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THE CHRONICLE



QEA power for-ward Marsellis Purvis (33) is expected to play a pivotal role in Saturday's game against Word of God Christian Academy.

QEA basketball showdown features marquee match-up

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

When Word of God Christian Academy comes to town to play Quality Education Academy on Saturday night, basketball connoisseurs are sure to get an eyeful. Tip-off is 7 o'clock

The upcoming showdown features a pair of big-time college recruits who figure to produce an intriguing match-up. Word of God's Rawli Alkins is a five-star recruit who ranks among the Top 15 high school players in the country.

A year ago, Alkins was voted Player of the Year in New York City while playing for Christ the King High School. The heavily-recruited Alkins transferred to Word of God for his senior season and has reportedly narrowed his choices to nine schools, which includes North Carolina, N.C. State, Kentucky, Kansas and St. John's.

QEA, on the other hand, has an upper-tier player of its own in Deshawn Corprew, whose stock continues to rise as the season progresses. Corprew initially committed to Arkansas-Little Rock, but changed his mind and now he's free to pursue other possible destinations. The list of interested parties continues to grow. Louisville, Kansas, Florida State, UCLA, Oregon and Texas are all in the hunt to sign Corprew.

During the course of Saturday's game, these two will very likely end up guarding each other for long stretches. Both are 6-feet-5. Both are athletic, and they have the ability to shoot from the outside and score in heavy traffic. At the college level, both are projected to play shooting guard.

Given Alkins' national reputation as an elite player, one would presume that Corprew would have

added incentive to perform well on Saturday. That's not the way he sees it. In Corprew's mind, his level of intensity should always be the same.

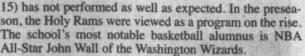
Ralkins

"In playing ball, you go after your opponent," he said. "To me, it's all the same. I don't look at anybody as being any less than or any more than anybody else. That's my approach regardless of who the opponent is."

Saturday's contest, however, isn't solely about the marquee match-up between Corprew and Alkins.

Aside from Alkins, the Holy Rams have four other players who are Division I prospects. Jalen Fornes, a shooting guard, has signed with UNC Wilmington. Post player Brandon Huffman, along with guards Blake and Jalen Harris, have yet to choose a school

In spite of its talent level, Word of God (4-11 as of Jan.



Word of God plays a demanding national-level schedule against teams who are stocked with the nation's top high school players. A week ago, Word of God held its own in a road game against defending Class 4-A state champ Raleigh Garner, but still came up short in a 93-89 loss

The Pharaohs (15-3 as of Jan. 19) has given a good account against national-level competition this season. Although Corprew is the prime force, he is not a solo act. Jaylan McGill has delivered as an on-the-money outside shooter. Point guard Renathan Ono Embo has proven himself as a viable ball distributor who can score and defend. In the paint, 6-foot-7 Marsellis Purvis and 6-foot-9 Pape Ndiaye are the key contributors.

So, which team will have an edge on Saturday? Coach Isaac Pitts believes the Pharaohs can prevail by making a concerted effort to pound the ball in the post.

"Word of God is top-heavy with guards," said Pitts. "Their guards will have to defend our bigs in the post. And we'll have to defend their guards, so we're going to see which team can impose its will on the other. We feel like we have an advantage in the low post, so we're going to get the ball inside.'

WSSU track & field team returns to action at invitational

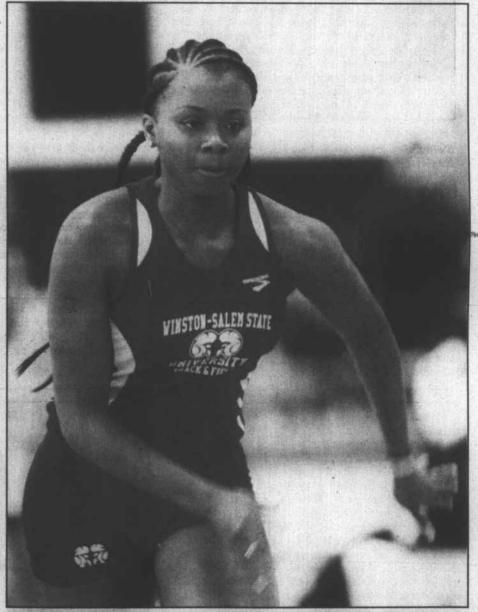
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Rams women's track & field team returned to action in a big way, Saturday, Jan. 16, when the team competed in the 2016 Wake Forest Invitational. Though competing for the first time in nearly a month, the Rams had some solid performevent preliminaries when she ran a 7.68, an NCAA Division II provisional qualifying time.

Joining her with a spot in the finals was defending national champion C'Evon



runners who had the best finishes of the day when junior Taska Johnson placed second in the event with a 2:17.87 while junior Tametris Morrison placed third with a 2:20.42. Sophomore Domtilla Kiplagat placed seventh in the women's 3000m run with an 11:04.30. The Rams' distance medley relay also had a strong day when they placed third in the event with a 12:57.29. The Rams will split for their next action, with some participating in the Emory Invitational in Birmingham, Alabama, while others will compete in the WSSU Six-Way at the JDL Fast Track in Winston-Salem.



ances at the meet.

WSSU senior sprinter Raven Covington led the way for the Rams with an impressive effort in the women's 60m dash as she placed seventh in the event with a 7.80 in the event finals. Her best performance, however, came in the

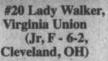
Jones, but the rematch would not happen as Jones did not compete in the event finals. It was the Rams' 800m

hoto by Garrett Garms, WSSU' Tametris Morrison races into third place for the finish in the 800m run

CIAA basketball names men's and Women's standout players, coaches coach of the week

PLAYER OF THE WEEK





Lady Walker record-

ed two double-doubles rebounds and against route to victories. Virginia

21

#15 Courtney Best, Fayetteville State (So, F - 5-11. Raleigh, NC)

NEWCOMER OF

THE WEEK

In two games played all scorers in the con- perfect 3-0 record this this week in victories this week, Courtney Best test versus Winston- week, including a win averaged 19.7 points ranked second on the per game this week as Division opponents for over St. Augustine's produced 29 points and Salem State with a at Elizabeth City State (102-53) and Virginia 17 rebounds. She shot game-high 15 points, as well as an upset win State (84-68). Versus the 44% (13-29) from the She also scored 8 over the Bowie State Falcons, Walker scored field and 75% (3-4) from points off the bench in Lady Bulldogs. The

WEEK

division against University.

8



#11 Jayln Brown, A.G. Hall, Elizabeth City State Winston-Salem State (Fr, G - 5-5, Williamston, NC) Winston-Salem

State Head Coach A.G. Jalyn Brown led Hall led the Rams to a

35 points and grabbed 20 the free throw line en the Lady Vikings' week included some of opener the best efforts of the Chowan season for the Rams as the team held all three opponents under 50 points and scored a season-high 74 points against Saint Augustine's.

#2 Kortez Smith, Chowan University

(Sr, G, 5-8 -Waldorf, MD)

per game as the team in scoring this the Hawks won three the first time in pro-Hawks extended week, averaging 13.3 straight games and gram history and their win streak to ppg. His best game extended their win extended the team's nine games with three vic- at home against tive contests. He straight tories this week. Fayetteville State, scored 12 points in vic- Chowan earned a 73-Smith also netted his scoring a career-best tories 1,000th career points 23 points on 7-of-11 Livingstone rival Elizabeth City assists. State with 24 points.



THE WEEK

#4 Michael Briscoe, Bowie State (Jr, G, 6-3 - Fredericksburg, VA) Waldorf, MD)

Michael Briscoe averaged 10.3 points CIAA

WEEK

#3 Marco (Fr, G, 6-5 -

Week honor.

Haskins, Chowan



WEEK

Brett Vincent, **Chowan University**

Coach Vincent led his Hawks to complete Marco Haskins a perfect sweep of Southern consecutive of the week occurred streak to nine consecu- winning streak to nine games. against 70 win over back-to-

and back defending CIAA in Chowan's 73-70 shooting from the Elizabeth City State C h a m p i o n win over Livingstone field, 6-of-9 at the and continues to be a Livingstone, edged and led the Hawks to free throw line and consistent performer Saint Augustine's 59a 76-71 win over he dished out seven for the Hawks in his 58 and clipped rival rookie season. This is Elizabeth City State Haskins third consecu- 76-71 in their CLAA tive Rookie of the Northern Division opener this week.

A

Kortez Smith

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