

# SPORTS WEEK

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DECEMBER 3, 2015

## FOOTBALL

### Home teams primed and pumped about AYF nationals

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The moment of truth is close at hand. Area youth football teams will soon find out how they measure up against the nation's best in the American Youth Football National Championships being held in Kissimmee, Fla. Kickoff for the nationals is Sunday. The week long tournament ends on Dec. 13.

Teams from across the country will compete for national titles in their respective age groups. Here's a look at three area teams who are southbound for this year's

nationals:

**Packers:** This Junior Midgets team (12-13 age group) has been close to unstoppable all season. Even so, there has to be some concern about rustiness. Since winning the state title in early November, the Packers have been idle. Coach Gary Warren admits that he's eager to see what his team will look like.

"Everybody is ready to go," said



Warren. "They're ready to see what they can do (in Florida). Personally, I'm anxious to see how they handle situations in a tight game."

Up to now, the Packers have been in steamroller mode thanks to a quick-strike offense that features multiple players who have the capability to score from anywhere on the field. The rotation of running backs (Daniel Moyer Jr., Ahmani Marshall, G'Mone Wilson, Tazhae

Woods and Jeremiah Jackson) guarantees that the Packers always have fresh bodies on the field.

Operating primarily from the spread, the Packers (10-0) wear down opponents with their hurry-up, no huddle attack. On defense, the Packers overall team speed and quickness make them formidable. William Simons, Wilson and Woods lead the way.

The front lines are solid and dependable. Malcolm Hatcher, Aaron Potter and Wilson are key contributors on both sides of the ball.

See AYF on B2

## BASKETBALL

### Lash-Chronicle: Prep JV starting from scratch

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Tip-off for the Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament is only eight days away. Every year, local teams come together to do battle for the championship trophy and there's plenty of incentive to win it all. What it all comes down to is securing bragging rights for the season.

That's why the hype that surrounds this event is legitimate.

In recent years, Winston-Salem Prep has owned the Lash-Chronicle, winning three of the last four. This time around, though, there could be a changing of the guard. There are no returnees for the Phoenix JV, which means that coach Bill Tibbs is starting over from ground zero for the first time during his five years at Prep.

Looking at the local schools in this year's 14-team field - Mount Tabor, East Forsyth and West Forsyth are the likely picks to replace Prep as tourney champions. Parkland, Reynolds and Glenn are possible dark horse candidates.

Tibbs, whose team lost by double digits to West Forsyth last week, isn't ready to concede anything. He acknowledged that even though his team is young and still finding its way, Prep shouldn't be viewed as a non-factor.

Prior to the Lash-Chronicle, which begins on Dec. 12, Prep will play road games against Mount Tabor, West Forsyth and George Washington (Danville, Va.). Those three games, Tibbs explained, will allow him to make a more thorough assessment about his team's strengths and weaknesses.

"I believe we can have a good showing and surprise some people (at the Lash-Chronicle)," he said. "Nobody expects us to do well because everybody on our team is brand new. They're still getting adjusted to the Prep style of play and I have to figure out what adjustments that need to be made to maximize the talent we have."

"I'll be doing a lot more teaching this time. But that's a good thing because teaching is what I love."



Tibbs

Prep typically goes eight to ten deep in its player rotation. That's likely to change this season, which means that the Phoenix won't have the depth it usually has. Tyren Hairston, Jalen Crawley and Zachary Austin are the designated focal points.

"Those three will play heavy minutes," Tibbs said. "In the three games we play before the tournament, I'll get a much better idea of what playing style works best for this group. We may have to slow the tempo and run more set plays."

Hairston, a 6-foot-2 swing player, is Prep's prime offensive threat. In the season opener against the Titans, Hairston scored 22 points, but had to leave the game midway through the fourth quarter because of leg cramps. The severity of those cramps prevented his return to the game.

"We were right there in that game until Tyren cramped up and couldn't come back," said Tibbs. "But we have some good athletes, so we'll be OK."

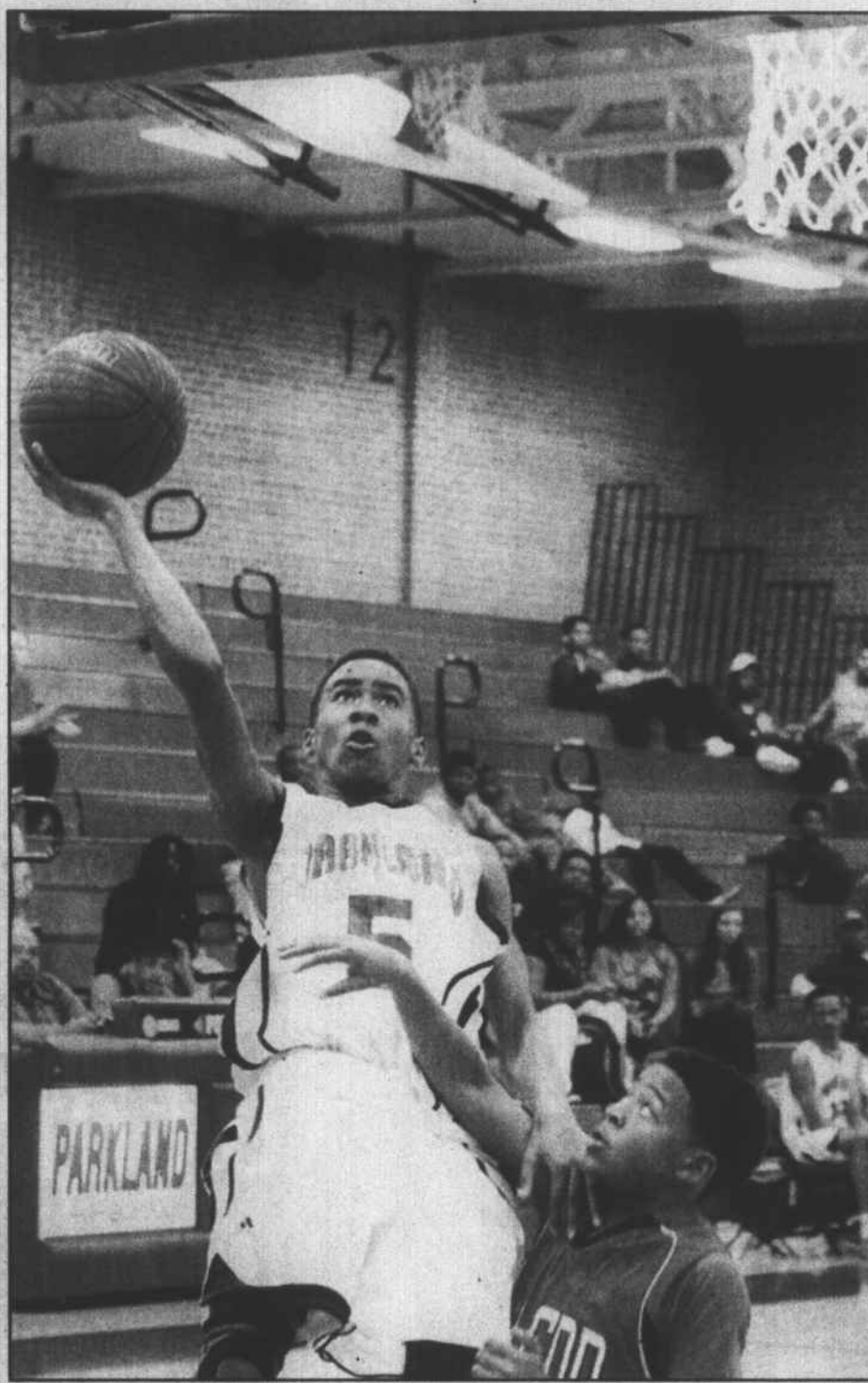


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Micah Williams (5) and his Parkland teammates could emerge as a dark horse in this year's Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament.



### Winston-Salem Prep duo make it official with college signings

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Dominique Claytor and Jada Craig of Winston-Salem Prep readily admit that they saw no need to wait until later to decide where they will play college basketball. Both players who made All-State last season, recently signed letters of intent to play at their respective schools. Now they're free to place all of their focus on helping the Phoenix in its quest to win back-to-back state championships.

Claytor, a swing player who was last season's Class 1-A state championship game MVP, has signed with East Carolina. Craig, who plays point guard, is headed to East Tennessee State.

See Signings on B2

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Jada Craig has blossomed as a top-flight ball handler and floor leader for the Phoenix.

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