

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Coach Rodney Minor was ecstatic in the aftermath of the Eagles winning their first Lash-Chronicle championship.

### Best shot

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"This is a fun team to watch," said Minor. "They play unselfishly and don't mind giving the ball up to get the best possible shot. With the balance we have, there's no need for us to have to rely on one or two players to do all the scoring every night."

Given East Forsyth's early success, there's always the possibility of a let-down. Except for a surprising loss to Reagan, the Eagles have won handily in every outing. Minor is pleased with the results, but knows that his team must improve to stay ahead of the opposition.

"As well as we've played, we're still gelling as a team," he said. "I have to admit that the team chemistry is a lot further along than I expected. Everybody is still learning

the nuances of how each individual plays. They're picking up on things such as knowing where certain players like to get the ball and how to best communicate with each other on defense. As long as we continue to play the way we know how, we'll be fine."

A major plus for East Forsyth is the versatility of its roster. This team has the personnel that's equipped to operate from half-court sets or run the floor in a fast-paced game.

Everything starts with pivot player Connor Sparrow, the Lash-Chronicle MVP. Sparrow takes up space and punishes defenders in the post. His size (6 feet 5 inches, 250 pounds) make him a difficult cover on the low blocks. Sparrow, however, isn't the only scoring option.

The Eagles have a mini-squadron of depend-

able perimeter shooters in Tanis Samuels, Sayyid Dalton, Avery Hall, Josh Mahaffey and Josh Wiley.

Defensively, this team



can be dominant. That's what transpired in the Lash-Chronicle final when East Forsyth limited Reynolds to six points in the first quarter. The Eagles ended up winning by 10 points (68-58). The score, however, doesn't paint an accurate picture of how thoroughly they dominated.

Even though East Forsyth is on top of its game, it's far from being a

perfect team. There are still times in games when mental mistakes, particularly on defense, have allowed opponents to score easily and get back in contention. Minor knows that in the coming weeks, his team will face stern challenges in conference games that figure to be hotly contested. In those types of games, momentary lapses could prove costly.

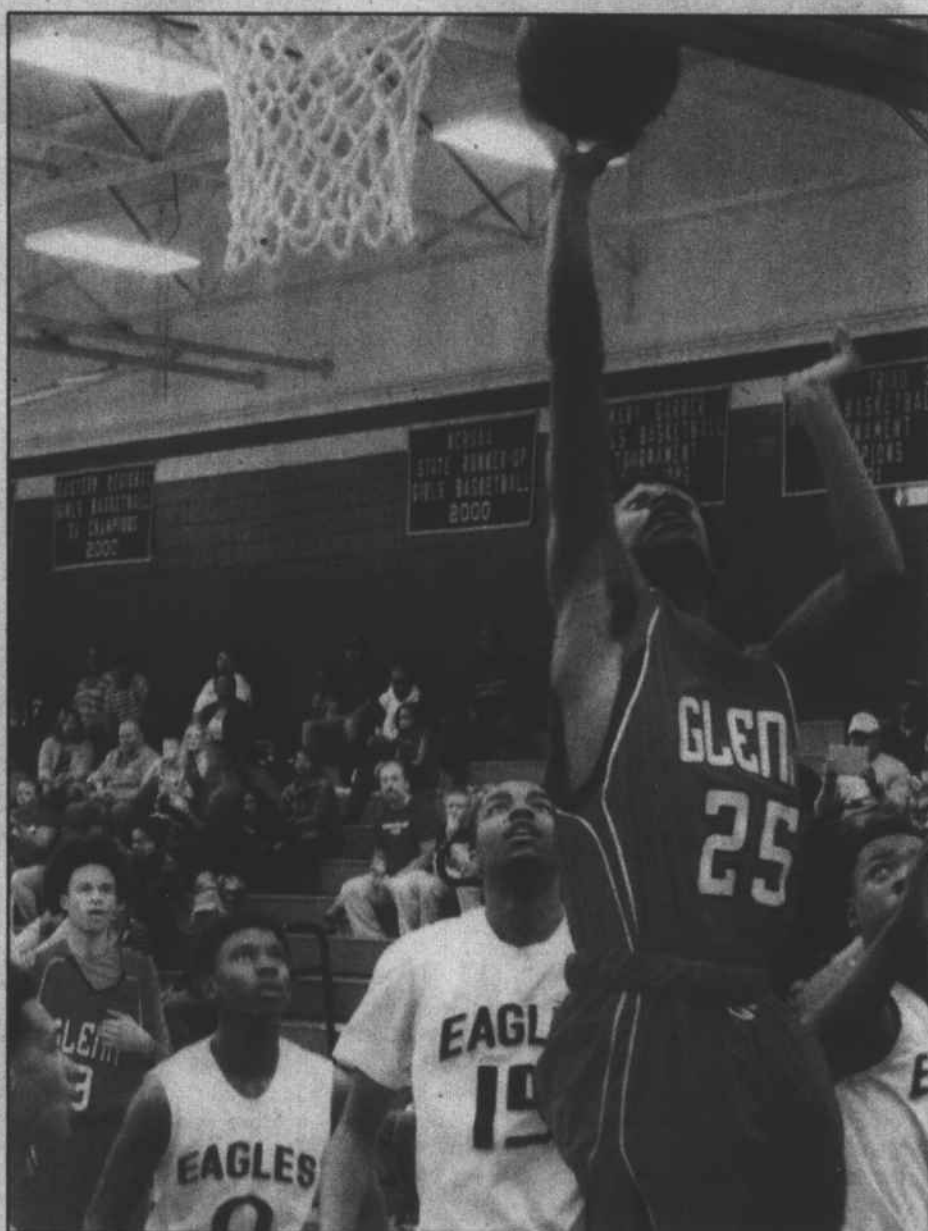
"What it all comes down to is us doing the little things," he said. "We've got to hustle back on defense and not allow teams to score easy points in transition. Sometimes we're slow in making our rotations on defense, but those are things that can be corrected."

"Overall, I like the direction we're going in. We have a good core of players who know how to get the job done."

Lash-Chronicle MVP Connor Sparrow scored 30 points and pulled down 13 rebounds in the title game.



Power forward Christian Herbin of Glenn takes the ball to the rim during the second round of the Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament.



Glenn's Ronald Young III (25) has emerged as a factor on the glass in recent weeks.

### Glenn

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will be viewed as a prime contender in the Piedmont Triad 4-A Conference. East Forsyth, Northwest Guilford and Southwest Guilford are usually at or near the top of the standings year in and year out. Still, that doesn't mean the Bobcats are destined to finish at or near the bottom.

"The key for us is to be more disciplined," said

Daniels. "We're definitely getting better every day. Our guards are playing well and as a team, we're playing with more effort."

Daniels is counting on a few newcomers to help the Bobcats establish themselves as a factor in this season's chase for first place in the conference. Freshman post player Paul Carlton is a proven commodity in the paint at both ends of the floor. His inside presence causes defenses to collapse on him, which creates adequate floor spacing for Micah Bennett and Bryson Bell-St.John to knock

down jumpers from the perimeter.

Ronald Young III, who has no prior high school playing experience, is pushing for more playing time at power forward. Young is active on the boards and is developing as a solid defender. His emergence will allow Carlton to move to power forward and give Glenn more size on its front line.

Christian Herbin comes off the bench to provide added depth at the post positions.

Photos by Craig T. Greenlee