

SPORTS WEEK

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LASH/CHRONICLE JV BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Consolation round games entertain

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The first round of the consolation gauntlet of the Lash/Chronicle tournament was packed with excitement last Saturday afternoon. Don't tell those teams they aren't playing for a championship because all of the young men involved gave maximum effort.

First on the court was the matchup between the North Forsyth Vikings and the Thomasville Bulldogs. The Vikings fell to West Forsyth in their opening game. Thomasville lost a heartbreaker to Glenn in their first round game.

As the two teams stepped on the hardwood,

both seemed somewhat timid. Missed shots and turnovers littered the first half of play. After the intermission, the Vikings began to take control as they start-



ed the second half on an 11-0 run. North Forsyth never relented the lead following that run and won the game 60-51. Richard Ryce of North Forsyth was a force in the paint, scoring 12 points and grabbing numerous rebounds.

Thomasville head coach Robert Moore Jr. says fatigue may have played a role in the defeat. He says they were coming off a week where his team played three games in four nights but takes nothing away from how well the Vikings played.

"Free throws and layups, we just couldn't hit them and they cost us at the end of the game," said Moore. "We have to be more aggressive and attack the basket. For next week we have to focus on not coming in last place because you never want to finish in last place."

North Forsyth coach Will Bell said, "I think we played well coming off of an emotional win last night,

which I think had a lot to do with it. The kids are listening, learning and executing and ultimately we are better than when we played West Forsyth last week."

Atkins and Lexington were next to play. The Camels were defeated handily by Reynolds last week and the Yellowjackets were beaten by Reagan to start their Lash/Chronicle tournament. The first quarter was low scoring at 7-6 as both teams were off the mark. In the second quarter Ty'reik McNeair of Lexington started lighting up the scoreboard and finished with a game high

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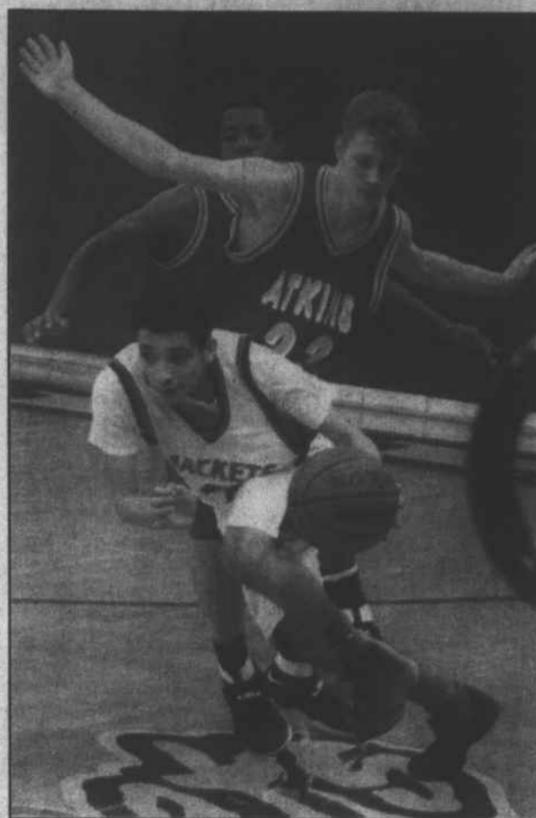


Photo by Timothy Ramsey
Louis Estrada of Lexington dribbles past the Atkins Camel defender.



Photo by Timothy Ramsey
Winston-Salem Prep guard Jalen Crawley, No. 23 in black, fades away over three Mt. Tabor defenders.

Semi-finals are set in tournament



BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Day Two of the Lash/Chronicle tournament marked the first time people would have the opportunity to see the top two seeds lace them up. Parkland and East Forsyth lived up to their seeding but were tested mightily in both contests.

Coming into the game against West Forsyth, some of the East Forsyth players felt a little disrespected with their seed. They thought as defending champions they would have returned as the Number One seed and sought to

prove it against the Titans. The Eagles started the game on an 8-0 run and did not allow the Titans to score until halfway through the quarter.

At one point in the second quarter, the Eagles led by 10 points and looked to run away with the game. West Forsyth had other thoughts and clawed back to within one behind bullseye shooting from Raymond Mitchell, who hit two three's during the run. The game was tied at 26 at the break.

During the second half of play, C.J. Smith began to assert himself offensively, finishing with 9 points, but Savon Brintley lit it up for a game high 27 points and

would not allow his team to lose. The Eagles survive and advance with a 62-56 win.

"At first I thought we got off to a good start but we became stagnant on the offensive end," said East Forsyth head coach Rodney Minor. "Our focus wasn't there but we came out with the victory more importantly and that's what I'm happy about. Next week I expect a dogfight, and I know it won't be easy."

West Forsyth head coach Jeffrey Williams added, "East Forsyth is a very good team and they are well-coached. I thought we did a much better job of picking it

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Union Baptist's football league awards trophies

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The Youth Character Football League (YCFL) based out of Union Baptist Church in Winston-Salem just wrapped up another successful season on and off the field.

Last Saturday, Dec. 17, the YCFL held its seventh annual season celebration banquet at the Carl H. Russell Sr. Community Center.

The YCFL believes in

the balance between academics and athletics and strongly emphasizes its mission to place winning a game second to the total growth and development of a child. All YCFL participants are required to attend the huddle sessions on character, academics, leadership and sportsmanship.

Senior pastor of Union Baptist, Bishop Sir Walter L. Mack II, said the fundamental purpose of the YCFL is to provide youth a positive educational, char-

acter and athletic experience while addressing the issue of childhood obesity, gang violence prevention, personality and esteem development and healthy social enhancement skills.

The banquet was a celebration for the players, coaches and parents. Winston-Salem natives Rodney McCoy and Chris Brown were the guest speakers for the event. All of the kids who participated with the football league

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Photo by Timothy Ramsey
YCFL Director Tom Brown, center, poses with two of his coaches during the awards banquet.