



Runner-ups!!

North Forsyth pulled off two upsets to earn a berth in the Lash/Chronicle Tournament championship game, where it lost to Reynolds.

Mustangs' freshmen played well in spots in losses to RJR, LIFT

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Parkland's freshman team had no wins to show for its participation in the Lash/Chronicle Tournament, but coach Marlin Brim said his team had an opportunity to better itself by playing.

The Mustangs dropped a lopsided loss to Reynolds in the ninth-grade opening round bracket. They showed much improvement in their second game, leading for nearly three quarters before dropping a 64-58 loss to LIFT. Parkland came out quickly against the Jaguars and led by two, 28-26, at the half.

The Mustangs increased their lead to six in the second half before LIFT went on a run to take a lead that they didn't relinquish down the stretch.

Brim attributed the team's losses in the tournament to his team failing to complete its mission.

"I thought we played pretty well at times," Brim said. "We just need to learn how to play together. I thought it was a good experience for us to play good teams."

Even in their loss to Parkland, the Mustangs showed a lot of good signs. However, they couldn't sustain the effort.

"I think this will help to teach us how to play hard," Brim said. "We have a lot to work on and hopefully it will get better before the end of the season."

Against LIFT, Brim was able to use his deep roster and wear down the Jaguars in the first half. But the Mustangs were unable to put LIFT away.

"I just thought LIFT played a little harder at the end," Brim said. "Our guys relaxed a little at the end. LIFT wanted to win more than we did."

Yet the Mustangs were not without players who shined in the tournament. Jed Bines and Adam

Tesh put consistent efforts forth.

"Jed had two good days," Brim said. "He was consistent with his scoring (16 against Reynolds and 15 against LIFT). Adam Tesh also played well in both games."

Parkland also had balanced scoring against LIFT with four players in double figures.

"We played well, but we didn't sustain it," Brim said. "We were doing the things we wanted to do in both games. I had been telling them that they have to play the game through to the buzzer. We have to be more consistent and play defense."

Brim said he would take the positives that the team brought and add to them.

"For them playing in their first Christmas tournament I thought we did OK," he said. "I wasn't happy with their performance but we'll take it. Now we have to try to work hard every practice we can."

Goodson's shot boosts Lady Spartans to upset win, again

BY DAMON FORD
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Can you say deja vu? Belinda Goodson can.

The UNC-Greensboro guard came off the bench on Dec. 19 and hit a game-winning three-pointer against Marshall on the road. Two days later against Clemson, the senior hit a game-tying 3-pointer with 15 seconds left in regulation that propelled the Lady Spartans to a 78-67 upset of the two-time defending ACC women's tournament champions in overtime. Her shot gave the 452 fans at UNCG a merry Christmas.

Goodson, who has shot 55 percent from behind the 3-point arc in the last three games, says she was more than ready to let it fly when teammate Katie Delcampo swung the ball to her on the wing.

"I was looking to shoot and luckily it went in," she said. "It's like ice in my veins."

UNCG head coach Lynn Agee was just as elated for Goodson.

"We've gotten 'B' to a level of confidence and we're all confident in her and she's really rising to the occasion," Agee said.

As a team, the Lady Spartans continued to rise in the five-minute overtime period while Clemson head coach Jim Davis watched as his team continued to sink.

Delcampo and Goodson hit back-to-back 3-pointers to put UNCG up by 6, 64-58, with 3:49 left. From that point the Lady Spartans went to the free-throw line and connected on 14 of 16 free throws to put the game away.

A frustrated Davis offered no excuses for his team's loss.

"You've got to give UNCG the credit," he said looking wryly at the stat sheet. "They outthrusted us, outworked us, outcoached us, outbounced us. They whipped us."

The Lady Tigers, who have 6-4 Erin Bath, 6-2 Joanie Mungro and 6-1 Nuria Forms starting in the frontcourt, were outbounced 49-39 by UNCG with 6-2 Sandi Reid, 5-11 Delcampo and 5-8 Melinda Goodson (Belinda's twin sister) on theirs.

In addition the Lady Spartans were 6-13 (46 percent) from the 3-point line and 24-27 (88 percent) at the free-throw line in the second half and overtime period. Clemson on the other hand was 3-14 (21 percent) from long range and 5-10 (50 percent) from the free-throw line in the same time period.

UNCG's improved shooting helped offset a first half where leading scorer Melinda Goodson tallied only 2 points and missed seven straight shots. As a team the Lady Spartans shot 28 percent and were behind 27-18 at halftime, but Agee wasn't too worried. After seeing her team hold up strong defensively against the taller Lady Tigers, she felt they would pick it up offensively.

"Defensively we were taking care of business to have Bath out there going crazy in the middle shooting jump hooks and they only had 27 points. I was like, 'That end's OK, you guys; we need to go back down here (on the offensive end and improve),' " Agee said. "We weren't disciplined enough in the first half. We didn't really take good shots. When we'd run something, we'd run the first

couple of cuts and make a couple of passes and then someone's trying to force (a shot). We were too excited and too quick; if we could just settle down. We were just so pumped to play (Clemson)."

Thankfully Agee's players did settle down and refocused on the task at hand - beat Clemson.

Delcampo, who ended up with a team-high 16 points, continued her steady play while Melinda Goodson stepped up with 11 second-half points and eight boards. Twin sister Belinda finished with 12 points and Brianne Dodgen scored 11 points and grabbed another eight rebounds off the bench. Clemson (7-4 overall, 0-1 ACC) was led in scoring by Angie Cossey with 18 points while Bath finished with 11 points, six rebounds and two blocks.

The Lady Tigers will continue their road trip through the Tar Heel state as they take on East Carolina and UNC-Asheville before going back home to start up their conference schedule again with the University of Maryland. As of the publishing date of this story UNCG (5-3 overall, 1-0 SoCon) got back into the thick of Southern Conference play with a home game against Charleston (Dec. 29). They will now prepare to take on visiting Appalachian State University on Jan. 5.

"Our nonconference schedule did exactly what I wanted it to do," Agee said. "I think we're playing with confidence. I think if we're in the game, we know we can compete and we know we can close it. We're (mentally) tough and that's what I wanted us to be."

Demons' freshmen run out of steam in loss to Spartans

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Reynolds' freshman basketball team thought things were jelling perfectly midway through its championship game in the Lash/Chronicle Basketball Tournament last Thursday at Carver High School.

The Demons, who blew out Parkland in the opening round of the tournament on Tuesday, looked like they were on their way to a lopsided win in the championship game. However, Mount Tabor turned the tables on Reynolds in the final minutes of the third quarter and throughout the fourth quarter to earn a 60-59 win over the Demons to take home the championship trophy.

Reynolds was having its way with the Spartans' 1-3-1 zone through the first three periods. However, the Spartans changed their strategy and went to a man-to-man that strangled the Reynolds offense down the stretch and propelled Mount Tabor to the

win.

Coach André Gould of Reynolds said his team didn't handle the change well at all.

"We're normally a very good team against man defense," Gould said. "But we have emphasized the 1-3-1 zone so much I think the kids got away from the things we had been doing against the man-to-man."

Foul trouble, injury and fatigue also hurt the Demons down the stretch.

"You have to give Mount Tabor a lot of credit," Gould said. "They came out and played hard. We had them in a position where they could have quit, but they came back and did the things they had to do to win."

The Spartans also benefited from opportunities at the free-throw line, where they took 32 shots to the Demons' 8.

"That was a key," Gould said. "We didn't get to the foul line very much, but it seemed like they were there every time they came down court. I really thought we were playing pretty good defense, but

we were hit with a lot of fouls."

Mount Tabor took advantage of the foul calls to make its run. Meanwhile Gould said his team started to lose its confidence.

"At the end, we really made some bad decisions that ended up hurting us," Gould said. "We had a violation at the free-throw line and we ended up missing three of four free throws."

Those were the only three free throws that the Demons missed. They finished 11-of-14 for the game.

"That's a pretty good percentage," Gould said. "But the timing was really bad for us."

Still, Gould said many positives came out of his team's play in the tournament.

"I thought Ricky Hickman and Jamar Pitts played very well," he said. "Pitts is starting to understand what we are trying to do offensively. Chad Cross did a good job before he fouled out, and Eugene Galloway played well before we lost him with an ankle injury."

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