

FA girls, boys advance to soccer state championship games

Girls defeat Holy Spirit Prep in regulation

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

The Frederica Academy girls will play for a soccer state championship Saturday in Macon.

Frederica downed Holy Spirit Prep 2-1 on Friday at Mercer University to clinch a spot in the GISA Class 3A title match.

The Knights went up 1-0 on a break-away goal in the first half, and they held onto the advantage until there were fewer than 10 minutes remaining in the contest.

Holy Spirit tied the match with its lone goal before Frederica answered minutes later with the decisive score.

The Frederica Academy girls soccer program has won seven state titles in its history, but it's yet to add to its ledger since two-time Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, and two-time Olympic gold medalist, Morgan Brian led the team to four straight state championships from 2008-11.

Now, the Knights are just one victory away from writing their own legacy.

Frederica Academy will play the winner of the semifinal between the Atlanta Girls' School and Augusta Prep Day for the championship. Game time is set for 5 p.m.

Knights upset Westminster 3-0 in PKs

By SAVANNAH RICHARDSON
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Frederica Academy's boys soccer team upset the Westminster School of Augusta Friday night in the semifinals as the Knights won 3-0 in penalty kicks, advancing to the GISA Class 3A state title game.

The Knights and Wildcats battled it out Friday night, and regulation wasn't enough time on the field as it took two overtime periods to decide a winner.

Westminster scored the first goal to jump out to a 1-0 lead with 13:49 remaining in the opening half. However, it wasn't long until Eli Fritchman scored his first goal of the

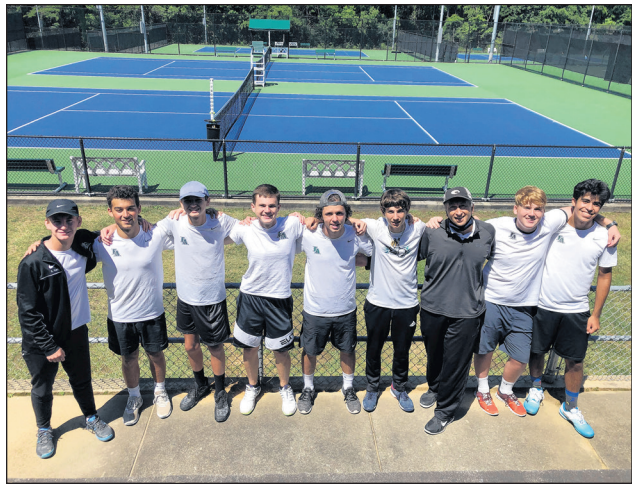
game to tie it at 1-1 going into halftime.

The Wildcats and Knights battled it out, exchanging possessions throughout the second half until Westminster scored another goal to go up 2-1. As the time ticked away, the Knights state title game hopes seemed to dwindle, but they got a free kick opportunity and Fritchman lined up for the kick.

He nailed the kick to score his second goal with just minutes left on the scoreboard to tie it 2-2 to end regulation.

Neither team could score in the first or second overtime period, but the Knights

Please see FA, 3B



Provided photo/AP

The Frederica Academy boys' tennis team poses for a photo after competing in the GISA Class 3A team tournament Thursday at the John Drew Tennis Center in Macon.

Frederica boys finish in semifinals at team tennis state tournament

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

The Frederica Academy boys tennis team advanced to the semifinal round of the GISA team state playoffs Thursday at the John Drew Tennis Center in Macon.

Led by head coach Brian Wyrick, the team of Adam Elsharkawi, Dylan McHugh, Whitmarh Tennant, Jacson Grotz, Andrew Kaminer, John Alden Beimier and David Weaver topped Holy Spirit Prep in the opening round before falling to a talented Brookwood squad in the Class 3A semifinals.

Tennant struck the first blow against Holy Spirit at the No. 3 singles spot, and No. 2 singles player

Dylan McHugh earned the Knights' second point of the round. The duo of Beimier and Weaver secured the third and final point to send Frederica through to the next round.

"It was good, advancing to the semifinals was a big accomplishment," Wyrick said.

It was the first win at the team state tournament for the Frederica Academy boys in four years. Combined with a bevy of region titles, the girls' doubles state runners up plaques, and girl' team state championship, 2021 has been the most successful season for the school's tennis program since joining Class 3A in 2013.

Thompson chosen as SEC Golfer of the Year; Phillips named to First Team

THE BRUNSWICK NEWS

ATHENS — Georgia's Davis Thompson has been chosen as the Southeastern Conference Golfer of the Year and was joined on the First Team by teammate Trent Phillips, according to an announcement Friday by the league office.

Thompson is the seventh SEC Golfer of the Year in Georgia history — joining Peter Persons (1986), Jeremy

Parrott (1998), Nick Cassini (2001), Chris Kirk (2006), Russell Henley (2010), and Lee McCoy (2016) — and the sixth to play for Coach Chris Haack. Thompson was a First-Team All-SEC pick in 2020 and a Second-Team selection in 2019. He also was named to the SEC Community Service Team for the second time in his career.

Thompson leads the SEC

Please see UGA, 3B

EASY CALL



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Glynn Academy's D'Marion Hayes and his mother pose for a photo following a signing ceremony in the school's auditorium Friday.

Glynn's D'Marion Hayes chooses hoops at Georgia Knights Prep Academy

By DERRICK DAVIS
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D'Marion Hayes proved his worth both on the gridiron and the hardwood his senior year at Glynn Academy, but when it came time to make a decision on which sport he'd pursue at the next level, it wasn't a difficult decision.

Hayes capped off his prep career Friday by signing a letter of intent to play basketball at Georgia Knights Prep Academy in Snellville.

"Basketball was my first love," Hayes said. "There's just something about that orange ball and that hoop. All my stress goes away on the court."

A true program player, Hayes began his prep hoops career at Glynn and methodically made his way up the pecking order, going from playing on the freshman and JV team as a ninth-grader to providing the team a spark off the bench in the state playoffs as a sophomore.

Hayes was set to assume a larger role on the team as a dynamic scoring junior until misfortune struck — he broke his wrist on his shooting hand on a fall after getting fouled during a preseason scrimmage.

Though he'd suffered some minor injuries on the football field early in his athletic career, which originally kept him from pursuing the sport his first few seasons at Glynn Academy, it was Hayes' first serious injury on the basketball court.

"I'm bound to get hurt in football; there's 11 people on the field, you're gonna get hit," Hayes said. "But basketball, it kind of broke my heart when my



Derrick Davis/The Brunswick News

Glynn Academy's D'Marion Hayes signs with Georgia Knight Prep Academy during a ceremony in the school's auditorium Friday.

wrist broke. I've played basketball all my life, and I never had a serious injury. I didn't know what to do."

Hayes admitted there were some days during the rehab process where he felt like giving up. Then he'd find his way into the gym for shoot around, brace and all, where he was quickly reminded how much he loves the sport.

Still working to recapture full motion and confidence in his wrist upon his return, Hayes evolved as a player, developing into more of a pass-first point

Please see HAYES, 3B

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