

Athletics 2007-08

For the 2007-08 school year, High Point Christian Academy fielded 30 competitive athletic teams in 11 different sports. The Cougars added to their awards: 56 All-Conference Players, 5 Conference Players of the Year, 2 Conference Coaches of the Year, and 15 All-State Players.

The HPCA Athletic Hall of Fame was established this year, and the first athletes inducted were John Eger and Troy Spencer. John and Troy were Conference Player of the Year and All-State Players for multiple years. The Cougar Male Athlete of the Year was John Eger and the Cougar Female Athlete of the Year was Bethany Gesell. Three seniors signed athletic scholarships: John Eger will attend Covenant College playing soccer, Troy Spencer will attend Seton Hall University playing golf, and Christie Gonzalez will attend Averett University playing softball.

The Cougars placed 2nd in the Wachovia Cup points for Best All-Around 2A Athletic Program in the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA).

The 2007 Cougar Cup Golf Tournament was held in September at the Meadowlands Golf Course. There were 54 teams participating, raising over \$40,000 for the Athletic Department. We are thankful for all of the sponsors.

The Cougars offered 6 Summer Camps for 2008: Baseball, Co-Ed Soccer, Advanced Co-Ed Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball and Football. Volleyball, Basketball and Soccer teams also participate in school team camps throughout the summer.

The Booster Club was comprised of a Leadership Committee led by Curt Scarborough. They helped tremendously with the Cougar Cup Golf Tournament and are continuing to find ways to get more involvement from the parents.

The middle school teams play in the (TMAC) Triad Middle School Athletic Conference, with Westchester Country Day School, Calvary Baptist Day School, Burlington Day School, Canterbury School and Greensboro Academy.

The varsity teams play in the (TAC) Triad Athletic Conference, with Westchester Country Day School, Calvary Baptist Day School, Caldwell Academy, Oak Ridge Military Academy, Salem Academy, The O'Neal School, Carolina Friends School and The American Hebrew Academy. We compete in the state tournaments in the (NCISAA) North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association, division 2A.

Fall 2007

Volleyball

Middle School: coached by Kelley Coats

Record: 21-0. Conference and Tournament Champions

The Middle School Volleyball team had another awesome year. The team consisted of five eighth graders, four seventh graders and four sixth graders. They finished their season undefeated (23-0). They were regular season champs, and won the TMAC conference tournament as well. This group of young ladies are great athletes, but they are even greater Christians. Their commitment to the game, their respect for their coach, and the love they share for the Lord is what has made them winners. For such young players they express a tremendous desire to win. "Our goal for the last three years had been to let our competitors see Jesus in us, and to be a testimony every time we step onto the court." Coach Coats believes this is what has made them successful. "If you always play for Him, you tend to get along well, and keep your composure even when things aren't going your way on the court. We pray for each other, and that makes it easier to play together." The team had a lot of fun including a pool party, and an end of the season sleepover. "These young ladies are a joy to coach and spent time with. It has been my pleasure to coach these special girls."

Jr. Varsity: coached by Andy Oats

Record: 16-5.

The JV team began the season with only 4 returning players out of 12 from the previous season, and only 1 of those players was a starter at the same position last year. "We had a lot of new players in new positions, but the girls did a great job of learning and working hard, and we won our first 7 games. We experienced a few close losses against tough competition later in the season, but the girls played well in each of those matches." Overall, they finished the season with a record of 16-5. "More importantly, I believe the girls grew closer to each other and glorified God with their attitudes and actions on the floor. There were multiple times when referees commented on how well the girls played and how well they responded in tough situations and how well they played as a team. I believe these characteristics are more important than wins and losses and was thankful to hear those comments."

Varsity: coached by Michelle Wilkerson and Sarah Davis

Record: 24-8. Conference Champions. Seeded #6 in State, lost in Quarter-finals.

Megan Fary; All-Conference. Bethany Gesell; All-Conference, Conference Player of the Year, All-State. Michelle Wilkerson; Conference Coach of the Year.

Despite another young team, HPCA Varsity volleyball achieved significant successes throughout the 2007-08 season. They finished the Conference regular season undefeated and advanced to the State quarter-finals. "As the season progressed, players matured and developed into a competitive, cohesive team. By the end of the year, they proved their toughness by advancing into the state quarterfinals for the second straight year."

Boys Soccer

Middle School: coached by Rob Moore

Record: 6-11-3. Finished 4th in Conference.

The Middle School team was very young. They continued to improve and worked hard, making it to the semi-finals in the Conference Tournament. Coach Moore enjoyed coaching the team and felt they had a great testimony to all the teams they played.

Varsity: coached by Shawn Mehegan

Record: 17-4-3. Finished 2nd in Conference. Seeded #6 in State, lost in Semi-finals.

Sung-Jin Song; All-Conference. Will Ashby; All-Conference, All-State. John Eger; All-Conference, Conference Player of the Year, All-State.

The Varsity Boys team had an outstanding season, finishing near the top in the Conference. They played an exciting game against Westchester under the lights at High Point University. They were seeded #6 in the State,

and lost in the semi-final round. Coach Mehegan felt that this team finished the season very strong and looks forward to the coming years with many young and talented players.

Cross Country

Varsity: coached by Heather Foster

Record: Girls 4th and Boys 3rd in Conference.

Austin Gentry, Abby Cliff, Davis Pack; All-Conference.

The Varsity Girls and Boys Cross Country team had runners in grades 7 through 12. Out of 30 runners, there were only a few upperclassmen. The top 5 boys and top 5 girls participated in the State Tournament. Coach Foster believes the future is bright with all the talented and determined runners.

Girls Tennis

Jr. Varsity: coached by David Curry

Record: 6-5

The girls JV team had a very successful season that may not be reflected in the won/loss record. The highlight of the season was a 5-4 win over Wesleyan which came down to the final match. They had a nice blend of returning players along with a number of new girls who all contributed daily. "The new girls, along with the group that will return this fall, has me excited about the possibilities. The girls are a pleasure to be around and regardless of how small a part I play in their lives, I feel blessed to be involved in this positive experience."

Varsity: coached by Lisa Beaston and Kissie Stroup

Record: 11-3. Conference Champions. Finished 6th in State.

Leslie Hipps, Christina Stroup, Carty Beaston, Caroline Brewer, Mary Chandler Cohen, Jenna Curry, Kathryn Stroup; All-Conference.

The Varsity team had a great season. They placed 8th out of 15 teams in the State Tournament. The highlight of the season was to win the Conference Tournament. "We had 7 girls on the team and every girl won her court in the Conference. The girls worked hard and played hard. They were a joy."

Winter 2007-08

Girls Basketball

Middle School "A": coached by David Spencer

Record: 19-1. Conference and Tournament Champions.

The girls "A" team had a great season, with only one loss. They were undefeated in regular season play, making them the TMAC Conference champions. They also won the TMAC Conference Tournament. One highlight of the year was shopping for a needy family after school during the Christmas season. After the shopping trip, they came back to school and wrapped the gifts that were purchased. "This team was made up of good girls, who worked hard to become a great basketball team. I am very proud of them."

Middle School "B": coached by Dale Cecil

Record: 9-2.

The girls "B" team started off very slowly and finished very strong. "Our goal was to get better and better with each practice and game, and each girl on the team did." The team improved on all of the basketball skills. This will prepare them for the "A" team next year.

Varsity: coached by Pattie Nance and Scooter Nance

Record: 11-13. Finished 4th in Conference.

Caroline Cox; All-Conference.

This years Varsity Girls Basketball team overcame many obstacles and injuries to finish 3rd in the TAC conference. "As always, they were a pleasure to coach and were always unpredictable." The Lady Cougars were led by five strong juniors (Julia Eger, Caroline Cox, Katie Bumgarner, Rebecca Leigh, and Anna Black) on the floor. Coach Nance "was more impressed with their off the floor leadership. As a group we grew to be a close knit team and I believe our walk with Christ was stronger than it has ever been. I am looking forward to next year and I am anxious to see what God has in store for us." This team is not graduating anyone so they should be a strong contender for the conference title and their goal is to get into the state tournament.

Boys Basketball

Middle School "A": coached by Todd Farlow

Record: 16-4. Conference and Tournament Champions.

The MS boys had an awesome season. They ended as Regular Season Champions and Conference Tournament Champions. "The team was composed of some incredibly mature young men, both socially and spiritually. We had some wonderful opportunities to serve Christ before and after ball games, as well as through the Open Door Ministries and the Angel Tree sponsorship. This team got better with every game. The heart of this team was bigger than the team itself. I am so proud of this group of young men. They represented Jesus Christ and HPCA with class and dignity."

Middle School "B": coached by Darrell Owen

Record: 7-5.

The MS boys "B" team had a winning season. They were very competitive and played hard. Coach Owen saw the team bond together through practicing and playing games.

Jr. Varsity: coached by Rob Moore

Record: 13-7.

The JV players gained valuable experience playing a tough schedule. Coach Moore is confident that the players are prepared for varsity level play.

Varsity: coached by Chad Wilkerson, Nunu Tavares and Korey Banks

Record: 22-9. Finished 2nd in Conference and Tournament. Seeded #4 in State.

Jermaine Martinez, Demetrius Monroe; All-Conference. Jairus Simms; All-Conference and All-State.

The season was very successful for the Cougars. "We amped up our schedule and played very tough private and public schools for our non-conference games." The Cougars played really well in the Conference and finished second. The season ended with a quarterfinal loss in State to Village Christian. "Overall, it was a successful season on the court and off."

Swimming

Varsity: coached by Sally Nance and Carol Johnson

Conference Champions Girls and Boys. Girls 3rd in State, Boys 2nd in State.

Brooke Spencer, Mackenzie Hoover, Ausley Allison, Olivia Cochran, Maddie Heater, Tess Allison, Sheridan Miller, Zack Casazza; All-Conference. Faith Johnson, Taylor Miller, Jared Saintsing, Jordan Moseley, Chris Church, Aaron Key; All-Conference and All-State.

The team had a very successful swim season and an even more blessed season in growth and unity. "Our focus was on a Latin term 'Coram Deo' which literally means 'The Face of God', but carries the notion of living under the authority of God, in the presence of God and to the glory and honor of God." The season finished as strong as it began, ending with Conference Champions for both the girls and guys!!! They also showed very strong at States, finishing 9.5 points out of first for the girls with a 3rd place finish out of 21 teams. The boys were 15 points out of first finishing 2nd out of 20 teams. "This team is an amazing group of young men and women that share and show Christ in powerful ways...a team that has brought me great joy over the past 5 years!"

Spring 2008

Girls Soccer

Middle School: coached by Mike Severs and Susan Vickers

Record: 9-2. Finished 2nd in Conference.

The middle school girl's soccer season was highlighted by the last two games where they tied Calvary to knock them out of second place and then beat them to advance in the season ending tournament. "The improvement of the girls throughout the season was never more evident than the way we played our last few games in terms of their teamwork, passing, aggressiveness, and defense." The eighth graders provided great leadership on the field and off and handled themselves with a lot of integrity. The seventh and sixth graders proved to be submissive and unselfish team players as they followed that leadership which allowed them to grow as young ladies and as soccer players. "This was probably the best defensive team I have coached at HPCA and definitely the best passing team. We possessed the ball at times better than more experienced teams but we did not always come out with the positive outcome we would have liked." The team improved every time out and with exception of one opponent had the chance to win every game they played. "I am really proud of the way these girls played."

Varsity: coached by Shawn Mehegan and Carol Sue Eger

Record: 7-10-2. Finished 4th in Conference.

Katie Bumgarner, Julia Eger; All-Conference.

"This years Varsity Girls Soccer team was a joy to coach. They worked hard, steadily improved, and competed at a high level in one of the toughest 2A conferences in the state." Julia Eger, Katie Bumgarner, and Caitlin Newby led the team with their exceptional play and leadership. The Lady Cougars accomplished many "firsts" this year: they beat O'Neal School, Carolina Friends, and tied Westchester Country Day School. Their most memorable game was the 2-1 double overtime loss to Calvary Baptist Day School in the TAC Conference Tournament Semi-Finals. The girls are only graduating one senior, so next year they look to be top in the Conference and make a deep run in the state tournament.

Baseball

Middle School: coached by Roger Bergsma, Billy Wilson and Jordan Frost

Record: 14-1. Conference and Tournament Champions.

The MS team had their 3rd undefeated Conference season in a row. They lost their first non-conference game in two years. "The attitudes of the players were outstanding and they worked very hard at practice, and this contributed to their success."

Jr. Varsity: coached by Randy Boles, Darryl Cope and Wally Morrison

Record: 7-4.

The players gained valuable experience competing on the JV level, helping to prepare them for the Varsity team in the future. Coach Boles believes through hard work and practice, many of these players can contribute to the Varsity team next year.

Varsity: coached by Corey Gesell, Dale Cecil, Rick Blackmore, Jason Davis

Record: 21-7. Conference and Tournament Champions. Seeded #1 in State. Lost in Semi-finals.

John Eger, Cameron Cecil; All-Conference. Noah Blackmore, Kevin Sanders; All-Conference and All-State.

Conner Scarborough; All-Conference, Conference Player of the Year, All-State.

This was the 3rd year for Varsity Baseball, and they won their first ever Conference Regular Season and Tournament Championship. They traveled to Disney's Wide World of Sports over the Easter break and won 3 of 5 games. They spent the last weeks of the season seeded #1 in the State. "Our guys really bonded and played for the Lord and for each other. This was the reason for our success this year."

Softball

Middle School: coached by Todd Farlow

Record: 9-2.

The Middle School team improved over the course of the season. "It was a very raw group, yet one that was willing to learn and work hard. Their attitudes were awesome throughout the season." A good foundation was put into place for this group to have much success in the future. They planted seeds for Christ every game through prayer with the other team, and every team was more than willing to join them. "I am so proud of the progress of this team. We will need to start at a higher level next year. Expectations will only continue to go up with time. God blessed this team in so many ways as noted by the support of the parents for these girls."

Varsity: coached by Ken Hunt, Angelo Gonzalez and Candace Wall

Record: 14-4. Conference and Tournament Champions. Seeded #6 in State.

Christie Gonzalez, McKenzie Spillman, Rebecca Leigh, Taylor Suits, Mychelle Gonzalez, Faith Johnson; All-Conference. Bethany Gesell; All-Conference, Conference Player of the Year, All-State.

The 5th season since starting the softball program proved to be the best yet with a 14-4 record. The season started with a tremendous loss of two players, Ashley Boling and Christy Gonzalez. The freshmen class carried us through these injuries and others while they gained valuable playing time. The Cougars claimed the first ever TAC Conference Championship. They suffered a heartbreaking 4-3 playoff loss that would have put them in the NCISAA 2A double-elimination final four for the first time. "One of my most memorable moments came when Taylor Suits hit her first out-of-the park homerun that resulted in the run-ruling of Calvary (14-3) which awarded us the regular season conference championship. In 22 years of playing and coaching fastpitch softball, I have never seen a player more excited than when Taylor rounded second base jumping up and down and grinning from ear to ear."

Boys Tennis

Varsity: coached by Darrell Love

Record: 7-1. Conference Champions. Tied for 7th in State.

Drew Dunzweiler, Taylor Light; All-Conference.

This first year for boy's varsity tennis can be summed up with one word, "Miraculous". From the season opener against Westchester, they came from behind to score the first win. And it was a big win that led to a series of wins. "Throughout the season the guys continued to be faithful and demonstrate their best. At times things looked doubtful but we continually came out on top. This team is a winner not because of our final score, but because of their heart." They were undefeated in the Conference regular season, and runner up in the Conference Tournament. The boys made a 7th place State finish. "We are most thankful that God once again used a shepherd boy, 'David' (young HPCA team), to defeat a giant, 'Goliath' (Westchester, O'Neal)."

Golf

Middle School: coached by Scott Duerscherl

Record: 5-3.

The team was led by the season MVP, Jackson Somers, who played as the #1 seed all season. They started the season 2-0 after winning both matches by several shots. Other players that helped contribute to the winning season were: Tulley Dominguez (Christian Character Award), Andrew Walters, Thomas Jarell, and Josh Craft (Most Improved Player). "I look forward to next season as we have 4 solid players coming back to try and improve on our winning season."

Varsity: coached by David Spencer

Finished 3rd in Conference Tournament.

Troy Spencer; All-Conference, Conference Player of the Year, All-State.

The Varsity team had a good year, winning more than they lost. The final regular season record was 10-8, and finishing 3rd at the TAC Conference Tournament. "Every golfer improved during the season. Each player is a better golfer now than at the beginning of the season." The team stayed in 8th place most of the year, which would qualify the team to play in State Tournament. They ended the year at 10th place, but Troy Spencer qualified as an individual and finished 7th in the State Championship.

Track and Field

Varsity: coached by Heater Foster

Girls finished 4th and Boys finished 2nd in Conference Tournament.

Jermaine Martinez, Jairus Simms, Sung-Jin Song, Travis Suits, David Whiteman, Chance Penland; All-Conference.

This was the inaugural season for Track and Field at HPCA. With over 40 members, the team made great strides with help from numerous parents. Many on the team were competing in events they had never done before. Six members were All-Conference and thirty members qualified for the State meet. Coach Foster believes this was an outstanding season for a first year team and there are many talented younger members on the team which will lead to a bright future.