

## BADWATER CAPE FEAR

### Bald Head Island to host grueling first leg of three-race 'Ultra Cup'

The first step toward the 2014 Badwater Ultra Cup championship will be taken March 22 when Bald Head Island hosts Badwater Cape Fear, a grueling 51-mile run through the maritime forest and two energy-sapping round-trips to Fort Fisher.

AdventureCORPS Inc., the mastermind behind the world-famous, 135-mile Badwater 135 Ultramarathon foot race held each July between Death Valley and Mt. Whitney, California, created the three-race Badwater Ultra Cup. The series kicks off with the first-ever East Coast Badwater event, Badwater Cape Fear, continues with the 81-mile Badwater Salton Sea on May 5-6, and culminates with a new and improved Badwater 135 on July 21-23.

With 50-kilometer and 51-mile options, the race features a 12-mile warm-up on the traffic-free roads of Bald Head Island, followed by either 19 or 39 miles of running on secluded East Beach between Cape Fear and Fort Fisher. "The race is held with spectacular views of Frying Pan Shoals to the east and wild and undeveloped marshlands to the west," the sponsors promotion reads. "It is a dramatic, invigorating, inspiring setting to experience Cape Fear in all its grandeur!"

But the race itself is the greatest running challenge ever staged in this area. Currently 84 runners are registered for the inaugural edition; the field will be limited to 100 and promoters expect to reach that number.

The official charity of Badwater Cape Fear is the Bald Head Island Conservancy, a leader in barrier island conservation, preservation and education. Race participants will appreciate that the conservancy cares for the race route's pristine setting and its role as a sea turtle nesting site.

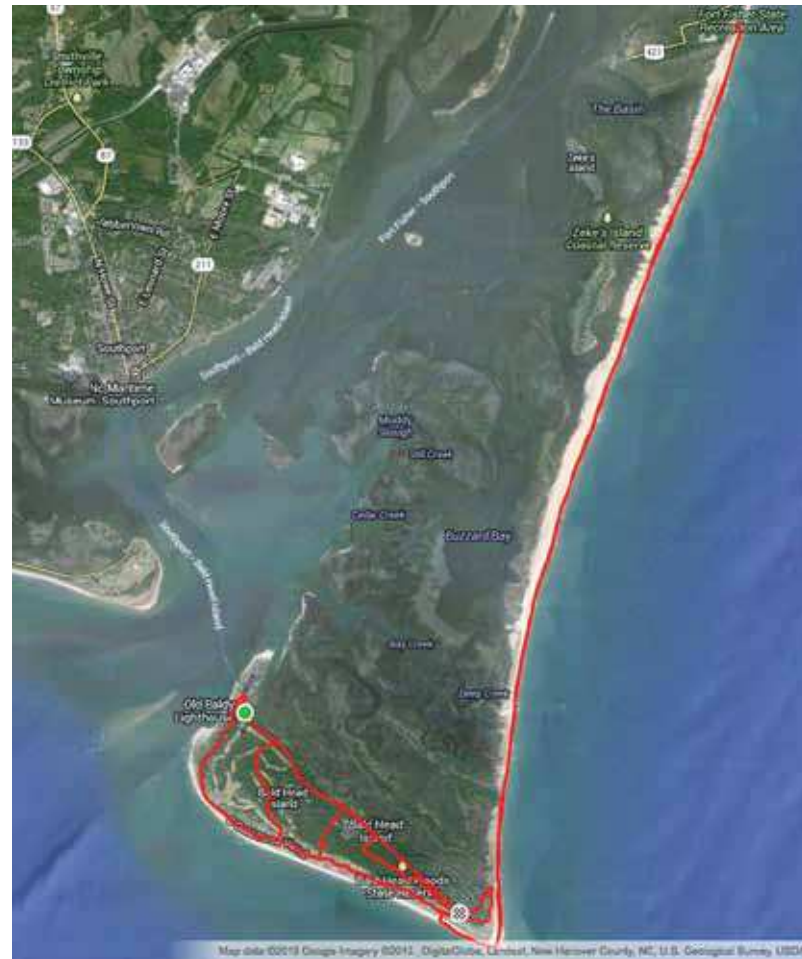
The goal of the race is to raise \$10,000 for Bald Head Island Conservancy, enough to purchase one of the special electric UTV vehicles which the conservancy uses to patrol the beach and care for sea turtle nesting sites.

Local sponsors will host a pre-race social, a finish line feast and a post-race breakfast. The event is being hosted under special permits from the Village of Bald Head Island and Fort Fisher State Recreation Area.

Runners who complete all three full-distance Badwater events in the same calendar year will be featured on the Badwater website and their virtues will be extolled throughout the internet and in future editions of *Badwater* magazine. The male and female runners with the lowest combined times for the three events will be recognized as the 2014 Badwater Ultra Cup champions. More

information is available at <http://www.badwater.com>.

AdventureCORPS Inc. is an athlete-run firm producing and promoting ultra-endurance sports events. Founded in 1984 by Chris Kostman, the group effort is "dedicated to exploring the inner and outer universes, seeking adventure, energy and insight both in daily life and "out there."



### South wins opener



Photo by Ed Harper

A South Columbus runner escapes a second-inning rundown, later coming around to score the Stallions first run.

### 6-run 5th inning corrals Stallions

By Doug Rutter  
Pilot Correspondent

South Brunswick came out swinging in Friday's high school baseball season opener, pounding out a dozen hits in an 11-5 victory over visiting South Columbus.

The Cougars never trailed, but the Stallions twice rallied from two-run deficits to tie the score. It was 5-5 before South Brunswick took the lead for good with six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

"It was a good opening day for us at the plate," said South Brunswick head coach Mike Anderson. "We felt like going into the season we would hit it better than last year, and tonight they showed it. However, we know it's only one game and we have

to continue to work at it."

The Cougars got a lot of production from the top two hitters in the lineup as leadoff man Dustin Jones went 2-for-3 with two runs scored and No. 2 hitter Will Jones went 2-for-2 with three RBI and two runs scored.

"They really got us going tonight," Anderson said of the seniors. "With Dustin on first, Will executed a perfect hit-and-run in the hole between first and second base, advancing Dustin to third. It is good seeing those things happening early in the season."

Sophomore Tanner Coley went 3-for-4 and drove in two runs in his varsity debut, while junior Colton Terrell was 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

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## Ashley dominates Cougars in track opener

By Doug Rutter  
Pilot Correspondent

It's one thing to get your feet wet. It's another to dive head-first into the deep end of the pool. The South Brunswick High School track and field team did both in last week's season-opening meet against Wilmington Ashley.

While South's young athletes got first-meet jitters out of the way and some experience under their belts, they were also exposed to the type competition they will see this spring in the Mideastern Conference.

The visiting Screaming Eagles thoroughly dominated Thursday's dual meet at Jack Campbell Stadium, recording first-place finishes in 28 of the 32 events. Ashley outscored the Cougars 109-19 in the boys division and 99-22 in the girls division.

Outnumbered by a wide margin, South scored points in just 10 events. But head coach Julie Ward had nothing but positive things to say as darkness fell, the temperature dropped and the final races unfolded.

"It was a good time for people to experience a meet and for people to get their feet on the ground. I think this is a big morale booster for the rest of the season," Ward said. "I'm glad Ashley brought all their athletes. It's good to compete against a 4A school, because the better the competition the better you compete."

South was missing several of its top athletes for the opener, and it's a young squad overall with 13 freshmen, 11 sophomores, 13 juniors and just seven seniors on the roster.

"We have a lot of freshmen and I'm very excited about that," Ward said. "I have high expectations as a whole. I have a strong group of athletes that will endure and succeed. There's a lot of ways to succeed in track, whether it's coming home with a personal record, a first place or doing a skill better than you've ever done it before."

Highlights for the boys squad included Colin Minor's first-place finishes in the shot-put (54 feet, 6 inches) and discus (155 feet, 3 inches).

Clarence Pelham showed good athleticism with runner-up finishes in the high jump



Photo by Doug Rutter

South Brunswick's Mason Brendle (left) and Jordan McKeithan compete in the 110-meter hurdles during last week's season-opening track and field meet against Wilmington Ashley.

(5 feet) and 110-meter hurdles (19.1 seconds), and Allen Fry sprinted to a second place in the 100-meter dash (12.2 seconds).

South's girls posted a one-two-three finish in the high jump. Kim Williams set the pace at 4 feet, 8 inches, Danecia Thomas-Price came in second at 4 feet, 6 inches, and Makayla Randolph was third at 4 feet, 4 inches.

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### Local surfers place in ESA

Swain Curtin of Oak Island finished in second place for her 15-17 age division at the Southeastern North Carolina division of the Eastern Surfing Association (ESA), judges announced.

Curtin earned her points standing after seven regional events last season.

Judges surprised Curtin with a new award at this year's ESA-SNC ceremonies. They described Curtin as someone who was always smiling and always willing to help others. "This person best represented SNC this year," they said, honoring Curtin with the sportsmanship award for 2013.

Curtin's prize was a custom-made shortboard by Ocean Isle Beach shaper and surfer Jesse McCreery.

Curtin's coach, Brad Bailey of Oak Island, took first place in men's shortboard and second place in master longboard. Curtin's strong performance qualifies her for competition in the mid-Atlantic regionals, set for April 24-27 at Folly Beach, South Carolina.

Founded in 1967, ESA is the world's largest amateur surfing organization.

— Lee Hinnant