

# Defense gets Mount Tabor going in season-opening victory over Carver

By SAM DAVIS  
Chronicle Sports Editor

The table was turned on Mount Tabor as it began the 1996-97 girls basketball season in the opening round of the Eighth Annual Mary Garber Holiday Tip-Off Classic on Monday at Bryson Gym.

The Spartans, seeded No. 1 in the field, opened up the tournament with a game against Carver, the No. 8 seed. Mount Tabor made quick work of the

Yellowjackets, rolling to a 66-17 victory.

Coach Melita Wise says her team has to learn to accept the favorite's role this season. The team is expected to contend for the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference title this season.

"I thought we were well-prepared for a first game," Wise says. "We had a few mental lapses, but we came out and executed pretty well."

The Spartans got a solid

team effort en route to the victory. The team had 26 steals and 33 rebounds, paced by Lauren Thompson's seven steals and 12 rebounds.

Wise says that those two stats are more important in the Spartans' overall scheme than points.

"We try to use defense to build offensively," Wise says. "It is a lot easier to get your offense going when you make things happen on defense."

Before Wise arrived to take

over the Spartans' program, Wise says the program had built around its defense.

"They had a history of playing good defense," Wise says. "That dictated what they did on offense."

In addition to having overall talent, the Spartans also have good individual ability. In the victory over Carver, Roshanda Sanders pumped in 23 points and Thompson added 16. The

Spartans had a total of eight players to get into the scoring column.

So rather than being the underdog, the Spartans will be favored as they were in the Garber tournament.

"I hope we use it as a motivating factor," Wise says. "Our fight to know people off helped us to keep going. This year our fight is going to be to stay on top and win the games we're expected to win."

# Young Bobcats open with impressive win over East Forsyth

## ▲ Harris, Johnson show poise beyond their years in Garber Tourney

By SAM DAVIS  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Glenn unveiled one of its most inexperienced squads ever in its opening-round Mary Garber Classic battle against East Forsyth on Monday.

However, the team that took the field for the season-opening 58-46 victory might be one of the most talented that Coach Marty Stanley has produced in a long while.

The Bobcats showed both their youth and talent in the win and that is going to present a challenge for the team as it goes into its North Piedmont 3-A Conference season.

The Bobcats, starting sophomore Tasha Harris at point guard and freshman LaShanta Johnson at shooting guard, showed their inexperience early, falling behind by 4-0 at the start of the game.

But Glenn finally got untracked, getting a boost in the middle from freshman backup center Mary Lazenby to go on an 11-5 run take an 11-9 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Harris and Johnson began to get untracked in the second quarter, although East Forsyth rallied behind the inside play of Sarah Lewis to stay within striking distance.

After going to the half with a slim 29-25 lead, the Bobcats showed what they are made of in the third quarter when they outscored the Eagles 23-10 to take a 52-35 lead at the end of the period.

The Bobcats stretched their lead to 21, 56-35, but showed its youth by going into a tailspin and allowing East to close the gap to 12 at the end of the game.

Marty Stanley, the Bobcats coach said the team's inexperienced began to show. Stanley said he has to keep in mind just how young his team is at this point.

"Tasha is a really good player and she handles the ball well for us," Stanley said. "But I have to remember that she's still only a sophomore. That's tough because she has to be a coach on the floor for me."

### This Week In History

On December 4, 1783, George Washington bade farewell to his officers at Fraunces Tavern in New York City ... December 6, 1790, Congress convened in Philadelphia, the new temporary Capitol ... December 2, 1823, the Monroe Doctrine was enunciated, opposing European intervention in the Americas ... December 2, 1859, abolitionist John Brown was hanged for treason by the state of Virginia ... December 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery, was ratified ... December 8, 1886, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) was formed by 25 craft unions ... December 7, 1915, President Woodrow Wilson asked for a military fund increase ... December 5, 1933, the 21st Amendment, repealing the 18th (Prohibition), was ratified ... December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 7:55 a.m. Hawaiian time; 19 ships were sunk or damaged, leaving 2,300 people dead ... December 8, 1941, the U.S. declared war on Japan ... December 2, 1942, the first nuclear chain reaction (fission of uranium isotope U-235) was produced at the University of Chicago under physicists Arthur Compton, Enrico Fermi and others ... December 8, 1950, the U.S. banned shipments to Communist China and to Asiatic ports trading with it.

Harris finished with a game-high 24 points to lead the Bobcats in scoring, including four 3-point field goals and more than a hand full of assists.

Johnson also turned in a strong performance in her high school debut. The freshman guard scored 20 points to back Harris.

"That was her first varsity game and I've only had her for about three weeks," Stanley said. "She's going to be a very

good player for us."

Stanley said he was also impressed with the play of Christol Smith, his senior center, who battled in the post with Lewis throughout the game.

"I'm proud of the way Christol played," Stanley said. "She never backed down from her (Lewis). Last year when we played them our inside people were very intimidated and really didn't do much inside."

The Bobcats' athleticism is something that Bobcat foes

will have to deal with all year and could be enough to boost Glenn's young team. Stanley said that was evident in the third quarter when his team went on their 23-10 run.

"The difference was the third quarter," Stanley said. "We stepped up our defense and LaShanta and Tasha played well offensively. We're going to score points in spurts this season and if we can play solid defense we will be a solid team."

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