## **Sports**

## Men's basketball defeats Wingate to advance in SAC tournament

from Staff Reports

On Wednesday night, the Brevard College Tornados defeated Wingate by a score of 88-79. This game held a lot of importance for the Tornados because this victory allowed them to advance to the next round of the South Atlantic Conference tournament, where they will be playing Carson-Newman, and extended the seniors' final season by another game.

The Tornados started out strong, building an early lead which they were able to maintain for the majority of the first half. Although the Tornados were able to build that lead to 18 points at its peak in the first half, Wingate was able to claw its way back into the game, going into halftime with a score of 47-38.

The second half began at a quick pace for both teams, but

Wingate was able to gain their first lead since the opening minutes shortly after the second half began, with a score of 52-51.



Above: Roper picks apart the Wingate defense

As the game clock ticked, the score remained close, never again leaving single digits. The Tornados were able to regain

the lead early in the 4th quarter, and build on it in the waning minutes of the game.

After late free throws and a clutch basket by senior Jonathon Whitson, the Tornados were able to finally close out the game.

Once again the Tornados were led by the offensive effort of Josh Roper who scored 30 points and tallied 8 assists. The Tornados also saw strong contributions from seniors Nathan Whitmire and Jonathon Whitson. Whitmire posted 18 points and Whitson posted 15.

Brevard, who is seeded third in the tournament, will ride this win into the game against Carson-Newman, the seventh seed, after Carson-Newman upset second seeded Tusculum. The game will take place this Saturday, March 6, and will be the semifinal round of the South Atlantic Conference Tournament.

