywood frame. The sign is filled with tributes to hallmarks of Farmville. The 'L' is the clock on Main Street, the 'O' is the Light of Reconciliation on the courthouse, the 'V' represents Sandy River Reservoir, with water, the dam, boats and a fisherman, and the 'E' shows the High Bridge train and the bridge with people on it and forestry. At the bottom of the sign is a dog walker with a Longwood University cap and a runner wearing Hampden-Sydney College colors.

Streetscape problem solved

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

The Town of Dillwyn has found a solution to a problem that carried a big price tag.

Last month, Dillwyn Mayor Linda Venable Paige came before the Buckingham County Board of Supervisors asking for financial assistance from the county to help pay for the \$1.5 million Dillwyn Streetscape Project.

The town was slated to be reimbursed for 80% of the project by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provided that Dillwyn produced a 20% local match.

But at the Monday, Jan. 11, Board of Supervisors meeting, Paige told supervisors the town



Linda Venable Paige

See **STREETSCAPE**, Page A2

Athletes want sports back now

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

BUCKINGHAM

A group of Buckingham County High School (BCHS) student-athletes let it be known Wednesday, Feb. 10, that they would like high school sports to return

during the 2020-21 school year.

At least 12 student-athletes gathered with signs early Wednesday afternoon in front of the Buckingham County Career and Techni-

cal Education Center where the Buckingham County School Board meets.

"Today is a school board meeting, so we thought that this would be a good opportunity to come out and just

See **SPORTS**, Page A2

Rezoning for processing facility approved

BY ALEXA MASSEY
The Farmville Herald

CUMBERLAND

The Cumberland County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to approve a rezoning request Tuesday night, Feb. 9, for the construction and operation of a meat/food processing facility.

The vote rezoned a plot of land off of Route 45 on

Cumberland Road from A-2 General Agricultural to M-2 Industrial.

According to information provided from the county, it is the hope of business owners Harold Collins and Margaret Taylor-Collins to use the 20

See **FACILITY**, Page A5



Ed and Sally Micka, who reside in an apartment at The Woodland, provide an example for young couples to follow as they will be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary this summer.

An enduring Valentine

BY TITUS MOHLER
The Farmville Herald

FARMVILLE

Ed and Sally Micka, of Farmville, are enjoying a romance that has stood the test of time.

Their relationship is one fueled by love, laughter, friendship and common interests.

On June 16 of this year, they will have been married for 59 years.

"We married right out of college," Sally said. "My father said I had to graduate first before I was allowed to get

married. So, I said, 'OK.'"

Ed and Sally first met at college. They attended The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Both of them were majoring in physics.

Ed shared his story of how they met.

"Well, we were in chem lab, and I had a nice slide rule," he said. "And I saw this little gal a couple desks up, and she had

See **VALENTINE**, Page A7



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SPORTS: 'Junior year is the year to show out to colleges'

FROM PAGE ONE

show the school board members and the superintendent how much we want our seasons back as seniors and juniors and underclassmen as well," BCHS junior Grace Dunkum said as she held a sign that read, "Let us play!"

Dunkum, other student-athletes and school board members interacted with each other briefly as the members entered the center for their meeting.

After one member asked Dunkum what sport she wants to play this year, Dunkum told her, "Spring softball." The member listened and entered the building.

Dunkum said she and her fellow student-athletes wanted to send a message with their presence and also by talking to the school board members.

"I appreciated that," Dunkum said of the member who asked her what she wanted to play.

"I don't want them to be rude and just walk past us and not give us anything, because they're here for us, and they're supposed to be making decisions based on what would be best for us."

Due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, BCHS students have missed out on the 2019-20 spring season, the 2020-21 fall season and the 2020-21 winter season.

The sports Dunkum plays are volleyball and softball. Student-athlete representatives were also on hand for football, boys basketball, girls basketball, baseball, soccer, girls tennis, cross country and golf.

When highlighting the benefit that comes to students by having athletic opportunities, Dunkum pointed to scholarships.

"If anybody wanted to get into college, junior year is the year to show out to colleges," she said.

Dunkum helped organize Wednesday's peaceful protest through



TITUS MOHLER | HERALD

Buckingham County High School student-athletes gathered Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 10, outside the building where the school board was about to meet to let members know they want sports to return. Pictured are, from left, front row, Damorrious Holman and Braedyn Schaeffer. Back row, Wesley Snoddy, Matthew Davis, Camden Allen, Justin Gunter and Lane Branch.

social media, reaching out to classmates largely on Snapchat.

She said the goal of the event was to have as many student-athletes

as possible participate while also keeping things small enough so as not to violate Gov. Ralph Northam's guidelines for public gatherings.

STREETSCAPE: An unprecedented move

FROM PAGE ONE

was unaware it would need to provide all funds upfront before the money could be reimbursed.

Paige told the board Dillwyn had cashed in nearly all of its certificates of deposit (CDs) in order to find the funding necessary to pay its match, remarking that \$125,000 had been paid as of Jan. 11.

With only one CD left to cash out, the town would still be short almost \$26,000. Although Paige said turnaround for the

reimbursement would be quick, the town would still owe the county \$26,000 should the board agree to lend Dillwyn the money. Supervisors pointed out the town would not have any means left to pay that money back.

The following Tuesday, Jan. 12, the Dillwyn Town Council voted to ask Buckingham County for \$850,000 in financial assistance in paying for the streetscape project.

However, at the next Board of Supervisors meeting held Monday

night, Feb. 8, Paige stepped up to the podium to inform the supervisors she was withdrawing her request for financial assistance.

"In an unprecedented move, VDOT has decided to go ahead and pay the contractor and the engineer the funds, so we will not have to put money up front," she told the board.

The contractors had threatened legal action against the town for non-payment according to information from the Commonwealth Regional Council (CRC).

Paige said the town had also reallocated some items in its budget, eliminating the remainder of funds needed to complete the local match. She added an anonymous individual from the Town of Dillwyn even called to offer the

\$26,000 the town was in need of, although that person was later notified the funds had been taken care of.

Paige thanked the county, VDOT and the CRC for their help in finding a solution to the issue.

Board Chairman and District 3 Supervisor Don Matthews told Paige the problem had been weighing heavily on the hearts of county officials.

"We wanted to do the right thing, but you know, we need to make sure in the future, moving forward, we are professional, and we need to do these things the right way. So if you need some assistance and stuff like that, we're here to help you, not hurt you. So before you bite off too much to chew next time, maybe come see us a little bit."

Road construction scheduled

Highway work requiring road/lane/structure closures planned; however, work may be delayed/canceled due to weather or other issues. For up-to-date information, call 511 or visit www.511Virginia.org.

DISTRICT-WIDE ACTIVITIES:

Crews will perform various construction/maintenance activities throughout the district using the best practices of social distancing. Activities include, but are not limited to bridge and guardrail maintenance, brush/tree/limb cutting, surface/shoulder work, work orders, pavement messaging, mowing, boom axing, drainage repairs/work and roadside cleanup.

Work at specific locations:

BUCKINGHAM COUNTY:

- Route 60/56 – Turn lane project. Fixed completion July 30.
- Route 632 – Crew will replace pipe.
- Route 636/15 – Turn lane project. Fixed completion Oct. 15.
- Note districtwide activities.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

- Note districtwide activities.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY:

- Route 15/665 turn lanes and 15/692 roundabout – Construction to begin. Fixed completion Nov. 11.
- Route 690 (652-651) – Emergency pipe replacement.
- Note districtwide activities.

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