



# Sports

The Zephyrhills News

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2021

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B

NO. 1

## Bulldogs rock Nature Coast 35-0, clinch district title



The Bulldogs pose in front of the scoreboard as the win clinches the district title.

ANDY WARRENER

*The ZHS Bulldogs made a statement in a dominant road win*

By ANDY WARRENER  
Sports Reporter  
Oct. 28, 2021

The game got off to an inauspicious start. The host Nature Coast Tech Sharks stole field position with their opening drive and the Bulldogs' first two offensive drives netted a total of minus six yards. They were pinned back against the shadow of their own goal posts. Until. After gaining their initial first down and on an ensuing 3rd-and-6, quarterback Jaxson Rivera dropped back and found a wide open TJ Jackson slanting across the middle of the field.

"Soon as I saw that, my eyes lit up," Rivera said. "I knew we had to have that play and I was able to hit him in-stride for the touchdown."

Jackson was wide open on the catch and turned it upfield for a 75-yard score. Rivera would add the point after to make it 7-0. Rivera even handled kickoffs. He was 5-for-5 on extra points and booted 4-of-5 kickoffs into the endzone for touchdowns. He even dropped a fourth-quarter punt at the Nature Coast one-yard line. It flipped the field on the Sharks and opened up the

game for the Bulldog offense. "Any time you can flip the field it changes the dynamic of the game," Bulldog head coach Nick Carroll said.

It allowed the Bulldog defense to clamp down and allowed the offense to open up lanes in the run game. Starting their fourth drive near midfield, the Bulldogs had two 20-yard runs by Jaylin Thomas, the second was for a touchdown and 14-point lead, deep into the second quarter. The defense followed it up by stymieing the Nature Coast offense. The 1,200-yard rusher Christian Cromer, who averages almost 180 yards per game, was devoured by the Bulldog defense, compiling just 25 yards on eight carries in the first half. The Sharks gained just 16 yards of offense in the first half after their opening possession.

The Bulldog offense was not finished after a missed field goal of 39 yards with one minute left in the half. An interception by Tymar Mckever set the Bulldogs up on a short field and they capitalized on a nine-yard touchdown completion from Rivera to Jackson. It was 21-0 into halftime.

"We wanted to put points on the board, Nature Coast was in a shootout last Friday, so we knew they were capable of doing that," Carroll said.

The Bulldogs, who received the second half kickoff, wasted no time in going for the coup de main. They ripped off four consecutive runs, getting the Shark defenders thinking run and then found Maguire Neal for a 34-yard touchdown completion that made it 28-0 not three minutes into the third quarter.

"Our game plan was to win every offensive play," Rivera

➤ ZHS FOOTBALL: See Page 2B

## The Zephyrhills News top 10 sports stories of 2021

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter

When it comes to sports, a look back on 2020 must start with a record-breaking year for Tampa Bay's professional teams. No wonder some sports fans now affectionately refer to this region as Champa Bay.

The Buccaneers, who lured quarterback Tom Brady from New England where he led the Patriots to nine Super Bowls and six titles in a stellar 20-year span, became the first team in the National Football League to win a Super Bowl in their home stadium. It also was the Bucs' second championship.

Topping that feat was the Tampa Bay Lightning, who won their first Stanley Cup in 2004 and made it back-to-back National Hockey League championships in 2020 and 2021. Leading the way in the Lightning's title defense were goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, top scorer Nikita Kucherov and world-class defenseman Victor Hedman.

As for Tampa Bay's other professional sports team, the salary-challenged Rays captured the American League East Division title by winning a franchise-record 100 games. The postseason did not last long, however, as they lost the division series to the Boston Red Sox.

Nonetheless, the future is bright for the Rays. Randy Arozarena was the American League Rookie of the Year and 20-year-old phenom Wander Franco, who was brought up from the minors during the season, recently signed to a \$223 million contract (if a 12th-year option is picked up) that represents the largest in team history.

On the local scene the perennial-contending Zephyrhills football team clinched a district title with a 9-1 record, marking one of its best finished in school history. Coming off last year's region semifinal game against Orlando Jones and stocked with enough talent to make a run at a region final and possible state final four berth, the Bulldogs were upset by St. Petersburg Gibbs and surprisingly eliminated in the first round.

Before that playoff game, however, Zephyrhills was the clear-cut favorite in the 9-Mile War and handily defeated arch-rival Pasco 56-0 in the county's oldest rivalry that dates back to 1941. The Bulldogs have won six of the past seven games in the series, but Pasco, which not long ago had an eight-year winning streak, still leads at 41-22.

In a fundraiser for the Pasco County Special Olympics, the Pasco Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies united to revive a torch run. Last year's event did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic and this year's run was relocated from downtown Dade City to the Wiregrass Ranch Sports Campus of Pasco County. Organizers said the switch was made primarily to avoid traffic and are working on details to continue it at that location.

In weightlifting, the Zephyrhills girls continued their dominance by winning their third straight district title to go along with a regional championship for a third straight year.

The boys weightlifting team did not fare quite as well, but did finish as conference and district runners-up after two consecutive district titles in 2018 and 2019. In all, 14 Bulldogs advanced to the regionals including district champion Theotis Smith.

➤ SPORTS INTRO: See Page 2B

NO. 2

## Law Enforcement Torch Run is revived and relocated

*After a one-year hiatus, fundraiser for Special Olympics shifts from downtown Dade City to Wiregrass Ranch Sports Campus*

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter  
Nov. 11, 2021

Two of Zephyrhills' most prominent special athletes walked at the front of the line for the Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics. Flanking Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco were Andreas Torres and John Algood, who in recent years have helped the Zephyrhills teams win numerous championships in soccer and softball.

"I'm happy that I get to do this with the sheriff and represent Zephyrhills," Torres said. "It feels good and it's just nice to get out and exercise with the other kids."

Following a one-year hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic, the torch run was revived at a new location. The annual fundraiser traditionally began on the track at Pasco High School's W.F. Edwards Stadium, meandered throughout the downtown Dade City area and wound up at the Old Historic Courthouse. There were water stations along the way and plenty of supporters along the route.

This year's event took place at the Wiregrass Ranch Sports Campus of Pasco County, a sprawling sports facility that opened in 2000. The torch run is likely to continue at its current location.

Amanda Hunter, the sheriff's public information manager, noted that shifting the torch run to the sports campus solves the issue of changing traffic patterns in an urban area. Before, traffic had to be re-routed and there were concerns about the safety of the participants.

"It's a little easier to have it at a facility like this," she said. "It's a lot safer for the athletes."

Richard Blalock, chief executive officer of RADDSports at the sports campus, said he welcomes opportunities to work with law enforcement, fire departments and other service agencies. When approached by sheriff's office officials he said he was happy to be able to help out.



Special Olympians, law enforcement and supporters gathered for a group photo before the run/walk.

STEVE LEE

"These are the types of things we want to do," he said. "It's a win-win for everybody."

Unlike the previous torch runs in which Nocco led a contingent of law enforcement runners/walkers, Special Olympians from Pasco and Hernando counties, and numerous family members and supporters through downtown Dade City, a walk around the soccer field proved sufficient.

Some participants took more than one lap with three being the equivalent of one mile. Either way, the walk, which included a lighted torch passed from Nocco to deputy Ray Meunier, aboard Samson with the Pasco Sheriff's Posse, proved beneficial

for the cause.

"Go out and have a fun day," the sheriff urged participants. "This is one of the great days that makes me happy."

Cypress Creek, led by coaches Will Fulmer and Angel Ramos, brought 23 Special Olympians to the walk. They were among other special athletes who also got to play kick ball and throw footballs at targets drawn out on a net.

"It's a blessing," said Fulmer, who also is an assistant coach for Cypress Creek's varsity football team. "These kids try 100

➤ SPECIAL OLYMPICS: See Page 2B





► **SPORTS INTRO:** From Page 1B

On the courts, Stewart Middle won varsity and junior varsity boys basketball titles. The Zephyrhills girls made the playoffs as a district runner-up. The Zephyrhills boys, however, had somewhat of a rebuilding year after making it to the playoffs for six straight seasons.

Youth baseball and softball teams fared well during the summer having missed the 2020 season altogether due to the pandemic. Four San Antonio All-Star teams earned state berths with the T-Ballers and Juniors also winning district titles. As for the Zephyrhills Little League, the Minor Softball team placed third in the state tournament.

The Zephyrhills track team brought home some medals from the state meet. Maya Llanes competed in the high jump, Maguire Neal ran the hurdles and the 4x100 relay team featured Willie Queen, T.J. Jackson, Clayton Cornelius and Neal. Pasco's Darien Smith, a triple-jumper, also was among those who cracked the top 15.

Before that meet, the Zephyrhills boys won a district track title. The Bulldogs also won it in 2019, but the 2020 meet was cancelled.

Lastly, four members of Zephyrhills' Future Farmers of America Club, earned awards for showing their goats at the Florida State Fair. That group consisted of Emma McKelvey, Tabitha Crist, Stephanie Johnson and Marissa Shivers.

► **ZHS FOOTBALL:** From Page 1B

said. "Coach called some great plays and we executed well to-night."

Staring at a four-touchdown deficit, the Sharks started getting desperate. The Bulldog defense was there to pounce. The Sharks got a decent drive going only to have it snuffed out by an interception from Jakobe Campbell.

The Bulldogs finished off the Sharks on the first play of their next drive as Rivera dodged a defender and dumped it off to Ben Raines. Raines cut back across the grain and sliced 89 yards for a touchdown, initiating the running clock. Campbell extinguished even a last gasp from the Nature Coast offense by picking off another pass, his second on the night and third for the Bulldog defense. It also preserved the shutout for the Bulldogs.

It was a huge night for the Bulldogs. Rivera threw for four touchdowns, 236 yards and no interceptions. Thomas toted the rock 16 times for 170 yards and a score. Theotis Smith had a whopping 12 tackles on the night. Neal made splash plays on both offense and defense and Campbell's two picks more than made up for a dropped touchdown pass in the first half.

In other games around the county, Hudson suffered a crushing 44-6 defeat at the hands of the Wesley Chapel Wildcats. The Cobras were the Bulldogs's top threat for the Class 5A District 9 title and automatic bid for the 2021 playoffs. With the Hudson loss, the Bulldogs clinch the district. Even though they have a head-to-head with Hudson on Friday, the Bulldogs retain a two-game district lead on the Cobras. Wesley Chapel is just one game behind in the district standings but the Bulldogs own the tiebreaker due to a 34-9 win over the Wildcats back on Sept. 17. All that's left for the Bulldogs in the regular season besides Hudson is a rivalry game against the hapless Pasco Pirates on Nov. 5. Don't think the Bulldogs are going to take their foot off the gas.

"We're not taking anything for granted," Carroll said. "We might have clinched but we still are going to go out there and give Hudson everything we've got."



The opening coin toss for the Bulldogs/Sharks matchup.

Right: Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco holds the symbolic torch while leading the Law Enforcement Torch Run at the Wiregrass Ranch Sports Campus of Pasco County.



► **SPECIAL OLYMPICS:** From Page 1B

percent every second they're out there."

Added deputy Larry Roberts, a former Pasco High football and track standout, "It's a big deal to give to those who are not as fortunate as others; who are challenged in life. It makes us happy to put a smile on their faces."

Nocco thanked everyone for coming and tossed the football around with some of the special athletes. Other representatives of the sheriff's office played kickball with them.

Another popular attraction were three horses from the sheriff's posse. They were ridden by Meunier, Diane Shefts and Marnie Bennett with Taylor Nutt along to assist.

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**NO.3**

**Bulldog lifters make it three-straight district titles**



Left: The Bulldogs made it three straight district titles Friday.

ANDY WARRENER

*A well-rounded team effort with a few key performances helped the Bulldogs claim their third consecutive district title*

By **ANDY WARRENER**  
Sports Reporter  
Jan. 28, 2021

It's not supposed to be a big year for the Bulldogs. They reached their zenith last season as Lakisia Thomas won the school's first individual state title in the sport. The team as a whole managed to place third in Class A. State placers bedecked the roster from 2019, from 2020 and it would seem that there might still be some in 2021. If senior Madison Aguilera has anything to say about it, the Bulldogs will indeed have some state placers in 2021.

"I want to get to states," Aguilera said. "It's where my eyes are now. The records will come."

Adding to the feat of winning three consecutive district titles, Aguilera took center stage last Friday as she walked onto the platform for her clean-and-jerk lifts. Aguilera is an elite clean-and-jerk lifter. She owns the school record in clean-and-jerk across four different weight classes. Her mark in the 154-pound weight class from her junior year (185 pounds), seemed out of reach most of this season as Aguilera dropped down to the 139-pound weight class. She extended her clean-and-jerk record in the weight class at conference by hoisting 165 pounds up and over her head. She would crush that mark at districts as she went for 165

pounds on her very first clean-and-jerk lift.

She hit it, no problem. 175 pounds went up and over her head, no problem. Then with 180 pounds on the bar, Aguilera jerked the bar up onto her chest. Her knee wiggled, ever so slightly and then, pop, she popped out her stance, walked under it and the new school record for clean-and-jerk at 139 pounds was set anew. It was also another individual district title for Aguilera, who compiled a composite score of 315. The second-place lifter at 139 scored a 250.

In fact, Aguilera's 315 would have won the 154, 169 and 199 weight classes on Friday. That score would have placed Aguilera in the top 10 of 139-pound lifters from the 2020 state meet in Class 2A (where the Bulldogs compete this season). Aguilera was thrilled to have set another record in what was her last meet in the ZHS gym, with state-placer alumni in Thomas, Abby Shaffer and Jessica Guadarrama on hand.

"(With regard to the last meet at ZHS) I'll probably start crying before the end of the night," Aguilera said. "Having these girls (Thomas, Shaffer, Guadarrama) is so nice. They were my teammates at one point and now they are bringing back that winning mentality. It gets the other girls hyped up, too."

Other district champions included senior Diamond Cowart. Cowart did not break any of her own marks on Friday but her composite score of 360 easily out-paced the Unlimited weight class. The next best lifter in the class scored a 280.

"I think I'll be less nervous at states this year after competing there in 2020," Cowart said. "Right now, I'm focused on the competition at regionals. I haven't had a lot of competition this season but at regionals, Sunlake will be there again."

► **WEIGHTLIFTING:** See Page 3B

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► **WEIGHTLIFTING:** From Page 2B



Above: Madison Aguilera brings in the district championship trophy to her elated teammates.

Thursday's regional meet at River Ridge brings the power houses together. River Ridge is always a threat and was 7th in Class 2A at states last year. Sunlake is the defending 2A state champion, Leesburg was runner up in Class A and Winter Springs was third in class 2A last season. All of them will be in place for Thursday's regional meet.

Sophomore Autumn Spoon won the 183-pound weight class to help the Bulldogs. Her 180-pound bench press tied her personal best and tweak to her shoulder kept her clean-and-jerk lift lower than usual. Spoon survived last year's Region of Doom and has aims for high marks at this year's.

"I'm used to the anxiety now," Spoon said. "I'm not so nervous about the other teams at this point but more the other individual lifters."

Other Bulldog seniors Lauren Vo, Haley Cameron, Aleah Killebrew, Barbara Van Klock and Samantha Wilkes were honored before the lifting began Thursday. Vo and Killebrew finished second and third, respectively in the 129-pound class. Wilkes placed second in the 169-pound class, Cameron claimed third at 183-pound class. Those four advance on to regionals. Unlimited lifter Bri Padron got second behind Cowart in the Unlimited class. Sharibell Vazquez and Kaitlyn Miller both placed third in their respective weight classes. As a team, the Bulldogs out-paced runner up Nature Coast Tech 69-53.

**NO. 4**



Above: Zephyrhills football players hit their knees during an injury timeout in last Friday night's game against arch-rival Pasco at Bulldog Stadium.

# Bulldogs dominate Pirates in this year's 9-Mile War game

*Playoff-bound Zephyrhills wins 56-0 while Pasco finishes a dismal season without a victory*

By **STEVE LEE**  
Sports Reporter  
Nov. 11, 2021

The dire warning from coach Nick Carroll not to overlook winless Pasco in last Friday night's 9-Mile War at Bulldog Stadium really was not necessary. Host Zephyrhills crushed its long-time nemesis 56-0.

For playoff-bound Zephyrhills it marked one of the most lopsided outcomes in the storied rivalry, which began in 1941 and at 63 matchups is the oldest and fiercest in Pasco County history. The Bulldogs, who have won six of the past seven games in the 9-Mile War, narrowed Pasco's all-time lead in the series to 41-22.

"I'm happy for the kids and the coaches," Carroll said. "It's always good to beat Pasco, because you never know. It's always nice to get a win against our rival."

Zephyrhills heads into the playoffs against St. Petersburg Gibbs this Friday at home with a 9-1 record while Pasco's season ends at 0-10. Carroll feels the rivalry will be more competitive someday, reasoning that "eventually they are going to be back. There's too much rich tradition and history at Pasco."

While the game was unlike many of the previous close battles between the rivals, the sparse attendance also was not indicative of previous Zephyrhills-Pasco matchups. Due in part to Pasco's dismal record along with rain that soaked the area throughout the day, Bulldog Stadium was literally half-empty. By halftime many of those people had left.

It was nothing like many of the past matchups, some of which Carroll labeled "electrifying."

Zephyrhills wasted little time getting on the scoreboard against Pasco. The defense forced the Pirates to punt after the game's first three plays and the Bulldogs needed just one play to score with Maguire Neal on the receiving end of Jaxson Rivera's 17-yard touchdown pass.

Jaylin Thomas then scored the first of his two touchdowns in the first half. The senior running back, who has rushed for at least 100 yards in eight games this year, plunged into the end zone from a yard out on a drive set up by his 46-yard burst down the right sideline.

Rivera then hit Jakobe Campbell on a slant-in from the left side for an 18-yard touchdown pass, his second of the game, before Thomas added a 30-yard scoring run.

Willie Queen added an 18-yard touchdown run and Campbell scooped up a fumble and scored from 36 yards out to help stake the Bulldogs to a 43-0 halftime lead.

Defensively, Theotis Smith caused two Pasco fumbles and recovered another, and Lawrence Graham had an interception. All of those turnovers came in the first half.

A notable play, which made history, also took place in the first half when backup defensive tackle Annaleese Thomas ran the football into the end zone off left tackle for a two-point conversion. The 5-foot-3 senior, who lined up in the offensive backfield alongside Smith for that play, is the only female football player for Zephyrhills to ever score in a game.

"That's a play we put in for her," Carroll said. "She is a great kid and a great addition to our team. We all accept her as another player and we're happy for her."

Thomas, who often plays on the defensive line late in lopsided games, held the ball aloft on the sidelines afterward as teammates cheered for her.

The second half went by fast, thanks to a running clock that is implemented when a team is ahead by 35 points or more after the break.

Queen added his second touchdown, this time on a 76-yard kickoff return and backup quarterback R.J. Allen completed a 25-yard scoring pass to Xavier Garraway.

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**MONDAY** Aerie Bingo 12:30pm-3pm  
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**Every Tues.** Trustee Meeting 6pm-6:30pm

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**NOTICE**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 1432-22**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA MODIFYING THE MASTER PLAN FOR SILVER OAKS PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

A public hearing will be held on January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills, Florida. The full text of the ordinance is posted in City Hall and may be inspected by the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. All interested parties may appear at the meeting and may be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance or may submit written comments to City Council, 5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

**\* PLEASE NOTE:** This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S. 286.0105. If you are a person with a disability which requires reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 813-780-0000 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing. A.D.A. and F.S. 286.26. 286.0105

Published: December 30, 2021

**NO.5**

**ZHS track brings home the hardware from states**



Above: The combined boys and girls teams from a meet at Cypress Creek during the regular season.

ANDY WARRENER

*The Bulldog boys track team came home from the state track meet in Jacksonville with some medals draped around their necks*

By STEVE LEE  
News Reporter  
May 20, 2021

Thankful just to be able to compete at a state meet, the Bulldogs travelled to the University of North Florida for the Class 3A state track meet last Thursday with competition starting on Friday. There was no state track meet in 2020.

One of the Bulldog athletes didn't even think she was going. High jumper and basketball star Maya Llanes was a casualty of poor planning at the regional meet at Lake Region High School, where they used an uncertified official for high jump. The FHSAA initially ruled that only the regional champion and runner up would advance to states.

They reversed their decision in an email to coach Bryan Thomas on Thursday.

"We found out the night before," Thomas said. "We were already at the hotel, so Maya (Llanes) came up with Clayton's (Cornelius) grandparents."

Llanes was thrilled at the opportunity but her run would be short-lived. She cleared her initial height but finished at 1.47 meters or 4-feet, 9.75-inches for 15th place in the event.

"It was a great atmosphere, she was happy to be there," Thomas said.

It wouldn't be a Bulldog track meet without some dose of adversity flown in their face. The team's top prospect, Maguire Neal, clipped a hurdle with his trail leg and fell during his 110 meter hurdle race. While it relegated Neal to

last place in the event, he got up and finished the race.

"I was proud that he got back up and finished the race," Thomas said. "I think he ran with a chip on his shoulder the rest of the day."

Neal ran a 10.86 to place 12th in the 100 meter dash. He ran a 39.09, just off his personal best of 38.55 in the 300 meter hurdles. It was good enough for sixth place in the event, another state track medal coming home to Zephyrhills.

"Most kids don't react well after a fall but Maguire showed his character by bouncing back for the 300 hurdles," Thomas said.

Neal wasn't quite finished, either. He slotted into the anchor leg of the 4x100 meter relay with teammates Willie Queen, Clayton Cornelius and TJ Jackson. Together they ran a 42.39, two-tenths of a second faster than their regional time but just shy of the school record of 42.27. It was a run good enough to put the quartet on the podium in seventh place.

"They trusted the plan, ran a good race," Thomas said. "Everything took care of itself and they earned it."

Pasco's Darrien Smith placed 14th in the triple jump with a mark of 12.59 meters or 41 feet, 3.75 inches.

Looking back, Thomas can say that he built a successful season around a core of mostly younger athletes. He got kids into pole vault and javelin. Javelin is a brand new sport to high school and the marks set by his first-year throwers are going in as school records, at least until next season.

Thomas hopes to rebuild the throwing corps from the football and weightlifting teams next season. That was one area the Bulldogs lacked in 2021 and one they are traditionally strong in.

"I think we got better throughout the season and we finished with some hardware," Thomas said. "We're a young team looking ahead to next year. We have just three seniors on the boys side and one on the girls."



Left: The boys 4x100 meter relay (from left to right) Willie Queen, TJ Jackson, Clayton Cornelius and Maguire Neal with coach Bryan Thomas in the back row.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYAN THOMAS

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**NO.6**



Above: The T-ball All-Stars (ages 5-6) from San Antonio won the District 6 title on their home field before advancing to the Dixie Baseball League State Tournament in Frostproof. Unfortunately, that was as far as they got in the postseason.

STEVE LEE

# Four San Antonio all-star teams earn state berths

*Only the Minors, Juniors and T-ball squads competed with the Ozone team lacking enough players to advance*

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter  
Aug. 5, 2021

Having missed last season due to the coronavirus pandemic, all-star baseball teams from San Antonio came back strong. Four squads qualified for state tournaments with three advancing to that level in the Dixie Baseball League.

San Antonio hosted the District 6 tournaments with the T-ballers (ages 5-6) and Juniors (7-8) winning titles to earn state berths. The Minors (9-10) and Ozone (ages 11-12) all-stars were district runners-up, but only the Minors advanced to states. The Ozone did not have enough players to compete in that next level at the time.

After winning their district championships at home, the T-ballers and Juniors went to state tournaments in Frostproof and Marianna, respectively. The district runner-up Minors were one of the top two all-star teams in that division to qualify for the state series in Sebring.

"It's really exciting to see the growth occurring throughout the league," said Christopher Kent, San Antonio's league president. "San Antonio may be a small community in the Tampa Bay area, but there's no shortage of baseball talent here, as evidenced by the number of teams we continue to have qualify for state tournaments."

The Minors had the best postseason result by placing third in the state series. San Antonio got off to a slow start in the district tourney, but bounced back to finish as the runner-up with a dominant 18-3 win over Webster.

San Antonio's primary pitchers for the first two district games were Gunner Bingham and Eric Frye. In the decisive win against Webster, Deegan Piet, Christian Adams and Cody Carroll combined on a one-hitter.

The top hitters in that game were Michael Hynes (three hits, three runs), Noah Hill (three RBIs, two runs), Kamrin Kennedy (three hits, three RBIs, three runs) and Piet (two hits, two runs and an RBI).

Right: San Antonio's Ozone All-Stars (ages 11-12), which is the Majors in other leagues, earned a state berth as a district runner-up. That squad, however, lacked enough players to take part in the state tournament.



Below: The Minor All-Stars (ages 9-10) from San Antonio qualified for the state series as a district runner-up. They played in the state tourney at Sebring and placed third. They were the only San Antonio All-Star team to crack the top three at the state level.



**NO.7**

# Zephyrhills is district runner-up in boys weightlifting meet



Above: Zephyrhills weightlifters take a break during last week's Class 2A, District 12 tournament at River Ridge to ham it up in the stands. In all, 14 Bulldogs are advancing to the regionals.

STEVE LEE

*Two-time champion Bulldogs settle for second place behind perennial state contender Sunlake*

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter  
April 8, 2021

Zephyrhills came into last week's Class 2A, District 12 boys weightlifting tournament hosted by River Ridge as the two-time defending champion. Who knows if it might have been three in a row, because even though the Bulldogs had a formidable lineup last year the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of conference and district tournaments.

Zephyrhills, which won district titles in 2018 and 2019 titles as a Class A team, did not get to finish last season and were moved up a division this year. Unfortunately, that pitted them against Sunlake, a perennial state contender with multiple district and conference championships.

Sunlake wound up winning yet another district crown with 70 points, well ahead of runner-up Zephyrhills' 42. Behind those top two teams were River Ridge, 29; Gulf and Land O' Lakes tied with 24 apiece; and Wesley Chapel, 10.

"It's what I knew," said Chris Barrick, who is in his sixth season coaching the Bulldogs. "We've got Sunlake here and the state bumped us up to 2A."

The season is not over for 14 Zephyrhills lifters. Those competitors earned regional berths, which is one round shy of the state tournament, by finishing in the top six of their respective divisions. When the Bulldogs their two most recent district titles, 18 lifters from each of those teams advanced to the regionals.

Leading the way for the Bulldogs was Theotis Smith, the team's lone district winner

who competed in the 238-pound weight class. He bench-pressed 290 pounds and had a 235 clean-and-jerk for a total of 525.

Smith actually won district titles in two winter sports. The first one came in wrestling in the 220 division. The junior also is a standout linebacker on the football team.

"I've just got to find time for both of them," he said of competing in wrestling and weightlifting during the same season. "I always remind myself what I do it for — family."

Jarrin Galyan nearly gave the Bulldogs two district winners, but the senior and standout offensive lineman in football came up 15 points shy of Land O' Lakes' Aidan Marsh in the heavyweight division. Galyan finished with a score of 365-265-630.

Barrick was hopeful that all 15 lifters he took to River Ridge in New Port Richey would advance to the regionals. All but one will go on with Jacob Smith narrowly missing by placing seventh at 139.

"I wanted everybody to go," Barrick said. "We have a really young team, so a lot of kids are happy to be going. (Competing at districts) helped them to see what others are lifting."

The next best finishes for Zephyrhills were thirds by Loani Mathews, Dalton King and Nicholas Sheldon. Mathews scored a 115-125-240 in the 119 division, King had a 160-160-320 at 139 and at 183 Sheldon totaled 280-225-505.

Taking fourths were: Levi Smith, 215-170-385 at 169; and Nicolas Patrias, 240-205-445 in the 199 category.

For Zephyrhills lifters came in fifth: R.J. Allen, 195-165-360 at 169; Mike Barber, 255-190-445 at 183; Rashawn Searight, 240-175-415 at 199; and heavyweight Calob Durham, 295-225-520.

Barrick noted that some of his lifters are performing better than they did during the regular season and are peaking at the right time.

"I think a lot of guys have hit some really big numbers," he said. "They've gotten a lot stronger and their confidence is better. I think they surpassed their own expectations."

Wesley Chapel had two third-place finishers, Jorden McCaslin at 199 and Owen Libby at 238.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING:

**DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ZEPHYRHILLS AND SVB HOUSING, LLC**

SVB Housing, LLC (Parcel No's: 04-26-21-0000-00200-0012, 04-26-21-0000-00200-0011, and 04-26-21-0000-00200-0000), a Planned Unit Development generally located at 6419 Simons Road providing for a mix of one and 2-story single-family and townhomes with 14 units per acre and an estimated population of +/- 170 for the Residential Area; and a mixed-use building, dormitory (estimated +/- 100 occupants) and indoor multi-purpose recreational facility at a 0.48 Floor Area Ratio and a maximum height of 48 feet for the Non-Residential Area.



The first public hearing will be held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills, Florida. The second public hearing will be held Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, 5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills, Florida. The full text of the Developers Agreement is posted in City Hall and may be inspected by the public from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays. All interested parties may appear at the meeting and may be heard with respect to the proposed development agreement or may submit written comments to City Council, 5335 8th Street, Zephyrhills, FL 33542.

**\* PLEASE NOTE:** This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. F.S. 286.0105. If you are a person with a disability which requires reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 813-780-0000 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing. A.D.A and F.S. 286.26, 286.0105  
Published: December 30, 2021

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NO. 8

# Bulldog boys storm to district track title



The district champion boys track team.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA POE

*Building on top of an already strong season, the Bulldog boys claimed their second team district title in as many years...sort of*

By ANDY WARRENER  
Sports Reporter  
April 22, 2021

The ZHS boys track team has depth, breadth and has had a great season. District championship type of season? Well, okay. On April 17, at Lake Region High School in Eagle Lake, the boys comfortably out-paced Class 3A District 7 runner up Lake Wales 192-100. It was kind of their second straight. The 2020 district meet was canceled so it's as much of a back-to-back as one can get.

"I've been watching it all season, seeing where different teams in the district were at, see where the people were in their lineup," boys head coach Bryan Thomas said. "I had an idea before that we were in position to win it (districts)."

The Bulldog boys have some bangers and they showed up on Saturday. Hurdler Maguire Neal ran a 14.86 to win the 110 meter hurdles. Neal has his sights set on low 14s and the sub-15 minute mark has him looking well on his way. What's more? Neal's sophomore teammates Ja'Kavious Clower and Marcell Tucker took third and fourth in the event final, giving the Bulldogs 21 points in the event. Of course, Neal would follow up his 110 meter hurdle race with a 40.13 to win the 300 meter hurdles. Again, Tucker and Clower would pickup third and fourth place, although Tucker third and Clower fourth that time.

"He (Neal) executed the race, did what he had to do," Thomas said. "We're looking to open him up more at regionals."

Neal even won the 100 meter final in 10.90, a personal record. Teammate Clayton Cornelius would take third in the event with an 11.19. Cornelius, the team's other clean up hitter and middle distance dynamo, added to his points in

the 100 meter with a sub-50 second 400 meter. Cornelius' 49.52 won the event and put him in elite company.

"That was a P-R for Clayton," Thomas said. "He has a chance to break the school record at regionals and the competition he'll see at regionals will definitely pull it out of him."

The ZHS school record in the 400 meter currently belongs to Thomas. Thomas is also still the school record holder in long jump. He had to be proud of TJ Jackson, Tymar McKeever and Jaylin Thomas sweeping the event 1-2-3. Jackson's win was a nail-biting one. He fouled on three of his four attempts, his third, a 6.26 meter mark, broke 20 feet and was good enough to hold on for the win. It amassed 24 Bulldog points in just that event. McKeever would come back and take third in the triple jump (12.66m).

The boys don't even have a thrower on the team. They did get some points from pole vaulters and javelin throwers, all brand new to the events. Distance dynamo and freshman William Poe ran into some stiff competition as he seeks to home in on the 1600 meter. Typically running the whole menu of races 800 meters and up, Poe has trimmed his event list down. He managed to get fifth in the 1600 meter with a time of 4:45.58. The 4:45 is a personal best for Poe, after hitting 4:47 at an invitational in Jacksonville, earlier in the season. Lake Wales dominated the 1600 meter, taking first, second and fourth - Kevin Updike running a blistering 4:23. Poe would also take sixth in the 800 meter (2:14.65). Older sister Madison Poe took fourth in the 3200 meter (15:44.92) and broke through for the win in the 1600 meter (5:55.84).

The Bulldogs really shined on the relays. "The four-by-one-hundred did awesome, it was their best performance of the year," Thomas said. "They're getting more competitive and comfortable going against some of the big-name schools."

Both relays turned in winning performances. The 4x100 meter relay of Willie Queen, Jackson, Cornelius and Neal turned in a 42.41 and the 4x400 meter relay of Roberto Gomez, Christian Clemens, Poe and Cornelius. The Bulldogs will head back to Lake Region on May 1 for a shot at making the state meet.

NO. 9



Four members of the Zephyrhills High FFA display some of their ribbons while holding onto their goats.

STEVE LEE

# Local FFA and 4-H students rewarded for showing off their goats

*Members from Zephyrhills High and Academy at the Farm competed at the Florida State Fair*

By STEVE LEE  
Sports Reporter  
April 29, 2021

Food, games and rides are all part of the fun at the Florida State Fair. Don't forget the farm animals. A dozen Future Farmers of America and the 4-H students from Zephyrhills High and Academy at the Farm in Dade City spent last weekend at the Florida State Fair.

They were at the traditional fair in eastern Hillsborough County to compete with their goats. Collectively, they came away with numerous ribbons and prizes for showing off their prized possessions.

One competitor who previously excelled in showing larger animals at the Pasco County Fair continued to do so while switching animals. Emma McKelvey, who in February had a steer that took third place in the intermediate category, also had a grand champion heifer in 2019.

Last Saturday at the larger fair in Tampa, the Zephyrhills High sophomore won grand champion of all other pure breeds among her many awards. She had a pair of firsts in the La-Mancha and dairy judging. McKelvey also finished second overall in the senior category as well as other top three placements.

"It's extremely different," said McKelvey in comparing showing steers and heifers to goats. "There's more of a bond between the animals. They're more of a family pet than a project."

Unlike steers and heifers, goats are not sold at auction and remain with the family. The girls say they become attached to the goats whose life expectancy ranges from six to 14 years.

Joining McKelvey as the top prize winners

from Zephyrhills High were fellow FFA members Tabitha Crist, a freshman, along with seniors Stephanie Johnson and Marissa Shivers. All raise various animals on local farms in Zephyrhills, Dade City and San Antonio.

As for goats, there is plenty of experience with all four girls combining for 21 years of showing. Crist, Johnson and Shivers also had several top three finishes in various categories.

Shivers, who had several firsts including a reserve grand champion, spoke of her dedication to working with animals.

"I've been breeding for five years and I show nationally," she said. "I'm out at the barn for countless hours. I get lots of practice. I go across the country for shows."

Johnson, who remains very active in school as a band member and being the treasurer for her local FFA chapter, said her family has raised farm animals for generations. Among the endearing aspects of taking part in the shows is being able to share such a lifetime experience with her fellow FFA members and classmates.

"It's like a family," she said. "We have a showtime family."

McKelvey's father Steven concurred, saying, "Everybody wants to win, but we support each other 100 percent."

As for Academy at the Farm, that school has had a 4-H Club since 2015, three years before taking on FFA. Last year, the academy won the state's FFA Premier Chapter Award. Among the half-dozen students showing goats last weekend were Anna Markley, Khloe Deem, Sydney Byers, Lexi Zink and the O'Malley brothers, Joseph and Christian.

Markley, who in 2018 won Best of Breed while showing rabbits, liked switching to goats: "I get to work with bigger animals."

Christian O'Malley said he liked "bonding with the goat and working with it," adding that "win or lose I still have a good time."

Unlike some of the local FFA and 4-H members who went from steers, cows or rabbits to goats, Byers moved up from chickens to goats.

"I stopped doing chickens, because I wanted to do a bigger project," she said.

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LEGALS

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, as Pasco County Clerk & Comptroller, Plaintiff, vs. Estate of Rose Marie Bozarth, Pasco County Board of County Commissioners, Byron P. Bozarth, Jr. and Clifford D. Bozarth, Defendants.  
CASE NO.: 2021CA002506ES

**DIVISION: B NOTICE OF ACTION (formal notice by publication)**

TO: Estate of Rose Marie Bozarth 40611 Otis Allen Road Zephyrhills, FL 33540  
**YOU ARE NOTIFIED** that a Complaint has been filed in this court. You are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, on petitioner's attorney, whose name and address are: Nancy McClain Alfonso, Esquire, 38416 Fifth Avenue Zephyrhills, FL 33542 on or before January 18, 2022, and to file the original of the written defenses with the clerk of this court either before service or immediately thereafter. Failure to serve and file written defenses as required

may result in a judgment or order for the relief demanded, without further notice.  
Signed on this 10th day of December, 2021.

Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Esquire As Clerk of the Court  
By: Kelly Jeanne Symons As Deputy Clerk  
Published: December 16, 23, 30, 2021 & January 6, 2022

**NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE**

Please take notice Hide-Away Storage - Zephyrhills located at 37148 State Road 54, Zephyrhills FL 33542 intends to hold a sale to sell the property stored at the Facility by the below Occupants whom are in default at an Auction. The sale will occur as an online auction via [www.storage4treasures.com](http://www.storage4treasures.com) on 1/12/2022 at 10:00AM. Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods and furnishings. Pamela S Capallia unit #A24; Sharon Drazon unit #C230X; David Reynolds unit #C243; Tyler Dukes unit #H189X. This sale may be withdrawn at any time

without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.  
Published: December 23 & 30, 2021

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA PROBATE DIVISION IN RE: ESTATE OF James Donald Reed, Deceased.**

FILE NO.: 512021CP001909ES  
DIVISION: A  
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The administration of the estate of JAMES DONALD REED, deceased, whose date of death was September 17, 2021, is pending in the Circuit Court for Pasco County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is 38053 Live Oak Avenue, Dade City, FL 33523. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the personal representative's attorney are set forth below.  
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is

required to be served must file their claims with this court ON OR BEFORE THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.

All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE.

**PUBLIC CASH AUCTION**

Out O' Space Storage - 13038 US HWY 301, Dade City, FL 33525. Phone #352-521-3374. On Tuesday January 11th 2022 at 9:30 am, will auction per FLST. 83.806. The following units are delinquent in rent and fees:  
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B25 - Huggins, Jessica - Household Items, misc boxes  
B34 - Kelly, Tava - Household Items, misc boxes  
B194 - Brown, Johnny - Household Items, misc boxes  
D255 - Cowell, Martha -

Attorney for Personal Representative: NANCY McCLAIN ALFONSO, Esquire  
Florida Bar Number: 845892  
McClain Alfonso, P.A. 38416 Fifth Avenue Zephyrhills, Florida 33542  
Telephone: (813) 782-8700  
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Published: December 23 & 30, 2021

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Published: December 30, 2021 & January 6, 2022

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**NO. 10**

# Zephyrhills softball team places third in the state tournament



The minor softball all-stars from Zephyrhills went 2-2 in last weekend's state tournament at Rockledge.

PHOTO PROVIDED

*Minor softball all-stars split four games in the Little League's state series at Rockledge*

By **STEVE LEE**  
Sports Reporter  
July 15, 2021

A long road trip for a Zephyrhills Little League All-Star team resulted in a four-game split. That 2-2 mark by the minor softball squad earned Zephyrhills a third-place finish in the state tournament at Rockledge.

Made up of the best players from two minor softball teams, Zephyrhills played four games in three days, sandwiching two convincing victories around a pair of losses.

Afterward, coach Haven Mills, who came up through the Zephyrhills Little League and later starred at Zephyrhills High, was content with her team's showing in the series on Florida's east coast.

"We definitely could've won the whole thing if it wasn't for the delays and a couple of bad calls, but that's softball," said Mills, who previously was an assistant for a Zephyrhills all-star softball team.

Zephyrhills opened the tourney with a 20-7 loss to Countryside, a game played over two days and at two locations — from Rockledge to nearby Cocoa — due to rainouts and curfews. The team trailed by a slim 5-4 margin before Countryside exploded for 15 runs.

"They just weren't in it," Mills said of her players who were adversely affected by the delays.

Zephyrhills responded with two victories in dominating fashion. The all-stars posted an 11-0 shutout win over Freeport before an 18-4 rout of Oviedo. The team then closed out the tourney with a 10-9 loss to Palm Coast in extra innings.

"They're amazing," Mills said of her players, who shook off the opening loss to bounce

back for two convincing wins and a tight fourth game.

Zephyrhills got solid efforts on the mound from pitchers Harley Johnson, Briana Vega and Teegan Ryman. At the plate, Cali Sisto had an inside the park home run, Raylee Mueller sparked the offense with some clutch hits with Vega and Johnson contributing with their bats as well.

Mills also noted that the defense played steady, saying, "The girls took everything we've been doing at practice and put it on the ballfield."

Rounding out the roster were: Janiyah McGovern, Nevaeh Simard, Kelynn Whyte, Ariel Patrick, Jayden Catalan, Devyn Ward, Delaney Ward, Rylee Mathews and Janyra Smith with assistants Erik Lizarralde and Randy Mueller.

Elsewhere, Wesley Chapel's 8U baseball squad opened a state qualifying tourney with a 21-4 rout of Fossil Park. They defeated West Volusia 18-6 then beat Mount Dora 5-1 for a 44-11 scoring advantage in three straight wins.

"They were able to hit," coach Shawn Mudd said. "You've got to hit the ball and play defense, of course."

Going undefeated in that qualifying tourney earned the all-stars a berth in the Florida State Championships at Palm Beach Gardens. That landed Wesley Chapel a spot among the top 24 teams in the state at that level.

Wesley Chapel got off to a solid start in the state series with a 10-7 win over Gainesville. However, things did not go their way after that. Two straight losses followed that opening-round win. The all-stars were held scoreless in a 12-0 loss to Julington Creek before bowing out of the tourney after a 13-3 loss to Okeechobee.

Most of the local all-stars also play on a travel ball team. That familiarity with one another contributed to their postseason success.

"It helped out with the chemistry," Mudd said.

Wesley Chapel's all-star roster consisted of: Josh Barber, Kellan Russell, Jackson Mullins, Hunter Mudd, Elijah Valentine, Gio Hernandez, Colton Brown, Kaden Oleson, Grant Lord, Hudson Greene, Christian Peterson and Maddox Alexander; coach Shawn Mudd with assistants Simon Lord, Kevin Oleson and Scott Valentine.

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