

North Forsyth advances

from B1
"We're playing well and we've

really been blessed by the good Lord," Muse said. "The girls keep believing and we're not

giving up. Good things are happening to us."

North Forsyth had to play some of their best basketball of the season to put itself in position to win.

The Vikings trailed by 11 points at the half after a sluggish first half. North scored only four points in the first quarter and found itself behind by a 10-4 score. The Vikings fared better in the second quarter, but still was outscored 17-12 and went to intermission with a 27-16 deficit.

"I told the girls that there was no way Greensboro Page could continue to play the way it had in the first half," Muse said. "They were shooting 65 percent from the floor even though we were playing good defense. Then

we were getting good shots, but they just weren't going in. I told them if they would just hang in there and up the defensive intensity we could come back. We just wanted to get the lead down to four or five points at the end of the third quarter."

North did even better than that. With Guthrie leading the way, North outscored Page 15-5 in the third quarter to cut the lead to 32-31 at the end of the period.

Defense, a staple of the Vikings' game all season, was the difference during the run. It was also key during the fourth quarter when Page scored only seven points.

"We held them to only 12 points in the second half and we

held Ashley Shipp to only 10 points in the game and only two in the second half," Muse said.

"The thing about it was we didn't do anything different than what we've been doing all season. The girls just refused to lose. That's what happens when you have seven seniors and they work together."

If the Vikings continue working the way they have thus far they could return from Chapel Hill with a championship trophy. North will take on an East Wake team that is very similar to the Vikings.

East Wake, 23-6, entered the playoffs as the No. 2 seed from its conference. But the team has gathered steam as it has advanced in sectional and

regional play. East Wake advanced to the state title game by defeating Wilmington Hogard, which was ranked No. 1 in the state and No. 6 in the nation.

"They are a young team with only two seniors on the team," Muse said. "Their guard play is what has been boosting them to where they are."

North Forsyth has pre-sale tickets available for their battle on Saturday night. Tickets are \$6.00 if purchased at the school and \$7.00 at the door in Chapel Hill.

"We're just really proud to be representing North Forsyth; the Metro Conference and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System," Muse said.



Members of North Forsyth Girls Basketball team celebrate their Western 4-A Regional Championship.

Charette Guthrie has played a major role in North Forsyth's run to State 4-A Final

By COURTNEY DANIEL
Chronicle Staff Reporter

North Forsyth's varsity girls basketball team is on its way to Carmichael Auditorium, on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, to play for the State 4-A Championship in large part due to the play of Charette Guthrie.

Guthrie's performance during the Regionals garnered her Most Valuable Player honors. Her highlights included scoring nearly half (18) of her team's 40 points in the final.

This is the second time she has been named to the all-tournament team. As a sophomore, Guthrie's outstanding play gained her the same recognition. This time is even more sweet because she has succeeded in leading North into its first ever appearance in the Championship game, a feat she could not quite manage two-years ago.

Guthrie says she is still in disbelief about her team's chance to play for the State crown.

"I still can't believe we won," she candidly relates "I can't believe we're going to Chapel Hill to play for the State Championship. It's like a dream. I probably won't believe it until Thursday or Friday."

And while it is like a dream, Guthrie says that the realization of what her team has accomplished and the opportunity they have earned now keeps her up at night.

"I can't sleep," she admits. "I sit up and think about the game."

North capped a miraculous comeback against Greensboro Page, last Saturday afternoon when Nicole Soots hit both free-throws, of a one-and-one attempt, after time had expired. Guthrie says the State Championship game she scripts in her head is very similar to the Regional Final with one exception.

"The perfect game would be

close all the way through... down to the final seconds," Guthrie says. "It comes down to a final shot and I take and hit it, or get fouled and hit the free throws."

Many of those who watched the West Regional Final last Saturday thought that Page had the game sewn up with four seconds left in the game. Page held a one point lead 39-38 and when Keta Broom tied up Guthrie for a jump ball the Lady Pirates of Greensboro Page gained possession. It seemed like a simple task for them to run the clock out. That's when North Forsyth head coach, Mike Muse, called a timeout and gave a speech that captured what Guthrie thinks makes him the catalyst for this team's run to the State Finals.

"Coach Muse called the timeout and asked of if we believed we were going to win," she recalls. "We all said yes, because he has always taught us to believe we are going to win. Whatever he says we believe, and it always happens. Even when we were struggling earlier this year he told us to believe in ourselves and in each other and we have."

Guthrie believes that even with all her accolades that the success of the Lady Vikings is a team effort.

"We don't have a superstar on this team," says Guthrie. "We just all work well together, and play together as a team."

She accounts the success of that team game to the fact that the core of this team has matured together.

"We know each other real well," Guthrie says of her teammates. "We've been together for about three years now. We just know how to play as a team now."

When she can be persuaded to talk about herself and her talent as an individual, Guthrie points to her experience playing basketball since childhood.

"I have been playing basketball all my life," she states. "Either at the YMCA, or with kids in my neighborhood, or just playing on the goal at my house. I've just always been playing basketball."

That consistent honing of her skills has made Guthrie a versatile player. She plays three positions with great proficiency. She is an adept ball-handler and can run the point, has a deft touch from the floor and is comfortable at the off-guard spot. She also has the repertoire of low post moves that makes her a formidable force at the small forward position.

"When other teams put a guard on me I can post them up," Guthrie explains. "When teams put a forward on my I can go by them with the dribble."

Her multi-faceted game has made her a prize recruit with a number of colleges vying to sign her for their programs, including: East Carolina, North Carolina Central, Winston-Salem State, Fayetteville State, Pembroke

State, Queens College, and Meredith College.

She jokes with her friends about how talented she is.

"I tell people around school, that I'm going to skip college and go straight to the pros," laughs Guthrie.

If you walk the halls of North Forsyth and hear that rumor be assured it is just a joke. Guthrie says honestly that has not even begun the process of selecting a school to play for next year. Her sights are squarely on the task at hand. That is not to say that Guthrie isn't serious about her future or serious about working to become a professional athlete.

"I would love the opportunity to play professionally," she says.

She understands the hard work necessary to achieve her dreams and is certain that all the opportunities she will earn in the future, like the opportunity this opportunity to win the State title, will be the result of adherence to a sentiment her coach gave her... "keep believing."

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Warthogs Announce Spring Training Schedule for '97 season

Winston-Salem Warthogs, the Class A affiliate to the Chicago White Sox, announce the 1997 Spring training schedule. The spring season began at the White Sox training complex in Sarasota, Fla. on March 15 against the Lynchburgh Hillcats of the Carolina League.

The preseason schedule includes an exhibition at Ernie Shore field on April 1st against the Hickory Crawdads of the South Atlantic League. In all the Hogs will play 14 games prior to the regular season.

The Warthogs will open their Carolina League season at home on April 4 vs. the Lynchburgh Hillcats. Fans can purchase season tickets and mini-plan by calling the Warthogs offices at 759-2233.

| Date | Opponent | Site |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|
| March 15 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 16 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Bradenton, Fla. |
| March 17 | Frederick Keys | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 19 | Charlotte Rangers | Port Charlotte, Fla. |
| March 20 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 21 | Frederick Keys | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 23 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 24 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Bradenton, Fla. |
| March 25 | Frederick Keys | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 27 | Charlotte Rangers | Port Charlotte, Fla. |
| March 28 | Lynchburgh Hillcats | Sarasota, Fla. |
| March 29 | Frederick Keys | Sarasota, Fla. |
| April 1 | Hickory Crawdads | Winston-Salem, N.C. |
| April 2 | Hickory Crawdads | Hickory, N.C. |



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