

Reynolds

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force the action and take the ball to the basket and get easier shots. Even if you miss, you're likely to get fouled, so you still have a chance to score by hitting free throws. Our guys played hard and they made good decisions."

Point guard Ian Henderson, who finished with a game-high 21 points, delivered a solid floor game for the Demons. Xavier Coles scored 14 points and Broadnax chipped in with 10.

Smith was the top scorer for North Davidson with 17 points. J.D. Franklin contributed 16 points in a losing effort.

Throughout the game,

neither team was able to fully impose its will. Reynolds built a five-point cushion near the end of the first half, but North Davidson's Matthew Essick hit a 3-pointer from the right wing to trim the deficit and the Demons lead was reduced to 28-26 at intermission.

In the closing minutes of the third quarter, Reynolds turned up the defensive heat with its 2-2-1 press, which forced turnovers on three consecutive North Davidson possessions. During that span, the Demons closed with a 6-2 flurry to go up 42-38 by the end of the quarter.



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Christian Alford of Reynolds (in white) drives the baseline against North Davidson's Jaalen Lanning.

Documentary

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Both played on UK's freshman team and were being counted on to emerge as key contributors as sophomores in 1967. During pre-season practice that year, Page suffered a neck injury during a half-speed drill and was paralyzed from the nose down. Less than six weeks later, Page died on the night before Kentucky's home opener against the University of Mississippi.

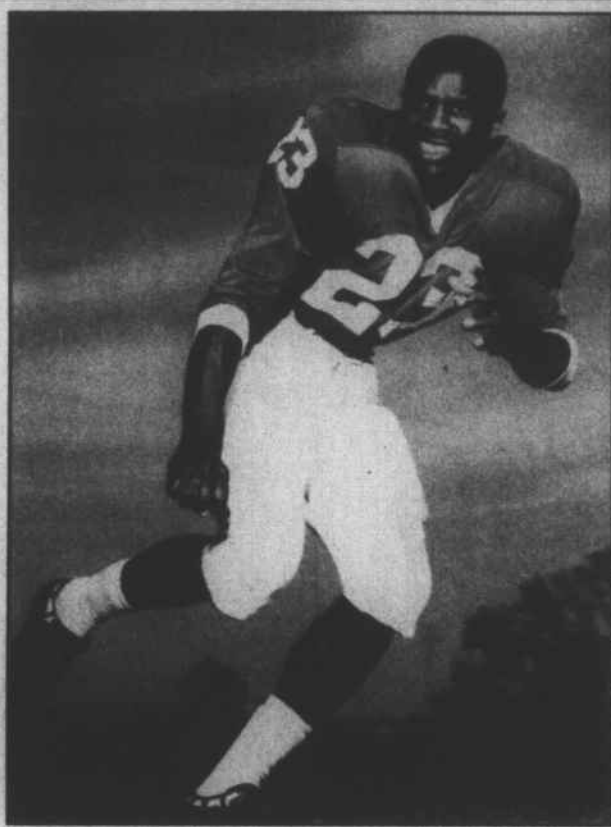
Northington played defensive back against Ole Miss for about three minutes before being forced to leave the game with a dislocated shoulder. He broke the color barrier that day. But none of that mattered in the wake of losing Page, his roommate and best friend who was like a brother. Northington reflects on that day in his book.

"I cannot even tell you what all transpired that day," he wrote. "It is like a fog in my mind. I tried to eat the pre-game meal but it was no use.... For history and the record books, it was a day filled with excitement and significance. For me, it turned out to be a day filled with mixed emotions and one that left me feeling extremely sad."

There were several factors in Northington's decision to leave UK. There was the difficulty of coping with Page's death, coupled with the recurring shoulder injury that drastically limited his playing time. The final factor was having his meal ticket taken away by the coaches because he had missed so much class time during the 5½ weeks that he visited Page in the hospital. Northington transferred to Western Kentucky and was the star running back on the 1970 team that won the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

Jack Ford, the executive producer of "Forward Progress," is a student of college football. During his research, he's discovered a number of compelling stories about the pioneers who blazed new trails for others to follow.

What Ford learned was that the integration of the SEC didn't occur the way most people think it did. The common presumption is that Alabama made the



(University of Kentucky Archives)

Nate Northington was the first black athlete to play football in the Southeastern Conference.

first move in the year after the Crimson Tide took a big-league whipping from an integrated Southern California squad in a nationally-televised game in 1970.

Alabama signed its first black football player, Wilbur Jackson, in 1970, but that was half a decade after Northington and Page signed with Kentucky. It didn't take long for Ford to understand



Northington

that even among the most die-hard college football fans, most were clueless about which school shattered the race barrier in the SEC.

"I took a personal survey of about 20 people," he said. "Since all are huge college fans, especially the SEC, I figured some would know. Not one person picked Kentucky. That's when I realized that what Nate Northington and Greg

Page did all those years ago was a major event in history and there are only a few people who know anything about it. This ushered in a change, not only in sports, but in the nation's cultural landscape as well."

It's Ford's hope that viewers will learn more than a history lesson as they watch "Forward Progress." The significance of Northington's and Page's contributions, he explained, transcends college football. Considering the racial climate of the Deep South in the 1960s, there's no doubt that Kentucky took a bold step in signing two black players at a time in which no other school in the conference would dare to do so.

"This story is about heroism," said Ford. "The University of Kentucky was fully aware of the enormous risk it took in signing Northington and Page. When you stop to consider what they were asked to do, you come to understand that these men were true heroes. Even though they suffered personal attacks, they handled all of it with enormous character and grace."

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Smith

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In a statement on Twitter released through his business manager, Jordan said Smith was "more than a coach -- he was a mentor, my teacher, my second father."

The former NBA superstar and Charlotte Hornets owner said "In teaching me the game of basketball, he taught me about life."

Jordan played three seasons for Smith from 1981-84. When he was a freshman he helped lead the Tar Heels to a national championship in 1982, hitting a 16-foot jump shot in the final seconds to beat Georgetown.

Jordan often said that shot was the turning point in his basketball career. He

went on to win six titles and is considered by many the greatest basketball player ever.

Through the years, Jordan's respect for Smith grew, and he would often lean on his beloved college coach for advice and guidance.

"Coach was always there for me whenever I needed him and I loved him for it," Jordan said in the statement.

In 2007, Jordan returned to Chapel Hill for a game honoring the Tar Heels championship team in 1982. He was photographed with his arm around Smith and kissing the gray-haired coach on his head.

Atlantic Coast Conference Commissioner John Swofford spent 21 years with Smith as an administrator at UNC.

"Sometimes, the word legend is used with too little thought," Swofford said. "In this instance, it almost seems inadequate. He was basketball royalty."

Smith led the Tar Heels to 13 ACC tournament titles, five appearances in the NCAA championship game and national titles in 1982 and 1993. He retired in 1997 with a then-Division I men's record 879 victories.

AP Sports Writers Steve Reed, Gary B. Graves and Aaron Beard contributed to this report.



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Mike Coker, Reynolds JV coach



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Parkland's McKinley McNeill (center) is No. 2 in the national rankings in the 500-meter dash.

McNeill

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initely with an Achilles injury. At last year's state meet, Morrison was fourth in the 500 and ran with McNeill on the 4x400 relay. The Mustangs won that relay, but due to a questionable ruling by race

officials, they were disqualified after crossing the finish line.

Parkland jumper Ila Mumford, who has been sidelined for two weeks with an ankle injury, returns to compete on

Saturday. Mumford scored valuable points in last year's state indoor championships with a runner-up finish in the triple jump and fourth place in the long jump.



Submitted photo

Eighth-grader, Daia Dawkins throws up a three pointer against North Hills Tuesday night.

QEA's Lady Seraphims end perfect season

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Quality Education Academy's Lady Seraphims (middle school girls basketball team) wrapped up a perfect season on last Thursday evening, Feb. 5. The Lady Seraphim's season began on November 7, 2014 with a win in Winston-Salem. QEA took on opponents as far away as Raleigh and Durham as well as a number of teams throughout the Triad. Quality Education Academy is extremely proud of the 2014-2015

Lady Seraphims' 10-0 record. The Mighty Seraphim (middle school boys basketball team) has represented QEA well, also, as they approach their last game of the season this Tuesday evening, Feb. 10 with an 8-3 record. Excitement fills the air on QEA's campus as the Fighting Pharaohs (varsity basketball team) prepare for one of the last big home games of the season on Tuesday evening, as well as one of the biggest games of the season against long-time rival Oak Hill on the

road (VA) (Thursday Feb.12). Quality Education Academy annual Bestowal of Blessings ceremony will be held on Feb. 26 to celebrate its students' accomplishments thus far as well as the hopes, dreams and aspirations. The celebration will culminate with Senior Night (Feb.27), when The Fighting Pharaohs will play their final game of the season and all seniors will be acknowledged and recognized as they near the end of their high school careers.