

BOWLING GREEN FIERCE PANTHERS



SUBMITTED

The Bowling Green Fierce Panthers, a Champion Force cheer team, placed first in its division at a national competition July 26-27 in Cleveland, Ohio. Team members include (front row, left to right) Laina Butler, Jaci Thompson and Madison Jones; (middle row, left to right) Meranda Byard and Audrey Mitchell; (back row, left to right) Remington Johnson, Eden Mitchell, Michael Mitchell, Coach Leslie Basham, Jr. Coach Karl Inghram, McKynlee Cummings and Madison Phillips.

PREP GOLF

Purples’ Brown wins Schoolboy Classic

By the Daily News

Bowling Green’s Johnny Brown shot a 2-under par 70 to claim medalist honors in the Hancock County Schoolboy Classic on Saturday at Windward Heights Country Club in Hawesville.

Bowling Green’s Rowdy Harris claimed runner-up honors with a 71 as the Purples claimed the team championship with a combined 301.

Paxton Fuqua (79) and James Yarbrough (81) added scoring finishes for the Purples.

BATTLE AT THE CREEK

Greenwood’s Layton Richey shot a 4-under par 67 to capture medalist honors in the Battle At the Creek boys’ golf tournament Friday at Kenny Perry’s Country Creek in Franklin.

Bowling Green’s Rowdy Harris claimed runner-up honors with a 68, one shot off the lead. Allen County-Scottsville’s Barton Rutledge (69) was third, followed by Franklin-Simpson’s Dai’Shaun Flippin (70) and South Warren’s Max Smith (71).

Other area top-10 finishers were Logan County’s Davis Switzer (72, tied for sixth), Bowling Green’s Paxton Fuqua (74, tied for eighth), Bowling Green’s Johnny Brown (74, tied for eighth) and Greenwood’s Eli Wade (74, tied for eighth).

Bowling Green won the team title with a combined 291, seven shots ahead of runner-up Greenwood (298). James Yarbrough (75) provided the final scoring finish for the Purples.

South Warren (307) was fourth, followed by Logan County (308) and Allen County-Scottsville (313). Host Franklin-Simpson was eighth (319), Glasgow took ninth (337), Barren County was 11th (351) and Warren East was 13th (374).

WKU ATHLETICS

Davis named to USC Players to Watch list

By the Daily News

Western Kentucky goalkeeper Maddie Davis was named to the United Soccer Coaches Players to Watch List, the organization announced Friday.

Davis is one of 13 goalkeepers in the country named to the list.

“Maddie is a special player,” WKU coach Jason Neidell said in a news release. “She is talented and possesses all the intangibles of the greats. She is so deserving of this recognition.”

In 2024, Davis gave up just six goals in Conference USA, good for a 0.667 goals against average which was tied for the best in the league. She registered five shutouts in conference play. Her 86.0 save percentage was the best during conference play.

The Waterloo, Illinois, native was named CUSA Goalkeeper of the Year in 2024.

She also earned CUSA Goalkeeper of the Week twice during the season, earning the honor on Sept. 24 and Oct. 29.

Davis has 14 career shutouts, which is tied for the third most in WKU history.

The redshirt senior has charted 123 career saves, which is fifth at WKU, and her 1.14 goals against average is currently fourth.

MURRAY BLANKS TOPS IN EXHIBITION

Western Kentucky’s women’s soccer team fell 1-0 to host Murray State

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Hot Rods’ Johnson strikes out 10 in 6-0 setback to Aberdeen

By the Daily News

Marcus Johnson tied his career-high with 10 strikeouts in the Bowling Green Hot Rods’ 6-0 loss Saturday to the Aberdeen IronBirds in a South Atlantic League match-up at Bowling Green Ballpark.

Aberdeen (40-59 overall, 16-18 second half) struck first in the top of the first inning with Johnson on the mound. Austin Overn singled and swiped second, placing a runner in scoring position. Victor Figueroa walked, putting runners at first and second. Ethan Anderson and Thomas Sosa both roped RBI singles, pushing the IronBirds out in front, 2-0.

The IronBirds pushed the lead in the top of the fourth still facing Johnson. Jake Cunningham singled and stole second, advancing to third on an errant throw by catcher Daniel Vellojin.

Aberdeen’s Maikol Hernandez launched a two-run home run to left, extending the

lead, 4-0.

Aberdeen added a pair of runs in the top of the ninth facing Hot Rods reliever Cade Citelli.

Griff O’Ferrall singled and swiped second, putting a runner in scoring position. Overn singled, moving O’Ferrall to third, and a wild pitch scored O’Ferrall and allowed Overn to reach third. Anderson lifted a sacrifice fly, plating Overn to make it a 6-0 IronBirds lead.

The Aberdeen pitching staff completed the shutout with a one-two-three ninth inning against Bowling Green (53-46, 19-16).

Aberdeen’s Luis De Leon (2-3) earned the victory after tossing five scoreless innings, allowing three hits and striking out six. Johnson (5-8) received the loss after firing six innings, surrendering four runs on six hits, walking one and fanning 10.

Bowling Green and Aberdeen were scheduled to play the finale of a six-game set on Sunday at Bowling Green Ballpark.

on Saturday afternoon in a preseason exhibition.

Murray State outshot the Tops in the match, 10-8, but WKU managed five shots on goal compared to the Racers’ four.

Five freshmen were in the WKU starting lineup on Saturday with Kendall Mix getting the start in goal, playing all 90 minutes.

In the first half, four Hilltoppers got shots off in Camryn Davis, Rebecca Roth, Ashton Lynam and Torrie Grant-Clavijo.

WKU had four shots in the first half compared to Murray State’s five.

In the second half, Davis managed one more shot on goal. Maggie Bellair, Lynam and Grant-Clavijo all added one shot on goal apiece in the frame. The Racers scored the go-ahead goal in the 89th minute of the match.

Mix finished with two saves on the day and one goal allowed.

Davis led the Hilltoppers with two shots on goal in 44 minutes of action.

Lynam and Grant-Clavijo each charted two shots, each with one shot on goal.

The Hilltoppers will be back in action Monday in a home exhibition against Belmont. Kickoff from the WKU Soccer Complex is set for 7 p.m.

WKU REVEALS CROSS COUNTRY SLATE

Western Kentucky country head

coach Lee Wood has announced the 2025 cross country competition schedule.

The program returns 13 runners from the 2024 squad and adds 12 new Hilltoppers to the team this season.

“Excited to release our new 2025 cross country schedule,” Wood said in a news release. “We are bringing in a lot of new freshmen that will add some depth to our rosters heading into season and are looking forward to a great season.”

The team kicks off the season with the Belmont Opener for the third consecutive year on Aug. 29. They then head down to Huntsville, Alabama, for the Southern Showcase, set to run Sept. 12-13.

The October slate gets underway with a twilight meet (XC Town Twilight) in Terre Haute, Indiana, on Oct. 3.

WKU will then travel to Evansville, Indiana, for the Angel Mounds Invitational on Oct. 17, marking the second time in as many years the Tops will run that course.

The postseason starts Nov. 1 with the Conference USA Championships. This year’s meet will be hosted by Middle Tennessee.

The meet will be held in Huntsville, Alabama.

The 2025 NCAA Southeast Regionals are set for Nov. 14 and will take place in Charlottesville, Virginia, hosted by the University of Virginia.

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