

HISTORIC HOOPERS



Top: The Glynn County Recreation and Parks Department's 8U boys and 12U girls basketball teams pose for a photo after winning their respective state championships this past weekend. **Left:** Coached by Manyonna Mountain and Seglenda Hart, the 12U girls' team consisted of Truly Campbell, Samyya Gilbert, Michiah Harper, Mileah Harper, Daelynn House, Ashia Mountain, Ava Mountain, McKenzie Thomas, Aja Tillman, and Lauryn Walker. **Right:** Coached by David Bailey and Johnathan Roberts, the 8U boys team was made up of Jalen Bailey, Amir Byrd, Kensley Jackson, Isaiah Johnson, Charles McDonald, Jonathan Roberts, Chance Sapp, Breland Smith, Nicholas Stevens and Cory Wheeler.

Glynn County Recreation and Parks crowns a pair of basketball state champions

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

The Glynn County Recreation and Parks Department made history this past weekend — twice.

The department saw its 8U boys and 12U girls become the first youth basketball teams in the county to win state championships.

Coming off football state championships at the 8U and 12U level this fall, the GCRPD had three teams win their respective district basketball tournaments to advance to state tournaments March 4-5: the 8U boys, 10U girls, and 12U girls.

The 8U and 12U competitions were held in Murray County, while the 10U all-star team traveled to Gordon County, and each of the three teams faced a pool play game Friday to determine seeding the following day.

Glynn County's 10U girls dropped their pool game, and were eliminated from the tournament in a 19-16 loss in the first round Saturday. The 8U boys and 12U girls, however, both won their seeding games and continued to ride the momentum.

Playing in the single elimination tournament to determine the

winner of the Class B State Championship, an 8U boys team made up of Jalen Bailey, Amir Byrd, Kensley Jackson, Isaiah Johnson, Charles McDonald, Johnathan Roberts, Chance Sapp, Breland Smith, Nicholas Stevens and Cory Wheeler, and coached by David Bailey and Johnathan Roberts, edged Calhoun 44-41 in the first round before rolling past Villa Rica 42-27 to advance to the title game, where Elbert County awaited.

Elbert County won its two previous games in the bracket by a combined score of 73-22, but the Glynn County buzzsaw would not

be stopped, defeating its opponent 46-27 to claim the county's first basketball state championship.

After winning their pool game, the Glynn County 12U girls pulled out a 36-34 nail-biter over Habersham County before edging Sumter County 59-55 to secure its spot in the championship game.

Host Murray County had a bye in the first round and handled Thomson-McDuffie by 20 points in the semifinals, but a battle-tested Glynn County 12U girls team consisting of Truly Campbell, Samyya Gilbert, Michiah Harper, Mileah Harper, Daelynn House, Ashia

Mountain, Ava Mountain, McKenzie Thomas, Aja Tillman and Lauryn Walker, and coached by Manyonna Mountain and Seglenda Hart, won another close contest 42-36 in the title game.

But the 12U girls aren't done yet. Now, they've got bragging rights to play for when they compete in the Border Wars this weekend in Augusta against the South Carolina Recreation and Parks state champions.

Both the Glynn County Recreation and Parks state champions will be honored in front of the Board of Commissioners meeting this upcoming Thursday.

Coastal continues to make history with softball's first top 10 ranking

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

For the first time in school history, the Coastal Georgia softball team has made its way into the NAIA Softball Coaches' Top 25 Poll, ranked 10th.

Sitting on the outside looking in when the pre-season poll dropped, the Mariners have proven doubters wrong with its strong start to the 2022 campaign.

At 17-1, Coastal Georgia has dominated the diamond all year long, outscoring its opponents 119-44. Adding to its brilliant start, Coastal is batting .364 from the plate, having recorded 56

extra-base hits and 32 stolen bases in 18 games this season. On the mound, the team is tied for 16th in the country with 115 strikeouts, and its five shutouts are the eighth-most in the country. At 2.10, the Mariners' ERA ranks 27th among NAIA programs.

Led by head coach Mike Minick, the Mariners have beaten five programs that were either ranked or receiving votes in the first month of the season as its gotten off to its historic start. Coastal Georgia's lone blemish on the season came at the hands of No. 14 Georgia Gwinnett College before turning around and splitting the

doubleheader in the night cap against the Grizzlies.

"Our team was very consistent during the first month of the season," Minick said. "We played very well winning the NFCA Leadoff Classic. It is great to be recognized by other coaches around the nation. Our players deserve this 10th ranked position for the time being. Our conference schedule starts next week and we will need to continue to get better if we hope to stay ranked."

Coastal Georgia will open its SUN Conference schedule next Friday with a three-game series at Keiser University.

Wildcats complete sweep of Pirates

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

Brunswick High was unable to stave off a sweep at the hands of No. 10 Richmond Hill on Wednesday, falling 11-5 in the series finale at Bud Couch Field.

For the second consecutive night, the Pirates (6-6, 0-3 Region 2-6A) fell behind the Wildcats (10-2, 3-0) early and were unable to makeup the deficit. After scoring seven runs over the first two innings of Game 2 on Tuesday, Richmond Hill struck for eight runs over the first two frames of Game 3 — five coming before BHS had secured an out.

A couple of walks sandwiched around a double loaded the bases for the Wildcats in the top of the first before a hit batter and

a walk pushed two runs across. Following a pitching change, another walk and hit batter extended the Richmond Hill lead to 4-0.

One more run scored on a double play, but Brunswick was finally able to escape the inning with a five-run deficit on a strikeout in the ensuing at-bat, and it quickly got a few runs back in the bottom half of the frame.

Following consecutive singles by Kyle Lodise and Riley Morgan to open the inning, the former scored on an error by the catcher while the latter advanced to third. Tyler Gadson came on as a pinch runner for Morgan and scored on another error a batter later to draw to within 5-2.

But Brunswick struggled to find the strike zone

again in the second, hitting the first two Richmond Hill batters preceding an RBI double. After a strikeout, another run scored on a ground out to third before the Wildcats extended the lead to 8-2 on an error by the third baseman.

Richmond Hill tacked on runs in the fourth, fifth and sixth to go up 11-2 before BHS made a late push.

Elijah Wellman drove in a run on a two-out RBI single in the bottom of the sixth, and Jonathan Landers scored on a passed ball a couple batters later. Matthew Neal also recorded an RBI on a ground out in the seventh, but it was too little too late for the Pirates, who struck out 12 times over

Please see BHS, 2B