

Sherrill Named National Coach of Year

Written by Mike Kelly
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Maxpreps.com has named Alexander Central High softball coach Monte Sherrill the National Coach of the Year. Sherrill led the Cougars and a 35-0 record and the Class 4A state championship this past season.

The Cougars defeated Fayetteville-Cape Fear in a two game sweep in the state finals. The Cougars also set a state record for runs scored with 426 this season, and they will enter the 2015 season riding a 67-game winning streak. On March 27, Sherrill recorded his 700th win (he's 721-59 in his career). Sherrill has led Alexander Central to eight state championships, and he's won ten overall (two with Central Cabarrus in 2004 and '05).

Joining Sherrill on the Maxpreps.com All-America Team were infielders Vada Sherrill (Monte's daughter), who was named to the first team, and Taylor Wike, a second-team selection.

Sherrill, a junior, was North Carolina's first "60-60" player with 60 hits and 60 runs scored. She also stole 51 bases and was named the Gatorade State Player of the Year. Wike, a senior and a University of North Carolina recruit, set a state record with 64 RBIs. She batted .639.

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Team-wise, the Cougars were nationally ranked second in the final Maxpreps.com Xcellent Top 50 National Softball Rankings. The Cougars were ranked second behind Amador Valley from Pleasanton, CA. Mission Viejo (CA.), Archbishop Mitty (San Jose, CA.), and Pacifica (Garden Grove, CA.) round out the top five in that poll.

Lexington-North Davidson was the only other North Carolina school in that poll. The Black Knights were ranked 36th.