

## Wildcat Baseball team on a roll

By JAMES JORDAN  
The Dispatch-News

Lexington High School's baseball team rolled up 27 runs and gave up just one last week in three victories.

The team beat Aiken 6-0, and beat Airport 11-1 in two region games. On Saturday the team beat Hillcrest 10-0 in five innings.

Starting pitchers Mitch Norris (3-0), Charlie Pagan (2-0), and Aaron Rawl (3-0) each picked up wins during the week.

Pagan also was four for six at the plate during the week.

In the game with Aiken, Pagan, Blake Britt and Bert Rollins each had two hits.

In the game with Airport, Rollins, Norris, Pagan and Rawl each had two hits. Blaine Richardson had a home run and two RBI.

Rawl was also the winning pitcher against Hillcrest, striking out nine and walking three in five innings.

Lexington coach Tommy Williams said his team's pitching has been strong, which is what was expected going into the season.

"They are about where we thought they would be. We are playing well now," he said.

The Wildcats are 10-1 overall and 5-0 in region play. So far the team has won five, lost one and then won five in a row Williams said he liked the wins but the wins but he doesn't want to see a trend develop as far as winning streaks go.

The team was to have played at South Aiken Monday, hosted Irmo Tuesday and is to host North Augusta Friday.

Lexington is ranked sixth in the latest Coaches Poll.

Pagan is leading the team in batting with a .486 average. With two wins as a pitcher, he also has the team's lowest ERA at 1.14.

Richardson (.441) and Norris (.447) are the only other players batting over .400.



PITCHING SHOWDOWN - Lexington softball pitcher Sarah Areheart, left, and Brookland-Cayce pitcher Jennifer Owens will lead their teams against each other in a battle against the top ranked teams in Class AAAA and Class AAA. The game is scheduled for 6 p.m. today at Lexington High School.

## Gilbert finds itself, beats Pelion 11-3

By JAMES JORDAN  
The Dispatch-News

After an 0-3 start on the season, the Gilbert High School softball team has turned itself around, winning five of its last six games.

Their latest win was an 11-3 win over then unbeaten Pelion last Thursday in Pelion.

Gilbert scored three runs in each of the first three innings, taking advantage of errors and by playing a strong defense.

Gilbert added two more in the fourth to take an 11-0 lead.

In the fifth, with two out, Pelion got its game going and scored three runs.

Gilbert pitcher Terri Hair struck out nine and gave up six hits. Three of those hits came in the fifth.

Nicole Hinton drove in four runs on two hits, and she reached base once on an error for Gilbert. Kristen Price drove in five runs with two doubles and a triple for the Lady Indians. The Lady Indians pounded out 13 hits, with most of them coming in the first three innings.

After the third inning Pelion settled down and played evenly with Gilbert.

Going into the game Pelion had not lost. The Lady Panthers are 3-0 in their region and were to have played at Swansea Tuesday for the region lead.

**We have a very young team. We didn't play well early, but we are starting to play well now.**  
Gilbert coach Reuben Eargle

"We didn't play real well early," Pelion coach Bruce Dangler said, "but we settled down after the third inning."

Gilbert coach Reuben Eargle was pleased with the win and said his team is coming around offensively after struggling early in the season.

"We have a very young team. We didn't play well early, but we are starting to play well now. Our bats are starting to come around," Eargle said.

Hair pitched a good game, but Gilbert also has another pitcher, Danielle Oswald, who will soon be back from injury. The two will rotate as the team's pitcher.



PHOTO: JAMES JORDAN

Gilbert pitcher Terry Hair helped team beat Pelion last week.

## White Knoll's baseball team gets good start

By WILLIAM GETTYS  
The Dispatch-News

To this point in the 2001 season, the White Knoll baseball team has looked more like an established program than one trying to make a name for itself.

The Timberwolves are 9-3 overall and 3-1 in Region 5-AAA under the direction of coach Johnny Thompson, who spent the past 13 years as an assistant at Lexington.

"As far as building a program, I've seen most of these guys play before, either at Lexington, at tryouts or on a middle school team I coached, and I think that's helped," Thompson said. "I thought we'd be competitive, and I think this team

should make the playoffs. We want to be in position where we can make playoffs and contend for region."

Those are lofty expectations for a first-year program, but Thompson believes the Wolves are capable of achieving those goals.

"We just need to play our game. We have to play good solid defense behind our pitchers," he said. "If they throw strikes and give us a chance to score some runs and support them, we'll be alright."

That hasn't been a problem so far. The pitching staff is led by sophomore Peden Rucker, who is 4-0. Rucker struck out 14 batters and no-hit Mid Carolina for the team's first victory.

Seniors Ivan Bumgarner and John Magni have also been key pitchers. Bumgarner also starts in center field, and Magni is the catcher.

Bumgarner and fellow senior Quinton Smoak are the team's co-captains. The pair has provided tremendous leadership.

Sophomore Kevin Mattox starts at second base, junior Landon Jordan is at shortstop, and sophomore Daniel Matthews plays third. Junior Stephen Williams

plays left field, and junior Matt Hamilton is in right. Senior Ryan Shealy is the designated hitter.

"We haven't had to rely on one guy to carry us," Thompson said.

"Everybody has been getting big hits during the year. If the top four don't do anything in a game, the bottom of the order picks up the slack."

But there is room for improvement.

"We're still learning to make adjustments at the plate. Once we learn to make those adjustments, we can be more consistent," Thompson said. "Right now, the strength of our team is pitching. "We're throwing strikes, not walking a lot, and good solid defense."

Those will all be key ingredients if White Knoll is to challenge for a championship in a region that includes defending Class AAAA state champion Brookland-Cayce.

## Home runs abound in Lexington win

Tashay Jones-Black and Leshe Russell each launched two home runs in the Lady Wildcats' only game last week, a 7-0 win over Lancaster.

Lexington coach Scott Jumper said he has went through whole seasons without seeing four home runs hit, let alone four in one game.

"I don't know what it is. We are just hitting the ball well right now. The girls are swinging the bat well and being aggressive at the plate. They are also getting some good pitches to hit," Jumper said.

Going into the game Jones-Black had six homers, which tied her school record performance last year. Russell had four last season, and has two so far this year.

One of Jones-Black's homers was a line drive over the center-field fence.

"That was the quickest I have ever seen a ball leave a park," Jumper said.

The game with Lancaster was a rematch of last year's championship series in which the Wildcats swept the series 2-0. In two games in the series Lexington scored seven runs on Lancaster. Last week they were facing the same pitcher.

The Lady Wildcats also had a great game defensively against Lancaster. Pitcher Sarah Areheart

struck out nine, walked three and gave up two hits. Only one ball made into the outfield.

"It was typical Sarah pitching. There were lots of grounders in the infield and strikeouts," Jumper said.

Lexington is now 9-1, and has a busy week scheduled this week.

Monday the team was to have played Airport, Tuesday they were to have played Irmo, and Wednesday they are scheduled to host Brookland-Cayce. Friday and Saturday of this week the team will be playing in the Seneca Tournament.

B-C is the defending Class AAA champion, and the game with Lexington should be a good game as two very strong teams meet.

They have not played each other since B-C went down to Class AAA. B-C has dominated Class AAA since then, reaching the state championship series three consecutive years and winning two of them.

Lexington has also been very strong in Class AAAA, winning the state title two of the last three years.

The Lady Wildcats will travel to B-C next Monday for another game.

"It is a long-awaited game. It should be interesting," Jumper said.

## B-C downs Dreher, White Knoll next up

By HAMPTON FULLER  
The Dispatch-News

The Brookland-Cayce Bears beat the Dreher Blue Devils 13-9 Friday night at Airport High School and improved their record to 8-4 overall and 5-0 in the region.

"This is a big win for us," Coach Brian Hucks said after the game. Coach Hucks said that the winning pitcher, Trey McDaniel had good pitches and was able to shut Dreher's highly talented batters down.

B-C tied the game in the bottom of the 3rd inning with Aaron Dillon's line drive ball to right field. B-C took the lead for good

in the bottom of the 4th inning off of a home run by Trey McDaniel and a run by Hamp Roof this made it 5-2 B-C. Trey McDaniel continued to strike Dreher's talented batters out in the game, and by the 7th inning, B-C had taken a commanding 13-9 lead and went on to win it by a score of 13-9.

Coach Hucks also said that his team played with great team work and that they were ready to play White Knoll this Tuesday, "Coach Thompson does a great job getting his players ready to play."

The game starts at 7pm this Tuesday at White Knoll High School.

## Soccer team's defense is making a difference

By WILLIAM GETTYS  
The Dispatch-News

Heading into the 2001 season Lexington soccer coach David Kleinfelder believed the Wildcats' defense would be the strength of the team.

So far, that has been an accurate prediction for the 15th-ranked Wildcats.

Lexington improved to 6-1 overall last week with a pair of wins, allowing just one goal in the process.

The Wildcats opened the week with an impressive 2-0 shutout of 14th-ranked Dutch Fork. Senior

goalkeeper Hunter Gilstrap made several stellar saves in the net to record the shutout, and senior Brad Salter connected on a pair of second-half goals for the victory.

"Even though Dutch Fork isn't Irmo, there's a tie to Irmo, and they were one of the stronger teams in our region last year," Kleinfelder said. "We've had some very close matches with them in the past three years. So, it was a little bit of a measuring stick against a quality team that we could get a win."

One big reason for that was the SOCCER Please see page 15

## Girls' soccer team knocks off Hartsville



The Lady Wildcats are set to play Irmo tonight at Wildcat Hollow.

By WILLIAM GETTYS  
The Dispatch-News

Lexington remained tied for first place in Region 3-AAAA girls' soccer last week, defeating Airport 11-1 to improve to 4-1 in the region.

The Wildcats are deadlocked with Aiken atop the region, while Irmo and South Aiken are close behind at 3-2. Lexington, which also beat Hartsville last week, got two goals each from Amy Meldau, Lauren Edmonds, and Ashley DeReiamaaker during the rout of the Eagles.

Sophomore Ginny Wolfe scored the lone goal in Lexington's 1-0 upset at 12th-ranked Hartsville.

"We really just outworked Hartsville," Lexington coach Chris Fryland said.

"We had a great effort from all the girls."

Lexington was without senior captain Edmonds, who was on a chorus trip, which made the victory even more impressive. Junior goalkeeper Amber Markley was

**'It's always a big rivalry, so that just makes it even more intense.'**  
Chris Fryland, Lexington coach

strong in the nets, and junior Mary Thompson returned to the lineup with a solid performance in the back.

Lexington improved to 6-5 overall, heading into this crucial week of region play. The Wildcats will play host to arch rival Irmo tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Wildcat Hollow, then travel to North Augusta Friday.

"We've got to beat Irmo to still have a chance to win the region," Fryland said. "It's always a big rivalry, so that just makes it even more intense."