

PARKLAND'S DAVIS DISCUSSES CURRENT TOPICS

I thought it would be a good time to talk to one of the best female ballers in the city this week. So, I hooked up with Parkland's talented junior baller Victoria Davis on Tuesday afternoon.

Davis is definitely one of the best female ballers in the city this year. Not too many girls go get it like V-Davis. She's got a solid game, and she's tougher than most females on this level. I first noticed her skills while she was playing for North Forsyth last year. I even wrote a feature on her. She's still playing big at Parkland. Now, she's getting a chance to play big from the small forward position — a position Davis feels more comfortable playing. I asked her about her move to Parkland, Dontre Barrett, Carver's Breannah Davis Bloom, her top five ballers and the Mary Garber Holiday Tournament. We also talked about how students are taking the loss of Khalid Prince.

Davis gave me a great conversation. I originally didn't know how much fun Vic would be to talk with because she's usually kind of shy when she's around me. There was nothing shy about our discussion, though. Take a look at some of the things V-Davis and I talked about on earlier this week.

Anthony: Vic, what's going on?

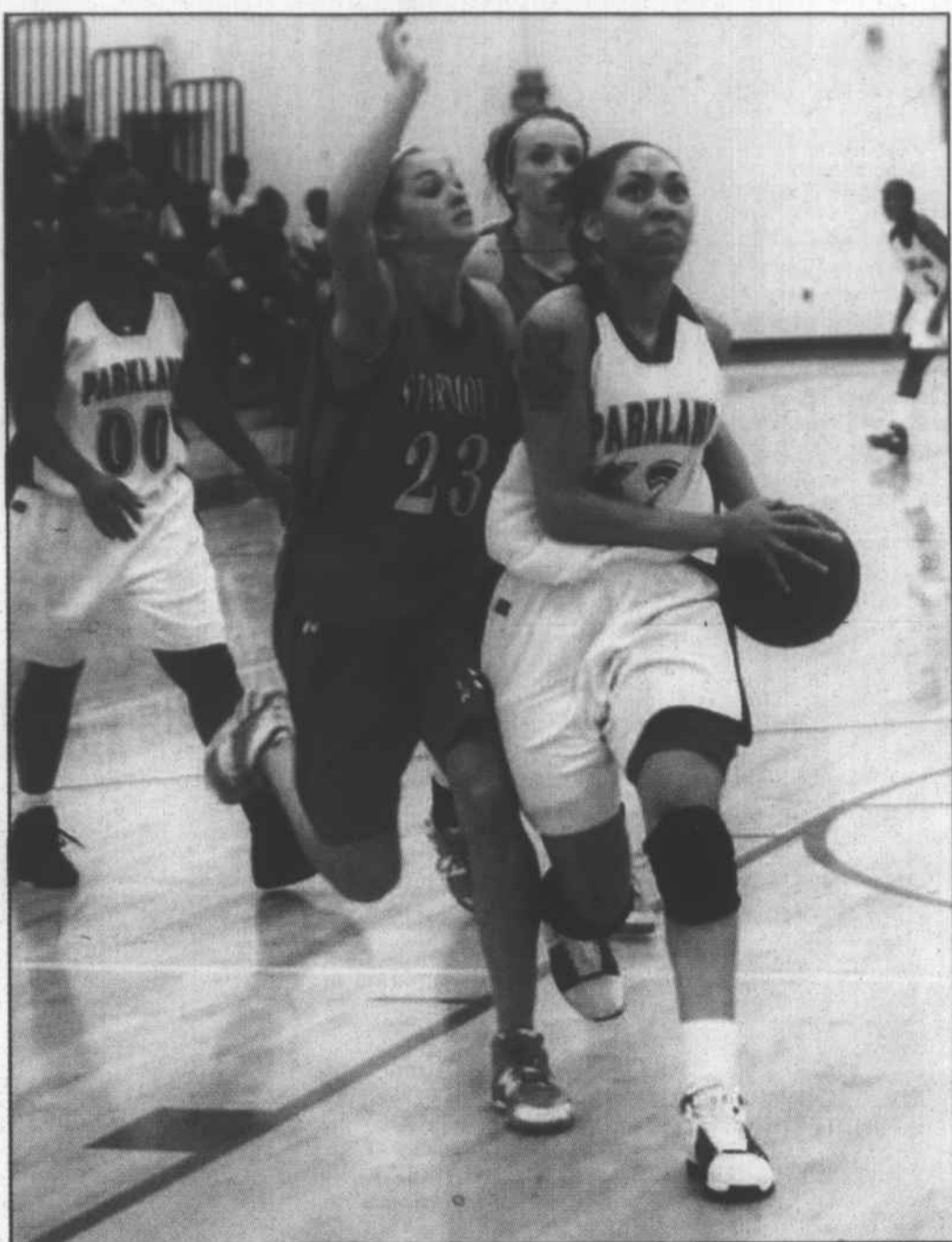
Victoria: Nothing. (Smiles.) I'm just in school. (Both laugh.)

Anthony: No doubt. You've been looking good so far this season for the Mustangs. You have to let me know why you chose to transfer to Parkland after being at North.

Victoria: Well, I had friends at North that wanted me to stay. But I felt like I needed to come somewhere different. Now I'm in an environment where I could play my natural position. I was playing the post over there. I'm playing the three over here. I feel more at home. I'm more comfortable where I am now.

Anthony: That's what's up. You all won the State Games over the summer. I thought you would also win the Mary Garber. I'm sure that was a disappointment to not win that.

Victoria: Yeah, that was a little disappointing. We really thought that we could pull it out. But everything happens for a reason. So... we just have to move on from it. We have to learn



Parkland's Victoria Davis goes up for a score during a win over Starmount earlier this season. Davis, who transferred from North, is one of the city's best female ballers.

from it.

Anthony: Do you think you have learned from that loss?

Victoria: Yeah. We've been working together more at practice. We've also been working on the areas that we lack. But, things happen. So...

Anthony: How much have you improved?

Victoria: Well, last year I used to just drive a lot. I think I've improved with my shooting. I've been shooting more from the outside. I can hit that three. I still need to work on my handles, but I've improved with that too. I can pass better. I feel like I can see the floor better too. I've learned to be more of a guard. That's where I will be playing in college.

Anthony: Speaking of colleges, give me your top three. You don't have to tell me who's looking at you. Just tell me where you'd like

to play.

Victoria: Um, I'm interested in Maryland. I want to go somewhere that's in the city. I might want to go back to California. I wouldn't mind going to USC or UCLA.

Anthony: OK. Let me ask you about the atmosphere at Parkland right now. You guys just lost a good kid (Khalid Prince). What's it like around school?

Victoria: The atmosphere at school has been kind of different. Everybody is really down. A lot of the older kids didn't really know

him that well because he was just a freshman. But we all know that he was a fellow classmate, and we all walked through the same hallways. That makes things even more sad.

I mean, you don't want to see anything bad happen to anybody. I feel really bad for his family. That has kind of inspired me a little bit. I even have his name and number on my band. We've all talked about dedicating the season to him in the locker room.

Anthony: That's what's up. Let's move on for a minute. Tell me what's your

favorite part about being here at Parkland.

Victoria: I have a lot of support here. I feel like we're one big family around here. It's just a good fit over here. Everyone welcomed me when I came. Everyone told me how happy they were to have me here. I just felt really welcomed, and I still feel that way. That's pretty much the best thing about being here. I think it would be the same even if I didn't play ball.

Anthony: Do you have a boyfriend?

Victoria: (Laughs.) No. I don't have time for that. I'm concentrating on ball and school right now.

Anthony: OK. How are your grades?

Victoria: Actually, I have a 4.5 (weighted GPA). I used to have a 4.2 at North. I've taken more classes, so my GPA went up.

Anthony: Wow. That's big time. Do you have any nicknames?

Victoria: People call me Vic, Vicky, Tori. Most of the girls on the team call me Vic.

Anthony: OK. Who would you like to go one-on-one against?

Victoria: (Smiles.) I'd probably play my twin, Tori Hardy (Reynolds' Toreonna Hardy).

Anthony: You two do kind of look alike.

Victoria: (Laughs.) We're real close. She's one of my best friends. We used to play against each other all the time in practice. I think we would make each other better.

Anthony: No doubt. Who's the best athlete at Parkland right now?

Victoria: I would say J'Mia Pollock. She works hard and hustles. She has a lot of good skill in the post too. I'd give it to her.

Anthony: Now give me your Top 5 of female ballers in Winston-Salem.

Victoria: OK.

Anthony: No particular order.

Victoria: Uh, Breannah Davis-Bloom, Jazmin (Cromartie) and J'Mia (Pollock). Um, Mellessa Calicott (Mt. Tabor) is pretty good. And, Raquel (Cuffie) — that girl at Prep. She's good.

Anthony: I like that group. Um, where's your favorite spot to eat? Where can a young fella take you out?

Victoria: (Giggles.) Olive Garden.

Anthony: Just get you the salad and bread sticks..



Victoria Davis

right?

Victoria: (Laughs.) Yup.

Anthony: (Both laugh.) I hear that. OK. Um, who's better between Dontre Barrett and D.J. Adams?

Victoria: (Smiles.) Dontre. He's better. I think they're going to upset a lot of people because no one is expecting much. They've been practicing hard. I have a lot of faith in them. I think they can pull it out. They have a lot of good athletes with heart.

Anthony: What's the best part about playing for coach Weavil?

Victoria: He treats everybody the same. He's a good coach. On the court, he's real serious. We know what he expects. No playing around. We have our fun times, but everyone knows it's time to work once we step into the gym. He's all about working hard, and getting your teammates better.

Anthony: That's cool. Let's finish with free association.

Victoria: OK.

Anthony: Victoria Davis.

Victoria: Ooh, talented.

Anthony: (Smiles.) Parkland Mustangs.

Victoria: Basketball.

Anthony: North Forsyth.

Victoria: I miss it.

Anthony: Carver.

Victoria: Um, Breannah (Carver's sophomore guard).

Anthony: Khalid Prince.

Victoria: Inspiration.

Anthony: Jalen Surratt. (Parkland post player).

Victoria: Oh, he's a beast.

Anthony: Mt. Tabor.

Victoria: Shay Jones.

Anthony: Best baller in Winston.

Victoria: There's so many. I'd say Breannah Davis-Bloom.

Anthony: Enough said.

One-on-One
with Anthony Hill

Bowie State's Mike Lynn to leave program

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Bowie State University athletic director Derek Carter and head football coach Mike Lynn have reached a mutual agreement that a change in direction is needed for the Bulldogs program. Lynn has agreed to step down as the Bulldog head football coach.



Lynn

"After five enjoyable and successful seasons, the time has come for a change in leadership of the Bowie State University football program," said Lynn. "I want to thank Dr. Burnim and Derek Carter for giving me this wonderful opportunity and wish the university much success in the future."

Lynn compiled a Bowie State University career record of 26-25, tying him for the most wins ever by any Bowie State football coach. Lynn's best season came in his second year (2005) when the Bulldogs finished with an 8-4 record and advanced to the CIAA Championship game. Bowie State also participated in the Pioneer Bowl that same season.

"We're thankful for the contributions coach Lynn

made to the program over the past five years", said Carter. "He's leaving our program in good shape and we look forward to continuing the progress of the program."

Note: Johnson C. Smith University (also) released head football coach Daryl McNeill last month. The announcement came in a

joint statement from new JCSU President Ronald L. Carter and Golden Bull athletics director Steve Joyner.

McNeill was on his second stint as JCSU head foot-

ball coach having completed his fourth season with a 3-7 overall record (2-5 CIAA). He became head football coach in December 2004. He also served as associate ath-

letics director. McNeill was the university's 14th head football coach. He previously served as head football coach during the 1995 and 1996 season

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