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– Willie Harrison, coach

Revenge

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told our guys that if we could cut it to eight at the end of the third quarter, I'd be pleased. That's what we did. But during the first four minutes of the fourth quarter, they hit a couple of 3s and got the momentum back. Coach Harrison played a good zone and offensively, we didn't handle it well.”

Harrison opted to go with a 1-3-1 zone in an effort to neutralize Reynolds' backcourt quickness. The Spartans' active zone did not allow many open looks to the Demons perimeter shooters. Henderson was the only Reynolds player to score in double figures. Mysta Goodloe chipped in with nine points and Rashon Bethea added eight points.

“Since they have so much quickness at guard, we switched things up [with a zone] and it paid off,” said Harrison. “We were able to force turnovers and get some easy buckets. I think that got them frustrated a little bit. They never adjusted after halftime, so we just stayed in it.”



Photos by Craig T. Greenlee
Jaylen Moore came off the bench to give Mount Tabor a huge boost at both ends of the floor.



Rashon Bethea scores on a short jumper for Reynolds.

“We didn't do anything right tonight.”

–Bill Tibbs, Coach, Winston-Salem Prep



Josiah Goodman of the Phoenix presses East Surry ball handler Garrett Wiloughby (12).

Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Loss

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Kot Bullington and Guy put the finishing touches on the rally with three more free throws to settle the issue.

“We didn't do anything right tonight,” said coach Bill Tibbs of Winston-Salem Prep. “We couldn't play defense, we couldn't run our offense. We never put any pressure on the ball. That's why they were able to run whatever they wanted to run. Plus, we missed a lot of our own shots, so that didn't help any, either.”

Winston-Salem Prep (7-7, 4-2 Northwest Conference) managed to stay in contention in spite of the absence of starters Mike Montgomery and Jaden Matthews (out for personal reasons). As usual, Hairston, Crawley and Zachary Austin did the bulk of the scoring. Hairston led all scorers with 19 points. Crawley contributed 14 points and Austin finished with 10.

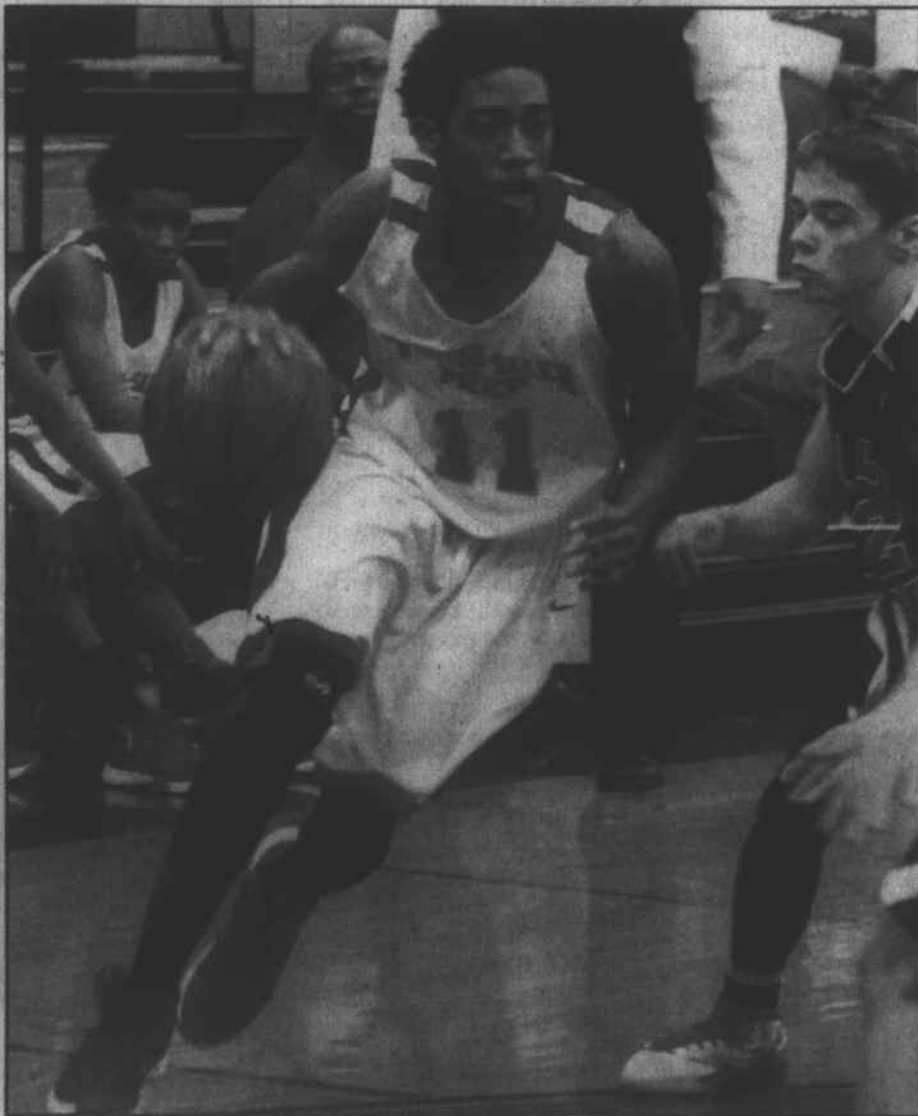
The most glaring problem for the Phoenix this season is sporadic defense.

Prep did have some lockdown moments against East Surry. But for the most part, there were far too many instances when the Cardinals scored easy baskets off of back-door cuts and put-backs on the offensive glass.

Pardue was tops for East Surry with 14 points, followed by Bullington, who chipped in with 11.

With the final weeks of the JV season quickly approaching, it's clear that Prep has no shot at posting a 20-win season as it has in recent years. Tibbs, however, isn't complaining. He's confident that his team will get back on track.

“This main issue with this team is that they don't know how to win,” Tibbs explained. “We have only two people on the team who play summer basketball. Everybody is new and most are ninth-graders. They just haven't learned how to win yet. But they will learn. We'll just have to go back to the drawing board and keep working at it. We'll be fine”



Winston-Salem Prep's Tyren Hairston slashes past an East Surry defender in JV basketball action last week.