



COUGAR CRY

Spring 2008

Serving Wilkes, Ashe, & Alleghany Counties

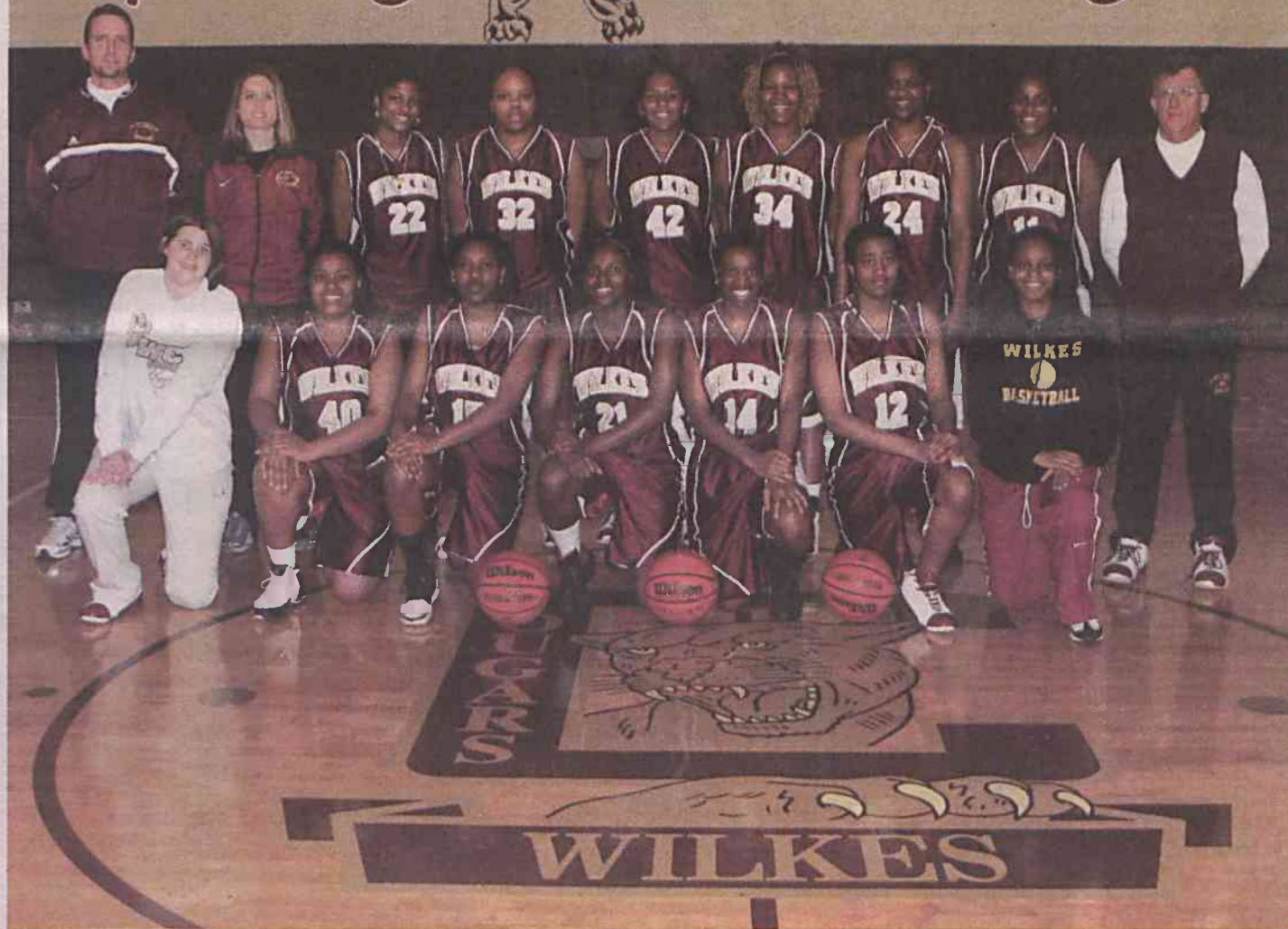
Volume 38- Issue 3

WCC's Lady Cougars Hit New Highs

The Wilkes Community College Women's Basketball team accomplished two things this year that no previous women's basketball team at WCC had done, while competing in the conference tournament held in Wilmington, NC, February 29th-March 2nd. The Lady Cougars beat national perennial power, Louisburg College, for the first time ever. The win launched WCC into their first appearance in the Region X Division I championship game.

The Lady Cougars, led by first year coach Keith Bell, finished the regular season 14-14 overall and 9-9 in the conference; good enough to be seeded 4th in the tournament. WCC drew Lenoir Community College as their first round opponent Friday, and netted an 80-53 victory. Coach Bell knew the key to the victory would be a strong defensive effort by his club. "When we are focused defensively, we are a very hard team to beat," Bell said. "Defense was definitely the catalyst to our win versus Lenoir. We put a lot of pressure on them early but let them back into the game just before halftime. We found our defensive intensity again early in the second half which allowed us to get a comfortable lead and pull out the win."

The victory advanced the Lady Cougars to a semifinal game Saturday against #1 tournament seed and #10 nationally ranked Louisburg College. Louisburg (29-1) had not lost in the region tournament since the early 1990's and had never lost to WCC. However, the Lady Cougars had competed well this year versus the 12-time defending regional champions. "The last two times we played Louisburg, we had it down to four points with two minutes to go in one game and got it down to three points two times in the second half of our last game,"



Bell said. "The team knew we could compete with them and that gave us confidence." WCC fell behind early in the contest but rallied back to take a five point lead by the end of the first half, 29-24. Louisburg recaptured the lead minutes into the second half but the Lady Cougars wouldn't be denied. Wilkes battled back and over the remainder of the contest the lead went back and forth between the two teams. When it was all over, the Lady Cougars were the team left standing, pulling out a 57-54 victory. "Our girls were determined

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