

## League Race Tight

## Whirlies in Struggle

by Billy Tsintzos

The Grimsley varsity basketball team through its "first 17 games have claimed 13 victors against 4 defeats.

Early season victories by the Whirlies over the likes of Ragsdale, High Point Andrews, and Raleigh Broughton ran the Whirlie mark to 6-0. At this point, the Holiday Basketball Tournament at the Greensboro Coliseum began.

The Whirlies opened against the Page Pirates in what was billed to be the championship game. Grimsley led the Pirates throughout most of the evening as Eric Summers' offensive performance and the defensive play of Hugh Elkins keyed the Whirlies to their 64-54 victory. This ran the Whirlie record to 7-0 and most thought it would be 8-0 as they faced Dudley in the championship game. But the tables were turned as the Panthers turned a nip-and-tuck game into a total rout as they smashed the Whirlies 77-53. The runner-up Whirlies produced a punchless performance as their fastbreak, explosive offense never seemed to click.

With this shattering defeat fresh in the Whirlies minds, Grimsley opened its' conference schedule against Winston-Salem Reynolds. At Winston, the Whirlies topped Reynolds 89-76 as they bounced back from the shattering Panther loss in fine form.

Next in line was the return of the Panthers. Dudley, behind a furious comeback, defeated the Whirlies 84-82 in overtime. The Whirlies at one time late in the contest held a 10 point lead only to see it vanish. Eric Summers led the Whirlies with 25 points before fouling out and David Cox also contributed 23 points.

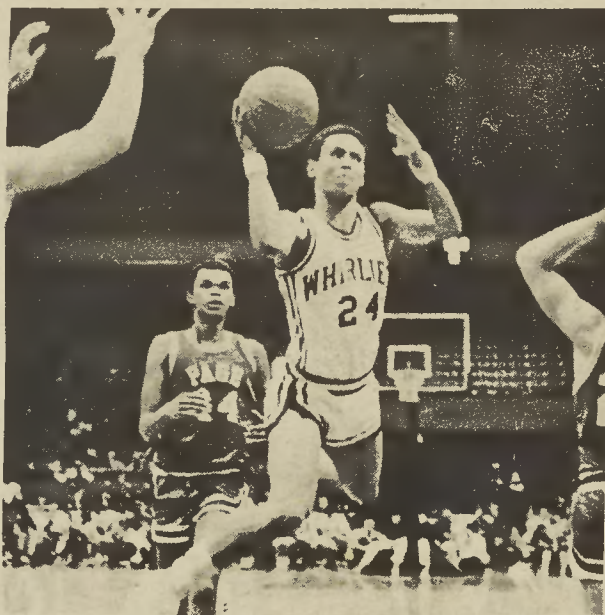
Grimsley's next encounter was against the free-wheeling East Forsyth Eagles. Grimsley opened the game strong as they pulled

into a big lead over the gunning Eagles. As the game wore down, so did the Whirlies. East turned a rout into a game as they repeatedly caused Whirlie turnovers, but Grimsley held on to win by 84-73.

The Whirlies then traveled to powerful North Forsyth who had been picked by a Winston-Salem newspaper as the best team in the state. In the Viking "snakepit" Grimsley produced its finest performance of the season as they completely dominated the Vikings en route to a 76-68 victory. Hugh Elkins and Eric Summers posted fine performances scoring while David Cox dominated the board play.

After the brilliant game, the Whirlies were shocked by the resignation of their head coach, John Hickey. (Related story, Benchwarmer). The task of leading the Whirlies now fell into the hands of assistant coach Phil Weaver.

In their next outing, the Whirlies were dull and listless as they eked out a narrow 54-53 victory over Smith. Eric Summers led the team 27 points as the



Mark Harris drives against Pirates

Whirlies continued to win.

Grimsley then entertained High Point Central but it turned out the Whirlies were too friendly a host as the Bison upset the Whirlies 72-64. The Whirlies managed little in the form of defense and the Grimsley offense was dormant. Eric Summers was again the Whirlie scoring leader

as he connected on 20 points.

Now, the Whirlies, coming off two lackluster performances, faced the inspired Page Pirates. In the early stages of the contest, Page was unstoppable as their red-hot shooting enabled them to gain a 10 point lead over the shell-shocked Whirlies. But the second half saw Grimsley leave the dressing room with "fire in their eyes" as they quickly hacked the Pirate lead away until the third quarter ended with a deadlock at 53-53. In the fourth quarter, "iceman" Hugh Elkins connected on several crucial free throws as well as collecting on many steals. Mark Harris also was blazing hot down the stretch as the Whirlies pulled it out 72-69. Harris played an outstanding game as he blasted 20 points and Elkins followed with 15 points as he played a superb all-around game.

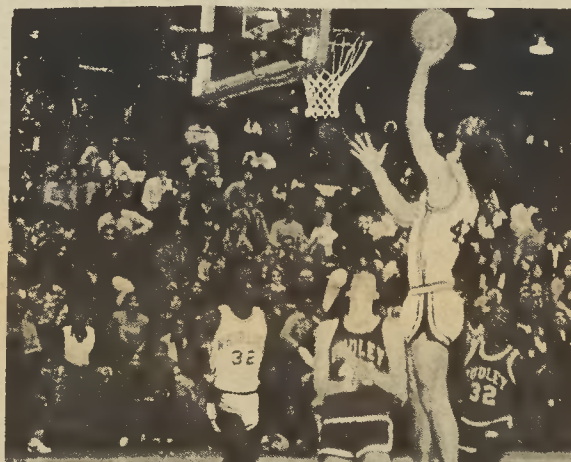
Grimsley, now with a head full of steam, turned a close game into a rout as they bombed Winston-Salem Reynolds 73-52. Eric Summers led the Whirlies with 19 points.

The next encounter was the big one, the Whirlies would face its nemesis, the Dudley Panthers. The opening stages saw the Whirlies and Panthers fight nip-and-tuck towards the latter moments of the first half, the Whirlies spurred towards an eight point half time lead.

Dudley quickly dissipated that lead in an opening second half explosion. Grimsley then saw the momentum change as well as the lead as the Panthers again defeated the Whirlies for the third time 64-61. Throughout the game, Grimsley could not seem to get a decent break from the officials as all the calls swung to the Panther side. David Cox led Grimsley with 19 points. This game caused the Whirlies to tumble into second place behind North Forsyth and Page as Grimsley owns a 6-3 conference record.

## Most Improved

The basketball player of the month goes to senior guard Mark Harris. Harris has improved immensely since the early season as he seems to have lost the jitters which he had suffered from. Now he is a very capable and explosive player. He also is an excellent outside shooter and can be deadly against a zone defense. His best effort of the season came in an important clash against arch-rival Page in which he scored 20 points and played a super defensive game with several steals. Let's hope he, as well as the Whirlies, continue to play well.



Cox fires against Dudley

## Whirlies Defeat Tarheels

by Steve Theriot

The Whirlie Swimming Team is convincingly proving that it is indeed "The Powerhouse of the Carolinas." The most impressive win thus far into the season was the 153-99 win over the Carolina freshmen February 1. At the Carolina meet the Whirlies lot only two individual events to the Bombers. The 200 Medley Relay team was also victorious and the 1:43 they posted in the event was one of their best times of the year; the time is one second off the state record set by Grimsley a year ago in the state meet.

The team boasts a 4-0 high school dual meet record with wins over Page, High Point Central, Kinston, and Smith. For the most part meets against other high schools have been routs, the average victory margin has been in the neighborhood of 80 points. In an attempt to gain experience against some top notch competition Coach Sawyer has scheduled trips to the Emory Invitational in Atlanta, the Easter Seaboard Invitational in Greenville, North Carolina, and North Carolina State in Raleigh. The Emory meet is the most competitive on the season's schedule. Only the swimmers with outstanding times are able to meet the entrance requirements set for the meet.

The swimmers whose times qualified them to travel to Emory are John Grezeszczak who excels in the 200 Individual Medley and the 100 backstroke, Peter Gratale who is outstanding in the 100 butterfly, Rusty Lambe who has been victorious in the 500 and 200 freestyle events, Jim Raines who is a strong freestyler, Robert Bingham an excellent breastroker, Mark Kronenfeld another excellent freestyler, and Bruce Procton a sophomore who is showing great promise in the breaststroke and the freestyle.

The team depth the Whirlies have amassed is the key to the team's success. The swimmers who provide the cushion that turns the victories into routs are Wes Benbow a consistent winner in the 50 freestyle, Ronnie Styers an outstanding butterfly, Andy Hujnall a super backstroke, Chris Hipps a threat in the 500 freestyle, Charlie Bauserman an improving contestant in the Individual Medley, Fred Highfill a breastroker, Tommy Theriot a freestyler, Dave Trexler a freestyler, and Gary Baldwin a freestyle sprinter.

The Girls team is few in numbers but big in effort and their effort should pay off as the season wears on. A disappointing

loss to Page leaves the team with a 3-1 record which is about what could be expected when one considers how young the team is. The girls who have been outstanding in the meets thus far into the season are Lynn Procton, Beth Grantham, Carolyn Haines, Emily Hepler, and Cathy Jones.

The divers are a very important part of the team in that they are consistent point scorers. Mark Leitner, Teresa Maupin, and Steve Jones have been the most outstanding divers on the team. The other divers who have added depth to the diving have been Amy Lore, John Caffey, Tyke Barham, Peter Nefus, Tom Tarduoguno, and Joe Ray.



Swimmers off the blocks

## Smith Shocks Grapplers

by Steve Theriot

"No one has any sympathy for us because we have been winning for so long." This was Coach Barbour's explanation of the reaction to his team's two recent losses. The 19-46 loss to Smith on January 18 ended an undefeated streak 57 matches long over a five year period. The cause of the two defeats is undoubtedly the inexperience of the team. As many as eight sophomores start in any given match. The season is nonetheless not that bleak, the team has an overall record of 6-2-1. Next year the Whirlies will be ready for all comers after having gone through this period of "building character."

Clarence Mitchell has been the most outstanding wrestler thus far into the season. He is undefeated in dual meets in the 119 pound class. Clarence has also won the championship at all of the tournaments the team has gone to. Also undefeated has been Scot MacDonald in the 112 pound class, Willie Crouch in the 98 pound class, Ricky Buckner in the 126 pound class, Roy Lee in the 145 pound class, and Jimmy Bowen in the 185 pound class.

The team opened the season with a win over Charlotte Independence 38-18. Their next opposition was North East Guilford who went down 41-23, then High Point Central 57-15 and Page 30-27. Reynolds fought to a 32-32 tie and North Forsyth fell 64-0 to set up the event that was five years in coming. Smith beat the team 19-46. The Whirlies rebounded and beat High Point Central 47-13 before they fell to Page.

## J.V. Girls: Improvement Noted

by Lisa McDowell

The Girls Junior Varsity Basketball Team has not been covered as thoroughly as some other sports teams. This does not mean they do not deserve equal acknowledgement, for each member should be proud of their accomplishments. The record now stands at

Mr. Smith, who coaches the girls, feels that they all work very hard and that their fundamental skills have improved tremendously. Most of the games that were lost were very close games, such as the Page game which was lost by Grimsley in overtime. Now the team is very anxious to conquer the Pirates.

Some of the team members are: sophomores: Glenda Hall, Andy Barday, Vicki Blalock, and Alison Pentz. Some Juniors who are on the team are: Terri Miller, Sherry Williamson, Neece Haith, and Jackie Barrier.

Many of these girls will move up to the varsity team next year and hopefully carry with them their skill and determination.