

By James Cuthbertson

PREP



Chatter



James

I was fortunate last weekend to witness one of the best high school tournaments in the South.

The tournament was in Rock Hill at Winthrop's beautiful Coliseum and featured Olympic, South Mecklenburg, North-western (Rock Hill), Rock Hill High, St. John's of Washington, D.C., Christ the King of Middleton, New York, Male High of Louisville, Kentucky and Frederick Douglass of Atlanta, Georgia.

In addition to seeing some good basketball I got to witness the phenomenal Chris Norris of Douglass.

Headed for Auburn University, the 6'8", 170-pound standout will one day be one of the premiere players in the country.

In his opening game against Northwestern, he scored 21 points, hitting eight of 24 and five of six free throws and pulled down 13 rebounds and captured two steals.

Douglass won that game 60-53 over Northwestern.

In a 76-73 win over Male of Louisville, he scored 19 points, hitting nine of 17 and one of three from the line and pulled down seven rebounds and had five blocked shots.

In the championship game won by St. John's 68-59, he hit 30 points on 14 of 29 field goal attempts, two of two from the line and pulled down 21 rebounds.

That's a stellar performance. Morris was the most valuable player of the tournament.

Herman Springs of Olympic was named to the All-Tournament team. Roman Phifer of South Mecklenburg, Antonio Howard of Olympic, and Gene Young of Olympic were honorable mentions.

The Cel River-Eagle Holiday Classic was a tremendous success. It's a shame that we can't bring top notch teams to Charlotte to play our locals.

Outstanding performances for Charlotte players were 20 points, three rebounds and three steals by Olympic's Herman Springs against Louisville Male and 14 points and two rebounds by Olympic's Antonio Howard against Male.

Also Olympic's Skip Glenn had 22 points, two rebounds and three steals against Male and Olympic's Donald Simmons had 10 points and six rebounds against Male.

Reggie Wilson, Reggie Grier and Lamar Simons at Olympic had six, five and eight rebounds, respectively, in probably the best game the Trojans have played this season. They lost by a narrow 81-77 margin.

South's Roman Phifer had 16 points and 10 rebounds in South's loss to St. John's.

Good performers in Olympic's game with Northwestern, lost by a 72-64 count, were Springs with 18 points, eight rebounds, Grier with eight points, 9 rebounds, Bobby Junior with eight points and nine rebounds and Gene Young with 10 points and two rebounds.

In South's win over Rock Hill 58-43, Dennis Kennedy had eight points and nine rebounds, Lenny Brown had seven points and Rodney Appling had 14 points.

THE RANKINGS

1. WEST CHARLOTTE - The Lions proved to everyone, with the win over Myers Park at Myers Park, they are a talent to be reckoned with.

2. OLYMPIC - The potential is there. If Olympic can play the Southwestern 4A teams like they did Male High of Louisville in a Rock Hill Tournament thriller, watch out. They look like last year's outstanding Independence team - quick, deadly shooters and, for a change, good rebounders.

2. INDEPENDENCE - They say cream always rises to the top. Independence has been hiding a stable of horses. Everyone now knows the Pats are almost as good as last year when they made it to the Final Four.

4. NORTH - The Vikings were three points away from what would have probably been a battle with Independence in the Garinger Shootout finals. That was the margin of their loss to Gaffney. They are tough.

5. MYERS PARK - The Mustangs are thoroughbred by Bob Nastase's outstanding coaching and could be in top notch shape when tournament time comes.

6. GARINGER - The Wildcats have a great double punch of sharp shooters in James Elmore and Willie Walker.

7. EAST - The Eagles have lost games by the narrowest of margins. That could change.

8. SOUTH - The Sabres seem to be coming around and playing some good basketball. The win in Rock Hill helped the team's confidence.

9. WEST - The West Indians have a great shooter in Milton Moore.

10. HARDING - The Rams have been the enigma of the league. No one can understand why a team with so much talent has such a bad record. They may reverse the situation soon.

Newcomer Adds Excitement To Southwestern 4-A Scene

By James Cuthbertson Post Sports Writer Five exciting newcomers to the Southwestern 4A scene are Olympic's Dwayne Glenn and Antonio Howard and West Charlotte's Lance Jones, Kevin Reid and Michael Cureton.



Dwayne Glenn

Olympic's 6'7", 140-pound playmaker who is averaging five points per game with a high of 12 against Harding.

The leading point guard on the junior varsity last year, he led the Olympic team to a 17-3 record and a tie with Independence for the junior varsity championship while scoring nine points per game.

Howard averaged 14.5 points per game for the junior varsity. He played with Glenn at Kennedy in ninth grade and was also a starter on the junior varsity.

"I have been playing basketball for seven years," he said. "I have a goal to play in college. I think that we will have a good team this year."

Howard is 6'1" and 160.

At Norfolk State

Golden Bulls Return To Action Monday Night

By Phil Barber Special To The Post

The New Year not only ushers in a sense of renewed hope and a host of resolutions for improvement, but for CIAA basketball followers it signals the start of another fiercely-contested conference campaign by the CIAA tournament to crown the 1984 champion.

Bob Moore's Baby Bulls square off against CIAA competition in 16 of Smith's next 19 basketball contests.

The road to the Norfolk Scope, home of the CIAA's prestigious tournament, February 26-28, will begin in Norfolk on Monday, January 9, for the Golden Bulls (1-0, 4-3).

Smith takes on the surprise Spartans of Norfolk State, undefeated with an 8-0 start going into 1984. No one is surprised by All-American forward David Pope, whose 23 points and 13.5 rebounds per game lead the Green and Gold.

Matching up against Pope will be Smith's Roosevelt McGruder, also making a strong case for post season honors with 22.3 points and 10.4 rebounds a game. The outcome is more likely to be decided by the play of the guards, though.

NSU's Ralph Tilly, a freshman wing, has proven deadly from outside with 17 points per outing. Point guard Lawrence Hayes is adept at feeding the ball for 4.6 assists each time out.

The Bulls travel to Elizabeth City State Wednesday, January 11. The Vikings eliminated Smith from the CIAA tournament last year behind guard Benji Brown (16 points per game) and forward Rudy Burton (17 points per game). Bobby Saugh's balanced team has always proven tough on their home court where Vaughn has compiled 466 career wins in 31 years as the ECSU mentor.

Player Of Week

Walker Is Very Talented Prep Cager

By James Cuthbertson Post Sports Writer When Willie Walker was a little boy he used to follow his brother Odell's foot steps and marvel at playing in big buildings like the Coliseum.

The very talented junior high school basketball player made the varsity at Garinger as a sophomore and averaged only 3.5 points per game.

What a difference a year makes!

"I feel that my game is going very well at this point in the season," said the 6'7", 135-pound guard, who is averaging 13 points and six rebounds per game.

"I am working on playing better defense and on my ballhandling," he continued.

Willie Walker is headed to the big time. That is written all on the slim youngster's face and he is busily preparing for the tools that he will need when



Antonio Howard

Junior varsity standout "In high school you have to learn to play defense because anybody can be a star. In junior high you usually know who the stars are going to be. I feel we can take it to the state. We just need to strengthen our rebounding and lessen our turnovers."

Cureton, a 6'2", 188-pounder, said the biggest transition from junior varsity where he scored 18 points per game to the varsity where he is scoring eight points per game has been the pressure.

"There is more pressure to perform," he said, adding that the pressure this year is even greater because only one team gets to advance to the state playoffs.

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J.C. Smith basketball coach Bob Moore directs his charges in Golden Bull contest prior to taking off for the Christmas holidays.

court where Vaughn has compiled 466 career wins in 31 years as the ECSU mentor. Smith will return a three game home stand by hosting Livingstone on Saturday, January 14.

The good news for Bob Moore is that everyone returns physically and academically healthy. transfer some Jordan (6'9", 230 pounds) is now eligible and will provide much needed help on the boards. The smaller Bulls have out-rebounded opponents by a narrow 1.5 margin per game, but have yet to face the conference giants in 6'8" Charles Oakley and 6'9" Tony Singleton of Virginia Union; 6'10" Cedrick Miller of Hampton Institute or Norfolk State's trio of 6'9" inside men led by David Pope.

The Smith Women open up 1984 at home Saturday, hosting an improved St. Augustine's Lady Eagles. Steve Joyner's team (4-2, 6-5) will join the men in a visit to Elizabeth City State next Wednesday.

While opponent defenses have been paying extra attention to All-CIAA guard Odellia Johns, sophomore forward Cassandra Howell has been punishing them inside with a sizzling 70.3 percent field goal shooting percentage which leads the NCAA II statistics. Howell finished as the third best accurate shooter as a freshman in national statistics last year and is out to claim the national crown in her sophomore season. Center Caryl Hardin has been a strong second punch inside, enjoying 12.3 points and nine rebounds an outing.

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