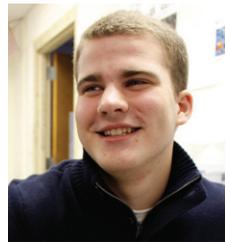


# CONNER'S CORNER

## Domestic abuse major problem

by | Josh Conner

As the videos of Ray Rice knocking out his fiance surfaced on the Internet, I couldn't help but shudder as I remembered his jersey hanging just a few feet away in my closet.



I could not comprehend the situation as the man I knew as my hero, described as one of the nicest players in the NFL, was now being portrayed as a criminal.

What I could not foresee, as I watched the former Super Bowl champion drag the motionless body out of the elevator, was the truth. Professional athletes who are violent on the field sometimes take that violence home.

Major sports leagues have seen a substantial rise in domestic abuse cases. Severe punishments are necessary to stop domestic abuse. Many athletes don't understand the constant spotlight they are under as professionals.

Athletes such as Rice have large fan bases, and with the recent accusations of domestic abuse, younger fans have been negatively influenced by their role models. We should look within our own schools as domestic abuse cases among high schoolers have also increased.

If we are going to try to stop domestic abuse, we need to start early. Many high school athletes, just as professional athletes, believe they are above the law because of their status. We should never let something as serious as domestic abuse go unnoticed because the abuser is a "superstar."

Stricter guidelines are needed to show athletes their behavior counts on an off the playing field. The professional leagues' big name athletes can make a positive impact by bringing attention to the issue.

Many professional and collegiate sports have been very successful in raising awareness for causes such as breast cancer research and prevention. I believe campaigns for domestic abuse should be established to bring attention to the subject. The NFL has taken a step in the right direction with its recent "No more" advertising campaign, but more needs to be done.

## Senior golfer places fifth at regionals

by | Kole Thomas

Senior Brandon Capps prepared to play his second shot of the day at Etowah Valley Country Club. Concentrating on his form, he set his feet and swung. Capps felt unsure about the shot at first, thinking it had landed somewhere on the green or maybe across the road.

To his surprise, it had landed right in the hole for an eagle.

"Brandon has been playing very well for us," Head Coach Jay Young said. "He's been all-conference three straight years. I wouldn't expect any less from a player like him."

At a match at Kenmure Country Club, the team placed first out of four teams, including East Henderson, Hendersonville and North Henderson. Capps shot a 73 on 18 holes, and senior Zach Boyd shot 92.

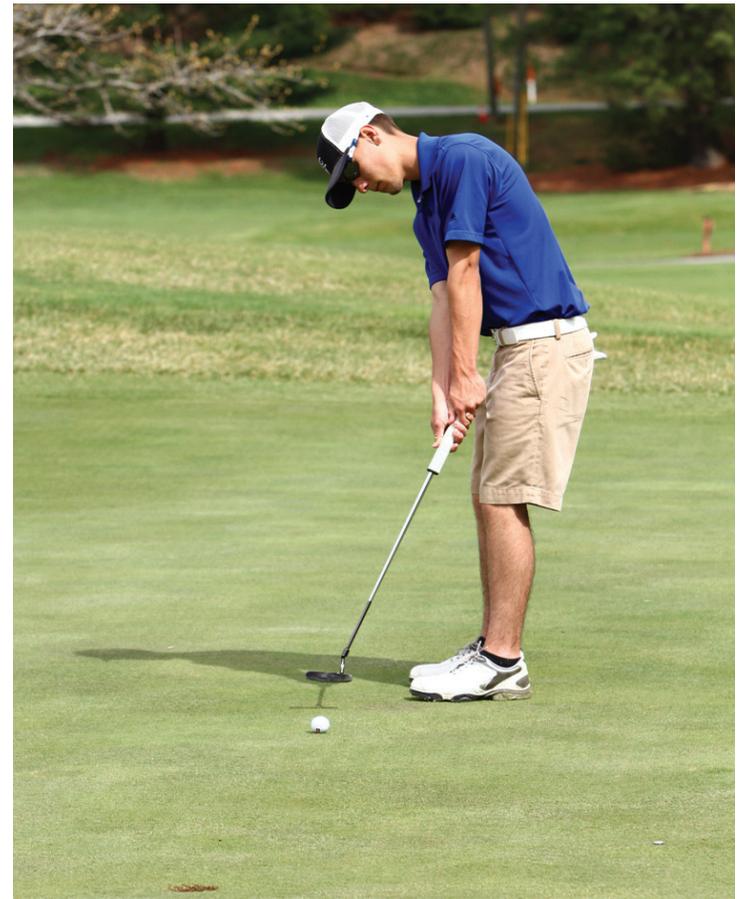
"We're all making improvements, and Brandon earned his fourth time medalist for having the lowest score of the match," Young said.

Capps had an outstanding season and has committed to play golf at Brevard College. Capps met Coach David Nelson during practice unexpectedly, and from there he began receiving letters in the mail from Brevard College.

"Brevard is offering me a spot on their golf team, so I'm pretty excited about that," Capps said. "They have classes I'd like to take and majors I'm interested in."

In the first round of the conference tournament at Etowah, Capps led West with a 76 on 18 holes. Senior Joseph Bridges shot a 93 and Boyd shot a 95. The team achieved an overall score of 367 and placed fifth. Capps and Brevard's Will Byrd were tied after the first day with a 76. In the second round Capps shot a 74, winning the conference title by 10 strokes. He earned a spot in 3A regionals.

The 3-A regional match was held at Mimosa Hills in Morganton on May 5. Capps placed fifth with a score of 77 on 18 holes.



**Full swing** | Senior Brandon Capps finishes a putt at the Kenmure Country Club in Hendersonville. He shot a 73 for the round and went on to win the match. "My strategy is to focus and just play one hole at a time," Capps said.

## Women's team members advance to state

by | Amy Turlington

Junior Riley Dean took a deep breath as she waited for the gun to start the 100-meter race at the T.C. Roberson Invitational.

She was determined to break the 13-second mark. When the shot fired, Dean burst out of the block and took off down the track.

Dean pushed hard, trying to keep in stride with a T.C. Roberson sprinter running next to her. When Dean raced across the finish line, she looked over at the coach to check her time.

"When I finished that race, I thought I had done well, but I wasn't really sure," Dean said. "Then Coach (Randy) Lytle told me I had broken 13, and we were really excited and started jumping up and down."

Coach Walt Fletcher said he was proud of Dean's performance.

"Dean's success is a testament to the work she's put in each day in practice," Fletcher said. "She has definitely earned every award she's gotten."

Fletcher said he was also proud of the early wins the men's and women's team achieved at the *Times-News* Invitational and

the Falcon Invitational.

"Winning the *Times-News* Invitational was a big deal, and our victory in the Falcon Invitational was huge because there were 400 runners competing," Fletcher said. "I think this meet gave the team confidence."

In the county meet, the women's track team earned the county championship title, and the men's team placed third.

The track team also performed well in the conference meet at North Henderson on April 22 with the women's team placing first and the men's team placing third.

"I hope we can start back our tradition of the women's team winning the conference title," Fletcher said. "We had the title for 11 years in a row until we broke it in 2013. Hopefully, our win this year will carry on into the following years."

The Falcons competed at the regional meet on May 2.

The women's 4 x 800-meter relay team of seniors Amy Turlington, Kara Kilby and Katie Kennedy and junior Olivia Hogan succeeded in placing third and advancing to the state meet with a time of 10:37.

Freshman Madison Conner also qualified for state in the high jump with a jump of 4 feet, 8 inches.



**New heights** | At the Falcon Invitational, junior Tyler Sem completes a jump. Sem achieved third place in the high jump event. The men's and women's teams both finished the annual event with a win. "Our team is doing great this season. My biggest competition in high jump is East Henderson, but I can usually out jump them for the win."