



Mt. Tabor's Duncan Smits, No. 21 in white, prepares to shoot the short jumper off the glass as Christian Hicks, No. 34 in blue, anticipates the rebound.



Aaron Muse, No. 10 in white, shoots a three-pointer over Reagan's Landon Rice.



Reagan guard Morgan Young, No. 24 in black, tries to lay the ball up over Mt. Tabor's Jakob Moore.

Photo by Timothy Ramsey

**MVP**

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Traditionally for the All-Tournament Team, one player from each of the final two teams in the championship game are selected as well as the three best players from the other teams in the field.

For the selection of the MVP of the tournament, tra-

ditionally that player is selected from the two championship teams only and this year it was from the team that won the championship game.

This year we did not stray from those traditions. For future tournaments, the way these awards are determined might be altered or adjusted.

**Champs**

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would get as Mt. Tabor answered with a 6-0 run of their own. Toward the end of the game, the Raiders started fouling, sending the Spartans to the line to earn more possessions. Unfortunately for Reagan, the Spartans were money from the line and won the game comfortably 51-35.

"I'm proud of all of my guys because they understand what it takes to get better every day," said Mt. Tabor head coach Willie Harrison. "Every day we want to get better on the practice floor like it was a real game. They have done a good job in this tournament and we came out on top."

Reagan head coach James Stackhouse added, "Mt. Tabor is a tough team and they play hard. They are a complete team and tonight we fell short. They are a good ball club and they play solid defense and rebound well. We just have to continue to do what we do but improve in every area. We are still looking forward to try and win the conference."

All tournament player Patrick Travatello of Reagan said, "We were fighting the entire tournament and came in as somewhat of an underdog. I

think I have been working well in the paint and we just kept pushing and pushing and we made it to the championship. Even though we fell short, it was a good game."

Mt. Tabor guard Andrew Muse said earlier in the season they were still trying to figure each other out but as time progressed they got a feel for one another. He says they love to play team ball and there is no selfishness on their squad.

Aaron Muse of Mt. Tabor was named to the All-Tournament Team and tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP). He says it felt great to beat Reagan because they had lost to them last year in the freshman tournament.

"We came together as a team, we are a family and just love how we overcame adversity and won the tournament," Aaron Muse continued. "I wasn't too worried about getting MVP I just wanted to win the tournament. All the hard work and dedication paid off."

Muses' father, Andy Muse, said a lot of different players from many teams could have won but he was happy his son came away with the trophy. He said hopefully his son will be humble and that his teammates were a big part of the trophy as well.

**Semi-final**

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stretch and won 71-51.

"I take my hat off to Mt. Tabor, they are a real big team and they enforced their will on us tonight," said East Forsyth head coach Rodney Minor. "My guys fought but we gave up too many easy shots at the rim. They needed a reality check and hopefully this loss will wake them up and let them know they have to

respect the game every time they step on the court."

Mt. Tabor head coach Willie Harrison said he thought his team handled the press very well and was happy with the play he received from his bench players. He says he wanted to run the zone defensively because he knew East Forsyth had players who could get to the bucket and he wanted to prevent that.

The Mustangs of Parkland came in with as much momentum

as the Eagles. As the Number One seed they previously defeated Glenn in the quarters. Reagan sought to continue their run under the radar as they aren't a flashy team but maybe the most fundamentally sound team in the tournament.

In the first half the Mustangs could not handle the precision of the Reagan offense. Parkland attempted to use their athleticism to get them back into the game but were out-executed in all phas-

es of the game by the Raiders. Reagan led 36-18 at the half. It was more of the same in the second half as Reagan opened up a 20-point lead and never relented, winning the game by the score of 72-51.

"Both teams started off slow with a lot of turnovers but eventually we got rolling," said Reagan head coach James Stackhouse. "We stayed patient, we stayed focused on defense and we remained disciplined because

that's what we always try to do."

Parkland head coach Cory Baker added, "We have to focus on the fundamentals. We knew coming into this game they were a smart group of kids and if we didn't play right they would kill us on it. I don't think my guys showed up in the first half and we never bounced back. I don't think they are a better team than us but they played the right way. Today just wasn't our day."



**The 2016 Lash/Chronicle All Tournament Team**

Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Members of the 2016 Lash/Chronicle All Tournament Team are (from left to right) Tobias Johnson (Reynolds), Jalen Crawley (W-S Prep), Savon Brintley (E. Forsyth), Aaron Muse (Mt. Tabor), Patrick Travatello (Reagan). Aaron Muse was selected as tournament Most Valuable Player.

**Highs, lows**

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you could tell they came out with a lot more energy."

Thomasville head coach Robert Moore Jr. said, "We were in it early but when they put that press on, our kids got rattled. They were too big for us, and we let the game get away from us. We competed and we just couldn't put four quarters together."

The fact it was a close game throughout did not bode well for Glenn as they took on North Forsyth. The Bobcats seem to thrive off of large deficits. Their game against the Vikings stayed close from start to finish. Glenn seemed a lit-

tle low on energy as they may have expended too much in their comeback attempt against West Forsyth the day before. The Bobcats fell to the Vikings in a squeaker 58-52.

"I felt like we executed our game plan that our guys put in for this game," said Will Bell, North Forsyth head coach. "The kids did a very good job of listening and ultimately they executed well. They realize they have to go hard for 32 minutes if they want to win and the last four or five games they have done that."

Chris Geter, Glenn head coach, said, "I just don't get us. When our backs are against the wall, that's when we play our

best, but when the game is close and we have to make smart decisions, I question our decision-making ability."

The next consolation game of the day was Carver versus Atkins. The host Yellowjackets were coming off a victory against Walkertown and Atkins previously had defeated Lexington prior to this game. Carver jumped all over the Camels with their superior athleticism. The full court press from Carver also gave Atkins all types of headaches leading to a 39-20 lead at the half.

"When we play well, that's what we kind of bring to the table when we start

games well," said Carver head coach Raheem Martin. "This is one of the first ones we have actually started well and I'm hoping this leads to more confidence in the first and second quarter of games to come."

The Yellowjackets kept their foot on the gas in the second half by not letting Atkins gain any sort of continuity on offense. The Camels gave it their best effort but Carver was too much for them to handle and they lost 62-37.

"Today was a tough one but all in all this tournament was an improvement on last year because we didn't win any," said Bronal

Gary, Atkins head coach.

Prior to the championship game was the fight for third place game between East Forsyth and Parkland. Both teams had aspirations for the championship game but just fell a bit short.

Early on, the Eagles seemed to bounce back well from their semi-final defeat against Mt. Tabor by taking a 13-3 lead midway through the first. By half-time the Mustangs made a run of their own and closed to within one at the break. The full court press by East Forsyth began to pay dividends in the third, giving them a 15-point lead going into the fourth. The

turnovers continued for Parkland, and East Forsyth won by nearly 30 points 69-43.

"The guys didn't give up and they could have easily folded," said East Forsyth coach Rodney Minor. "They came out focused tonight and ready to play and I thought they did well."

Parkland assistant coach Jeffrey Perry said, "In the second half we just had a let down like we did in the previous game. I think we came in with some momentum but we didn't play a full 32-minute game and that's what it takes."