Jake Kuchmaner leads the defending 3A State Champion Marvin Ridge Mavericks into the baseball season. Jake and the Mavericks will contend for another state title this spring with a strong group of pitchers and hitters.

Over the last nine years I have penned a few columns about how small decisions can affect the entire life of a teenager. This message always seems to ring a little more clear around Spring Break and Prom Season. I believe the numbers would support my thought, as it seems like we see a lot more teenage tragedies this time of the year. Maybe it's the warm weather, maybe it's the excitement of knowing summer is near and in the case of high school seniors, knowing that the freedom of college is just around the corner. Regardless of the reason, the newspapers and internet are filled with stories of teenage tragedies right now.

It seems like every day we can find a story somewhere in our country of a teenager losing their life due to a poor decision. Locally, we have seen multiple car accidents take the lives of high school students over the last year as well. These children's parents have gone from planning graduations and summer vacations to planning funerals. They will never get to experience the thrill of graduation night or the excitement of moving a child into their freshman dorm.

We also tend to hear about more and more teenage deaths caused by alcohol use this time of the year. Every spring break is filled with stories of students falling to their deaths from upper level hotel balconies or stepping in front of traveling vehicles while under the influence of alcohol.

The common theme we often find in these tragedies usually lead back to one poor decision. Unfortunately teenagers have not developed the skills needed to make all the right decisions. They don't have the life skills their parents have learned over the years. Simply put, teenagers are not as smart as they think they are. All teenagers need the guidance of loving parents, but even then, many are going to go around that advice and some are going to learn very hard lessons or even lose their life trying to make decisions for themselves without listening to the important advice given by most parents.

The point of this column is simply to ask all teenagers to take an extra breath this spring before making a bad decision. Think back on what you should do in each situation and then take another moment to think about what could happen if things don't go as planned. Think about the repercussions of trying to drive 65 on a 45 mph road. Think about what could happen if you look down to send a text message and another car suddenly stops in front of you. Think about what could happen if you drink underage and then decide to drive a car or what could happen if you get in a car with someone that has been drinking.

Trust me when I tell you, nothing good can come from any of these poor decisions.

Such a huge majority of the students in South Charlotte are headed to college, many on athletic and academic scholarships. I ask all my teenage readers, Do you really want to risk losing what you have worked so hard for? Do you really want to take a chance at getting hurt, killed or hurting or killing someone else? Is it really that cool, if things go sideways and you end up in trouble or even worse, dead? Can you live with yourself if you survive and your best friend doesn't? These are all real life scenarios that play themselves out in different cities across our country on a daily basis.

This is my personal plea to all my student readers. Take an extra minute to listen to your parents advice. Believe it or not, they actually know what they are talking about and want to have you around for a long time. They want to see you graduate from college, start a family and bring the Grandchildren over for the holidays.

It can happen to you. Be safe, think twice and Good luck the rest of the school year and summer.
The South Charlotte Sports Report has an opening for a summer intern. This college student will be provided opportunities in the following areas:

- Journalism
- Sports Event Management
- Website Content
- Advertising Sales

Interested students should email Tripp@southcharlottesports.com

Senior Trent Alley, has proven his leadership skills both on and off the baseball field at Charlotte Country Day School. The 18 year old son of Karen and Kendall Alley plays third base and pitcher for the varsity Buccaneers. The senior has been named 2015 All-State and All-Conference, 2015 Team MVP, and an Under Armor Pre-Season All American athlete. In addition to his impressive baseball achievements, Trent has attained a 3.6 GPA and four years on the Country Day Honor Roll. Lets go Beyond the Game with Trent to learn more!

What is your favorite part of being on the team?
“THE coming together of a group of guys. During the off season we start out as a bunch of classmates, some knowing each other well, others not so much. Beginning in the Fall, through work outs and 8 mans, we start coming together to form a team with a common goal. We become brothers and all love what we do.”

What is your role as a leader for the team?
“With only four seniors on this team, we’ve all had to step up as leaders. Personally, I’m a verbal leader. I always try to help the younger guys with mistakes they might have made, how to fix them, or simply giving tips on things I’ve learned along the way. Also, from the weight room, to practice, to game day, I feel I bring energy and a good work ethic. Hopefully that has a positive effect on my teammates.”

What are your team and personal goals for the season?
“As a team, we always strive to be playing our best baseball in May when the playoffs roll around. I want to win a state championship. I feel that we have the talent necessary to get there, and it’s time to put that talent out there and get it done. Personally, I was an All-Conference and All-State player last year, and would love to achieve the same again this year. I want my name to be in the conversation when people ask about who the best player in Charlotte is. I feel like I have the ability to be in that conversation and would love to go out and prove myself worthy.”

Why did you choose Furman University to continue your education and baseball career?
“Furman offered me the unique opportunity to be an everyday position player as well as a pitcher. It has a highly respected academic history, so I’ll be getting a great education while being able to play baseball. Also, I was born in Spartanburg and lived in Greenville for about 8 years and we love the area and city.”

What you are most looking forward to in playing baseball at Furman?
“Really good talent in the current freshmen class, and with our incoming class we should have the chance to be very competitive in the Southern Conference and hopefully beyond.”
Community Service Heroes Award
Recognizing Actions in Support of Individuals, Community and the Environment

WILL ALLISON

Covenant Day School junior lacrosse player Will Allison has been named the Queen City Audio, Video and Appliances Community Heroes Award Winner. The 17 year old son of Berry and Millie Allison has donated time to multiple charities, including teaching a sports camp at "Seek the City", a summer inner city mission trip through his youth group. He also serves at Room at the Inn with his church providing meals and shelter to homeless men. Will and his family also have given time to HOPE team ministry mentoring another family.

On the field of play, Will scored the first ever lacrosse goal at Covenant Day’s Warner Park. He was chosen as team captain both his freshman and junior seasons. This season Will and his teammates have a goal of being competitive against every team on the schedule. As a midfielder, Will provides leadership and communication to his Lion teammates.

Inside the classroom, Will is an honor roll student and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society.

Queen City Audio, Video and Appliances salutes Will Allison for his continued commitment serving others in our community.

Roddey Player
President, Queen City Audio, Video & Appliances

To nominate your team or a student-athlete for their service to the community, please email Tripp@southcharlottesports.com

www.QueenCityOnline.com

North Charlotte
Spring Break Camp
Who: Boys and Girls grades 3-8
When: March 25 & 26 - 9am-1pm
Where: Huntersville Elementary School

South Charlotte
Spring Break Clinic
Who: Boys and Girls grades 3-8
When: March 25 - 9am-11am
Where: Marion Diehl Recreation Center (2219 Tyvola Rd. Charlotte, NC 28210)

www.proskillsbasketball.com
LAWSON McARTHUR
Written By: Lane McCree

South Mecklenburg High School senior, Lawson McArthur, has been named the Shoeless Enterprises Leadership Award Winner. The 17 year old son of Dan and Sage McArthur plays center field and pitcher for the Sabres. Lawson has decided to continue his education and baseball career at North Carolina State University in the fall.

As a leader on the team, the senior helps his younger teammates understand the importance of remaining focused during each practice in order to improve as a team. Lawson hopes the Sabres are able to win the SoMeck 8 conference in addition to achieving All-State Honors. He currently enjoys competing in the most difficult 4A conference and is looking forward to being in contention with the best teams in the ACC. Lawson also plays an active role in participating in the YMCA Miracle League event each season, which allows the baseball team to raise money providing for the charity’s annual budget.

What is your favorite basketball memory?
“My favorite basketball memory is playing in the 2015 NCHSAA 4A State Championship at the Dean Smith Center with the best teammates in the world.”

Have you made any plans for college?
“I am undecided where I will attend college. My first option would be to continue my basketball career at the next level. If not, I will most likely attend Appalachiun State University, University of Tennessee, Or East Carolina University.”

How well do you perform in the classroom?
“I have built a 4.0 cumulative GPA throughout high school so far. I have taken Advanced Placement and almost all honors level courses.”

Are you involved in any charity projects?
“I am on a team in Relay for Life called Ellie’s Entourage in honor of a little girl from Charlotte who passed away.”
STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

CHRIS COTTON

Covenant Day School senior, Chris Cotton, has been named the Architech Sports and Physical Therapy Student-Athlete of the Week. The 18 year old son of Mike and Ellen Cotton plays shortstop and pitcher for the varsity Lions baseball team. As team captain, he leads his younger teammates by his example on and off the field.

In his senior season, Chris will be enjoying each game of the season and hopes the Lions will receive a bid to play in the state tournament. In addition, he hopes to become an all-conference and all-state player. Last year he was named Team MVP and was also chosen as team captain.

Inside the classroom, Chris has attained a 4.4 grade point average. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. In addition, Chris also volunteers each summer to teach young kids the basic fundamentals of the game during the Covenant Day Baseball Camp. He also is an active volunteer for Home Works, which renovates old homes for the needy people of our community.

Congratulations to Chris Cotton for being named the Architech Sports and Physical Therapy Student-Athlete of the Week.

CASEY HEWETT

Charlotte Country Day School senior Casey Hewett has been named the Architech Sports and Physical Therapy Student Athlete of the Week. The daughter of Carol and Caroline Hewett is an All-Conference performer for the Buccaneers and she has been playing softball since the age of five.

Casey, a pitcher and infielder, is providing strong leadership for her team this spring and has set a goal of achieving at least one hit per game this season. She hopes to continue to build lasting bonds with her Country Day teammates and learn as much as possible from her coaches. Casey also is working hard to share her love of the game with her younger teammates.

Inside the classroom, Casey is an all-star student with a 4.75 grade point average. She was recently inducted into Country Day’s Cum Laude Society. Casey is also very involved in the Country Days Cookies for Kid’s Cancer Club. Congratulations to Casey Hewett for being named the Architect Sports and Physical Therapy Student Athlete of the Week.

ARCHITECH SPORTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPY

Blakeney Office: 8918 Blakeney Professional Drive Suite 120 | Charlotte, NC 28277 | Ph. 704-900-8960
Indian Trail Office: 1001 Van Buren Avenue Suite 3 | Indian Trail, NC 28079 | Ph. 704-626-6053
www.architechsports.com
Physical Therapy for Athletes and Weekend Warriors • Sports Performance • Soccer Speed and Agility
Baseball Pitching Arm Care Evaluations • Female Jumpmetrics Training • Coaches Care Programs
All programs in conjunction with Morrison Family YMCA

BEYOND THE GAME WITH HUNTER CARMAN

Cuthbertson High School junior lacrosse player Hunter Carman is enjoying the start of the spring lacrosse season. The son of Laura Carman plays the middie position for the Cavaliers. Let’s go Beyond The Game with Hunter Carman to learn more.

When did you begin playing lacrosse? Why?
“I started playing lacrosse in 6th grade when I moved to North Carolina. I had gotten my black belt in Texas and needed a new sport so I picked Lacrosse.”

What are your top three athletic accomplishments?
“Getting my black belt at the age of 12, winning the Dick’s Tournament of Champions and being the best team in the country with Road Warriors, scoring 50 points my 8th grade year (18 goals, 32 assists).”

What are your goals for the season?
“My main goal for the season is to come out with a winning record and hopefully make playoffs.”

Do you have any summer lacrosse plans?
“This summer I am playing with my travel team, the Road Warriors.”

What position do you play and what are your main responsibilities?
“I play Middie which basically means I do everything. I have to play offense as well as defense. I’m on man-up and man-down. Middies have to be a Jack of all trades.”

How well do you perform in the classroom?
“I currently have a 4.83 GPA, I’m 24th out of 426 in the class, and I’m in French Club, French Honor Society, and Beta Club.”
The Marvin Ridge Women’s Lacrosse teams will honor beloved assistant coach Jeffrey Aten on Wednesday, March 23rd at their Lacrosse games versus their cross-town rival Cuthbertson. The games will take place at Marvin Ridge High School stadium beginning at 5:30pm. Marvin Ridge Middle School will start the evening off with a 5:30 game start time followed by the Marvin Ridge High School Varsity Women’s Lacrosse game beginning at 7:00PM. Gates will open at 5:00pm. We encourage families to come together with their friends to join us for a family friendly evening including concessions, raffle prizes, games and good family fun. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for $5.00 and 100% of the proceeds less expenses will go directly to the Jeff Aten Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Aten passed away unexpectedly on his way to the Marvin Ridge lacrosse practice last year on March 25th. In addition to his assistant coaching duties at Marvin Ridge High School for both volleyball and lacrosse, he was employed at Sandy Ridge Elementary School, where he taught computers, advised the Student Council and Science Olympiad, and directed traffic for the students’ safety. He was well known by hundreds of families for his kindness and concern for all the children of the Waxhaw community.

The March 23rd games will serve as the 2nd annual event for the Marvin Ridge Mavericks Athletic Booster Club’s Jeff Aten Memorial Scholarship Fund, which will award a $2,000 scholarship annually to a Marvin Ridge Maverick Senior. The 2015 recipient, Danny Canale is attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and had this to say “The Jeff Aten Memorial Scholarship program is an amazing way to recognize and award students for all around excellence in academics, sports and good sportsmanship, strong character and community service. These are the qualities that Mr. Aten stood for and demonstrated in his daily life and I am honored and humbled to be the first recipient of this special and meaningful award. My sincerest thanks to Dr. Aten and her family for this scholarship and continuing this program to help promote these qualities within the Marvin Ridge High School community.” Following the game, a candlelight memorial ceremony will be held, honoring Mr. Aten.

The Aten family and the Marvin Ridge Mavericks Athletic Booster Club established this scholarship to honor Coach Aten’s values and his legacy in this community. Donations to the Jeff Aten Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to Jeff Aten Memorial Fund, c/o Marvin Ridge Mavericks Athletic Booster Club, 2825 Crane Road, Waxhaw, NC 28173 or paid electronically at the gomavericks.org website. Checks can be made outs to MRMABC, noting in the memo line care of Jeff Aten Scholarship. For more information, please contact Douglas Little at 704-254-9324.
Football Academy Skills Program

February – July 2016
GameTime4Athletes

- Instruction/Teaching by qualified HS Coaches
- 2 hour sessions
- Skills & Technique Development by position: QB, WR, TE, LB, DB’s
- 7 on 7 at each session
- Combine preparation
- To register, contact Jeff at 704-619-8517 or at jeffjarosz@yahoo.com

Sun Valley Middle School Sports Openings

- Football Commissioner for Sun Valley Athletic Booster Club, will oversee 4 teams (4th/5th, 6th, 7th, 8th)
- SVABC Middle School Junior Varsity Volleyball Coach
- SVABC Middle School Cross Country Coach.

Applications can be found on www.svabc.org and applications, questions, and interest letters can be sent to svabcboard@gmail.com
Rising Star Award

Ian Crane

Cuthbertson High School sophomore Ian Crane has been named the Carefree Boats Rising Star of the Week Award winner. The 16 year old son of Randy and Marjie Crane has been playing lacrosse since the second grade. Ian currently plays school and club lacrosse throughout the entire year. He was named the MVP of the school JV team last season and is being counted on to help lead the team from his midfield position this year.

As a midfielder Ian has responsibilities such as leading the team on the field, providing defense and executing offensive plays.

Inside the classroom Ian is an outstanding student with a 4.1 grade point average. He is very focused and works hard inside the classroom.

Congratulations to Ian Crane for being named the Carefree Boats Rising Star of the Week Award winner.

Marc@CarefreeBoats.com
704-557-0848 ext. 4
www.CarefreeBoats.com
Smile into Spring with Invisalign!

Your smile says it all.
Schedule your complimentary consultation and a FREE gift will be waiting for you.
We’d love to see you smile with us!

Let us help you decide if Invisalign is right for you!

Q SHACK COACH OF THE MONTH
Coach Mike King
Charlotte Catholic Basketball

Charlotte Catholic High School Basketball Coach Mike King has been named the Q Shack Coach of the Month. Coach King led the Cougars Basketball Team to the NCHSAA 4-A State Championship. The players worked extremely hard to play team based basketball under his watch this season and were rewarded as the top 4A basketball team in the state. Coach King encouraged the team to believe in themselves and their vision all the way through to the final whistle.

Congratulations Coach Mike King for being named the Q Shack Coach of the Month.

To nominate your coach for this award, please visit The Q Shack or email Tripp@southcharlottesports.com.

The Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools/ Arbor Construction Group
Good Sport of the Month
Alina Limpert

Charlotte Catholic High School varsity soccer captain, Alina Limpert, has been named the Arbor Construction Group / MACS Good Sport of the Month. The 17 year old daughter of Karen and John Limpert plays center midfield for the Cougars. Alina enjoys developing relationships with her teammates while improving her soccer skills during each practice.

As a leader for her teammates both on and off the field, the senior is involved with National Honor Society and Spanish National Honor Society, as well as an active volunteer with the CUFC youth camp throughout the summer. In addition, Alina continues the tradition of placing inspirational quotes inside each of her teammates shin guards before each game. She hopes to lead her team into the state championship while enjoying her last season with the Cougars.

Inside the classroom, Alina has attained a 4.27 GPA in honors and AP classes. She plans to study engineering in college, as her favorite classes are math and science.

Congratulations to Alina Limpert for being named the Arbor Construction Group / MACS Good Sport of the Month.

Together MACS and Arbor Construction are building with integrity for our futures.

New Homes-Renovations Additions-Repairs
704-542-5833
www.arborconstructiongroup.com
Throwback Thursday With Kelly Ellis
Supporting Student-Athletes From Pee Wee To High School.

If you have a throwback picture that you want featured, please submit your digital photo to kellis@helenadamsrealty.com.

The Spartans won the 12U division of the South Charlotte Sports Report Shootout.

Front Row: (L-R) George Karavokiros, Daniel Tekin, Kevin Habluetzel
Back Row: (L-R) Coach Fred Barbarya, Jack Pamukci, Saba Vashkidze, Luke Barbarya, Tyler Roakes, Todd Lautenslager
Not pictured: Gavin Peach

Spring Break Camps on Tap

The South Charlotte Sports Report proudly presents our annual round of Spring Break Camps. Our camps are professionally operated with a focus on customer service, communication and FUN for the kids, all with an affordable price.

Our number one camp for fun, the South Charlotte Sports Report Multi-Sports Camp will operate Monday March 28th - Wednesday March 30th from 9:00am-12:00pm at Elon Park Elementary. This camp is designed for kids ages 5-12 that enjoy playing all kinds of sports. From the start of camp until the final whistle, campers will rotate among different sports and PE Class games.

Also operating March 28th-30th is our Cheer and Dance Camp for girls ages 5-11. This camp runs from 9:00am-12:00pm at Elon Park Elementary and is a guaranteed good time for all. Both camps are only $75 per camper with sibling discounts available.

We also proudly present a Spring Break Baseball Camp at CBC Baseball March 29th-31st.

For more information and to enroll in these popular camps, please visit www.SouthCharlotteSportsCamps.Com

The MARA 10U All Star Team won the South Charlotte Sports Report Shootout.

Front Row: (L-R) Jack Ellyson, Cooper Delo, Jonah Karkow, Peyton Creeeh
Back Row: (L-R) Dave Dunphy, Tyler Chopra, Billy Wilkes, Caden Caskey, Nolan Dunphy, Cameron Bagwell, Darrell Bagwell

If you have a throwback picture that you want featured, please submit your digital photo to kellis@helenadamsrealty.com.

Kelly Ellis, Realtor NC & SC Specializing in S. Charlotte and Waxhaw/Weddington
704-236-0821
kellis@helenadamsrealty.com
www.kellyellisrealtor.com

Braces by Bird
Orthodontics

Dr. Suzanne E. Bird is accepting new orthodontic patients and is now treating adults! It is never too late to create a beautiful smile and with options like ClearInvisalign treatment has never been so easy! Braces by Bird is conveniently located in the Cedar Walk.

Development. Call now to schedule your complimentary consultation.

bracesbybird.com 704-544-5001
16614 Riverstone Way, Charlotte, NC 28277
The Team of the Week Feature, one of the most visible features in the South Charlotte Sports Report, is now open for sponsorship. Please contact Tripp Roakes at 704-906-5466 or Tripp@southcharlottesports.com to learn more about our Team of the Week Advertising Package.

South Charlotte Sports Report
Team of the Week

CHARLOTTE JR. CHECKERS 16UAA

The Charlotte Jr. Checkers 16UAA Team has been named the South Charlotte Sports Report Team of the Week. The Jr. Checkers defeated the Raleigh Jr. Hurricanes 3-2 in an OT thriller to win the NC State Championship. They will represent NC at USA Hockey Nationals in Wayne, NJ March 31-April 4.

Front Row: (L-R)  Strachan Champagne, TJ DeFeo, Andrew Chard, John Barrett
Middle Row: (L-R)  Mack Morrison, Jake Morrison, Kyle Kaylor, Nicholas Chesare, Jason Schwartz, Mason Horkan, Coach DeFeo, Coach Jewell, Joseph Ferro, Justin Gerasimou, Silas Skinner, Bennett Onze, Nicholas Elia, Logan Young, Jarrett Nagy, Noah Stanley, Reece Collins, Coach Young
Back Row: (L-R)  Coach DeFeo, Coach Jewell, Joseph Ferro, Justin Gerasimou, Silas Skinner, Bennett Onze, Nicholas Elia, Logan Young, Jarrett Nagy, Noah Stanley, Reece Collins, Coach Young

To nominate your team for the Team of the Week, please email Tripp@southcharlottesports.com

The South Charlotte Vipers Basketball Team

Front Row: (L-R)  Meade Garner, Tate Ellis, Chris Short
Back Row: (L-R)  Coach Mike Maynard, Marshall Gallagher, Jake Cunningham, Parker Brooks, Cade McCoy, Jack Maynard, Michael Robinson, Alex Holcomb
Not pictured:  Mack Carpenter and Matthew Brodowicz

The MARA 10U All Stars captured the South Charlotte All Star Tourney championship.

Front Row: (L-R)  Max Hunt, Bo Witherspoon, Robert Mack, Cole Beck, Joe Moraglia, Brady Tyler
Middle Row: (L-R)  Bryson Heath, Zach Vigre, Hudson Shoudy, Jason Hertz, Joey Hall
Back Row: (L-R)  Bob Mack, Andy Hunt

12U Cooperstown Dreams Park Baseball Opportunity Spots Available Tripp@southcharlottesports.com

Basketball Training

Accelerate Basketball Training

Programs Offered
- Varsity JV, and Middle School Level Premier Programs
- Accelerate Skills Training
- Drills for Skills Training
- Shooting Fundamentals
- Volume Shooting & Ball Handling
- Vertical Leap
- Full-Court

Train & Play (3rd – 8th Grade) • Learn & Play (K – 2nd Grade)

www.acceleratebasketball.com
Call: 704-499-9159 Email: train@acceleratebasketball.com

Follow us today for your trial workout!
Spring Break Camp
Teaching the game, not babysitting!

Instruction includes:
- Fielding
- Hitting
- Throwing
- Baserunning

Dates and Times:
March 29th - 31st
9am - 12pm

Ages:
8 and up

Cost:
$125
* 10% CBC Member discount

Location:
225 Olympic St
Charlotte, NC 28273

Please visit www.cbcbaseball.net to register or call 704-588-3204 for more information

ATTENTION ATHLETES

2016’s - It’s not too late to get recruited!
2017’s - You should be hearing from coaches if you are truly being recruited.
2018’s - Why wait to get your information to college coaches?

A webpage with stats alone will not get you recruited!

To learn more about the NSR Game Plan contact:

Chuck Howard
Area Director of Scouting and Recruiting - Charlotte Region
(704) 507-1760
choward@nsr-inc.com
nsr-inc.com

NSR national scouting report