



**HICKORY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Hickory Public Schools**

# Week in Review

February 10, 2017

*“A snapshot of HPS good news”*

Hickory Daily Record **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2017**

# Sweet 400



Hickory High girls basketball head coach Barbara Helms talks with Mikalya Hill on the sideline. DAVID SCEARCE/FOR THE RECORD

## Helms accomplishes milestone in season finale against Hibriten

**BY DERRICK BATTLE**  
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**HICKORY**—Tenacity, discipline, determination are words to describe heart in a competitor. A coach that can instill these characteristics within its players can lead a team on a long journey and in most cases end with a championship. Hickory head coach Barbara Helms has consistently done this for 17 years as a high school girl's basketball coach. Helms philosophy, dedication, and time she made for her teams was relished in one moment—her 400th career victory in a game where the Red Tornadoes defeated Hibriten

66-23 Friday night. “To accomplish this feat is a compliment of the great players I have had over the years,” Helms said. “There are a lot of great coaches out there, but it takes a combination of players that are willing to do the work that is necessary to win. In her playing days at Wake Forest University, Helms did not have the height her competitors had at the center position, but that did not stop her from being successful. In four seasons at Wake Forest (1981-1984) she average 11.4 points and 7.9 rebounds and became the third player in Demon Deacon history to eclipse the 1,000-point mark (1,023

points). Helms was named in ACC Legend in 2016. Throughout her playing career, Helms love for defense and grit showed and that is embodied in the teams that she coached. “I played in the ACC, I’m about 5-foot-11, and I played center, most people were 6-foot-5 even though we had girls that we 6-foot-3, 6-foot-4 on the team it didn’t matter I was much tougher,” Helms said. “I was tenacious when it came to rebounding and that’s what I tell my girls, you got to demand the ball, if your opponent doesn’t touch it (the ball) she doesn’t score. We have that type of mentality as a team.”

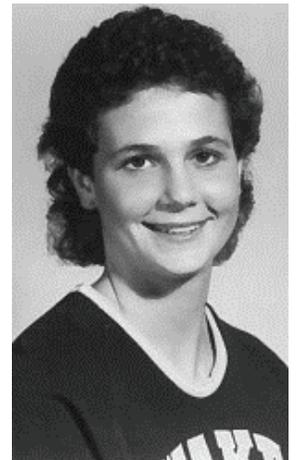
Before Hickory Helms coached three seasons at East Burke High School and led them to a 38-37 record. Then for the next 14 seasons, she built a Hickory High girls basketball program that has collated a record of 362-42. “Anytime you go into a new environment you get to see the mentality and demeanor of the players,” Helms said when about when she first came to Hickory. “We had such a nice mix of athletes and tough fundamental kids. When I assessed the program I realized we had that makeup.”

See 400, Page 3D



**Coach Helms reached her 400th career win on Friday 2.10.17!**

Above, Helms relaxing off the court with one of her many Golden Retrievers; and right—playing basketball on a full scholarship for Wake Forest University!



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Names and Faces, compiled by John Dayberry



DAVID SEARCE/FOR THE RECORD

Barbara Helms gives instruction to her team mid game.

400

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"I wanted to build a team that turned defense into offense. My thing was that if you produce a team that buys in to what you tell them day in and day out we will be successful."

Helms has accomplished quite a bit in 17 seasons – 10 conference titles, six west regional appearances including three West titles and a state title.

It is difficult to consistently have success with established players graduating and new players coming in at the high school level. However, Helms philosophy has shown that hard work leads to success even when trying to overcome adversity.

Helms state championship victory came in a rematch against Chapel Hill High during the 2014-15 season where the Red Tornadoes capped off a 27-0 season with a 71-53 victory over the Tigers in the 3A state finals. The year before Hickory suffered a 69-56 defeat to Chapel Hill in the state final — its only loss of the season.

"I felt like the 2014 Chapel Hill team was more mature than we were," Helms said. "When you get to that stage a big percentage of that is maturity. They had an upper hand in terms of experience. They have been there before and that's a big difference."

"The next year you go into it you have a revenge mode, you tasted it and you didn't get it. You had a bite of the steak, but didn't get the whole steak, so we went back and we got the

whole steak."

Throughout her time at Hickory, Helms has had players excel at the collegiate and professional level such as Jada Payne and Hillary Sigmon who have went on to play professionally overseas. Other notables to perform at the next level is Patrice Baptista who played at Wake Forest (2009-10), Danasa Witherspoon a sophomore at Wingate and Yazmen Hannah currently in her sophomore season at Norfolk State.

"We have had good, classy individuals that understand the game, who understands what it takes to win." If you look over-time so many of many players have gone on to play at the next level because they had that goal, they had that drive and that makes all the difference in the world I want my girls to be the best that they can possibly be."

While Helms has helped her players' progress, the goal still remains the same build character and a relationship with the girls she coaches.

As the regular season winds down, Helms has her team locked in to attempt another run for another state title.

"If our players rely on what they have learned then I think we have a chance to be successful. If they can use the maturity and experience they have then that is the defining difference when you move into playoffs."

"I tell them it's like a boxing match and you got to have knock out each time, you can't look at the next one, it's one round at a time."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Shown (from left) are Charlie Glazener, Beverly Snowden, Caroline Brown, Robbie Adell, Sandi Fotheringham, Judy Jolly and Chris Fuller.

Hickory Public Schools wins awards

School public-relations professionals across North Carolina were recently honored for the products of their craft during the North Carolina School Public Relations Association's (NCSPPRA) annual "Blue Ribbon Awards for Effective Communications" celebration at the O. Henry Hotel in Greensboro.

Hickory Public Schools received a total of seven awards for effective communications including two Gold Awards for Electronic Media/Digital Excellence. The first Gold Award was presented in recognition of the district's marketing video, "Together, we can make a difference." HPS Director of Communications Beverly Snowden created the video concept/script and she recorded the narration/voiceover. The video was shot and edited by Nathan Phelps of Warcell Productions.

Video "celebrity" appearances included HPS Superintendent Robbie Adell and special guests Drew Daniels, Melissa Oates, Charlotte Williams, Itiely Carson, Sally Wohlbruck, Austin Johnson, Mike Johnson, Ryan Hill, Rick Barnes, Santiago Vasquez-Loredo, Thanh Truong, Allen Mitchell, Jr., Arnita Dula, Trevone McGlone, Will Johnson, Vidal Sipe, Mollie Monroe, Marley Correll, Molly Bass and numerous students and staff from Hickory Public Schools. The second Gold Award recognized

the HPS Education Foundation video. This marketing tool was created and written by Snowden. The footage was shot and edited by Phelps. Nyla Moore, Jasiah Rutherford, and Lillian Stafford, all elementary students from the Longview Elementary School "News Network," anchored the video. The students also provided voiceover for the video footage.

The Longview television studio is led by Caroline Brown, Longview's media coordinator. Two officers from the HPS Education Foundation Board of Directors, Guy Guarino and Mark Huckabee, were included in the video. The studio equipment was funded through a grant submitted by Brown to the HPS Education Foundation.

Additional NCSPPRA Blue Ribbon Awards presented to Hickory Public Schools include two awards for Excellence in Writing, representing feature stories written by Snowden; and two awards for photography with photos captured by Snowden.

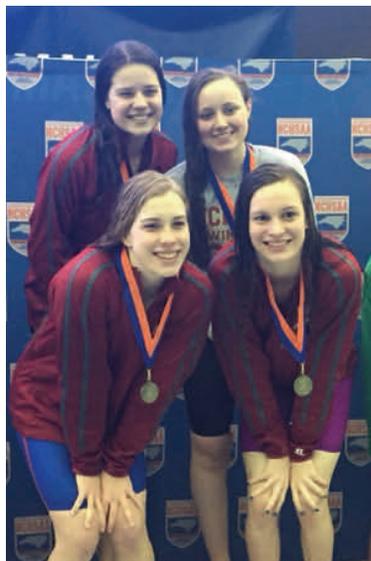
"The Hickory Public Schools family celebrates the accomplishments of Beverly Snowden, our director of communications," Adell said. "She won the seven state awards for her outstanding work in our school district. For me, as superintendent, astronaut Chris Hadfield best expressed my feelings by saying, 'Ulti-

mately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine.' We at Hickory Public Schools are grateful for the contributions of Beverly and we are truly blessed to have her on our team."

Adell joined Snowden for the awards celebration as well as Caroline Brown, Judy Jolly, principal at Longview Elementary, and Sandi Fotheringham, executive director of the HPS Education Foundation. The awards ceremony marks the sixth consecutive year for the HPS Communications Department to be recognized by the North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPPRA). During this time, the district's communications office has earned more than 40 state awards for effective communications, in addition to a national award for excellence in writing from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA).

To view the district's marketing video, "Together, we can make a difference" and the HPS Education Foundation video, visit the HPS website: www.hickoryschools.net.

3A State Swimming Championship 2.11.17



- 200 free-Anna Durak(2nd),Emmaline Peterson (4th);
- 200 IM-Maly Shores (6th);
- 50 Free-Lauren Ferner (13th);
- 100 Free-Anna Durak(2nd) School record
- 500 Free-Emmaline Peterson (1st) School record, Maly Shores (3rd);
- 200 Free Relay - M. Shores, L. Ferner, E. Peterson, A. Durak (1st) School record
- 400 Free Relay - M. Shores, L. Ferner, E. Peterson, A. Durak(3rd)
- Girls team -3rd overall

## *How do you want to be remembered?*

Mrs. Rebecca Gaffney's students have recently dedicated time to write about their core purpose in life. In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the 7th graders have focused on community awareness, and through engaging dialogue, they are writing their goals in life and how they would like to be remembered. Their passages reflect on serving others—such as Brodie Ham hoping to help others with Autism; Tate Webber desires to save funds to donate to others in need; Stacey Guerrero-Garcia, hopes to help people rid themselves of insecurities and through her faith, help others worldwide. Ariana Harren wants to help children who are sick with disease; Zakyus Carson wants to write stories about compassion—helping free people of fear and hate. Lillian Pitts wants to find ways to help make people smile. The students also video-taped their goals with the assistance of Mrs. Lindee Parsons.

