

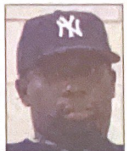
Laurel basketball coach moving on

■ Coutreyer joins mentor as assistant at Hampton University

BY KEVIN HILGERS
STAFF WRITER

Keith Coutreyer, who coached the Laurel High School boys' basketball team to the Class 4A South Region championship last year, is leaving the Spartans to join the staff at Hampton University next season.

Coutreyer finalized the deal at the historically black university in southeastern Virginia Monday after mulling an offer



Keith Coutreyer

who last season guided Laurel to the school's first regional title in boys' basket-

ball since 1980. "At the same time, I'm definitely losing a place I've called home for 14 years. It's hard to wrap my mind around it."

Laurel principal Dwayne Jones, who was the head coach at Laurel when Coutreyer first joined the staff, said he was sad to see Coutreyer go, but understood his decision.

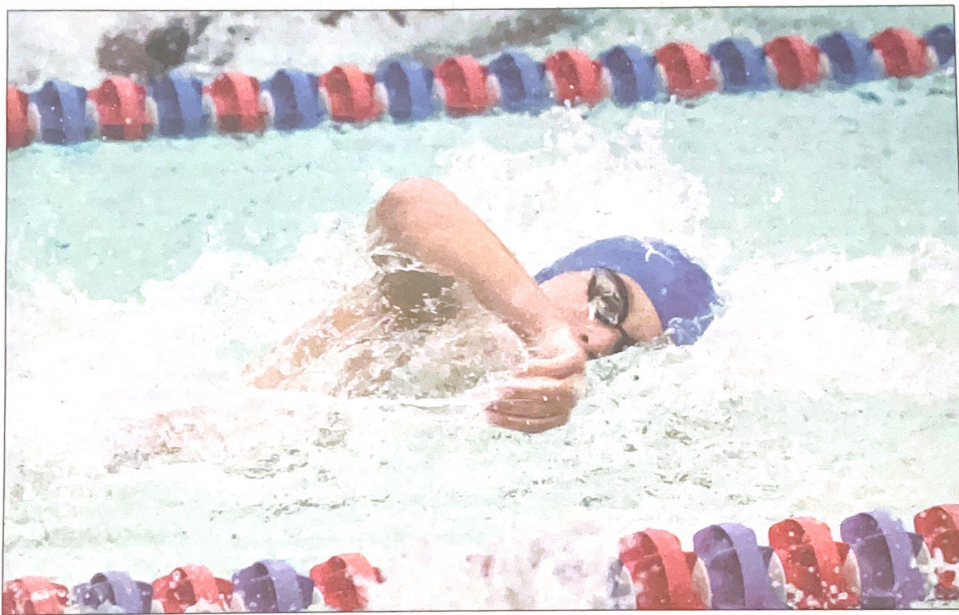
"You never want to see anybody leave, but if folks leave you hope it's for something bigger and better," Jones said, adding that the search is under way to fill the coaching job and Coutreyer's position as a special education teacher.

Coutreyer and Nickelberry, a Central

High School graduate, have a long relationship, dating to when Coutreyer played for Nickelberry at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park in the early 1990s. Nickelberry's first college coaching job was as an assistant there for one year, alongside current Gwynn Park coach Mike Glick. Coutreyer and Nickelberry later were roommates, while Nickelberry was an assistant at Howard.

Nickelberry is entering his third season at Hampton, which went 18-12 and placed second in the Mid-Eastern Athletic

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CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON/THE GAZETTE

Montpelier's Dylan Buehler swims in the 50-meter freestyle during Saturday's season-ending Prince-Mont All-Star meet in Bowie.

Swim season wraps at All-Star meet

■ Swimmers from Laurel teams earn eight first-place finishes

BY TED BLACK
STAFF WRITER

Less than a month after competing in the U.S. Olympic Swim Trials, Montpelier Community swim team coach Matt Harris celebrated his 21st birthday Saturday by watching his youthful protégés perform admirably in the annual Prince-Mont All-Stars meet at Belair Swim & Racquet in Bowie.

Montpelier's Thomas Brown de

Colstoun began the meet by winning the 10-and-under boys' 25-meter butterfly (17.72 seconds). Suzannah Mills won the girls' 8-and-under 25 breaststroke (24.13) and finished second in the 25 backstroke (21.75). Brown de Colstoun also finished second in the 9-10 boys' 50 freestyle (34.53), just ahead of teammate Caleb Walter. Dylan Buehler finished fourth in the 11-12 boys' 50 fly (34.39) and the 100 individual medley and Stephanie Blau also placed fourth in the 15-18 girls' 50 back.

"We had some excellent swims today," said Harris, a DeMatha High School graduate and a senior at Kenyon (Ohio) College, which will seek its 30th straight NCAA Division III championship this winter. "A lot of our younger kids took best times and improved on their seed positions. Even the older kids were able to drop time and move up. Now I'll get a few weeks off and then get set for the swim season."

West Arundel also had a strong showing at the All-Star meet. Kellianne Venit

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Spartans ready to 'rock and roll' with new leader

BY ADAM RUBENSTEIN
STAFF WRITER

Laurel High School's girls' soccer team will enter this fall with its fourth head coach in as many years. But as Laura Barrett began holding optional conditioning drills with her players this week, she

PREP SOCCER

said she hopes to bring the Spartans a sense of stability.

"I have probably met with the girls five times between when I was hired [in February] and now," said Barrett. "I know what to expect from them. They are a great bunch of girls. I am excited to work with them. Hopefully, we can build a program here for years to come. I'm not in this for it to be a temporary gig."

While the Laurel area has one of the more extensive youth soccer feeder systems in the county, the Spartans have been searching for consistency since Terry Parfitt stepped down as coach after guiding the team into the state semifinals in 2002. Steve Craig, Ken Findlay and Yolanda Cooper each coached just one season in the past three years.

Barrett, who played at Livonia High School in Rochester, N.Y., and also spent a season with the team at SUNY-Cortland, is placing an emphasis on fitness.

"Conditioning is the key thing in soccer," said Barrett, a Bowie resident. "It is what wins games: Who can last the longest? There are other things that are also important such as ball control, but it all starts with conditioning."

Barrett has an excitement and enthu-

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