

WAVELENGTHS

Voice of the Greenwave

Ashbrook High School, 2222 South New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054

Wave of Risky Fashion

Ashbrook students claim that artificial tanning creates risks

by **CARIE WILLIAMSON/ Staff Writer**

An increasing amount of Ashbrook's students are putting themselves at risk by dedicating valuable time, money, and health to local tanning salons.

In Gastonia alone, there are approximately 34 tanning salons, not including fitness clubs or personal use tanning beds. According to online statistics, these tanning salons are part of a nationwide \$5 billion industry, used by approximately 28 million Americans each year.

According to CBS News, tanning beds and tanning lamps may more than double the risk of cancer, and the effect is the worst in the young women most likely to use them. Senior Lauren Caldwell said she goes to the tanning bed about 15 times a year. "I don't feel like I'm harming my skin because I use products with SPF (sun protection factor) and I'm not going every day," she said.

see **Tanning** page 6



Top: An Ashbrook student sets up an appointment for a tanning session at a local salon. Tanning salons have noticed an influx of high school students that use their services.

Ashbrook Football team showing first-place promise

by **AUSTIN BRADSHAW/ Staff Writer**

How can you replace ten starters on defense that ranked at the top of the Big South 3A conference last season?

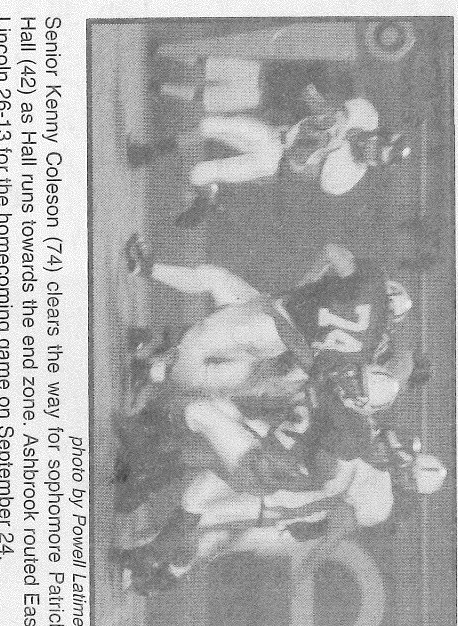
"You can't," said defensive co-coordinator Mike Briggs.

Briggs has the task of reassembling a defense that

lost five first team all-conference performers among others to graduation last year. That leaves junior cornerback Antonio Surratt as the lone remaining starter. Junior linebackers Brandon Newton and John-Michael Wellman also get some playing time.

this season, especially the linebacker trio of Tyler Dennis, Newton, and Wellman. "We're going to need our linebackers to step up because of our inexperience," said Briggs. The young defense has given added pressure to an offense that expects big things from returning senior

running back Eric Boyce. Boyce rushed for over 1,000 yards last year but still feels he has something to prove. "Defenses will be gearing to stop me. I've just got to do my thing to help the team win," said Boyce. Boyce injured his ankle in a



Senior Kenny Coleson (74) clears the way for sophomore Patrick Hall (42) as Hall runs towards the end zone. Ashbrook routed East Lincoln 26-13 for the homecoming game on September 24.

see **Football** page 8

Court Denies Injunction

by **BRYAN COCKFIELD/Co-Editor** AND **PRESTON NEILL/Co-Editor**

North Carolina Superior Court judges upheld a Gaston County Schools policy which prohibits transfer students from participating in athletics for a year following their transfer.

The policy was challenged by Ashbrook freshman and football player Jonathan Ridgeway and his father after transferring from Forestview, and a temporary injunction was issued against the policy until

Superior Court Judge Donald Bridges upheld the original policy.

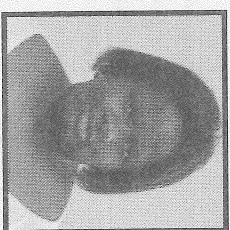
Bridges ruled that the rule did not unjustly punish Ridgeway because he could go back to Forestview to play football, according to the September 15 issue of the *Charlotte Observer*.

According to many, the policy causes conflict in the Gaston County Schools system. However, the purpose of the policy is to keep athletes from

school and unfairness to students.

"I don't think it's fair because some students may not be able to have access to a computer at home," said junior Heather Green. Other students share Green's philosophies.

"I don't think it's fair because we aren't doing anything wrong, plus we aren't hurting anything," said junior Jamie McAbee.



"I think students should be allowed to check email, since not all students have computers at home."

-Brittney Lowery Senior

see **E-mail** page 6

The policy was proposed by Adams shortly after Ashbrook baseball

see **365** page 6

transferring for athletics alone.

"If we had lost (the lawsuit), we'd be back to square one," said Gaston County Schools athletic director Butch Adams in the issue of the *Charlotte Observer*. "But we think this will really bolster our stance."

The policy was proposed by Adams shortly after Ashbrook baseball

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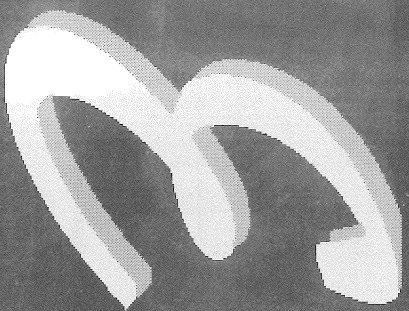
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Sports

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The purpose of this publication is to apprise its readership of pertinent, school-related information and, as a public forum, to offer them the opportunity to publish their convictions in the form of letters-to-the-editor. An editorial board comprised of the editors and adviser reserves the right to review all letters for ethical standards and to edit them for accuracy.

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DISASTERS

Storm Brewing in Student Parking Lot

So far, we've been lucky. Do we let teenagers tear out of the school parking lot at 20 miles per hour over the speed limit and do ridiculous burnouts and other dangerous stunts in cars that do not even belong to them, but belong to their parents? Right now we do, and as a result, many students from other schools have been injured or even killed as a result of reckless teenage driving.

It is commonplace for people nowadays to be reactive rather than proactive; that is, trying to prevent something from happening after it has become a problem rather than taking precautionary measures against events that might eventually pose a problem.

Essentially, the reactive tendencies of people tend to only "save face" for the people who should have been doing something proactive and usually occur after all the damage has been done. But what do we do if we see that something might eventually pose a serious threat? Do we take action immediately to eliminate the problem, while at the same time limiting privileges of those people? Or do we let the problem persist and hope that nothing serious results from it, but when it does, still restrict the privileges of the people, even though all of the harm may have passed? Either way, the people will be left with fewer freedoms.

The real question should not be "What is easier?" but rather "What is better?" A small part of the problem with teenaged driving, especially at school, is that DMV (Division of Motor Vehicles) officers seem to care more about earning a paycheck than safety on the roads. They pass just about anyone on the road test, whether on the first try or the fourth, provided that they have all the

necessary paperwork. But even then, some drivers slip through on the first try because the quality of driving tends to skyrocket with a DMV officer in the car.

However, the most prominent problem, even more so than the actual reckless teenaged drivers, is the parents of those drivers. First of all, in North Carolina, a prospective license holder must have a learner's permit for a year, which generally means that the parents of the driver must be in the passenger seat of the car for a year before the driver can drive on their own. If the parents notice an unsafe trend in their child's driving or if they do not require their child to drive during that year, and then still allow their child to drive a car alone, then the parents are turning their simple family vehicle into a two-ton insurance nightmare that has the potential to put everyone else on the road, including the driver of the car, at risk.

The parents even go as far as to cover for their child when they cause a wreck, get a moving violation such as a speeding ticket, or find that the neighbor's mailbox and/or garbage can needs repairs. Insurance costs for these accidents tend to fall on the parents' shoulders, rather than their child, and the child is still allowed to drive their parent's car.

Rarely does the child even own their car, but if they can't pay for insurance, gasoline, tune-ups, and any other costs, then they don't really own it, because they don't take the full responsibility of owning their car. And also, if they aren't learning from their mistakes, such as a speeding ticket or wild run-in with that tricky garbage can or other nonmoving object, or even another car, then they aren't really learning responsibility.

Contradictive Dress Code in Violation

By **BRYAN COCKFIELD/Junior**
This letter-to-the-editor was misprinted in Wavelengths, Volume 32 No. 2 under the title Dress Code in Violation, and a retraction was refused by the editor and the adviser. It is being printed in its original form and is unabridged.

Every person should go through life knowing that not all rules are fair. Rule makers and other legislators cannot make every rule completely unbiased to every faction in existence. However, some rules at this school have gone beyond these set boundaries and into trivial, meaningless, and tedious territory.

During my freshman exams, I decided to wear a comfortable pair of Old Navy pajama pants to help me relax during my single exam on

necessary paperwork. But even then, some drivers slip through on the first try because the quality of driving tends to skyrocket with a DMV officer in the car.

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that half-day. However, I was stopped by a former assistant principal and told that I wasn't allowed to wear pajama pants to school and that I must call home and have my parents bring some "more presentable" clothing. But why was I being asked to change my clothes in the first place? The only difference between my pants and a pair of American Eagle pants (pants that are standard to every teen-aged male's wardrobe, American Eagle or otherwise) is that the pajama pants had no zipper. They didn't reveal any more "skin" than a regular pair of pants, either. If the administration is so adamant about a "dress code" then they need to crack down on something a little more questionable than the color of a pair of pants. Girls can get away with wearing virtually half a shirt and barely any pants, while teachers and administration are concerned more with the type of pants a guy

happens to wear on an exam day or if they happen to catch a glimpse of that guy's polka-dot Joe Boxers. Some clubs in the school are even allowed to wear clothes that are explicitly prohibited in the dress code. While these clothes obviously achieve their goal of practically forcing students to watch football games, they are a distraction to basically every male student enrolled at this school, in and out of class. The administration needs to reorder their priority of which students' clothes are acceptable and which students' clothes are actually disrupting class, discreetly or indiscreetly, and act according to common sense and logic, rather than the "letter of the law".

Almost completely encircling the pointlessness of the dress code is the way the teachers and administration handle the wearing of hats. Unless a student is wearing a Green Bay Packers cheesecloth or



photo courtesy of www.statemens.com

The Staff Editorial is the expressed written opinion of the Wavelengths staff and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Ashbrook High School administration, teachers, students, or employees.

Retractions

an umbrella hat (which would obviously disrupt any class), the teachers have almost no right to tell the student to take off their hat. A hat is just another method of expression and should be considered another article of clothing. Asking a student to take off their hat is no different from asking the same student to remove a shirt or a shoe. In fact, the only reason a student should be asked to remove a hat is if it is actually disturbing class. It is more of a disturbance for the teacher to stop class and ask for the hat to be removed than it would be for the student to keep his hat on and proceed with class. For that matter, teachers and administrators should have no right whatsoever to ask that a hat be removed during class changes or before and after school.

Any other discrepancies or misprints in last year's Wavelengths may be sent to the staff e-mail for retraction.

Letters to the Editor

Students Demonstrate
Lack of 'Hallway Etiquette'

Stopping abruptly and causing collisions, speeding past others causing whiplash, trampling people, and learning new profanities in English and Spanish.

These actions all take place in the hallways of Ashbrook.
At the beginning of the school year, already students dread walking into the halls. For those who don't know or can't remember, Ashbrook's halls should resemble an interstate. Walking to the right keeps traffic flowing and prevents accidents. Everyone knows that cars drive on the right side of the road, right? Apparently not. Driver's don't stop and park their cars in the middle of an interstate. Just like 18-

wheelers, if a pit stop is needed, students should pull over to the side, not stop absent-mindedly in the middle.

The world won't end if socially inconsiderate students can't walk *right* beside their friends and talk to them all the time. Other people have classes to attend and as important as it may seem to some students, most don't care who Jim cheated on last weekend or when Mandy skipped school. Talk to friends before or after school or write a note (not in class, of course). Not only will this create an opportunity to catch up on the latest gossip, but maybe students will be able to get to class on time. After all, this remains the top priority for most students. As a student who is 'vertically challenged', much like others, I know first

hand that some people just don't look where their next step will be. Even after they slam into you as rushing by, not even a 'Sorry' or 'Excuse me' escapes their mouths. Most people don't know what a huge difference these small words can make. It makes things just a little better after being hit in a head-on collision.

Students should try thinking of others around them by substituting a more subdued word for one of those four-letter words we seem to know so well. Those words are usually unnecessary and yet they get thrown around so often, especially in between classes.

I propose that the halls be divided into lanes—north, south, and a turn lane. The honor system should play a roll where stairs

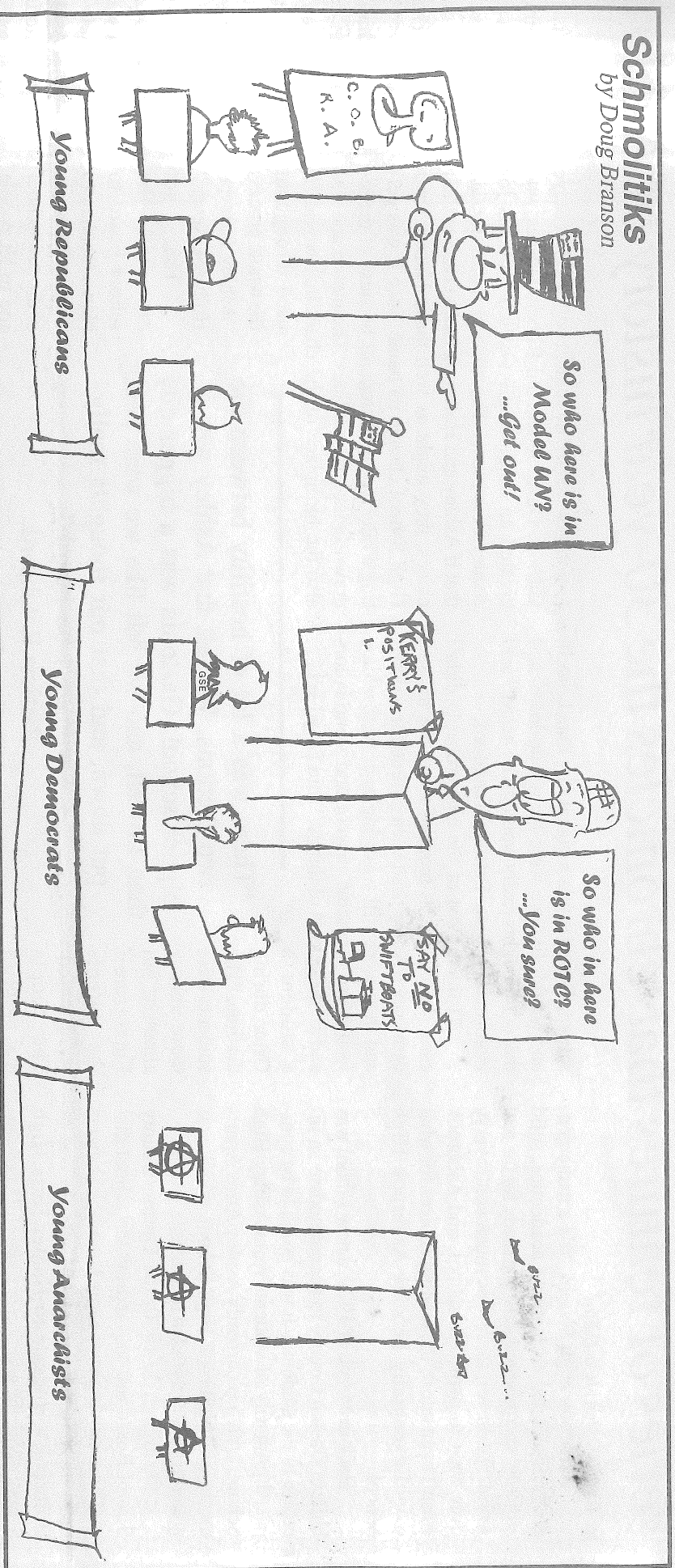
and intersections come into play. Five minutes is more than enough time to get from one class to another and stop by your locker in most cases. It *should* be enough time to show some patience at an intersection and not pass on a solid line.

Hall monitors would enforce these new traffic lanes by handing out detention slips to those disobeying the law. Students may eventually catch on and get tired of suffering detention each afternoon, leading to order in our halls.

So students, let's show some consideration to those around us, and maybe we won't have to take such a ridiculous proposal into action. If it finally comes down to it, what's next? Stop lights at every locker?

BY CARB WILLIAMSON/Junior

Schmolitiks
by Doug Branson



Summer Internships Give
Valuable Experience

By Craig Rawe

Many college students spend their summers as interns in the field of their major. They act as "apprentices," so to speak, doing clerical work for a law firm, participating in laboratory research, or even following architects to construction sites. Most of us will probably be doing it in a couple of years.

Every now and then, high school students can get lucky and become interns themselves. I had this opportunity this summer and I saw what it's like to be a "working professional." Well, I wasn't paid. In fact, most internships are not. But it's the experience that really counts. It's a great way to explore a field or profession that you might be interested in. You can find out if you hate it, or if you love it. Sometimes, you even get credit for college classes.

I was an intern for Sue Myrick for Congress, the re-election campaign of our Congresswoman. Everyday I drove from Gastonia to Charlotte to help plan events, answer phones, and deal with campaign strategies. I hate to use the old cliché, but it really was a "hands-on" experience. I worked in an environment that was fast-paced and where the tasks were different everyday.

The work included interaction with Charlotte business and community leaders, as well as bringing so many little details together to put on a major event. Some days, I would hunt out spots around Charlotte for campaign signs. Other days, I would work the phones to get people to attend our major fundraising event. I ended up calling Ken Thompson, CEO of Bank of America, and

Jerry Richardson, owner of the Carolina Panthers. Here I learned how to leave messages with secretaries, an important skill in the business world.

I also did just regular office work, like answer the phone. Most of the time I was just acting as a secretary for others in the office, but there were a few "random" calls that you have to learn to deal with. I'm sure it's that way everywhere.

Once a man called to tell us when the end of the world is. I'm so glad there are people who know these things. He said that the end of the world is, in fact, on October 14 of this year. Ironically, for us, this is parent-teacher conference day.
But the main thing is that it's hard for us to just pick a career field, much less a job. That's why it's a great idea to find an internship at some point, especially if it's still during high school. Even though you probably won't get paid, you might find something you really enjoy. If nothing else, an internship can make you feel older and important for a while.

And as far as party affiliation goes, it doesn't matter what party anyone supports when in high school, as long as an educated opinion is voiced, because this is how better party relations are developed.

My internship definitely gave me an understanding of what it's like to be at the center of politics. Do I want to go into politics myself? Who knows? But the internship, if nothing else, gave me an understanding of how to communicate with adults on a business level to get things done.

Governor's School
Promotes Excellence

By Sally Peach

For most high school students, the thought of spending their precious days of summer vacation at any type of school is their worst nightmare. But for those who attended the Governor's School of North Carolina this summer, it was far from that. In fact, it was an incredible life-changing event.

The greatest misconceptions about Governor's School arise from its title. First of all, the students who attended the program did NOT receive training to become governors. Secondly, it was not really a "school." Sure, there were classes and teachers, but more time was spent playing ultimate Frisbee, hacky sack, mud wrestling, or eating pizza than sitting in a classroom. Thus, the connotations associated with "Governor's" "School" do not apply.

So what was Governor's School? Imagine 400 of the most talented, most intelligent, and most creative rising juniors and seniors in the state coming together on a college campus. No longer did the rules of high school apply. No longer were periods determined by a bell and lunches confined to a mere twenty-five minutes. No longer did common stereotypes torture and plague students. Instead, the atmosphere was one of choice and freedom.

All students were required to attend two classes per day in their core subject and three classes per week of both philosophy and a class on social issues. There were also required weekly speakers and films (such as "Donnie Darko," "Pi," and "Bamboozled"), but beyond these required events, students were free to spend their time as they chose.

Many of the free hours were spent taking electives. Unlike most high school electives, these classes or gatherings were interesting and pertinent to a teenager's life. There were classes on anything from swing dancing to Buddhism, yoga to chess, and fencing to feminism. Poetry readings became popular, as did both the foreign film series and the Hong Cong film series. Everyday there was something new to learn, do, or experience.

Even with all the classes and electives, more time remained. Students had the opportunity to be a part of organized sports teams, but many preferred to be physically active on their own time. Vicious ping-pong matches, early morning runs, and leisurely swims in the pool were all a part of the Governor's School experience. And for those who chose not to be on the go, there were student-run video game tournaments, trips to Ben and Jerry's and Applebees, and plenty of guitar-playing and singing. The opportunities for entertainment were endless.

In many ways, Governor's School was like a small taste of college. Students lived in college dorms, and their intellect was stimulated by professors and academically-focused peers. For six weeks, the students existed apart from their parents, in an environment where they had to make their own decisions. In many ways, it was paradise. When you hear the words "Governor's School" on the announcements in the spring, don't tune them out. Instead, listen intently for instructions on how to apply, otherwise, you may miss out on the opportunity to experience six weeks of excellence.



WILHELM BOCCARNO

Last year marked the thirtieth anniversary of the first class way through Ashbrook High School and graduate. This is the series of features that chronicles the 30-year history of Ashbrook

By Preston Neill/Co-Editor

Ashbrook High School. It's a name generally associated with strong academics, solid athletics, and producing people ready for the real world. However, there was much controversy over what to name the school, and Ashbrook wasn't even one of the leading choices for what would eventually become Ashbrook High School.

Back in March of 1970, a new school was built in Gaston County to accommodate an increase in the students. It was going to be composed primarily of students from Ashley High School, which is currently Ashley Arms Apartments, and Holbrook High School, which was going to be downgraded to a middle school.

On March 7, 1970, the Gaston County School Board met and redrew the school district lines moving even more Holbrook students in the new school district and sent the rest of Holbrook's students to Hunter Huss High School. With the addition of more Holbrook students to the new school, a new debate had begun over what to call the new building.

Gaston County school official's held a secret meeting days later to unofficially name the school Ashley High School as originally planned, since uniforms for the school had already been ordered for Ashley High School and that was the original intent for the land when the county purchased it. But as word got out Holbrook parents and students wanted to see a change.

They argued that both schools were named after principals who had been loved by the community, Frank L. Ashley, and J.M. Holbrook, and that the school board should come up with a new name or go in favor of a combination name. "There was a lot of hostility between the two factions. We felt that Ashley was a bigger

school, Gastonia was a bigger city than Lowell, and we felt like we were being put down, and that our thoughts really wouldn't be heard," said Holbrook graduate Patricia Ratchford.

"I think most of the city probably didn't care. I think it was more of a deal for the students since Ashley had been around for so long, and they were still wavering over whether they would use the same mascot and same colors and all those kind of things," said Lloyd White, a student at

Grier during the time. "The students were more uneasy about it, but I'm not sure if the parents really cared. The people that went to Ashley cared, and the people at

Huss thought it was a joke." Students felt the need to speak up on the process and took matters into their own hands. On March 13, Holbrook put on its spring production "What's Going On Here." That night, students from Ashley High School entered Holbrook and spray painted on the door of the auditorium "ASHLEY". The vandals then moved to the band room before they were chased off by Holbrook faculty members.

Ashley students also planned a motorcade rally that would go from the old Ashley High School to the new site and would try and convince people to maintain the Ashley name. The

motorcade was led by student body leaders Steve Gibson, David Goff, and Robert Starnes who created an organization called Students for Ashley Committee. The students at the rally said that if Ashley and Holbrook had to change their names, they might as well make Hunter Huss High School change its name since it was getting a bunch of new students because of the redrawn school district lines. The motorcade was also the birthplace of the chant that would be

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-Patricia Ratchford
Holbrook graduate

used throughout the whole process "Ashley Forever, Holbrook Never."

The act prompted the school board to plan a meeting to discuss the name of the new school and to let people in the community voice their opinions over the mat-

ter.

On March 16, the school board met and was to make a final decision on the name of the school. Grady Scott, a pro-Ashley spokesman, argued to the board that the new school would have a 6-1 ratio of Ashley students to Holbrook students and should still carry the name of Ashley. Dr. Lowell Jennings countered the argument. "We're forgetting one thing. It's not students we are bringing together in one school, we're uniting two schools."

Former vice-chairman of Gastonia, Larry Petty, said "[Naming the school] is beginning to overshadow and arouse much more interest than

other aspects."

Petty, himself the charge to respond a compromise of the previous Holbrook. The new name.

"I think they shouldn't even and name it some Hope High School to come up with new color," said

The board's both Ashley High In protest of the each school was approximately 4 first bell at Ashley left Grier Middle wards Ashley.

"We just did everybody walk things were done protested and even around somewhat and hollered," said Middle School. It but all our big protesting and at the first class to school."

The student each other, and "School Board (School Board" the class president B dent Starnes

History in the Making:

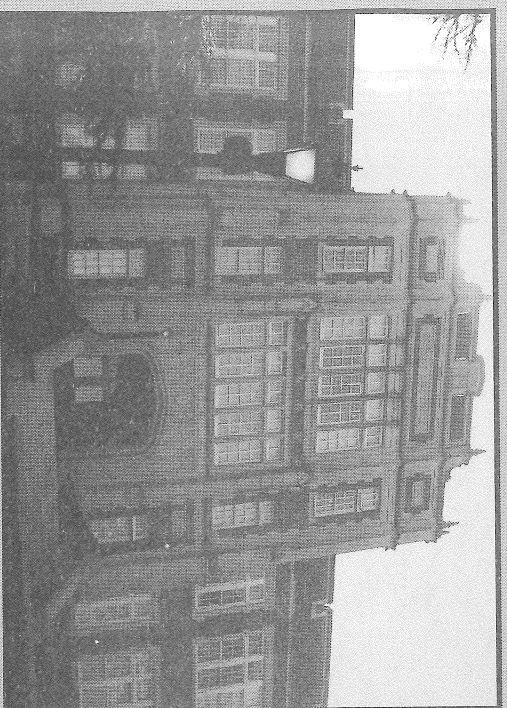


photo courtesy of Preston Neill

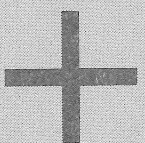


photo courtesy of Gaston County Schools

Gastonia High School
Ashley High School

Holbrook High School

Two

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cause back in the 60's, That was just the way didn't like something you y walked out, marched ied signs, and screamed , who walked out at Grier sure that we cared about rs and big sisters were and we would have been e way through the new

ley led a chant amongst ed a banner that read l Name- Ashley Change ing addressed by senior ser and junior class presi-



Left: In the photo, taken from the March 18, 1970 issue of the *Gaston Gazette*, Ashley students are protesting the name 'Ashbrook' by walking out. The walk out lasted in front of Ashley High School for almost an hour, before the students returned back to class. Many students from both Ashley and Holbrook High Schools were upset over the names that were proposed by the Gaston County School Board for the new school on New Hope Road.

If Ashbrook and another high school were to merge, how would you like to see the name handled?



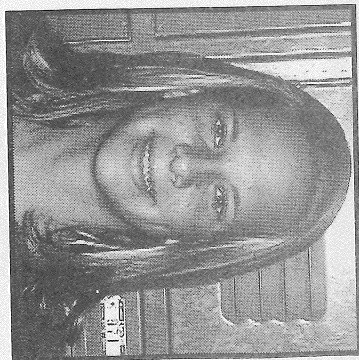
"If there was an entirely new location, with a half and half student population, the name should be half and half"
David Moore
-Senior



"It depends on the schools. I mean, you could get 'Forestash'"
Patrick McCarter
-Senior



"It really depends on the schools involved. If Ashbrook and Cherryville were to merge it should be 'Ashville'"
Anna Winters
-Freshman



"If it was two schools put together you might as well put the names together"
Brittany Walker
-Sophomore



photo courtesy of Preston Neill

Ashbrook High School

Next issue, Part Two of the series will chronicle the history of the Bell that Hunter Huss High School and Ashbrook battle for in their annual showdown, and the people behind the names of the athletic facilities and roads around Ashbrook.

"I think most boards and groups will do what they percieve to be least damage overall. They had two groups that they had to appease, and with no other viable options, Ashbrook became the best option," said White. "There were even people that complained that Holbrook got more letters in the name, Ashley got three and Holbrook got five. Every screwy thing imaginable got thrown up there."

The students of both schools were able to avoid suspension by signing an agreement proposed to them by the schools.

However, the students at Ashley and Grier were still unhappy with the ruling, and Starnes still planned to submit the name Ashley to the school board again to try and give it one last charge at a change.

"I feel we have made our point to the community and the school board," Starnes said to the crowd. "The school board has cheated us out of all that we have worked for and all our alma mater stands for."

After an hour of protesting in the lawn of Ashley High School, the students returned to class.

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"I think most boards and groups will do what they percieve to be least damage overall. They had two groups that they had to appease, and with no other viable options, Ashbrook became the best option," said White. "There were even people that complained that Holbrook got more letters in the name, Ashley got three and Holbrook got five. Every screwy thing imaginable got thrown up there."

Tanning continued from 1

Many girls surveyed say they only go to the tanning bed before prom or at the beginning of the summer for a 'base tan'. However, tanning is the skin's reaction to injury from harmful ultraviolet rays. Overexposure to the sun can lead to later health complications and premature aging. In addition to skin cancer, tanning may cause damage to the skin in other ways, such as giving skin a 'leathery' look and feel. Students are tanning to look better, but they are only trading the short-term for the long-term.

Tanning beds give off short wave ultraviolet (UVB) rays and the more dangerous longer wave ultraviolet (UVA) rays. UVA rays are longer and deeply penetrate the skin, basically 'cooking' the skin from the inside out. The use of tanning devices may contribute to non-melanoma cancers, such as basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. The risk is highest for those who first use tanning devices before the age of 20.

At the age of 16, Marla Cody, a local melanoma survivor, began going to the tanning bed every day for

the first two weeks and three times a week from then on, until the age of 33. In September of 2003, she was diagnosed with melanoma.

"Melanoma is the worst type of skin cancer and most people don't realize that if it's not caught early, it can spread to other parts of the body and be fatal," said Marla. She feels that if she had not excessively tanned and had used more sunscreen, cancer could have been prevented.

Melanoma is most common in middle-aged men. However, the number of women getting this deadly form of skin cancer is steadily rising due to extreme sunbathing and exposure to the more harmful UVA rays. It is also a very uncommon form of skin cancer, though it is the most life-threatening.

Mrs. Stewart, teacher and cheerleading coach at Ashbrook, feels that after 40 years of sun and very little sunscreen, she worries about overexposure to the sun, especially with her daughter. As cheerleading coach, she leaves it up to the team members to decide about tanning bed habits among themselves and their parents.

"Many of the more fair-skinned team members who want to look better in their white uniforms use sunless-tanner," she says.

The latest in sunless-tanners are the Mystic Tan and bronzing tanners, which

showing results within seconds and promising a streak-free tan look. These are beneficial alternatives for those who burn easily or don't want to jeopardize their health.

With the rise in awareness of skin cancer, many students are taking extra precaution to wear sunscreen, hats, and sunbathe in limited amounts.

"When I was younger, I didn't worry about the risk much. Today, it seems that people are more informed about the risks of tanning," said Marla, "Sometimes, you just have to worry about the possibility of what may happen ten years from now."

E-mail continued from 1

However, the School Board does not see eye to eye with the students.

"It's a school board policy. We can't use e-mail at school anymore because of the viruses that students bring in by opening e-mail, and it all took up too much room on the network," says Sue Corbett, the Ashbrook librarian. Also, the computers are bought for Gaston County Schools by Gaston County Schools and according to Corbett are to be used "just for

instructional and educational purposes".

Corbett notes that even teachers are not allowed to use their personal e-mail at school, but they can use their school e-mail addresses that have numerous virus blockers on them.

Some students say that students should have their own school e-mail addresses so it could eliminate the problems.

However, if each student had their own e-mail address allotted to them by the school board, then the same problems would be presented as before this year. Students could still receive e-mail on their school account containing viruses and it nevertheless take up too much room on the network.

365 continued from 1

player Sammy Asis, class of 2004, transferred to Ashbrook from Forestview. While Asis's transfer may not have been purely for athletic reasons alone, a large fuss was thrown about Asis playing baseball at Ashbrook. Coincidentally, the season Asis played was the same season the Greenwave won the 3A State Championship in baseball, and some think that Ashbrook may not have gone as far in the state tournament without standout Asis on the roster for the Greenwave.

Most coaches at Ashbrook believe that transferring based on athletic reasons alone is not a valid reason for transferring to another school, but they also don't have any alternatives.

"A rule needs to be in place, but I'm not sure that the 365 rule is the best way of going about it," said JV baseball and volleyball coach Brian Horne, "A lot of students used parents' or grandparents' addresses to transfer or took classes like ROTC to sidestep the rule."

Students don't believe that the policy goes far enough. If it is to stay in its current form, the policy only restricts athletes, which does not include cheerleaders. Clubs, including band and chorus, also do not fall under the policy's jurisdiction.

"It's not fair for athletes to be punished. If they are going to have a rule like this, they need to extend it to everything," said sophomore Tameka Mackins. "And, for some athletes, having them sit out a year makes them lose interest in the sport in high school."

However the policy has been addressed by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and follows other counties policies, including Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg County also requires its students to sit out for a year following a transfer. Students can pick which schools they want to attend in the first place, so many believe that the rule does not carry as much weight as it does in Gaston County.

The Wavelengths staff would appreciate an reader feedback by e-mail about this article.

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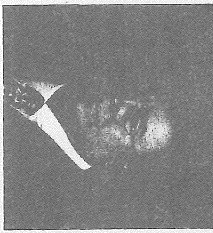
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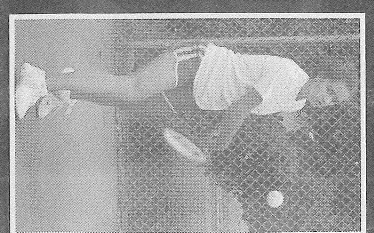
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SPORTS

Questioning ≠ Equality

Women's Tennis team gains new all-state hopefuls and new coach, makes waves in Big South conference and regional-level match ups.

see page 8



Spotlight Game

Men's Soccer Ashbrook 2 Forestview 1

Ashbrook ends Forestview's 3 year conference unbeaten streak on 9/28/04.

Remaining Schedules

Football

10/08/04 SOUTH POINT
10/15/04 @ East Gaston
10/22/04 @ Forestview
10/29/04 @ Berry
11/05/04 HUNTER HUSS

Soccer

10/06/04 HUNTER HUSS
10/11/04 @ East Lincoln
10/13/04 N. GASTON
10/18/04 @ South Point
10/20/04 EAST GASTON
10/25/04 FORESTVIEW
10/27/04 @ Hunter Huss

Volleyball

10/05/04 EAST GASTON
10/07/04 FORESTVIEW
10/12/04 @ Berry
10/14/04 @ Hunter Huss

Women's Tennis

10/05/04 BERRY
10/07/04 HUNTER HUSS

Cross Country

10/06/04 @ Weddington
10/19/04 Conference Meet

Women's Golf

10/04/04 @ East Lincoln
10/11/04 @ North Gaston
10/18/04 Regional

JV Corner

Volleyball 10-3 (6-2)

The volleyball team shows that there is much depth for future varsity teams with an outstanding winning percentage.

Football 3-0 (1-0)

The football team won conference last year and is undefeated so far this year.

Soccer 6-0-1

Heading to the season's end, The soccer team shows that Ashbrook has as much depth as it needs.

Prospects play new game with college scouts, compete with other athletes for roster positions

by KERRY MEULMAN AND CATHERINE STOVER/Staff Writers

To junior Devin Harris, it's not just about getting home, it's about who sees him slide home.

Harris, along with other top high school athletes, feels the pressure of college recruiting. According to Harris, the recruiting process is more stressful and difficult than people realize. Major colleges bring in millions of dollars through their sports programs and expect their teams to win.

"It's a business, if they don't recruit what they feel like is the best kid in the state of North Carolina, the coaches will get fired," said Mike Briggs, assistant coordinator for Ashbrook's football team and former A.D. from North Gaston.

It can also be hard for an athlete to get into a school they want to go to. Recruiters may lie or exaggerate by saying that they want the athlete. The first thing coaches look for is the best athlete that they can get in a position to fulfill the needs of the position.

"If you are a linebacker in football and they are not looking for one, they are not going to take you, no matter how good you are," Briggs said. "If you don't show interest, they will get off you just as quick as they got on you."

Once recruiters have contacted an athlete, they hold four official visits, all expenses paid, to look at their top four choices of schools. After the fourth visit the athletes have to pay for it themselves, so choices are limited.

Last year Coach Briggs went through this process with his son, Michael, so he is very familiar with the recruiting business.

"The recruiting process is nasty, the worst I have been through, and it gets worse every year," Briggs said.

Senior Drew Martin has finished the recruiting process. After looking at several schools, such as Virginia Tech, Wake Forest, Western Carolina and Duke, he decided to sign with NC State.

"It was the best fit for me, I liked the coaches and the players, and they gave me scholarship money," said Martin.

Martin says that the pressure is now off for recruiting because he has already signed with State. However, the pressure remains because he could lose his scholarship in the occurrence of a mishap or injury.

"I can either lose or gain a scholarship, it just depends on a yearly basis, but they can take it away when they want," said Martin.

Coaches, parents and athletes say that they also have to convince the recruits how good they actually are. This involves making tapes and pushing their athlete on them, by showing what the athlete has achieved or done. The athlete then has to try and find out what schools he or she wants to go to and try their best to get into that school.

However, it's not all about the athlete's physical abilities. The recruiters look at GPA and SAT scores as well. The athlete needs at least a GPA of a 3.0.

"Now obviously the better athlete you are the better chances you have of getting into a major university. Right or wrong that's the way it works," said Briggs.

Not all high school athletes are as fortunate as Martin or Michael. Most do not get to play in college, because they do not have the desire, time or talent.

"It depends on what is driving the athlete," said James Parks, baseball coach at Ashbrook. "Is it the love of the sport, scholarship money to get into college, parent's dream or just the will to play in college?"

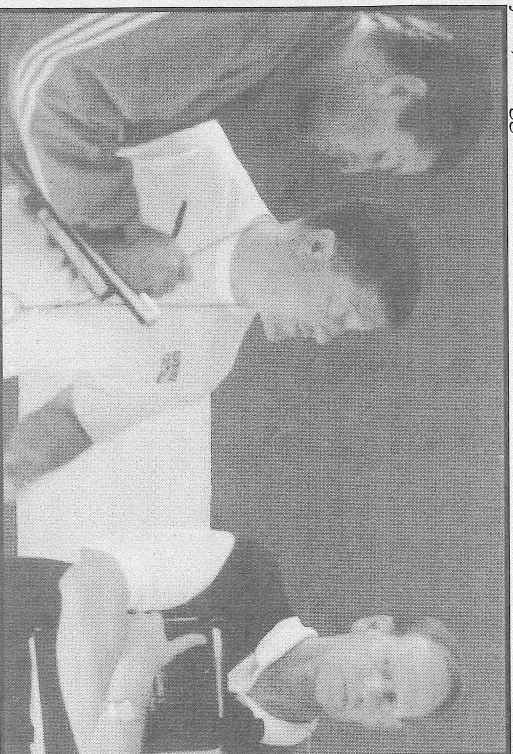


photo courtesy of Leaves of Green, 2004
Defensive coordinator and parent Mike Briggs (center) and head football coach Joe Shepard (right) discuss the future of an Ashbrook athlete with a college recruiter. Briggs had to confer with recruiters for most of last year because his son, Michael, was heavily recruited by many colleges to play football.

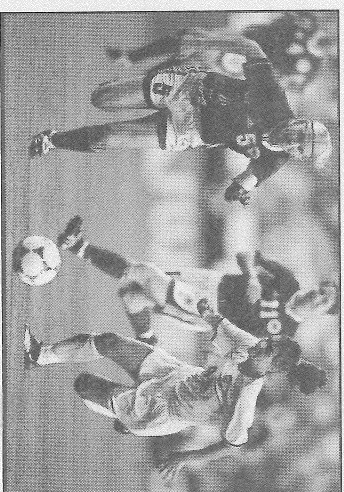


photo courtesy of www.usesdofr.de

Title IX may be guilty of reverse discrimination in college and high school athletics nationwide

by BRAXN COCKFIELD/Co-Editor

Since 1972, a law has been in effect that was intended to stop discrimination against women in high school and college athletics.

Title Nine (IX) prohibits schools that receive any federal funding from practicing gender discrimination in educational programs or activities. While Title IX is put into effect for nearly every academic program and can be applied to elementary school students, it particularly refers to the equal opportunities in athletics.

Before the law's enactment, a judge could literally cut a woman from a men's high school athletic team, even if there was no women's sport for substitute.

Since then, Title IX has paved the way for 2.4 million high school women to play their sport of choice and has even helped such icons as Mia Hamm to stand out in professional soccer and Sheryl Swoopes excel in professional basketball.

"Without Title IX, I'd be nowhere," said Cheryl Miller, a member on the 1984 gold medal women's basketball team. The Olympic gold medal teams of 1984 and 1996 were a bonus to what legislators aimed for when Title IX was signed into effect by former president Richard Nixon in 1972.

Since then, the law has also been interpreted to keep any school from having too many more men's sports than women's sports.

However, opposition against Title IX has come in that area of the law and has become so prominent that the Members of the Commission on Opportunities in Athletics have decided to revise the law. Many men's sports have been cut in to balance the number of men and women's sports, and many people think that it has gone too far.

In 1981, in response to Title IX's enactment in 1972, Auburn University, followed by the University of Wyoming and East Carolina University were forced to cut wrestling programs.

Between 1982 to 1999, women's teams rose by 3,616,

while more than 400 collegiate men's teams were eliminated, according to the U.S. Accounting Office.

Currently, a board of athletic and academic leaders appointed by Education Secretary Rod Paige is focusing on whether creating athletic opportunities for women have limited those for men.

The National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) thinks so. They have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Education, saying that Title IX discriminates against male athletes. Two other groups, the US Track and Field Association and the Men's Gymnastics Association, have joined the NWCA's suit.

"The fact of the matter is that we've lost almost half our programs in wrestling since Title IX was made law 25 to 30 years ago," says Gary Abbott, director of special projects for USA Wrestling, the group responsible for the American Olympic wrestling team.

The problem with Title IX, explains Abbot in a *Village Voice* article, is that it forces non-revenue sports like track and wrestling to comply to gender quotas. That is the reason for the disbanding of many of the wrestling programs.

Title IX reformers have said that a change will help. They want to amend the law to make it easier to accept private funding and also to make it easier for schools to comply with Title IX.

These changes are not without opposition from women's groups. "They put the burden right back on women to have to fight for their rights, to have to argue in court," said Marcia Greenberger, co-president of the National Women's Law Center. "That's another generation of students who lose an equal shot at playing."

With Myles Brand, the president of the NCAA, opposing any change to Title IX, changing the 30-year old law to compensate men's sports may be more difficult than originally planned. "Title IX has been used as an excuse to close these programs," said Brand in an article for the associated press. "It is not the reason."

The Ripples Before the Wave

By Powell Latimer



I have been hearing predictions like "Ashbrook will lose to Myers Park tonight, because we can't play defense," and other remarks about the Ashbrook football team's lack of defense. But the games that have been played so far have made me think that popular opinion was incorrect.

However, taking others' views to be true, I went to the first game of the season apprehensive about our chances. I remained so until the end of the game which Ashbrook sealed, not with an offensive score, but on a clutch defensive play by senior defensive back Troy Elder. In the end, with Myers Park knocking down the door, it was the defense who intercepted the pass, ending the last hopes of Myers Park. Allow me to repeat for effect: on an interception by the *Ashbrook defense*. How could this be when the all-knowing masses condemned our chances?

I present two cases for the defense: Linebacker Brandon Newton, and Cornerback Antonio Surratt. Newton had 13 tackles and showed an unearthly thirst for contact, while Surratt broke up two pivotal

pass plays to stop Myers Park's last drive late in the fourth quarter. Surratt and Newton shed light on a fast-developing defensive squad.

While the wave's offense put them in position to win, it came down to the defense, and there can be no complaints with the performance. They came through in the clutch and helped save the green wave victory. The defense will use this first game as a springboard. Newton and Surratt were only the first players to develop. Others will shine in other situations, and big plays will be made by many as the defense becomes more comfortable.

The Greenwave defense, after losing 10 starters from last year, looks to be in capable hands. They showed their potential against Myers Park and they will undoubtedly perform again under similar circumstances. In the future, look to see big plays when the game is on the line... from the defense. And not necessarily Newton or Surratt, but others will emerge as well. In other words, Newton and Surratt are just the ripples before the wave.

Football continued from page 1

preseason scrimmage against Shelby and missed the first two games.

Juniors Josh Blake and Antonio Surratt have filled in for Boyce. Blake has rushed for 200 yards and two touchdowns in the first two games. Surratt has rushed for two scores, and caught a touchdown pass from senior quarterback Cole Russell.

Russell led the Greenwave to victories in their first two games. Ashbrook won 28 to 22 over Myers Park in the beginning of the

season. Surratt, Blake, senior Phillip Ford, and Russell led a ground attack that totaled over 300 yards.

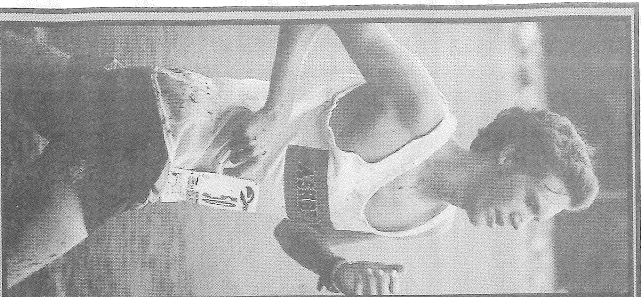
Russell also threw two touchdown passes, including the game winner in the overtime game against Clover. Antonio Surratt caught a 13-yard touchdown pass in this game to put the Wave up, and they finished out the win 35 to 34. After allowing over 400 yards during the game, Ashbrook's defense held Clover a half yard short of the goal line to secure the win.

Ashbrook was picked by the coaches to finish 1st in the conference, slightly ahead of conference rival South Point.

Cross Country

Left: Senior Austin Munnell strides ahead in an invitational meet at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The men's team finished third and was led by Craig Rawe, the ninth place finisher overall. The men's team is currently ranked eighth in the state by NC Prep Track's coaches poll.

Right: Senior Jessica Allen passes Forestview's Katie Stover in the same invitational meet at UNCW. Allen finished second for Ashbrook, behind standout sophomore Britany Walker. Walker finished fourth as the women's team finished ninth.



Photos courtesy of Al Hess

Serving up Another Round

By Amber Ramey/Staff Writer

Volleyball coach Brian Home, who is the boys JV baseball coach, was brought in for the 2003 season last year with no prior coaching experience in volleyball. This gave the girls more responsibility in keeping the team together and focused. They ended last year's season better than any season Ashbrook's volleyball program has ever had, and players claim that last year's success gave them some recognition because people are starting to show interest in the volleyball program.

This year the lady wave hopes to win conference and make it to the state playoffs. This season they lost five seniors including setter Paige Reep and hitter Lisa Palotta. With these high expectations and big shoes to be filled, Coach Home has made small changes such as harder and more strict practices to get his team ready.

"I feel confident going into this season about our chances of going to the state playoffs," said senior Kayla Short. Short also says that the team will get help from sophomore Angely Runyon, a former JV player.

Junior Jessica Boone, co-captain along with Maddie Kirlin, is making a great contribution to the team also, says Bolick.

Ashbrook has a big non-conference match with Kings Mountain, and they have a good chance of showing past state champions what they are made of. They are also playing conference rivals East Lincoln this year is going to be different says Short. The Lady Wave have never defeated East Lincoln in volleyball but Bolick says we feel very confident with our chances this year going up against big team rivals.

Key Additions Give Women's Tennis Championship Aspirations

By Austin Bradshaw/Staff Writer

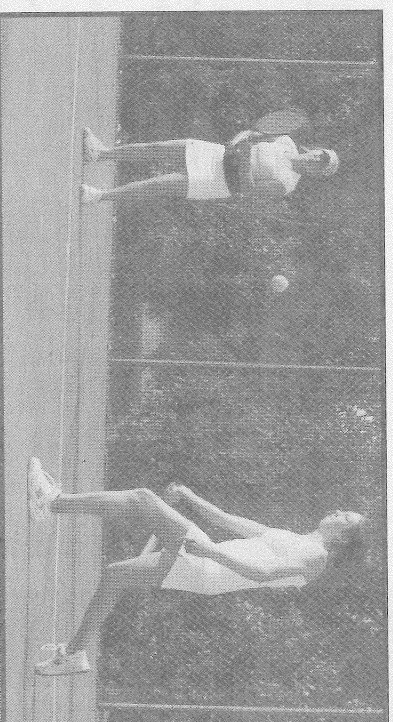
With the addition of two all-state caliber players and three additional players, first year girl's tennis coach Richard Carsner has reason to be optimistic about his team's chances this year.

"We should challenge Forestview for the conference title, go far in states, and have two all-state players in Nina Burgoon and Betsy Hauer," said Carsner.

Senior Ashley Burgess, junior Burgoon, sophomore Hauer, and freshmen Sarah Geyer and Ashley Moore have been added to the line-up, which returned last years number one player, sophomore Kathryn Hannon.

One key to these hopes is new number one Burgoon. She comes from Clover High School and is currently ranked among the top ten in the state in her age group. She also knows that team goals are more important than individual achievements.

"We're all one big team, whether you're playing or sitting on the sideline," said Burgoon.



Women's Golf gets a Par Four

By Powell Latimer/Staff Writer

The AHS girl's golf team will look to repeat a year in which they completed the most successful girl's golf season in the history of our school. Last year, the team won its first ever conference match and went from last to second in the conference. This year they expect to continue their record-setting ways.

The entire team that was second place in the conference last year is back, along with some key additions that the team hopes will take it to the top of the conference.

Entering its third year as a program, the Ashbrook women's golf team is used to flying under the radar. There is no protest coming from the girls who yell "fore!" as football, baseball and other sports suck up the vast majority of school and state funding. That is because until recently, there hasn't been much to notice about the women's golf program. Only last year did they win their first conference match. But while other sports pump out titles and championships, women's golf is building its own formidable resume of success.

Two players went to the state championships last year and the team could possibly send 4 players this upcoming year. That would be the equivalent of sending 4 Senior football players to the Shrine Bowl (the North Carolina high school "all-star" game), and not even the Ashbrook state champions of two years ago managed that.

"We've got a really good group of girls. They have all put in a considerable amount of time coming to practice, things like that," says coach Steve Hudgins. "We went to Greensboro for a tournament and playing in that tournament will help our chances."

Ashbrook's success is due mostly because it returns all of its top four players from last year, according to Hudgins. Those four players placed second in the conference last year and gained valuable experience that they will impart to the two new additions of Carie Williamson and Lella Mackie.

Current number four, senior Burgess, is enjoying success, in her first year of tennis for Ashbrook. Burgess has played recreationally throughout high school. Sophomore Hauer is also playing tennis for the first time at Ashbrook.

The overall team has also lived up to their preseason billing by beginning the season with a 3-1 record. The Greenwave opened the season in convincing fashion beating conference rival South Point 9-0. They followed with a thrilling 5-4 victory over 4A powerhouse Park in the next match. The lone blemish came at the hands of Forestview, but the Wave bounced back nicely against the Lincolnton Wolves in their next match, winning 9-1.

Coach Carsner still knows his team has work to do at the bottom of the line-up in the lower seeds, but he feels the team has time to get the kinks worked out in time to challenge for conference and state titles.

"We just need to sort out the some stuff and we'll be fine," said Carsner.

Men's Soccer Crashes Forestview's Party

By Powell Latimer/Staff Writer

For three years Ashbrook men's soccer has had one goal in mind: beat Forestview. And for three years, they have struggled to find that elusive upset. On September 28th the visiting Green Wave stormed into Forestview and dethroned the number one team in the conference in an improbable victory, ending their 31 game conference win streak.

"Everything just came together for us, said senior Patrick Nelli. "We showed a lot of heart and we played hard."

Ashbrook pulled out the win despite struggling with an ineffective offense in the first half of the game. However, the offense came on strong in the second half, with two goals by freshman Andy Rangel. Rangel game winner came from 35 yards out on desperation shot.

"I can't believe that he made that shot said junior Jacob Kahn. "It had to be from 30-40 yards out. That's just ridiculous."

Other strong offensive performances were put in by junior forwards Alden Brook and Wes Taylor. Taylor, who struggled in the Gazette Cup earlier this season, has been strong in recent games. Brooks has been consistent performer and is one of the better players in the conference. His total of 11 goals thus far in the season is second in the conference. Rangel, the third forward in the potent Ashbrook offense, is the dark horse of the squad. He is an explosive talent capable of scoring multiple goals every game though he has been inconsistent at times during his freshman year.

The Green Wave defense is led by Senior Patrick Nelli and juniors Domin Yavalak and Stephen Love. Nelli, along with seniors Peter Haley, Juan Taberes and Bryon Villada, are valuable on-the-field teaching tools for the younger players.

The Green Wave adds the victory over Forestview to other impressive wins over South Point, as well as an undefeated conference record.