

Carver loses 80-69

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looked good in spots. A couple of times he tried to do a little too much, but I feel good about the team with him playing."

Still among Poe's worries, however, was the number of shots the Yellow Jackets missed near the basket.

"We missed a lot of easy shots," said Poe. "We have to be able to make those."

After a close first period, which ended with North Surry up 16-15, the Greyhounds surged for eight points in the final 2:47 of the first half to take a 36-27 halftime lead.

In the third period, Carver fought hard to cut the margin, but Ken and Kemp Phillips hit several long jump shots to maintain North Surry's lead. Patrick Dozier, a freshman wing guard for Carver, kept the Yellow Jackets in the game, hitting four straight medium-range jumpers.

Carver finally began to make its move at the start of the fourth quarter. A technical foul against North Surry Coach Ron King helped the Yellow Jackets' cause, but again the officials took over.

The game was delayed for nearly five minutes after Dozier hit four straight free throws that resulted from the technical on King and a foul on the play to bring Carver to within 58-51. However, the officials said Dozier was not the player fouled on the play and two points were taken off the scoreboard. Finally, the referees said Fernando Horn had been the Carver player fouled and Horn was given a chance to convert a one-and-one opportunity. But Horn missed the shot.

Carver's trapping defense caused North Surry problems in the final minutes, but the



Freshman Patrick Dozier of Carver dribbles down court against North Surry last Friday night. Dozier had 18 points to lead the Yellow Jackets in scoring (photo by James Parker).

Greyhounds held on to preserve the win.

Carver was led in scoring by Dozier, who had a season-high 18 points, while Horn chipped in with 14. For North Surry, Kemp

Phillips scored 25 points, Chad Gough 20 and Ken Phillips 15.

The Yellow Jackets' record now stands at 4-5 going into this weekend's Frank Spencer Classic.

Christian following dreams

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"I thought giving up football was best for me," says Christian. "I didn't want any injuries that would cause me to miss any of basketball season. It gave me time to work hard on improving my game and in the books."

Thus far, the decision seems to have paid dividends. Christian is averaging 20.2 points and five rebounds a game from his small forward position and is much further along than he would be had he played football, Muse says.

"His basketball skills are much better," says Muse. "It usually takes a football player until after Christmas to get in shape to play basketball."

Though Christian says he won't know until the end of the season whether he made the right choice, he says he has noticed improvements in his game.

"I don't think I will really be able to tell until the season is over," he says. "But I have improved on the range of my jumper and my defense. Defense is mostly mental and I think I have the right frame of mind to play defense."

Going into this weekend's Frank Spencer Classic, Christian says he hopes to help his team play well, and he also says he hopes he'll attract the attention of some ACC scouts.

"Most of my goals are for the team," says Christian. "I would like us to do well and use this (the Frank Spencer Classic) to help us along. I would like to see us win the conference and the district championships this season."

An unselfish player, Christian says scoring a lot of points doesn't mean much to him unless his team comes out on top.

"I just try to contribute to the team's success," he says. "If they

need me to score 30 points, that's fine with me. But if I can score 10 and we win, then that's okay too."

Muse attests to Christian's unselfishness.

"Ronnie is a team player first," says Muse. "He pulls for his teammates and helps them to look good. I could design an offense for him where he could probably score 30 points every night, but we like to promote team basketball."

In short, Muse says, Christian is one of the best players he's had at Parkland.

"He's a fine shooter and a good leaper," says Muse. "He's probably the best passing forward we've ever had. He's a good leaper and he also plays real good defense."

But what endears Muse to Christian most is his attitude off the court.

"Ronnie is a good student in school," says Muse. "He's a nice, coachable kid that I can only say good things about."

Christian is an honor roll student. His grade-point average is

slightly above 3.0 (B) and he has plans for the future regardless of how far basketball takes him.

"I'm preparing for a future as an accountant if I don't make it in basketball," he says. "I'm going to college to get an education first."

And, while Christian still hopes the ACC schools will offer scholarships by the end of the season, he says his world won't fall apart if he doesn't hear from them.

"I think I have the ability and the grades to make it in the ACC," says Christian. "I've been contacted by other Division I teams and, if none of the ACC schools offer me a scholarship, I'll look at the best offer available. But the school will have to offer my major."

For now, though, all Christian's energies will be concentrated on the Frank Spencer Classic and the rest of this basketball season.

And who knows? If he can put together a couple more 36-point nights, the ACC just might come calling.

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OF THE WEEK



THE Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes Ronnie Christian of Parkland High School... He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Christian, the Mustangs' leading scorer, poured in 36 points, hitting 15 of 17 shots from the field and 6 of 6 free throws in a 74-60 loss to North Forsyth last week. A senior, Christian is averaging 20.2 points a game for the 5-2 Mustangs.

IN honor of Ronnie Christian, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will make a cash contribution to the Parkland High School Athletic Program. Congratulations, Ronnie Christian... the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week!

If you would like to nominate a high school athlete for Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, contact Sam Davis at 723-8428 or write him at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

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