

SPORTS WEEK

DECEMBER 20, 2012

Teams play hard for Lash title

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

West Forsyth rallied in the fourth quarter to turn back Parkland's upset bid in the opening round of the Lash-Chronicle Holiday Classic last Saturday at Carver. The Titans closed with a rush over the final four minutes to post a 61-53 comeback victory.

With the win, West (7-1) advances to today's quarterfinal round against Forsyth Country Day. Tip-off is 5 p.m. at Winston-Salem Prep. Parkland will face North Forsyth on Friday in a consolation game at Carver (3 p.m. tip-off).

The Lash-Chronicle is the showcase event for junior varsity basketball in Forsyth County.

Parkland, led by Javon Powell's, game-high 24 points, appeared to have the game under control. But in the fourth quarter, West Forsyth turned up the defensive pressure and generated enough offense to overcome a 45-37 deficit in the final eight minutes of play. Luke Downs hit back-to-back three-pointers to complete a 13-1 run as the Titans took a 51-49 lead with 4:47 remaining.

West Forsyth, the No. 6 seed, slowly pulled away in the closing minutes by sinking enough free throws to put the game away. Parkland, in the meantime, self-destructed. The Mustangs had opportunities to stay in contention, but missed free throws, poor passing and unforced turnovers conspired to seal



West's Schien Lindsay (15) defends the paint against Parkland's D. Thompson (44).

their fate.

"We didn't do a very good job of executing tonight," said Jeffrey Williams, West Forsyth coach. "But the effort was always there. The most important thing is that they never quit. We've played Parkland earlier this season, and now, they're so much better."

Downs came off the Titans bench to deliver a team-high 18 points. Tyson Payne contributed 15 points and consistently created problems for the Mustangs defense with his dribble-penetration and passing. Schien Lindsay played a strong game inside with 10 points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots.

For most of the game, 11th-seeded Parkland looked like a team on the verge of finally ending its winless streak and pulling off the tournament's biggest upset. The Mustangs' chances for victory started to evaporate when three of their prime contributors - Brian Leak, Ronald Santiago and Powell - were victimized by foul trouble. Santiago finished with 11 points.

"When our backcourt got into foul trouble, that left us in a depleted state," said Parkland Coach Shawn Smoot, whose team is now 0-9. "The bottom line is that we unraveled in the fourth quarter. We're coming along, and we're still striving to get our first

Play-in game
Carver 56,
Walkertown 52

Opening Round
Glenn 66, Carver 62

Mount Tabor 55,
Atkins 33

Reynolds 70,
North Forsyth 36

West Forsyth 61,
Parkland 53

Dec. 20 Quarterfinals
Mount Tabor vs.
Winston-Salem Prep,
5 p.m.

Glenn vs. East
Forsyth, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 20 Quarterfinals at
Winston-Salem Prep
West Forsyth vs.
Forsyth Country Day,
5 p.m.

Reynolds vs. Reagan,
6:30 p.m.

Dec. 21
Parkland vs.
North Forsyth, 3 p.m.
(consolation)
Carver vs. Atkins,
4:30 p.m. (consolation)

Semifinal, 6 p.m.
Semifinal, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 22
Consolation games,
1 and 2:30 p.m.

3rd place game,
4 p.m.

Championship, 5:30

All games at Carver
except where indicated



The Olympic-quality JDL Fast Track.

Award for popular indoor track facility

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

JDL Fast Track, a Winston-Salem indoor track facility, with flooring surfaces installed by Mooresville-based Medallion Athletic Products, has been named Indoor Track Facility of the Year by the American Sports Builders Association. The facility also took top honors for Indoor Track Facility in the Distinguished Track Facilities category.

"Medallion did a phenomenal job with our sports flooring installation," said Craig Longhurst of JDL Fast Track. "The project presented numerous challenges, including laying the sports surfaces around columns in the middle of the floor, ensuring that our use of three flooring products of different thicknesses didn't create tripping hazards, and meeting a very tight deadline. They handled every obstacle we gave them without issue."

Medallion's work can also be seen at tracks at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, Mooresville High School and N.C. A&T State University.

The JDL Fast Track is one of the premier indoor track and field facilities in the Southeast. The privately-owned venue, which opened in January 2012, has already been selected to host numerous prestigious indoor track and field championships, including the Southern Conference championships in February 2013 and March 2014 and the Big South Conference championship in February 2013. The JDL Fast Track features a state-of-the-art Mondotrack surface, the competition track of the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games.

Rams will have to make history another day

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Devout Winston-Salem State football fans are very likely still feeling the nagging numbness of last weekend's 35-7 loss to Valdosta State (Ga.) in the NCAA Division II championship game. Watching your favorite team go into out-of-sync mode in the biggest game of the year can be a hard pill to swallow.

It wouldn't be surprising to learn there are still folks out there who are endlessly analyzing what transpired in Florence, Ala. a few days ago. From the WSSU perspective, the game certainly had its share of what ifs and would'ves and could'ves and should'ves. Nevertheless, no amount of conjecturing can erase reality.

For now, history will have to wait. Florida A&M still has bragging rights as

the only black college to ever win an NCAA football championship. It's still true that no HBCU has ever won it all in Division II football.

The outcome of Saturday's game is not the end of the line. It's really a continuation of a vision that Connell Maynor brought to Winston-Salem State when he assumed command as head football coach three years ago. The Rams seem to be well on their way to firmly establishing themselves as possibly the Alabama of Division II.

Maynor's playoff resume (5-2) against the nation's best says a lot. Keep in mind that the two losses came in the national semifinals and the national championship game in back-to-back years. You can't come much closer to winning a national title than that.

Here's the point.



Coach Connell Maynor gets animated during his team's uneventful championship game Saturday.

Winning at the national level brings added credibility, the kind of credibility that attracts a greater number of top-notch athletes. It's a built-in recruiting tool that gives WSSU a huge

advantage when it comes to replenishing its roster with players who are just as good as, or maybe even better than the players on this year's team that finished 14-1.

But that's not the only part of this equation. Developing into a year-in-and-year-out national title contender should also stimulate increased funding from various sources. Even

so, you don't build a national powerhouse overnight.

Right now, Winston-Salem State has 28 football scholarships, which is far from the maximum of 36 that the NCAA allows for Division II. Maynor has said repeatedly that the Rams need to be "fully vested" (36 scholarships) in order to consistently compete at the national level. It's no secret that the schools that fare well in post-season play are those schools with the resources to fund the maximum number of scholarships.

So now, there's a question that's begging for an answer. Just how serious are folks about coming up with viable ways for Winston-Salem State to become "fully vested?"

Here's a four-word phrase for Rams' backers to consider.

Do you still believe?

Moving on Up

Aggie bowlers getting national attention

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina A&T bowling team picked up some votes in the National Tenpin Coaches Association ranking on Dec. 15, after wrapping up the first half of the season with a 16-12 overall record and a 10-6 record in the MEAC Southern Division.



Aggie bowlers are steadily improving.

"What's great is that this poll is done by our peers, so to be recognized in the preseason poll with some votes was a great honor. But to not only continue getting votes but get a larger number of votes during this poll, it's an even better feeling," said A&T Head Coach James Williams.

Three MEAC schools are ranked in the Top 20 by NTCA Coaches: Maryland Eastern Shore is second with a 30-3 record; Norfolk State is 14th with a 25-13 record; and Bethune-Cookman is 19th with a 22-19 record.

"I'm proud of the team's hard work thus far for this season. All season, I've been telling the team, that they were a Top 20 team," said Williams. "Though making it into the Top 20 was not one of the team goals that was set this year, it shows that it's a byproduct of achieving the other goals that we have set forth."

The Aggies will return to the lanes for the Bowie State/Frederick Underwood Bowling Classic at Bowie, Md. from Jan. 18-20, 2013. They will compete in five regular season tournaments in the spring.

A WFU first for Beck

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Senior Andrea Beck has been named to the Capital One Academic All-America first team by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA), becoming the first Wake Forest volleyball player to earn the honor.

To be eligible for Academic All-District and All-America honors, a student-athlete must have at least sophomore standing and a GPA of at least 3.30. Voting is conducted by members of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

A biology major with minors in chemistry and Spanish with a grade point average of 3.96, Beck excelled on and off the court. The Winston-Salem native led the Demon Deacons in 2012 with 396 total kills while averaging 3.41 kills per set. She added 22 solo blocks and 77 block assists for the season as well.

"We are extremely proud of 'AJ' and this accomplishment," said Head Coach Heather Kahl Holmes. "It is a reflection of her work ethic and commitment to excellence on and off the court. She is very deserving of this award."

Beck adds to her collection of honors as earlier this season she was named to the Capital One Academic All-District team for the second year in a row.

Ranking high in the Wake Forest history books, she finished fifth all-time in points (1,493), sixth in kills (1,236), sixth in hitting percentage (.297), sixth in total blocks (349), tied for sixth in block assists (292), seventh in solo blocks (57), eighth in kills per set (2.97), eighth in attack attempts (2,826) and eighth in blocks per set (0.84).

Wake Forest ended the season on Nov. 20 with a 3-2 win over Duke while finishing the season with an 11-21 overall record.