

Norfolk State eliminates Aggies from tourney

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Norfolk State ended a long-standing trend it desperately wanted to end against North Carolina A&T as the Spartans eliminated the Aggies from the 2008 MEAC Baseball Tournament with a 10-4 win at Marty L. Miller Field last Saturday.

With the win, the Spartans advanced to the championship round against Bethune-Cookman Sunday afternoon at 2. The win also marked the first time in five seasons Norfolk State will not be eliminated from the tournament by N.C. A&T. The Aggies came into Saturday's action 2-0 in the tournament. But lost earlier in the day to Bethune-Cookman 3-2 despite a 14-strikeout performance from Marquis Frink.

After losing to the Aggies to open the tournament last Thursday, the Spartans (25-23) played for a conference title thanks to winning four straight games the last two days. The Spartans had to beat the Wildcats twice to win the MEAC title because they advanced to the championship round through the loser's bracket.

Brad Stephenson and Chris Joyce led the Spartans on Saturday night by recording two hits and three runs apiece.

TiQuan Griffin added two hits and two RBIs. Norfolk State got off to an early start against the Aggies by scoring eight runs over the first four innings of the game. Anselmo Cantu gave the Spartans a 3-0 lead in the first with a two-run RBI double to right field. Griffin followed with a RBI single to center field for an early 4-0 advantage.



Jeremy Jones

The Aggies responded by scoring a run in the first and a run in the second to pull to within one. But the Spartans pulled away for good in the third and the fourth. Stephenson scored on a balk by Aggies starter Donald Howerton in the third and Griffin followed with a RBI triple to give the Spartans a 6-3 lead.

The Aggies ran into more trouble in the fourth as reliever Ryan Sellers walked in a run. After Sellers was replaced on the mound by Jody Calloway gave up a RBI sacrifice fly to give the Spartans a comfortable 8-3 lead.

Norfolk State starter Frankie Caldeyro (2-4) held on to get the win after pitching 7 1/3 innings, giving up just one earned run and striking out three. Howerton (2-6) took the loss. Offensively, the Aggies were led by Lester Rivenbark's two RBIs. Jeremy Jones, James Howard and George Hines add two hits apiece. The Aggies season comes to an end at 29-30.

Foye

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DeVontai Foye dominated his way to earn Male Student-Athlete of the Year honors at Wiley Middle School recently. It came down to Foye and another talented student athlete. The other kid played four sports, compared to Foye's three sports. But Foye carried a 3.3 grade point average, and broke a number of school and county records. That seemingly propelled him to the honor.

"He definitely deserved that honors," said Wiley track coach and co-athletic director Rick Lyles. "I was fortunate to coach him in track, and watch him play basketball. He's really the total package. He's an excellent student. DeVontai is an awesome all-around athlete and kid. I believe in what his dad teaches him. I admire their relationship."

"It's hard to move away from most of your family and still maintain," Lyles continued. "You've really got to put it down when you move out of town. People don't really know you that well. He's been able to make an immediate impact in his first year. That's special. I think he's going to do some big things in the future. We've already got a lot of people wanting to meet him. I've seen a lot of kids come through this school. But he's got the biggest upside."

Foye's upside was noticed very clearly during the middle school basketball season, where he helped his eighth-grade team when the conference championship over Jefferson Middle School. Foye scored over 30 points in that game. He was able to finish the season with the school's scoring record, with 301 points. That was after playing only 11 games.

"He hurt himself 45 minutes into the first game," Lyles said. "He rolled his ankle. But he still came back to score more points than anyone in school history. The funniest thing happened before that first game, though. They were going through lay-up lines. And, he was dunking it. The refs kind of laughed in surprise after seeing him. I told them that he didn't know the rules. He was new."

On the track, Foye ran a 1:51 in the 100 meter dash. He was clocked at 23.18 in the 200. And, he anchored a 4x100 relay team that broke the county record with a time of 1:47. Foye also ran in the 4x200.

"He almost broke the 100-meter record at the City/County meet," Lyles said. "The kid in the lane beside him tripped out of the blocks and DeVontai had to almost hurdle him. He still broke the school record after that. That was the wildest thing I'd ever seen."

Foye, who plays guard in basketball, benefitted from a growth spurt during the summer. He went from 5-6 to 6-foot during the course of a year.

"That's helped me out too," said DeVontai Foye, with a smile. "I just want to continue to get better in track and basketball. I'm always going to work hard in the classroom. And, I'm training with coach Speas this summer. Hopefully, I will be ready for high school."

From the looks of things, Foye will make an easy transition to the next level.



Lyles

Hill

from page B1

Number nine student-athlete is Atkins star Shane Allen. That's my dude right there. He's also an excellent student and athlete. And, he's pretty funny too. Allen showed me great skills in both football and basketball at Atkins. He will be doing his thing at Shaw next year on the football field. I look forward to seeing how well he does.

At number eight, I'm going with North Forsyth's LaBrandon Banner. Most people call him L.B. He's a pretty nice guy. I love his hustle. He could play football or basketball for me any day. Now, he wasn't the best basketball player around. But he hustled like no other. Now, he was extremely talented on the football field. He will be doing his thing at Lenoir-Rhyne next year. Good luck my boy.

I'm going to slip two Mt. Tabor guys into my number seven spot. I'm going with Brooks Harden and Brent Macon. Those are two guys that I like a lot too. I thought Harden was extremely underused on the football field, but I still felt like he did his thing when given the proper opportunity. And, Macon is simply a great kid. He's a good leader, and excellent worker. He goes to work on the basketball court, and I noticed it very early in his career. He was the MVP of The Chronicle's JV tournament a couple years ago. Good luck to both of those guys.

Number six has to be a female student-athlete. And, it's no other than Margaret Harvey at Forsyth Country Day. She's the truth on the court. It's a shame FCD can't play in tournaments like the Mary Garber anymore. The community is being cheated from seeing some of the best girl ballers around because some schools are scared about something what the Lady Furies could possibly do. I was told they can't play in city tournaments because they have a recruiting advantage over the city schools. And, FCD can play older kids if they want. But don't punish kids for what they might or can do. Punish them for doing something against the rules. I bet some of you don't even realize how good Harvey is because of that. Well, you can see her do her thing at Wake next year. She'll play early. Believe that.

Number five has to go to West Forsyth's Andrew Bodenheimer. That's one of the coolest guys around. He looks like someone off the "Real World" or something. He's just got that beach boy, model look. But he plays hard, and dirty. That's what I like about him. And, he was already ready to give me quotes when I hit him up at the crib. Even when he was playing JV ball. We're cool like that. Good luck next year, Bodie.

All right, we're at number four. I'm going with my main man George Richardson. He did his thing at Glenn. He was an awesome basketball and football player. He was arguably the best quarterback in the city this year. And, I love his



Photo by Anthony Hill

Glenn's George Richardson came in at number four.

point guard skills. George also showed me he could do his thing on the track too. That's what's up, George. Good luck to you in college.

Number three goes to East Forsyth's Kedrick Williams. I remember kid from his days playing in the youth basketball league at Carl Russell years ago. I used to call him Lil Ked. But he's always played big. And, he's smart as can be too. He was easily one of the most underrated players around. I know he's going to continue to turn heads when he goes to St. Paul's next year.

Number two has to go to three Winston-Salem Prep basketball players. I'm going with Marcus Wright, Calvin "J-Man" Gantt and Reggie "Big Reggie" Johnson. You won't meet a better trio. They're all so different too. Big Reggie is a constant jokester. Marcus is too cool for school, so to speak. And, J-Man thinks he's the Lady's Man. But they all came together to make sweet music on the basketball court. They also have great personalities and attitudes. That will take them all a long way. I'm gonna miss you guys. For real.

My number one athlete is Carver's Bryce Sherman. That's my boy. I even talk to Bryce on myspace a couple times a month to see what's up. If I need a quote from him I hit his cell phone up. And, when I needed to see a highlight on the football field I went to a Carver game. He was a human highlight reel. I call him Mr. Friday Night Football. It didn't go off without a Bryce highlight. He didn't have the best senior year in the world. But he still has nothing to be ashamed of. I am sure he'll continue to do his thing at South Carolina

next year.

That's it. The list is complete. I also want to tell all of the graduating senior student-athletes that I didn't mention that I enjoyed getting to watch and get to know a number of them too. I wish you all the best of luck in college, or wherever else life takes you. Good luck.

Good luck to Ms. Boothe

I don't usually do this, but this is my column. And, I can write what I want here. So I am sending a shout out to one of my favorite teachers in Winston-Salem. And, that's Parkland's old cheerleading coach Rebecca Boothe. She also teaches english. She will be taking over as the Mt. Tabor varsity cheerleading squad next year.

I wish her the best. I don't talk to her much anymore, but she was very valuable to me when it came to finding out what was going on at Parkland. I mean, nothing bad. She just tipped me to some of the stories or issues the daily newspaper may have missed or simply didn't know. Ms Boothe was a great source, and a good friend. She's also one of those teachers most students like because she's relatively young and easy to talk to. She knows the latest music, TV shows, trends and rumors. She's a cool lady.

Good luck at Mt. Tabor, Boothe. I'm sure you'll be missed. I know the kids will miss ya over there.

Help Team B.O.N.D

Team B.O.N.D., which was started by former Wake and Carver star Porsche Jones, and she's coached the team to a great first year. The squad is now 26-4. The talented 10U squad has won a number of tournaments, and is presently gearing for their national tournament. Jones is hoping to receive a little help from the community in helping her team pay for their July (12-20) trip.

There is a variety of ways people can donate. For information about that visit her website at porschejones.com.

"I want to thank every in advance for their interest in assisting us with accomplishing our goals," Jones said. "Sponsorships and donations are greatly appreciated. We are asking for individual sponsorships as well as overall donations to make this year a success."

All donations are tax deductible and a tax ID number will be provided upon request. Checks or money orders should be made out to Team B.O.N.D AAU. Send donations to 4000 Whitfield Road/Winston-Salem, N.C 27105.

For further information regarding Team B.O.N.D and opportunities to contribute and participate, hit up Porsche Jones at 336-995-8718 or bondskills@hotmail.com.

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