

No. 5 Hough makes big statement with blowout win over No. 6 West Charlotte

BY RICHARD WALKER
Correspondent

Hough High's conference schedule for the last eight seasons has had the Huskies face perennial powers West Charlotte and Mallard Creek in back-to-back weeks.

After Thursday's convincing 40-14 win at West Charlotte, for the Huskies it's one down and one to go.

"We played pretty well but we also want to get better," said Hough coach DeShawn Baker, whose team hosts Mallard Creek next Friday in a contest that likely will determine the 2024 Queen City 3A/4A Conference champion. "We also know what's ahead."

Hough came out impressively as it scored on its first six possessions — four touchdowns and two field goals — and held West Charlotte scoreless until it had built a 33-0 lead.

Senior quarterback Trey Blakeney and a ballhawking defense led the Huskies to the win.

Blakeney and backup Ethan Royal directed a 390-yard offensive attack that churned for 23 first downs, with Blakeney completing 12 of 23 passes for 191 yards with three touchdowns and rushing five times for 41 yards.

Baker says his coaching staff has so much confidence in Blakeney that they let him script plays to start the game each week.

"On Wednesday at

practice, we come up with the first six plays we want to run," Baker said. "We feel like if he likes those plays then he'll be comfortable running them."

On Thursday, three of the Huskies' first six plays went for first downs, including a 36-yard throw to Tyran Evans that set up Kandler Happe's 25-yard field goal on the game's opening drive.

Defensively, lineman Ledariion Menter, linebacker Ayden Bell, end Cameron Cyr and linebacker Edward Conover led a defense that limited the Lions to 171 yards total offense, including 14 in the first half and 12 net yards rushing overall due to nine tackles for losses (five of them quarterback sacks).

"I thought the whole defense played great as a unit," Baker said.

THREE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

Trey Blakeney, Hough: Completed 12 of 23 passes for 191 yards with three touchdowns and rushed five times for 41 yards.

Sean Brady, Hough:

Caught seven passes for 104 yards and one touchdown.

Jamouri Nichols, West Charlotte: Completed 11 of 18 passes for 159 yards and a 44-yard touchdown pass to Rakim Finch.

NOTABLE

- Hough scored on each of its five first-half possessions with three touchdowns and two field goals, then scored a touchdown on its first second-half possession.

- The game was delayed for 10 minutes in the third

quarter as West Charlotte cornerback Jamari Smith was taken off on a stretcher. Lions coach Sam Greiner said Smith had concussion symptoms and his prognosis was good.

- Not many schools have an all-time series advantage over West Charlotte, which has 38 state playoff berths, 23 conference titles, two state titles and six district runner-up finishes since its first season in 1938. But after losing the first game between the schools in Hough's first year of 2010, the Huskies have beaten the Lions 14 straight times by an impressive 484-99 margin.

THEY SAID IT

"They're a team that's been there and done that. We weren't ready for the moment. They're a very talented team that can run, can pass and can play defense." — West Charlotte coach Sam Greiner

lotte coach Sam Greiner

GAME SUMMARY

Hough 10 17 6 7 - 40

West Charlotte 0 0 0

14 - 14

FIRST QUARTER

H: Kandler Happe 25 FG

H: Jycen Anciso 13 pass from Trey Blakeney (Happe kick)

SECOND QUARTER

H: Happe 27 FG

H: Tyran Evans 18 pass from Blakeney (Happe kick)

H: Anciso 3 pass from Blakeney (Happe kick)

THIRD QUARTER

H: Sean Brady 27 pass from Blakeney (Pass failed)

FOURTH QUARTER

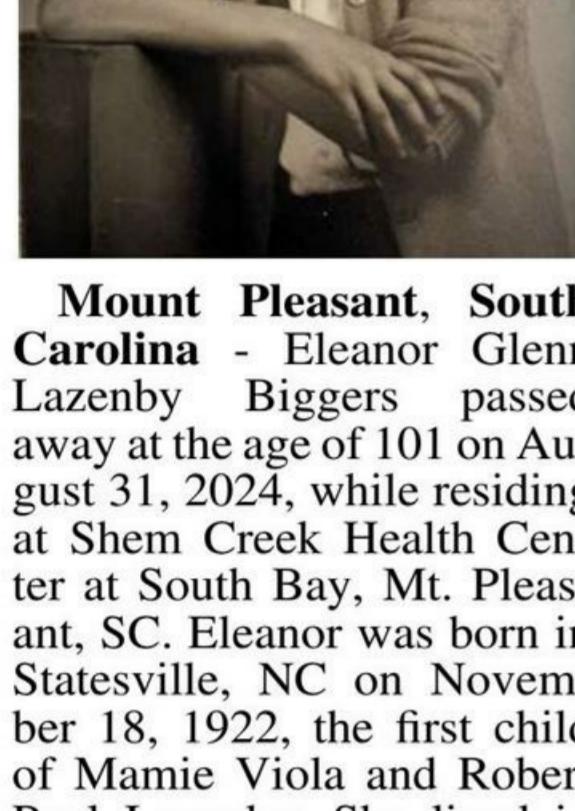
WC: K.D. Cotton 4 run (Kick failed)

WC: Rakim Finch 44 pass from Jamouri Nichols (Cotton pass from Nichols)

H: Ethan Royal 5 run (Happe kick)

Obituaries

Eleanor Lazenby Biggers November 18, 1922 - August 31, 2024



Mount Pleasant, South Carolina - Eleanor Glenn Lazenby Biggers passed away at the age of 101 on August 31, 2024, while residing at Shem Creek Health Center at South Bay, Mt. Pleasant, SC. Eleanor was born in Statesville, NC on November 18, 1922, the first child of Mamie Viola and Robert Paul Lazenby. She lived in Mt. Airy, NC for the first 12 years of her life, then moved to Charlotte, where she graduated from Central High School in 1940. Eleanor went on to graduate from Queens College in Charlotte in 1944 where she was recognized for her intelligence and beauty. She was class president her junior and senior years, a member of the May Court, in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, and a member of Phi Mu, Sigma Mu, and Alpha Kappa Gamma. Music was a vital part of her life as evidenced by the fact that she won a competitive scholarship to Queens in piano, played viola in the original Charlotte Symphony, and always sang in church choirs.

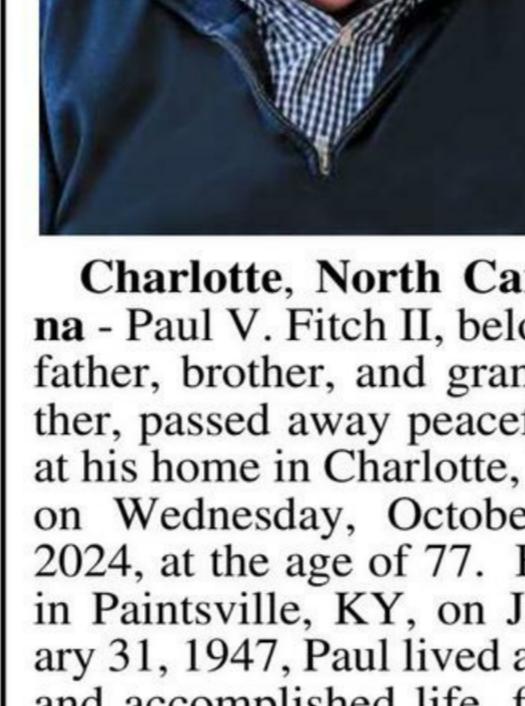
Eleanor was a devoted wife and a loving mother.

As the wife of a Methodist minister who was required to move to a new church every four years, she worked hard to hold the family together and helped everyone adjust to continual change. After her children were grown, Eleanor thrived in her second career as a teacher in the North Carolina public schools for many years. After retiring she and her husband, Sherrill, traveled throughout the world to over 31 countries.

A staunch Democrat, Eleanor believed in human rights for all. She admitted that she once voted for Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, but that was an anomaly. She embodied the values of kindness to others, especially those less fortunate, and was greatly looking forward to the upcoming elections.

She was predeceased by her parents and sister, Frances Lazenby Stradgrass. In addition, she was predeceased by her husband, Sherrill Bost Biggers, Sr. (2001), and their son, John Mark Biggers (2019). She survived by her son, Dr. Sherrill Bost Biggers, Jr. (wife Sherry, deceased) and her daughter, Dr. Barbara Glynn Biggers Kimball (husband Herbert, deceased), both of Charleston, SC. She had three grandchildren: Dr. Lindsay Biggers Sanders (Brian, Atlanta), Dr. Leigh Biggers Chavis (Jason, Mt. Pleasant), and Allen Biggers (Meghan, Mt. Pleasant). She was blessed with 15 great grandchildren, 7 of whom live very close to her residence in Mt. Pleasant. Her two surviving children, all of the grandchildren, and many of great grandchildren celebrated her 100th

Paul V. Fitch II January 31, 1947 - October 2, 2024



Charlotte, North Carolina - Paul V. Fitch II, beloved father, brother, and grandfather, passed away peacefully at his home in Charlotte, NC, on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at the age of 77. Born in Paintsville, KY, on January 31, 1947, Paul lived a full

birthday with a grand party. She passed her strength and beliefs down to members of her family, most importantly a love of art, music, travel, and learning. Although her body weakened over the years, she was strong of mind until the last. She was an avid reader until her eyesight became limited, but she stayed up to date on national news via television and enjoyed streaming church services from Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte every Sunday. Seeing the ministers she knew, her friends in the choir, and most importantly, listening to the music were joyous, inspiring occasions.

She was engaged and engaged throughout her life. Eleanor wrote her memoir, "A Collection of Memories," during the COVID year, with lots of help from Barbara, recording all the important facts and events over her life time. She was known to enjoy giving and receiving a good joke, including some with a little edge! Her strength, wisdom, humor, and example will be remembered and missed by all who knew and loved her. She was an inspiration to family and friends. We will miss her presence in our lives and will keep her in our hearts forever.

A family remembrance service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions to support diabetes research will honor her memory. Consider Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF, Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund) at BreakthroughT1D.org or Breakthrough T1D, 200 Vesey Street, 28th Floor, New York, NY 10281.

ing, farming, commercial nurseries, and commercial construction. His diverse entrepreneurial pursuits showcased his boundless energy and creativity in business. Paul was known for his love of storytelling, frequently retelling stories with slight variations and an amusing habit of forgetting key character names, often creating new ones instead. Through his playful nature Paul built friendships and created joyful memories with all those he knew. He was such a special person and cherished presence among family and friends.

When his children were growing up, Paul was an active volunteer, participating in Indian Guides, Scouts, and coaching the church league basketball team for St. Thaddeus in Aiken, SC. Paul spent his last decade in Hendersonville, NC where he enjoyed hosting barbecues and planning trips with his neighbors. Paul always looked forward to organizing an annual golf outing with his friends from Williamson High School. He found joy in traveling the world, watching college football and basketball, and pampering his loyal dog, Winston. Paul took the time each year to recount that year's adventures in a Christmas letter that had loyal readers from all seasons of Paul's life.

Paul leaves behind a legacy through his three children, Brannon E. Fitch and his wife, Charissa Thornton Fitch, Hollis M. Fitch and his wife, Abby Milner Fitch, and Margaret Kendall Fitch Bailey and her husband, Jonathan Bailey; his grandchildren, Rob, Harper, E. Fitch, Collier W. Fitch, Henry Fitch, Eleanor Fitch, John "Jack" Fitch, Margot Bailey, and William Bailey to whom he was a devoted grandfather. Also surviving are his brother, Troy Scott Fitch; his sister, Charlotte Fitch and the mother of his children, Dr. Margaret Fitch of Aiken, SC, who was married to Paul for 25 years, and they remained connected through their shared love for their family. He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul V. Fitch, Sr. and Ernestine Webb Fitch.

Paul's life will be celebrated by his family and friends at a gathering from 4:00-7:00 PM on Friday, November 8, 2024, at the Myers Park Country Club, 2415 Roswell Ave, Charlotte, NC. Per his wishes, all his remaining good bottles of wine will be consumed.

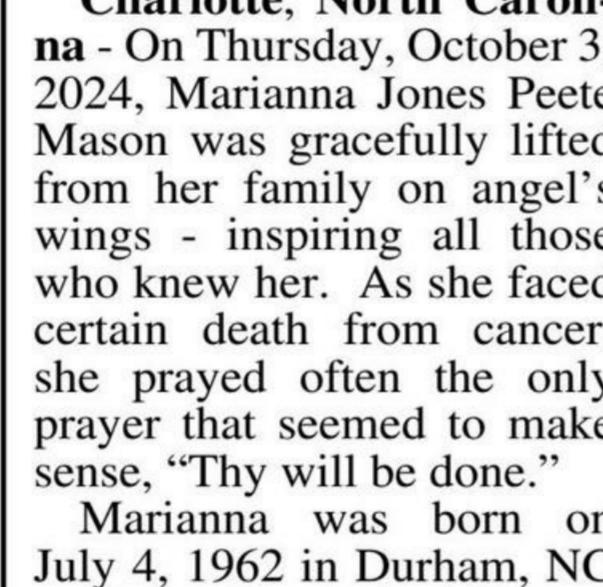
In lieu of flowers, the family kindly request donations be made in Paul's name to the Community Foundation of Henderson County, 401 N Main St, Ste 300, Hendersonville, NC 28792 or via https://www.cfchf.org/donors/helene-relief to aid in relief efforts.

Arrangements are in the care of Kenneth W. Poe Funeral & Cremation Service, 1321 Berkley Ave., Charlotte, NC 28204; (704) 641-7606. Online condolences may be shared at www.kennethpoeservices.com.

Kenneth W. Poe
Funeral & Cremation Service

"Caring is our passion"

Marianna Jones Peete Mason July 4, 1962 - October 3, 2024



Marianna Jones Peete Mason moved from Charleston to Durham to Boston and finally to Charlotte, with two spirited boys in tow. Along the way, she worked in retail and design, working first at Peacock Alley in Chapel Hill, at RTW in Charleston, helping at the Christmas Shop, studying with the merciful John Ragsdale on Broad Street, enjoying the design experience at By the Yard with Jane Gregory, and gathering with other new moms promoting a children's clothing line called Fast Friends.

Marianna was excited to be a mother and was a blessing to her two boys, William and Stuart. She was firm but sweet, kind and understanding. She guided William and Stuart as they grew into strong young men with full possession of her belief in them. William called her his lighthouse, always pointing the way. Stuart said he was his superhero, able to assist with any problem that arose.

To her husband Bo, she was warmth, kindness, understanding, support, strength, power and focus - his partner, his love, his best friend.

Marianna was never on time. Not because she wished to be late, but because time seemed to carry less relevance than moments - moments with family, moments for a smile, moments for reflection.

She was reluctantly beautiful, not the beauty that fades with time, but one that radiated from within; a vivid innocence that illuminated the very essence of her being.

She studied the world with the eye of an artist, finding elegance in the curve of a seashell, the movement of a linen curtain in a soft breeze,

and the contrasting glory of a filthy tired dog collapsed on a clean stone floor.

Marianna carefully created a home from a house with and for her husband as they

always took her time making decisions. She had an intuitive and seemingly empathetic understanding of how subtleties shape and contextualize our lives. When it came to the decisions of shade, shape, texture, or contrast, her eye was remarkably keen and her opinion valued.

She particularly enjoyed the fragrances of the tea olive, magnolia blossom, and sweet confederate jasmine. She was a thalassophile, full stop - magnetically attracted to the ocean and the sea - the more remote and natural the environment, the more relaxed she became.

Sunsets suited her better than sunrises, as late mornings were better than early mornings. Tips tea, coconut cake, pinot rather than cabernet, Chris Stapleton and Pachelbel's Canon, soft cheese, the flowers of but especially the green shades of Spring, an oyster with homemade mignonette - a small mix of her pleasures.

She loved her dogs, Noah, River and her sweet Hudson family, bunnies and dragon flies, tide pools with babies, and salt breezes.

She recognized the non-trivial gift of gratitude hard won and spent her illness thinking of ways to help others including her husband, her boys, and her family and friends. Marianna was the mark of grace. Her calm acceptance was a gift to those who knew her.

She is survived by her loving husband of 39 years, J. Bohannon Mason, M.D.; her sons, William Bohannon Mason of Ft. Lauderdale and Stuart Jennings Mason of Charlotte; her mother, Mary Frances Hart Peete of Durham; her other mothers, Esten Bohannon Mason, Stuart Bohannon Evans of Charlotte, and Sally John-

son of Durham; her sisters and brothers-in-law, Robert and Annette Mason and Burchell and Esten Walker of Charlotte, Joann Melker of Charlotte, Anabel Montes of Charlotte, Nathene Pope of Andrews, and many beloved nieces and nephews and her very special great-niece, Sloan Beasley. She was preceded in death by her sweet daughter, Marianna Stuart Mason; and her beloved father, William Pettway Jones Peete, M.D.

A service of celebration will be held 11 a.m. on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte, NC with a reception to follow in Oxford Hall. The service will be livestreamed at: https://myersparkpres.org/live/ for those unable to attend in person.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to the Marianna Stuart Mason Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund at the MUSC Foundation or a charity of your choice. Donations can be made online at https://bit.ly/muscsmasonmemorial or by check to the MUSC Foundation at 18 Bee Street, MSC 450, Charleston, SC 29425. Please make checks payable to MUSC Foundation and write fund #05322 on the memo line.

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