

## RUNNERS TO WATCH

### Boys

■ **Ben Bisette, East Meck, senior** — all-Meck, all-region and all-conference (95), came around last track season with best two mile (9:53.88) in Mecklenburg.



### Walts

■ **Shane Walts, E. Meck, Sr.** — 1995 Meck County runner of the year, all-Mecklenburg Co. in 1994, all-region performer in 1995, two-time SW4A all-conference runner.

■ **Wesley Yeldell, Garinger, junior** — 10th in the region last year, impressed coaches last year during track with his top 10-in-county performances in the 1,600 (4:36.8) and 3,200 meters (10:23.8).

■ **Richard Hill, Myers Park, senior** — all-Meck ('95). Has speed. Recorded second fastest time in the state in the 800 meters.

■ **Terrance McRae, Providence Day, sophomore** — All CISAA ('95), and had fourth best time in two-mile (10:07.8) in Mecklenburg last season.

■ **Chris Mayo, Providence, senior** — All region and two-time all-SW4A conference runner.

■ **Cliff Mauriello, S. Meck, Sr.** — All-region, all-Meck Co., and all SW4A conference performer in '95.

■ **Mike Mauriello, S. Meck, Sr.** — All-region (95); two time all-Meck Co. and SW4A-conference performer (94, 95).

■ **Scott Williams, Country Day, senior** — Two time all-CISAA ('94, '95).

### GIRLS

■ **Kathryn Daniel, East Meck, sophomore** — Top Mecklenburg finisher in state meet last year (26th), all-region (third), all-SW4A and all-Mecklenburg.

■ **Britt Ellis, Providence, sophomore** — all-SW4A runner in '95.

■ **Lauren Gardner, Charlotte Latin, junior** — Two-time all CISAA ('94, '95).

■ **Natalie Holler, North Meck, senior** — Three-time all MEGA 7 runner, two-time all-region and all-Meck performer ('93, '94).



### Horn

■ **Courtney Horn, Myers Park, junior** — Mecklenburg runner of the year and SW4A champion in '95; all-region performer in '95, two-time all-Meck and all-conference runner. In track last season, had second best 1,600 (5:36.7) and 3,200 meters (12:14.7) in Mecklenburg.

■ **Elaine Lindsay, E. Meck, So.** — All SW4A in 1995.

■ **Jane Maxwell, Providence Day, So.** — All-Meck Co., all-state (NCISAA) with a sixth place finish, and all CISAA in 1995.

■ **Ashley Murray, Charlotte Christian, Fr.** — All-state and all-CISAA (95)

■ **Shayla Reid, W. Meck, Sr.** — Three time all ME-GA 7 runner; could become the only W. Meck runner to earn all conference four times with a strong performance this year.

■ **Hayden Stands, Hammond School, So.** — Transfer from cross-town rival Heath-

wood Hall who was an all-state and all-CISAA runner in '95

■ **Jacqueline Tinkham, Independence, So.** — Region champion, all SW4A with a second place finish behind Myers Park's Courtney Horn, and all-Meck runner in 1995.

■ **Becca Walker, Myers Park, Sr.** — All-region performer in '95, two time all SW4A and all Meck Co.

■ **Mae Todd Williams, Hammond School, Jr.** — All-state (94), and all-CISAA (94, 95)

### Bet you didn't know . . .

■ At least three track coaches in Charlotte-Mecklenburg are former college all-Americans. They are Myers Park assistant **Nicole Hudson** at North Carolina, North Meck head coach **Rick Jackson** at Pembroke State, and South Meck head coach **Evans Lalas** at Saginaw Valley State University.

■ Four coaches are coaching at their alma maters: Jackson at North Meck, **John Eaves** at Independence, **Bennett King** at Olympic and girls coach **Brian Lawing** at West Mecklenburg.

■ East Gaston's **Eddie Wyatt** volunteered to coach the Warriors 12 years ago, and he hasn't left since.

■ Charlotte Latin's coach **C.W. Stacks** pulls double duty during the fall, as the girls' tennis coach and the boys' and girls' cross-country coach. Triple duty actually.

■ **Bob Heise**, in his fourth season as West Charlotte's boys' and girls' coach, spent one year coaching in Stuttgart, West Germany in 1982.

■ Runners in college on scholarship include Myers Park's **Bertille Regis** at Brevard College; Providence Day's **Ben Hovis** at UNCC; and West Mecklenburg's **Stephanie Alexander** at UNC Asheville, Wendy Bradham at UNCC, and **Kim Robinson** at UNC-Wilmington.

## ASHBROOK: Green Wave

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: first in MEGA 7, second in regionals, 12th at state; girls: fourth in MEGA 7).
- **Coach:** John Hunsucker, 12th season.
- **Assistant coach:** Bob Hill.
- **Boys:** All-MEGA 7 senior **Daniel Arthur**, all-conference and all-Gaston County senior **Kyle Hoover**, and junior all-conference runner **Kyle Teeter** will lead an experienced team.
- **Girls:** Individual MEGA 7 champion **Jenni Summerville**, a junior, leads a veteran squad with three seniors, **Tammy Baird**, **Meredith Daves** and **Carly Akulis**, along with juniors **Jackie Akulis** and **Ginger Stines** and sophomore **Gwyneth Lodge**.
- **Coach's comment:** "I feel as good about this team as I have about any other," Hunsucker said of the boys. "We just have a good solid team."

## NOT AVAILABLE

**Note:** No preseason information was available for Charlotte Catholic.

## CHARLOTTE CHRISTIAN: Knights

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: boys: fourth in CISAA, sixth at state; girls: fifth in CISAA).
- **Coach:** Randy Down (third season at Charlotte Christian, eighth overall).
- **Boys:** The top seven all are running well. They are juniors **Mike Wilson** and **Adam Mull**, freshmen **Josh Brewer** and **Scott Anderson**, and sophomores **Brent Francese**, **Bobby Frazer** and **Bradd Johnson**.
- **Girls:** Freshman all-state and all-CISAA runner **Ashley Murray** returns (seventh- and eighth-graders can compete on the varsity in private schools). Also back are sophomore **Anna Butler** and possibly senior **Joya Caskey**. Two promising transfers are senior **Anay Hughes** and junior **Stephanie Hill**.
- **Coach's comment:** "The top 10 (boys) have been putting in heavy mileage. Overall they'll be competitive, but we're shooting to be the best — to win it all."

## EAST MECKLENBURG: Eagles

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys: third in SW4A, third in regionals, 14th at state; girls: third in SW4A, fifth in regionals).
- **Coach:** Larry McAfee, 23rd season.
- **Boys:** The Eagles return their top six runners (including Mecklenburg runner of the year **Shane Waits** and **Ben Bisette**, the county's top two-miler in track last season), and they have Charlotte Christian transfer **Greg Hipp**, an all-state and all-conference runner. Other top returnees are seniors **Kyle Allen** and **Brian Augustine**, and sophomores **David Willis** and **Nick Gass**.
- **Girls:** The squad returns three sophomores (**Kathryn Daniel**, the team's No. 1 runner last year and all-conference performer; **Elaine Lindsay**, another all-conference runner; and **Rebecca Atkinson**) and three juniors (**Kelly Mandrachai**, **Julie Prudhomme** and **Amy Dobson**).
- **Coach's comment:** "I feel good about that group," McAfee said of his boys team. "Getting to the state meet was important for that team."

## GARINGER: Wildcats

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys: seventh in SW4A; girls did not have enough runners to score in SW4A conference championships).
- **Coach:** Paul Bonner, first year.
- **Boys and girls:** Bonner wants to re-establish some tradition, and junior **Wesley Yeldell** looks like a good one to start with. He was 10th in the region last year and finished in the top 10 in Mecklenburg in the 1,600- and 3,200-meters last spring.
- **Coach's comment:** "They've had some distance runners at Garinger (in the past). And it's a matter of consistency and hopefully we can do that."

## HAMMOND SCHOOL: Skyhawks

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: boys: sixth in CISAA; girls: first in CISAA, third in state).
- **Coach:** Kristin Curry, first year.
- **Boys:** All-conference senior **Johnny Bocoock** returns, along with senior **Charlie Todd**.
- **Girls:** The Skyhawks are loaded. They return sophomore **Harriet Fairey** — the defending conference champion, a two-time all-CISAA runner and all-state in 1995 — junior **Mae Todd Williams**, an all-state runner in 1994 and two-time all-conference runner, and Heathwood Hall transfer **Hayden Stands**, an all-state and all-CISAA

## INDEPENDENCE: Patriots

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys sixth in SW4A, seventh in regionals; girls fifth in SW4A).
- **Coach:** John Eaves, fifth season at Independence, 14th overall.
- **Boys:** Most of the team is new, but the Patriots will have four seniors to rely on — captain **Mike Borwa**, **Chris Koziarz**, **Eric Knootz** and **Nick Shankam**.
- **Girls:** The Patriots return three strong runners from the top seven — all-conference, all-region and all-Mecklenburg sophomore runner **Jacquelyn Tinkham**, senior captain **Jessie Grinnell**, and sophomore **Bobbie Thompson**. Eaves has 10 newcomers out for the team.

## MYERS PARK: Mustangs

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys: second in SW4A, second in regionals, 10th at state; girls: second in SW4A, third in regionals, 13th at state).
- **Coach:** Richard Prince, 25th season at Myers Park, 26th overall.
- **Assistant coach:** Nicole Hudson.
- **Boys:** Two all-conference runners return: senior **Mike Williams** and junior **Jim Martin**. The Mustangs also have all-Mecklenburg senior **Richard Hill**, junior **John Robbins** and senior **Thor Sundberg**. Look for them to challenge for the conference crown.
- **Girls:** Junior Mecklenburg runner of the year **Courtney Horn** will lead a strong veteran team. Seniors **Becca Walker** (two-time all SW4A and all-region runner in '95) and **Anne Highley**, junior **Mifflin Jenkins**, and sophomore **Cortney Turner** also return.

## CHARLOTTE COUNTRY DAY: Buccaneers

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: boys: second in CISAA, fourth in state; girls: fourth in CISAA, seventh in state).
- **Coach:** Charlie Bodine (seventh season at Country Day, 16th overall).
- **Assistant coaches:** Sue Blakeney, Shawn Samuelson.
- **Boys:** The Bucs need a fifth man to have a chance at a fifth CISAA title in the 90s. Senior captains are **Scott Williams**, a two-time all-CISAA runner, and **Wes Gaines**; junior **Steven Embree** and sophomore **Phillip Dudley** also are strong.
- **Girls:** The Buccaneers will be thin. But they return junior all-conference runner **Nancy Simar**. Senior captains **Sarah Williams** and **Elizabeth Thorne** will be vital.
- **Coach's comment:** "We could surprise some people," Bodine said of the boys. "We've got some veterans."

## CHARLOTTE LATIN: Hawks

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: Boys: fifth in CISAA, seventh in state; girls: sixth in CISAA, 12th in state).
- **Coach:** C.W. Stacks (sixth season).
- **Boys:** The Hawks will have to rely on senior **Grant Gardner** and freshman **Toby Clarke**. Juniors **Ryan Newth**, **Charlie Morton**, **Matt Steigel** and **Mike Mahoney** are returning top seven runners.
- **Girls:** Two top runners return: juniors **Lauren Gardner** — a two-time all-CISAA runner — and **Sara Dolan**. Stacks feels that seniors **Michael Phillips** and **Justine Treadwell** will contribute.

## EAST GASTON: Warriors

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: third in MEGA 7; girls: second in MEGA 7, 16th in state).
- **Coach:** Eddie Wyatt (12th season).
- **Assistant coach:** Jon Austin.
- **Boys:** All-region and two time all-MEGA 7 runner **Greg Dralle** is the only top-seven returner. "I think Greg has a legitimate chance to be conference champion," coach Wyatt said.
- **Girls:** The girls return four of the top seven: all-conference and all-region sophomore runner **Erin Jessen**, who won the Gaston County meet; junior all-conference runner **Suzanne Clemmer**; sophomore **Katie Self**; and junior **Amy Hammond**.
- **Coach's comment:** "We could possibly be a conference contender," Wyatt says of his girls' team. "It will take some work."

runner last year. Senior **Mary Cain**, eighth-grader **Leah McKee** and another Heathwood transfer, freshman **Ryan Pulliam**, will deepen the defending champions.

## HARDING: Rams

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: fifth in MEGA 7; girls: fifth in MEGA 7, eighth at regionals).
- **Coaches:** Boys: Dave Collins, first year; girls: Barry Cole, first year.
- **Boys:** Returning are senior **Ryan Cook**, juniors **Brijesh Metha** and **Steve Romito**, and sophomore **Dominique Townes**.
- **Girls:** Junior **Rosanne Bell**, senior **Miaise Sloan**, sophomores **Sara Emser** and **Sharon Burgess** and senior **Elizabeth White** return.
- **Coach's comment:** "I feel great about it; everybody's been working hard," Cole said. "I'm certain we'll be a lot better than fifth this year."

## HEATHWOOD HALL: Highlanders

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: boys: third in CISAA, fifth at states; girls: second in CISAA, fourth at states).
- **Coach:** Eric Ashton, fourth year.
- **Boys:** Six of the top seven return: seniors **William Timmerman** and **Charlie Norris**, sophomores **Joel Collier** and **Melver Leppard**, freshman **Chris Hollings** and eighth grader **Alan Burnette**.
- **Girls:** The Highlanders will be young, with only two of top five returning — **Amanda Weeman** and **Perri Hiott**.

## HUNTER HUSS: Huskies

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: seventh in MEGA 7; girls did not have enough runners to score in MEGA 7 conference championships).
- **Coach:** Butch Blalock, eighth season.
- **Boys:** Senior **Steven Anderson**, team co-MVP last year and junior **Jeremy Adams** are the only runners in the top seven returning.
- **Girls:** Blalock has one of the top seven returning: junior **Kristin Kisner**, who was the team MVP last season. She will lead a young team.
- **Coach's comment:** "If they're somewhere in the middle of the conference, I'm pleased," Blalock said of both teams.

## NORTH MECK: Vikings

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: second in MEGA 7, fifth in regionals; girls: first in MEGA 7, fourth at regionals).
- **Coaches:** Boys: Brian McCaw, fourth season. Girls: Rick Jackson, 18th season.
- **Boys:** Four of the top seven return — sophomores **Ben Yocum** and **Chip Hege**, **Steve Balok** and senior **Johnathan Wilson**.
- **Girls:** North is led by three-time all-MEGA 7 senior runner **Natalie Hollar** (also a two-time all-region and all-Mecklenburg county performer), along with three other all-conference runners: seniors **Whitney Campbell** and **Thuy Tran**, and junior **Darcy Campbell**. **Audrey Balok** will also contribute.

## OLYMPIC: Trojans

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: boys: fourth in MEGA 7, eighth at regionals; girls did not field a team in 1995).
- **Coach:** Bennett King, second season.
- **Boys:** The Trojans will return five of the top seven. They are led by seniors **Andy Warmke** and **Mark Nguyen**, and juniors **Willie McMahan**, **Larry Black** and **Larry Blanks**.
- **Girls:** This will be a "whole new squad of girls" King said. He expects at least six for this year's team.

## PROVIDENCE: Panthers

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys first in SW4A, first in regionals, fourth at state; girls first in SW4A, first in regionals, seventh at state).
- **Coaches:** Boys: Dennis Townsend, first season. Girls: Kurt Niedenzu, eighth season.
- **Boys:** The Panthers return three seniors: **Chris Mayo** (an all-region and two-time all-conference runner), all-conference and all-region runner **Daniel Sarjeant**, and all-conference performer **Pat Price**.
- **Girls:** The five-time defending conference champions return a load of talent, including sophomore all-conference runner **Britt Ellis**, two-time all conference junior **Laurie Klottz**, and all-conference seniors **Carol Haskins** (93), **Leah Penner**, and **Casey Holtzmuller**. Sophomores **Mary Catherine Varn** and **Justine Campbell** should contribute.

## PROVIDENCE DAY: Chargers

- **Conference:** CISAA ('95 finish: boys first in CISAA, third at states; girls third in CISAA, fourth at state).
- **Coach:** Gil Murdock, 15th season.
- **Assistant coaches:** Randy Sienkowski, Kris Deardorff.
- **Boys:** The Chargers return five of the top seven, including two-time all-state and all-conference runner **Ryan Nunley** (junior) and all-conference sophomore runner **Terrance McRae**. McRae had a great spring track season. Sophomore **Matt Hopper** and senior **Bart Green** round out the returning five. Sophomores **Spencer Rhodes** and **Luke Hendren** and freshman **Alex Hambacher** should also help.
- **Girls:** All-state, all-Mecklenburg County, and all-CISAA sophomore runner **Jane Maxwell**; freshman **Elyse Kopecky** (all-CISAA in 1995); and seniors **Jill Ward** and **Shannon Carpenter** are the top returners for the Chargers. Juniors **Kate Conover** and **Annabelle Robinson** and freshman **Mandy Hopper** figure to help.

## SOUTH MECKLENBURG: Sabres

■ **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys fourth in SW4A, fourth at regionals; girls fourth in SW4A, sixth at regionals).

■ **Coaches:** Boys: Evans Lalas, fifth season at South Mecklenburg, 14th overall. Girls: Wayne Schultz.

■ **Boys:** Senior twins **Mike** and **Cliff Mauriello** lead this team. Both are all-region, all conference and all-Mecklenburg. Sophomore **Mike Asiggo**, the top freshman in the Southwestern 4A last year, returns.

Along with five of the top seven returning, the Sabres will be helped by newcomers **Lorenzo Southern** (sophomore), and freshman **A.J. Gunn**, a middle-school mile champion.

■ **Girls:** Only two top seven runners return: sophomores **Kate Meier** and **Lauren Laginas**.



**Cliff Mauriello**



**Mike Mauriello**

## **WEST MECKLENBURG: Indians**

- **Conference:** MEGA 7 4A ('95 finish: Boys: sixth in MEGA 7; Girls: third in MEGA 7, second in regionals, 10th at state).
- **Coaches:** Boys: Bobby Harrison, fifth season. Girls: Brian Lawing, sixth season.
- **Boys:** Three of the top seven return, and Harrison expects nine to 10 freshman to try out. Senior **Dustin Alsop** returns, along with juniors **Adam Lippard** and **Justin Webster**.
- **Girls:** Three-time all-MEGA 7 senior **Shayla Reid** returns, and she would like to be the first West Mecklenburg girl runner to gain all-conference honors four times. Other returners are all-conference senior **Stephanie Hood**, juniors **Kacey Hendricks** and **Sandy Luckey**, and sophomores **Holly Bradham** (Wendy's sister) and **Hayley Green**.

## **WEST CHARLOTTE: Lions**

- **Conference:** Southwestern 4A ('95 finish: boys fifth in SW4A, sixth at regionals; girls sixth in SW4A, seventh at regionals).
- **Coach:** Bob Heise, fourth season at West Charlotte, fifth overall.
- **Assistant coach:** Don Daniels.
- **Boys:** Captains **Jonathon Swope** (sophomore), and junior **David Atkins** lead a team that returns four of the top seven. Juniors **Will Sanburg** and **Wil Machen** also return.
- **Girls:** Coach **Bob Heise** will rely on young talent mixed with some veterans. Senior captains **Betsy Wallace** and **April Wells**, juniors **Ashley Long** and **Melissa Cherry** and sophomores **Courtney Deal**, **Karen Neckyfarow** and **Emily Newman** will be the leaders.