

RSC boys winners named

Randolph Sports Council recognizes 7 public high school boys athletic scholarship winners

By Dennis Garcia
Special to The Courier-Tribune

ASHEBORO — There may not be a buffet supper or they may not be asked to walk in front of a large crowd to accept the award, but the seven student-athletes who were named scholarship winners from the Randolph Sports Council (RSC) certainly deserve to be honored in the best way possible.

The RSC announced its scholarship winners last week, with 14 recipients - one boy and one girl from each of the seven public high schools in Randolph County — earning a \$500 scholarship. The RSC usually holds a ceremony at Snyder Farms Restaurant, but the coronavirus caused the cancellation of that annual event.

OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: Asheboro

Jimmie Powell has displayed a positive attitude no matter the situation. He played football for the Blue Comets and was a member of the track team.

“He’s a great young man, he’s a joy to be around,” former AHS football coach Kevin Gillespie said. “His sophomore and junior years, he wasn’t even a starter, but he worked and kept working and did everything we asked him to do. He worked his way into being a starter his senior year.

Powell showed plenty of versatility in both sports and his leadership qualities will certainly be missed.

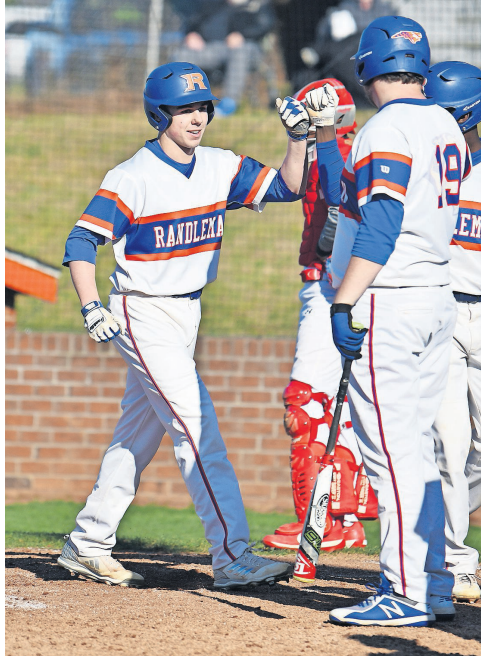
Eastern Randolph

Carter Moore, the twin brother of Ellen Moore, who also won this award, was an incredible student-athlete for the Wildcats. He will graduate in the Top-10 of his class and played soccer, basketball and football.

“We had issues with our kicker early in the season, so the second game, Carter came out and said he would try,” ER football coach Burton Cates said. “He did a nice job for us. He sailed right in and did a good job. He is a good person and works hard and is dedicated to Eastern Randolph.”

Outside of athletics, Moore has been an active member of the Boy Scouts of America, Young Republicans Club, Student Government, Eastern Randolph FFA Chapter and Beta Club. This fall, Carter will be attending N.C. State University to further his education.

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ABOVE: Eastern Randolph High School's Carter Moore, whose twin sister Ellen was named a girls scholarship winner for ER, plays basketball, soccer and football for the Wildcats. He is a top-10 student dedicated to ER and will further his education at N.C. State University.
[PJ WARD-BROWN/SPECIAL TO THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]

LEFT: Dawson Edwards, left, has excelled at Randleman High School as an all-Piedmont Athletic Conference performer and part of seven PAC championships in baseball and football over his four-year career. He is also an excellent student with a 4.4 GPA, taking that and his football talents on the Barton College.
[PAUL CHURCH/ THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]



Kesley Nance, from Asheboro High school, showed her leadership abilities in volleyball and basketball as a four-year letter-winner in both and was captain in both as well. She is on her way to college at East Carolina University. [PAUL CHURCH/ THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]

County's female athletes honored by RSC

Randolph Sports Council awards scholarships to 8 female athletes from the 7 public high schools

By Dennis Garcia
Special to The Courier-Tribune

ASHEBORO — The corona-virus may have taken away the spring season for local high schools, but it can't take away a very nice honor bestowed upon 14 of Randolph County's top student-athletes. The Randolph Sports Council has awarded \$500 scholarships to seven boys and seven girls, one from each of the seven public high schools in the county.

Normally, the RSC honors these athletes at a banquet at Snyder Farms Restaurant, but the virus caused the postponement of the annual

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GIRLS

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event. Still, the RSC would like to honor these student-athletes. The award is based on leadership, scholastic ability and community involvement.

OUR 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS: Asheboro High School

Kesley Nance was a four-year varsity letter winner in volleyball and basketball, serving as captain for both sports.

"She worked really hard and was a leader on the court," AHS volleyball coach Karen Blanchard said. "She was a very smart setter."

She gave the Blue Comets plenty of leadership on the basketball court as well.

"She was the kid who always showed up in the weight room, and pound for pound, was one of the strongest on the team," girls basketball coach David Hayes said. "She was confident. She knew her role and nothing seemed to bother her, which is a sign of a great teammate. When it was her time, she went in and did what she was supposed to do."

Nance is headed to East Carolina.

Eastern Randolph

Ellen Moore, who will finish in the Top-5 of her senior class academically, participated in cross country, basketball and soccer.

"Ellen was a super kid to coach," ER girls basketball coach Brett Snotherly said. "She came to practice every day, worked hard and pushed the starters. She wasn't the biggest kid on the court, but she played with a tremendous amount of heart and was willing to do anything we asked her to do. She was a great senior leader."

Moore was an active member and officer for the Eastern Randolph FFA Chapter, Beta Club, Student Government and the College Ambassadors Club. Moore will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to further her education.

Providence Grove

Kaylee Bowman, who is in the Top-10 academically in her class, was a four-year member of the volleyball and softball teams and was the captain of both her senior year.

"I couldn't have asked for a more coachable young lady," PG volleyball and softball coach Tim Brown said. "She is like another daughter to me. She was a great leader on the floor and very athletic. She is one special person."

Brown talked about Bowman's ability to adapt to various roles and positions in both sports.

She was also involved in a number of community events and will attend UNC Greensboro to major in Education.

Randleman

Taylor Gantt has been the nucleus of the girls basketball team for the last four years. She is a four-time all-conference selection, including earning player of the year honors for the PAC 7 this past season. She has guided the Tigers to two consecutive conference championships and a fourth-round playoff appearance this past season.

"She is very deserving of this award," RHS girls



A four-time all-conference performer, Randleman's Taylor Gantt had a 3.8 GPA and will play basketball at the University of Lynchburg next season. [PAUL CHURCH/THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]



Her coaches at Southwestern Randolph say that Hailee Cagle is the personification of what a student-athlete is. Cagle, a standout in golf and softball for the Cougars, has a 4.41 GPA and will play golf and go to school at Pfeiffer University. [PAUL CHURCH/THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]

basketball coach Brandon Varner said. "She has worked extremely hard both academically and athletically. She is very coachable and competitive. She has helped resurrect the girls basketball program and turned into a great leader, someone little girls can look up to as a role model."

Gantt, who had a 3.8 GPA, will play basketball at the University of Lynchburg next season.

Southwestern Randolph

Hailee Cagle has been an incredible asset to the Cougars' sports programs.

"Hailee is the epitome of a student-athlete," SWR golf coach Ethan Marsh said. "Everything she sets to accomplish is with a winning mentality, and it shows through her GPA as well as athletic accomplishments throughout high school. She is a positive influence to everyone she interacts with in school or in athletics."

SWR girls softball coach Chad Whitson agreed.

"Hailee Cagle is as good of a definition of a student-athlete as I have ever coached," Whitson said. "Her strong faith in God directs her in every facet of her life. Her work ethic, whether it is in the books or on the ball field, always reflects a good attitude and 100 percent effort. This makes Hailee very deserving of this award."

Cagle maintains a 4.41 GPA and will be continuing her education and playing golf at Pfeiffer University next year.

Trinity

Maggie Anthony competed in both soccer and tennis and was one of the top student-athletes in her class academically, finishing in the Top-10 with an impressive 4.48 GPA. She was an all-conference performer in tennis and also volunteered her time as the girls basketball team's manager.

"She is one of the finest young women I have had the



Trinity's Maggie Anthony was all-conference in tennis, played soccer and volunteered as manager with the girls basketball team. She is bound for N.C. State, graduating Top 10 in her class with a 4.48 GPA.

[CONTRIBUTED PHOTO]

pleasure to coach," said THS soccer coach Mike Sink. "Her work ethic and desire helped fuel our team to many state playoff appearances. Maggie is well respected by her classmates and teachers and she always sets a great example for others to follow. She will greatly be missed next year."

Anthony was an active member of the Student Council, SkillsUSA, Beta Club and National Technical Honors Society. She plans to attend N.C. State in the fall to work toward becoming a dentist.

Wheatmore

Erin Lambeth has been a key contributor to the volleyball, swimming and softball teams as well as the Warriors' track and field team.

She is a four-time all-conference athlete in swimming and she has won 12 consecutive NCHSAA Academic All-Conference awards. She earned the Most Valuable Player Award in track her freshman year and has earned all-league honors in that sport as well.

"Erin has shown to be a young woman of character, intelligence, and talent," one WHS coach said. "During her senior year, she displayed a strong sense of leadership, and work ethic that every coach hopes for from their senior athlete. The same work ethic that has made her such a good athlete has made her a strong student. Erin is polite, humble and is a positive role model for all at Wheatmore High School."

Lambeth is a member of HOSA and Beta Club and will graduate with a GPA of over 4.4.



Moore



Bowman



Lambeth

BOYS

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Providence Grove

Daniel Ellison was a four-year member of the tennis team along with being the manager for the girls tennis and volleyball teams.



Ellison, who will be attending N.C. State, was the No. 1 player in tennis for the past two years and also acted as a second coach for the Patriots.

"He was an amazing leader," PG tennis coach Cassie Wodecki said. "I teach and had to drive from another school and he would always lead the team in warm-ups and serves so they were ready when I got there. He took a paternal role with the freshmen."

Wodecki cited a time against Wheatmore when Ellison had broken his racket before the match, fell behind, but fought his way to a victory.

"I had not seen such grit and fight from a tennis player or a person in general," Wodecki said. "He was someone the younger kids can aspire to be."

Randleman

For the past four years, Dawson Edwards has excelled as a two-sport student athlete at Randleman High School. He was an All-PAC 7 performer in both football and baseball, being a large part of seven conference championships with these two teams in his four years at RHS.

"He's a top-notch guy," former RHS football coach Shane Handy said. "I've never coached a finer young man. And he's a heck of a player. He has such a great work ethic. If you ask him to



Excellence in leadership and a positive influence easily encapsulates Southwestern Randolph's Braxton Davis. The four-year starter in football and baseball will take his 4.07 GPA off the play baseball and study at Catawba College. [PAUL CHURCH/THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]

do 10 reps, he'll do 12. He is 100 percent committed."

He also excelled in the classroom, maintaining a 4.4 GPA. Edwards will take his talents to Barton College next year where he will play football for the Bulldogs.

Southwestern Randolph

Braxton Davis has been one of the top student-athletes in both the football and baseball programs for the Cougars. He was a four-year starter in both.

"From day one, he has been a leader in our program," said Tyler Clapp, who recently resigned from the head baseball coaching position at SWR. "He has been a positive influence on every teammate that he has played with. His competitive instinct and work ethic shows in his performance on and off the field."

Davis showed incredible leadership on the football field as well.

"I have had the pleasure of coaching Braxton Davis

the past three years in football," SWR football coach Seth Baxter said. "Not only is he a talented young man who broke our school record in career touchdowns, but he's a tremendous leader both on and off the field. He always showed compassion for others as well as being a great teammate. Braxton led with his passion to be successful and his positive influence on his teammates and our youth in the community."

Davis maintains a 4.07 GPA and will be continuing his education while playing baseball at Catawba College next year.

Trinity

Travis Pendry is a true student-athlete. He will graduate at the top of his class with a 4.65 GPA as well as being a big part of the cross country, basketball and track teams.

"I have enjoyed coaching Travis over the past four years," THS basketball coach Tim Kelly said. "He was a



Travis Pendry with Trinity High School is not only a two-sport athlete in soccer and basketball, but he will graduate at the top of his class. He will move on to continue his education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. [PAUL CHURCH/THE COURIER-TRIBUNE]

leader in the school and on his teams and will be greatly missed next year."

Pendry was an active member in the Student Council, Beta Club, Spanish Club and the Spirit Club. He will attend UNC Chapel Hill in the fall.

Wheatmore

Logan Somero will be attending Appalachian State University in the fall to major in Criminal Justice. While at WHS, he not only excelled in the classroom, but on the soccer field and tennis court as well.

He was selected all-conference in soccer and will graduate with the record



Somero

for the most minutes played.

He is a great kid," WHS soccer coach Rick Maness said. "He has

a great work ethic, a great attitude and he never complained. His work ethic spoke highly of him. If we needed a strong defender one game, he was there. He will be missed."

Somero is currently taking RCC courses, and upon graduation he will have completed almost 45 credit hours. Somero is a member of the Wheatmore Beta Club and he will graduate with a GPA of over 4.6.