

NCCA All-Star Games Have Regional Flavor

Written by Mike Kelly

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The North Carolina Coaches Association all-star games will dominate the summer schedule in mid-July. And some very familiar names will be involved in the fray. Shane Laws, the head football coach at A.C. Reynolds High and an Appalachian State graduate, has been named the head coach of the West All-Stars in the 65th Annual East-West Senior All-Star Game on Wednesday, July 24.

The game, which is normally played at Jamieson Stadium at Greensboro Grimsley High, is changing locations this season. The game will be played at A.J. Simeon Stadium in High Point, N.C., while renovations are being made at Jamieson Stadium.

Head coach Butch Carter of South Caldwell, who has led the Spartans to consecutive Northwestern 3A/4A Conference championships, will be an assistant coach on Laws' staff.

Tailback David Burgess of Freedom, offensive lineman Kyree Conner of Hickory, wide receiver Matt Quigley of Alexander Central and tight end Clayton Welker of South Caldwell will play for the West.

The East defeated the West 34-9 last season, but the West leads the series 37-26-1.

Linebacker Alex Fox of Watauga High and quarterback Alex Villanueva of Avery High played in last year's game for the West All-Stars. Darrell Brewer of Avery was an assistant coach for the West. This year's game will kick-off at 8 p.m.

Rob Bliss, the NW3A/4A Conference Coach of the Year, who led Fred T. Foard High to the NW3A/4A regular-season and tournament championships, and the Class 4A Western Sectional Finals, will coach the West boys in the 65th Annual East-West Senior All-Star Game. Clay Byrd of East Burke, who played in the Carolinas All-Star Basketball Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in March, will play for the West. The West won last year's game 107-97, and the all-time series is tied, 32-32.

Amber Fox of Freedom High will coach the West girls. Imani Williams of the Patriots will play for the West All-Stars. This will be the 39th annual meeting, and the East leads the all-time series, 20-18. The West, led by Ashe County coach Laura Foster, won last year's game, 82-65. Paige Love of Wilkes Central and currently a rising sophomore at UNC-Asheville, was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Both the boys and girls games will be played Monday, July 22 at the Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, N.C. The girls play at 6:30 p.m.; the boys play at 8:30 p.m.

Carlos Sevilla of Hickory will play for the West boys in the 22nd Annual East-West Senior All-Star Soccer Game at UNC-Greensboro on Tuesday, July 23. Rosters for the girl's 22nd Annual East-West Senior All-Star Game have not been released.

The West boys defeated the East 3-2 in last year's game; the girls game ended in a 1-1 tie. The East leads the boy's series 9-8-4; the West owns a 9-6-6 advantage in the girl's series. This year, the girl's game begins at 6:30 p.m.; the boy's game starts at 8:30 p.m.