

Midland's Burcham wins McCoy Award for best track athlete



The Herald-Dispatch
HUNTINGTON — Cabell Midland High School distance runner Jacob Burcham keeps collecting awards.
 Burcham, a sophomore, was selected for the McCoy Award as the 2010 male track athlete of the year by the West Virginia Sports Writers Association. West Virginia University senior Keri Bland was the female recipient.
 They will be recognized May 1 at the Victory Awards Dinner in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Cabell Midland won the Class AAA boys cross country championship on its home course with Burcham as the individual 5K winner with a time of 15:12.16. He ran a faster time of 15:05 at the Midwest Meet of Champions in Hilliard, Ohio.
 He also placed fifth at the Nike regional meet and 16th in the Nike nationals.
 Burcham competed as a freshman at the state track and field meet in Charleston where he was the runner-up for high points in Class AAA. He was

second in the 1,600-meter and 3,200-meter races, fourth in the 800-meter event and ran on the winning 4x800 relay team.
 Bland received All-American honors in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track.
 At the NCAA indoor track championships in Fayetteville, Ark., she was eighth in the mile run (4:42.79) and ran on the eighth-place distance medley relay squad.
 She is a North Marion High School graduate from Fairview, W.Va.

Cabell Midland's Jacob Burcham leads the field around the turn at the West Virginia High School Track and Field Championships. Midland's super sophomore has added another trophy to his case. He's the 2010 McCoy Award winner, given to the year's top track athlete in West Virginia.

Photo courtesy of Jim Parsons



Mercer gets his 150th victory

The Herald-Dispatch
MORGANTOWN — Marshall University women's tennis blanketed West Virginia University, 7-0, in a Friday match at Ridgeview Tennis Club.

Marshall roundup
 Thundering Herd coach John Mercer notched his 150th career victory.

No. 55 Marshall (6-1) defeated WVU (1-5) for the 10th consecutive time. The Herd holds a 12-3 advantage in the all-time series.

Marshall swept doubles with wins by Michaela Kissell/Dominika Zaprazna, Catherine Kellner/Maria Voscekova and Kara Kucin/Karli Timko to take a 1-0 lead.

Kissell, Zaprazna, Kellner, Kristina Koprčina, Voscekova and Kucin all had singles wins.

The Herd's next match is 1 p.m., Sunday, at Virginia Tech.

- MU 7, WVU 0**
Singles
 No. 1: Michaela Kissell (M) d. Melis Tanik, 6-0, 6-1.
 No. 2: Dominika Zaprazna (M) d. Emily Mathis, (WVU) 6-1, 6-2.
 No. 3: Catherine Kellner (M) d. Mary Chupa (WVU), 6-1, 6-4, 1-6.
 No. 4: Kristina Koprčina (M) d. Veronika Cardenas, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4.
 No. 5: Maria Voscekova (M) d. Ashley Pilsbury, 3-6, 6-2, 10-3.
 No. 6: Kara Kucin (M) d. Liv Pettersson, 7-5, 6-1.
Doubles
 No. 1: Kissell/Zaprazna (M) d. Chupa/Cardenas, 8-6.
 No. 2: Kellner/Voscekova (M) d. Pettersson/Mathis, 8-3.
 No. 3: Kucin/Timko (M) d. Tanik/Pilsbury, 8-6.

SWIMMING

HUNTINGTON — James Madison visits Marshall for a noon, Saturday, women's swimming meet in Frederick A. Fitch Natatorium at Cam Henderson Center.

HHS

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run to propel the Highlanders to their 11th straight win.

Hamilton struggled through an off-night and finished with only eight points, but Huntington High still dominated the inside thanks to the efforts of Dominique Gibson and Anitra Hawarny.

Gibson came off the bench and shut down Parkersburg's Imani Ward, who had kept the Big Reds in the game with her play early.

Ward scored back-to-back baskets to knot the game 31-31 before Gibson and the Highlanders' defense shut down the Parkersburg offense.

Huntington High held the Big Reds scoreless for 7:30 of game action before a transition layup by Ward ended the drought. Ward finished with 16 points.

Gibson and Hawarny finished with double-doubles. Gibson had 10 points and 11 rebounds. Hawarny scored 10, all in the second half, and also had 10 rebounds.

"Domino (Dominique Gibson) was into it a little better and Hawarny started playing in the second half, too," Lucas said. "Everyone picked it up right along with them. We've been playing pretty good basketball."

Smith added 12 points for the Highlanders, who outrebounded Parkersburg by a 2-to-1 margin.

Early on, it appeared the Big Reds were the aggressor as they



Mark Webb/The Herald-Dispatch

Huntington's Kiana Evans takes a shot against Imani Ward of Parkersburg during the basketball game on Friday at Huntington High School.

forced several turnovers and jumped to an 11-2 lead four minutes into the game.

As has been the case in recent games, Parkersburg (11-7) struggled to score in the second half. The Big Reds had just six field

goals in the final half and fell for the fourth time in five games.

PARKERSBURG 13 12 6 11 — 42: Fordyce 5, Ward 16, Wilson 8, Warner 2, Morrison 5, Pinkston 1, Mueller 3, Sellers 2.

HUNTINGTON HIGH 12 17 21 20 — 70: Smith 12, Adkins 15, Steele 6, Hawarny 10, Hamilton 8, Gibson 10, Evans 9.

OVC

■ Continued from 1B

down a one-time 24-point deficit to 10 with less than six minutes remaining in the game, only to fall, 75-53.

"I told my guys we may not be champions of the league this year — Chesapeake is the best team," Barnes said. "But that was a championship effort and that's all you can ask in this life. God bless our kids. I'll live with that effort."

In typical Chesapeake style, the Panthers sprang out of the gates with solid, fundamental basketball. There was Austin McMaster going back door for a lay-up attempt. There was Patrick Hintz stepping into a wide-open 3-pointer after a perfectly run offensive set. There was Colin Kennedy knocking down several of his signature jump hook shots in the post.

Just plain efficiency was a big reason why Chesapeake (14-1, 6-0 OVC) took a commanding 40-

21 lead into the halftime break.

It was eerily similar to the way the Panthers had a 35-10 lead after two quarters on the Pointers on Jan. 7.

"I told out guys at halftime, 'Last time at their place, we were down similar, actually a little more,'" Barnes said. "And we came out in the second half and they blitzed us. Man, just come out and win this quarter. I don't care if you win it 2-1, just win the quarter."

They did, 22-16.

"I think maybe we rested on our laurels a little bit," said Chesapeake coach Ryan Davis. "I don't think it's something that we can do. Hopefully, we realized that because we've got a couple of tough games coming up with Fairland and Huntington St. Joe. We've got to come out and step up or we're going to put ourselves in a position that we don't want to be in."

Despite the shaky third quarter, when they allowed Blake Barnes to get 16 of his game-high 24 points, the Panthers rarely

seemed frazzled. Yes, the Pointers made their runs — an 11-0 spurt forced Davis to call for timeout with 4:02 left in the third — but in the end, talent won over.

Chesapeake ended the game on a 15-3 run.

"We started the game well," Davis said. "And then the second quarter wasn't great and then the second half was just ugly."

But sometimes ugly gets the job done. The Panthers even beat an uncharacteristic 12-of-28 night from the foul line.

"We were over 80 percent from the free throw coming into this game," Davis said.

McMaster and Nathan Copley led Chesapeake with 16 points apiece. Colin Kennedy, despite foul trouble, added 13 and Hintz and Eric Kennedy each had 12.

South Point (8-9, 4-4 OVC) also got 11 points from Brandon Barnes.

CHESAPEAKE 20 20 16 19 — 75: Copley 16, Hintz 12, E. Kennedy 12, Thompson 6, McMaster 16, C. Kennedy 13
SOUTH POINT 10 11 22 10 — 53: Mitchell 3, Jeffreys 7, Bl. Barnes 24, Winkler 6, Br. Barnes 11, Huron 2

Huntington Hammer scrimmages Tuesday

The Herald-Dispatch
HUNTINGTON — The Huntington Hammer indoor football team will complete the first full week of training camp with an Orange and Blue scrimmage at 6 p.m., Tuesday, in Big Sandy Superstore Arena.

Fans will have a chance to meet the players and coaches and help two local organizations. Admission is free with a choice of donations to either Breaking Bread or the West Virginia Veteran's Home.

The United Indoor Football League team asks the public to bring either two non-perishable food items to be donated to Breaking Bread or one new pillow to be donated to the West Virginia Veteran's Home.

Breaking Bread helps food banks and soup kitchens with food, time, money and

awareness. The West Virginia Veteran's Home is operating under a program that has them dependent on community support. Any donations received beyond the needs of the Veteran's Home will be distributed among the other local organizations that help serve our veterans.

The Hammer will hold a kickers-only tryout camp Saturday at Big Sandy arena. Register at 4:30 p.m. and the camp starts at 5 p.m., Fee is \$25. Players must be at least 18 years old and completed high school and college eligibility. A waiver must be signed prior to the tryout.

The Hammer opens the season Feb. 20 at home against the Canton Cougars. Game time at Big Sandy is 4 p.m. For more information, call 304-525-7277 or visit www.huntingtonhammer.com.

Herd

■ Continued from 1B

The Thundering Herd isn't anticipating another blowout of a Southern Miss team led by conference player of the year candidate Gary Flowers.

"It's going to be tough," Marshall backup center Aundra Williams said. "I don't think Flowers will have that."

Southern Miss is closing on first-place UTEP after consecutive wins over East Carolina, Tulane and UAB.

Flowers, a 6-foot-8 senior, tops the conference in scoring (20.2), ranks eighth in rebounds (7.4), seventh in field goal percentage (49.1) and fourth in blocked shots (1.7).

He leads the league's best scoring (77.4) and rebounding (plus-8.1) team.

"There's a reason why he's a player of the year guy," Herrion said. "He's so versatile."

Flowers scored 22 in Wednesday's win at UAB (75-71) and brought Southern Miss back from an 11-point deficit in the first half.

The Golden Eagles also have senior guard R.L. Horton averaging 12.5 points and freshman guard D.J. Newbill scoring 9.3 a game, junior guard Angelo Johnson 7.8, 6-9 senior Josimar Ayarza 7.7 and 6-10 junior Maurice Bolden 6.2.

Marshall is building steam after back-to-back defeats of Memphis and Houston. Herri-

on's theme at Thursday's practice was "Do what we do."

"When we defend and we rebound and we take pretty good care of the basketball we've given ourselves pretty good opportunities for success," he said.

Marshall isn't far behind Southern Miss in scoring (74.4) and is slightly ahead of the Golden Eagles on defense, allowing 66.2 points compared to 66.8. Marshall is plus-3.9 in rebounding, a number that has dropped in four games with junior forward Johnny Thomas out of the lineup because of a left ankle injury.

Herd guard Dre Kane is ranked fifth among the nation's freshmen with a 15.7 scoring average. Kane is eighth in C-USA scoring, 19th in rebounds (5.0), ninth in field goal percentage (47.2) and ninth in assists (3.5).

Junior guard Damier Pitts and senior forward Tirrell Baines average 15.2 and 12.7 points respectively. Baines is ninth in the conference with 7.4 rebounds.

Thomas, who averages 8.8 points and 4.6 rebounds, is close to getting back on the court, but his status is still listed as day-to-day.

Junior guard Shaq Johnson (9.8 ppg) missed practice Thursday to attend his great-grandmother's funeral and rejoined the team Friday in Atlanta on the way to Hattiesburg.

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Herd returning to C-USA play After upsetting WVU, Marshall turns its attention to E. Carolina tonight Sports / 1B

Sunny but frigid 25.15 Weather / 1A

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