

# Sports

Page 1B // The Brunswick News // Thursday, May 26, 2022

## THE NEWS' SPRING MVPs

WEDNESDAY: GIRLS BASKETBALL • **TODAY: BOYS BASKETBALL** • FRIDAY: BASEBALL/  
SOCCER/GOLF • WEEKEND: TRACK/TENNIS



Tyson Rooks

### FANTASTIC FINALES

Rooks, Nash cap off great careers with big awards

By SEBASTIAN EMANUEL  
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A combination of lifetime experience and vocal leadership were key in deciding the two highest honors of the 2021-22 boys basketball season.

Frederica Academy reached the Elite Eight for the first time in several years, and Glynn Academy saw a star return to the floor to close out his senior season. Thus, Carl Nash and Tyson Rooks have earned their accolades.

#### MVP

After four stellar seasons on the basketball court, Tyson Rooks will be making his way to the University of Illinois to play football for the Fighting Illinoi.

Rooks had every right to sit out his senior season on the basketball court and focus on getting ready for his endeavors on the football field.

Instead, The News' 2022 Coastal Georgia All-Area Boys Basketball MVP stayed true to the game he loved and took the court with head coach Terrence Haywood enjoying every moment he had left with his leader playing his senior season.

"I know the pressure that can be on a 17, 18-year-old kid that's got to make a decision to sign a football scholarship at a DI school and then take the chance of playing basketball," Haywood said. "For him to say 'No coach I'm all in, I'm gonna play' it just spoke volumes to the type of kid he is and the commitment he made to Glynn Academy basketball."

Finishing previous seasons as a second-team all-region player, Rooks focused on his all-around game to secure first-team all-region honors after averaging 17 points and seven rebounds per game. The biggest progression for Rooks was his 3-point percentage, shooting 44

Please see AWARDS, 2B



Carl Nash



Camarion Johnson

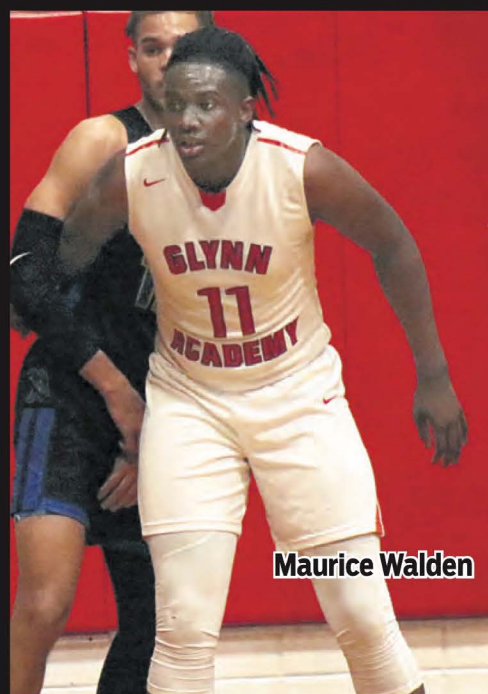
### THE NEWS' COASTAL GEORGIA ALL-AREA BOYS TEAM

#### FIRST TEAM

- G — Camarion Johnson, Brunswick High
- G — Quay Dickens, Glynn Academy
- F — Jason Newmans Jr., Brunswick High
- F — Maurice Walden, Glynn Academy
- C — William Jobe, Frederica Academy

#### HONORABLE MENTION

- Sage Alston, Brunswick High
- Tray Dickens, guard, Glynn Academy
- Tyi Ivey, guard, Glynn Academy
- Shane Payne, guard, Glynn Academy
- Riyon Rankin, forward, Brunswick High
- Vic Riden, center, Frederica Academy



Maurice Walden



Quay Dickens



Jason Newmans Jr.



William Jobe



## Sports

### Awards

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percent from deep.

For Haywood, he knew Rooks could shoot high percentage shots from anywhere on the floor. However, it was Rooks being more vocal that stood out to the Terror head ball coach.

"He does everything that you ask him to do, where you are congratulating him or getting on to him, he is going to be the same kid," Haywood said. "He's going to show up to work every day and do what he is asked to do, he is going to give 100 percent, and he's going to be a leader. This year we saw him stepping up in being a lot more of a vocal leader, which is kind of what I've been wanting out of him the last couple of years and he just led more by example. This year, he was more of that vocal leader that I was looking for him to be."

Relying heavily on Rooks this season, the Terrors (19-9, 6-6) returned to the Class 6A state playoffs after a one-year absence. The team lost in heartbreaking fashion to the Westlake Lions.

Now, Haywood has big shoes to fill as the 6-foot-5 athlete heads to Champagne.

"It's gonna be a huge void to fill," Haywood said. "His height, his length his jumping ability. Just his leadership as a player and the example he set for other players on the court and in the classroom. This team has a lot of big shoes to fill in trying to replace and fill that void in Tyson. We are going to go to work this summer and just try and get better and keep working hard. He is going to be a huge hole to fill for the team."

"We relied on him for everything. When we needed a bucket, we were going to Tyson Rooks and whether it was outside or inside (shot selection) we just trusted him. He always defended whoever the opposing team's

first or second-best player was going to be Tyson. He had a tough job each night out on the court but somebody is going to have to step up and fill that role."

As Rooks' basketball chapter closes and his football chapter continues, Haywood's excited that his star player went down the football path.

"Myself and my assistant coaches have been on Tyson to play football," Haywood said. "In football, size matters. A kid with his size and athletic ability, the upside you know that football coaches are going to give him a shot. It was proven with him playing just one year of football and being able to sign a D1 scholarship. I'm just elated that all of his hard work and good grades, and being a great kid is all paying off for him to get a D1 football scholarship."

#### COACH OF THE YEAR

Not knowing this past season would be the last of his 40-plus years as a coach, Frederica's Carl Nash brought the Knights to an Elite Eight appearance and a runners-up finish in the region play, earning The News' 2022 Coastal Georgia All-Area Boys Basketball Coach of the Year award for his efforts.

With a key portion of his team finishing up their season on the gridiron, Nash felt the absence of some allowed the younger players to learn.

"It helped us to be without those guys a little bit because the others that were young were able to learn how to play before we got some of the veterans back. That really helped us I think."

Being able to gel as a cohesive unit once everyone hit the court together, Nash only had one concern, perimeter shooting.

"I was a little concerned with how we shot the ball," Nash said. "I didn't think we had very good perimeter shooting on this team but it was adequate. I think if we would have had some consistent shooting we could have

done even better. I was happy with the season and I thought all the players contributed in a way they should have. I have nothing but praise for this team I really don't."

Fighting through some ups and downs in crucial parts of the season, the Knights battled their way to the GISA Class 3A region championship game. Losing to eventual state champions, St. Andrew's, Nash believed his team was in every one of those defeats until the very end.

"I was happy for our team," Nash said. "I think if you are going to go out on a winning season, this is the kind of season you want to go out on with really good kids and good players. I just felt like they did the best they could in the circumstance and it was a great way to finish it up."

Although the team was unable to reach the 20-win benchmark they had set out, Nash was pleased with how his team finished.

After the Elite Eight loss at the hands of Creekside Christian Academy, Nash decided to hang up his clipboard and retire from the game he loved.

Telling his team the decision to ultimately retire from the sidelines, Nash let it be known that he would still be the athletic director for Frederica and his players could always come to talk to him.

"I think it is really easier for them to know that I am in the same office and they can always still come see me," Nash said. "(I) won't discuss coach-player anymore because that's not me, but I will definitely discuss the game and what is going on outside the game. If anything that they need help with I'll still be there to do that. I think that really helps when you are making the transition. To be honest, it helps me too because I don't think I can just walk away and go fishing. That's why I wanted to stay as athletic director, I think it's important to still have that connection with them as well as all the other student-athletes."

### Business is booming at Indianapolis 500

By MICHAEL MAROT  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Delaney Hill sees a difference this May. Customers of the Dawson's on Main she manages are flooding into the popular restaurant night after night — and not a penny is pinched.

It's a welcome change for Hill and her family, which opened Dawson's in 2006 a short walk from the southwestern corner of Indianapolis Motor Speedway. It's good news for everyone else around Speedway, Indiana, too.

For two years, COVID-19 restrictions kept crowds away from a community whose financial health is closely tethered to that of the iconic venue nearby — particularly in May. When things are normal, May revenue fills the coffers of local eateries and wineries, vendors and businesses, even school and charity fundraisers like it's Christ-mas elsewhere.

With the Indianapolis 500 finally back to full

capacity, the fans and dollars are flowing back home again and spurring a much needed economic boom.

"The year it was zero fans, it was a little bit of a ghost town," Hill said, noting IndyCar teams pitched in by ordering food in 2020. "Last year, we could see a lot more people than the previous year, but it wasn't as exciting. This year, it's the month of May and it feels like the month of May."

The signs of resurgence are everywhere.

Speedway President Doug Boles said he is expecting the second-largest crowd since at least 2000 — the 2016 race was sold out — and reserved seating is nearly gone. Some 300,000 fans are expected on the grounds of the vast speedway on Sunday as the 500 resumes its role as the largest single-day sporting event in the world.

Chris Gahl, senior vice president of marketing and communications at Visit Indy, said the city's

roughly 8,400 downtown hotel rooms are nearly sold out and at least 4,000 local Airbnb properties have been booked. Hotels in suburban Indy are near capacity, too, and even rooms in Bloomington and Lafayette, each more than an hour's drive from the track, are filling up fast.

Tom Beaudry of Speedway sells souvenirs at IndyCar races and said his sales have skyrocketed this year, his first with a booth inside IMS. Track officials have seen a similar trend with Boles describing the speedway's merchandising sales as "through the roof."

Speedway and Indianapolis officials have not conducted recent economic impact studies, so any comparison to previous Mays could prove challenging. But the locals don't need numbers to reinforce what they already know — this month is revving up to be the best fiscal May since the 100th running of the race in 2016.

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