



Reynolds guard Treviz Murphy makes a strong move to the basket against North Forsyth's Jordan Oakes.

Photos by Craig T. Greenlee



Ian Henderson played a key role in RJR advancing to the championship round of the Lash-Chronicle JV Tournament.

**Reynolds**

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an immediate impact as a scoring threat. McCulloch is quick to confess that Goodloe could easily be a starter. With this group, though, McCulloch believes his team is best served by having Goodloe as the sixth man. In the Lash-Chronicle championship game, Goodloe buried a couple of 3-pointers and scored 15 points to lead a comeback in a 68-58 loss.

"Mysta will continue to come off the bench," said McCulloch. "There's no question that he's good enough to start. But he gives us such a spark with his ability to score. So,

that's his role on this team."

As well as the Demons have played, they are not flawless. East Forsyth used a full-court zone press and the inside dominance 6-foot-5 center Connor Sparrow to shut them down in the Lash-Chronicle title game. It took most of the first half before Reynolds was able to handle the pressure with any level of consistency.

By the late stages of the second quarter, East Forsyth had built a substantial cushion and Reynolds wasn't able to make a complete comeback. "We didn't handle their pressure too well and that caused us to play at a different pace," said McCulloch. "It didn't help that our shot selection wasn't what it usually is. Those are some things that we'll work on."



Parkland's Raquane Key pulls up to take the mid-range jumper.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

**Parkland**

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But whether Leal is back on the court or not, Williams realizes that it's mandatory for others to raise their level of play. "We're going to need more from every one of our players at every position," said Williams. "That's what it's going to take for us to compete at the highest level."

Micah Williams has excelled as a pass-first point guard who gets his teammates involved in the scoring. Coach Williams, however, feels that in order for the Mustangs to have more offensive diversity, it's crucial for Micah Williams to be more assertive in looking for his shot.

Parkland's point guard shouldn't have an issue getting ample scoring support from other positions on the floor. Swing player Raquane Key is at his best when attacking the rim and getting to the free throw line. Damien Thacker has developed an effective inside/outside game at small forward.

Zach Holmes is expected to become more of a factor as an inside presence, especially at the defensive end. Freshman guard, Esosa Igbinigie comes off the bench to provide energy and intensity at both ends of the court.

**North Forsyth**

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In an early-season match-up against eventual Lash-Chronicle champ East Forsyth, the Vikings had an eight-point lead with just under five minutes left to play in the game. Coming down the stretch, though, North Forsyth was victimized by a combination of poor shot selection and sloppy ball handling. The end result was a 54-46 loss.

In the Lash-Chronicle's first round, North Forsyth rallied late in the second quarter and trailed by only two points at intermission. A rash of second-half turnovers put the Vikings at a severe disadvantage and they ended up losing 87-65 to Reynolds, who beat No. 1 seed Mount Tabor to reach the tournament's title game.

"We had a tough go early on," said coach Jefferey Moore of North Forsyth. "But those games served as good preparation to help us get ready [for conference]. We had some good runs in those games, but simply couldn't sustain it for four quarters."

The Vikings are looking to at

**"We had a tough go early on."**  
—Jefferey Moore, North Forsyth Coach

least duplicate last season's performance. They struggled in non-league games during the first month, then went 11-1 in the Mid-Piedmont Conference to finish in a first-place tie with Asheboro.

"This team is athletic enough to score points, but still has to get better when it comes to playing defense and rebounding the basketball," Moore said. "That's going to be especially important in those games when our shots aren't falling."

The chances of North Forsyth making another strong conference run are enhanced because of the returning cast. Five sophomores — Jordan Oakes, Khalib Pettigrew, Marquan Matthews, Aaron Worthy and Dawoud Evans — played last year as freshmen, and they're ready to lead the way.

Oakes, a shooting guard, has developed as a reliable 3-point shooter. In the paint, Pettigrew, who weighs 280 pounds, uses his bulk to

dominate the glass at both ends of the floor. Matthews and Worthy provide scoring and defense as formidable contributors on the wing.

Naeem Evans and Ronald Jackson (football quarterback) have proven themselves as capable guards who will continue to improve as they gain more game experience. "Naeem continues to progress," said Moore. "For him, it's more a matter of getting adjusted to the speed of the game and the intensity. Ronald was the back-up quarterback on the varsity this season, so he's already very comfortable in taking on a leadership role."

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Marquan Matthews is one of five returning players from last year's Vikings squad that tied for first place in the Mid-Piedmont 3-A Conference.

