

# 'Cager Of Week' Honors Go To Olympic Trojans

by James Cuthbertson  
Post Staff Writer

The "Cager of Week" this week has ten arms, ten legs, guards five of the opposing team's men, does it all, assisting, guarding, shooting, leaping, is over 30 feet tall and weighs close to 800 pounds and is a devastating foe in the wars of Charlotte-Mecklenburg basketball this season.

Dean Smith, John Wodden, Bates Locke, Bill Foster, Lefty Dresell, Jerome Fitch and Bo Brickels have been rumored to have been seen lurking around the Sandy Porter Road Gymnasium where this super-catch plays and practices. And believe it or not there is enough to go around for everybody.

Why?

Because this week's "Cager of Week" is the starting five seniors of the Olympic High School Basketball squad. The reason all five are co-honored and none was singled out is because the spirit at Olympic is togetherness which has turned last year's 2 and 21 squad into a winner that has currently won almost four times as many games as they did last year.

After a somewhat dismal football season in which the Trojans won only one game, the cheerleaders, the fans, the coach and the student body have something to cheer about and they are wasting no time. When the Olympic team makes its pre-game practice entrance on the court, the House goes up as loyal fans stand, applaud, jump and do just about whatever turns them on to the maze of patterns and layouts of the scarlet, columbia blue, and white clad Trojans.

Ask Coach Vernon Hedricks who is the best player on his seven and one squad which reached the finals of the Olympic Holiday tournament Friday night only to lose to a hot-shooting Harding High School team that will probably be the Trojans major adversary in the conference and he'll hesitate for a moment and say "You know they work so well together that we don't have a best player. They all

compliment each other so well and that is what makes the team great."

"No one man can be singled out from the team as all deserve accolades. What does Coach Hedricks have to say about his charges who have defeated South 79 to 68 and 68 to 61, Independence 78 to 57 and 90 to 80, Hickory 88 to 84 in triple overtime and 83 to 60 and North Mecklenburg 84 to 47. The 70 to 59 loss to Harding is the only blemish on their record.

"We have more experience this year. And another reason is Gene Harris, and Benjamin Smith, a couple of reserves," said Hedricks who has been the Olympic Coach since 1966. On his individual players—

"Stan Brown is a real good shooter. He plays very good defense and is averaging 20 points per game."

"Brown's high games have been 22 and 30, both against the Independence Patriots."

"Don Smith is an all-around player, a real good rebounder and plays very good defense." Smith's top games have been 29 and 21 against Hickory and 29 against Independence.

"Jeff Anthony's main asset is his defense and his rebounding. Dwight Allen is quick and a good defensive player and our quarterback is Reginald Nance who handles the ball most of the time. Nance's high has been 18 points against South."

"And to go along with this contingent, Hedricks has a strong sixth man in Gene Harris, who had 20 points in the opening South game and a strong bench."

"He does it all. His main asset is his quickness. He's a quick shooter and is just good," Hedrick said with a smile. "He is our first sub, whether it's at guard or at forward. He helps to pick up some of the players who have referred to him as Mr. Excitement because he excites our players so much when they are having a dull moment and he comes into the game," Hedrick added. The players echo Hedrick's sentiments.

"We are off to a good head start," said the 165 pound 6'3"

center Jeff Anthony. "We had the talent last year, but we just never got it together. This year we are working together."

"One of the reasons is that the majority of the players are back," said 5' 10" guard Reginald Nance in explaining why the Trojans are winning.

"We have six of us back who played last year. And Donald Smith who was not with us last year is giving us a big help," continued the Senior who relaxes to Kool and the Gang and the Main Ingredient when he is not playing basketball and just likes being "being around people. All Nance wants from the team is a winning season that includes the State championship."

Leading scorer 6'1" 160 pound Senior Stan Brown who is being scouted by Clemson, East-Tennessee State, and Davidson and whose favorite hobby is basketball and more basketball says the experience the team gained last year is paying off this year.

"Dwight Allen, 6'2" 160 pound forward and 167 pound 6'0" senior Donald Smith are the other co-cagers of the week."

Aided by the help of Harris and Smith, plus Jesse Harris, Jeff Hill, Mike Holesh, Jeff Joplin, Bob MacDonald, Robert Cappozziello, and Jerome Dupree, this year's contingent expects to be in Greensboro around the last week of February when the State tournament trophies are being handed out at the Greensboro Page High School gymnasium.

There you have it sports fans, a cager with ten arms, ten legs, who can guard five men, assists, shots, leaps, and is over 30 feet tall and weighs close to 800 pounds and is tiring up local basketball squads. The cheerleaders sum it up.

"Trojans are dynamite, and you don't mess with dynamite because it will burn your hands."



LIVINGSTONE COACH HONORED - Baxter D. Holman (right), head football coach at Livingstone College at Salisbury, N. C., WAS HONORED RECENTLY AT Coach's Roast, sponsored by the Livingstone faculty athletic committee. Holman, the 1971 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association coach of the year, is presented a silver bowl by Grady Nelson, committee vice chairman. Holman guided the Livingstone Fighting Bears to the school's best record in the school's history, 9-2. His two-year record since coming to Livingstone is 16-1.

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