

By James Cuthbertson

**PREP**



**Chatter**



James

Congratulations to West Mecklenburg's Savoy Starr and the "stud cradle" pin that gave him the 145 pound sectional championship over South Mecklenburg's Matt Ward.

Starr, seeded second, upset Ward to bring a smile to the face of West Mecklenburg coach Bill Puckett.

The Indians, finishing third in the tournament, were the highest Charlotte finisher.

Starr's win gives him a trip to the regional championship next Saturday at A. L. Brown High in Kannapolis.

Ward was unbeaten going into the match, at 16-0-1. Starr was 16-2.

Other winners from the Southwestern 4A Conference were Ron Elliott of Myers Park in the 119 weight class, Rodney McClure of Garinger at 132, Wendell Coleman of Independence in the 155 weight class, and Tony Mercer of North Mecklenburg in the heavyweight class.

Runners-up included Danny Brigan of Independence in the 112 class, Willie Mayes, Garinger, in the 167 class, Fred Alexander of West Mecklenburg in the 185 class, Melvin Jones of West Charlotte in the 195 class.

Consolation winners were Darryl Seegers of Olympic in the 98 pound class, Paul Ensminger of North in the 132 class, Rodney Clark of Harding in the 112 class, James Davis of West Charlotte in the 167 class and Joe Robinson of East Mecklenburg in the 185 class.

Garinger's James Elmore scored 29 points in a game with West Mecklenburg which the Wildcats won 97-84; Haywood Workman of Myers Park hit 28 as the Mustangs beat Olympic 75-63.

**THE RANKINGS**

1. Myers Park - The Mustangs are moving on towards the first place finish in the conference, but they are not without challenges.

2. West Charlotte - The Lions are hoping for the first seed also and a big game at Myers Park tomorrow will probably decide the winner.

3. North Mecklenburg - The Vikings are moving to the top behind consistent play and great shooting.

4. Independence - The Patriots are not out of the race yet and could be a big determinant in who wins the title.

5. Olympic

5. Olympic - There is a big drop in the talent from numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 and 5, 6 and 7, but on a given night there is no telling who might "transpire."

6. East Mecklenburg - The Eagles are holders of some upsets but will be on the road for first round games against the upper echelon.

7. Garinger - The Wildcats have twin towers in Elmore and Walker and are always dangerous.

8. West Mecklenburg - The Indians can score with Milton Moore and Robbie Pope.

9. Harding - The Rams took the Lions to the wire.

10. South Mecklenburg - The Sabres are getting scoring from Mark Scholl. This is a good sign for next year.

**THE GIRLS' RANKINGS**

1. Independence, 2. Harding, 3. West Mecklenburg, 4. West Charlotte, 5. North Mecklenburg, 6. Myers Park, 7. East, 8. South, 9. Olympic and 10. Garinger.

..Probable Final Four at UNCC (boys)

1. West Charlotte, 2. Myers Park, 3. North Mecklenburg, 4. Independence.

**Poor Preparation Killing 49ers**

By James Cuthbertson Post Sports Writer  
The UNCC 49'ers found a team they could beat in Jacksonville, co-habitor of last place in the Sun Belt Conference.

Rumors are flying that UNCC wants out of the Sun Belt Conference because they feel that the team can no longer be competitive in the conference they were a catalyst in getting started. Rubbish!

The 49'ers' misfortunes have been largely the result this year of poor execution and as coach Hal Wisell has said, poor preparation.

The team has been in several games but always seems to make the right mistakes that keeps it from pulling off a win.

Against Jacksonville, the team shot 54 percent from the floor and hit 29 of 38 from the line.

Scoring in double figures

for the team were Keith Williams with 19, Randy Davis with 14, and Melvin Johnson with 25.

Johnson has moved to the top of the 49'ers' all-time scoring list moving past Robert Earl Blue.

The team has a big game Thursday against South Florida and former head coach Lee Rose before hitting the road for contests at Western Kentucky on Saturday, and Virginia Commonwealth on Wednesday.

**Price Has Heart Most Tall People Know Nothing About**

By Lori Grier Post Staff Writer

Randy Price, 27, stands four feet, eight inches and weighs only 86 pounds.

He was born with pneumonia, and doctors gave him antibiotics to keep him alive. He has no physical ailments. Although he's short in height and small in size, Price has a heart that most of us tall people know nothing about.

In a world of tall, thin and beautiful, Price gets along just fine and says he isn't reluctant to do anything because of his height. "I'll try anything!" he exclaimed.

Price, originally from West Virginia, says that he is the shortest member of his family which consists of his mother, Mrs. Hattie Allen; brothers, Benjamin, Jr. and Henry; and sister, Mrs. Norma Brandon. He knew he would be short at the age of 17. "This girl I dated, who was also 17 and short, told me that her parents told her that she wouldn't get any taller. I felt this applied to me too because of my height at the time. I felt sad for her, but it didn't bother me. I always think of other people's feelings first," he explained.

There are times when he feels insecure about being short. "Yesterday, (February 7), I ran into a guy, whose name I still don't know, and all he did was call me 'shorty this' or 'shorty that.' When I used to go out to clubs, everyone (including his tall, male friend) would dance except me. The young ladies that I usually asked to dance, looked at me, chuckled, then said no." He has received job discrimination as well. "Before I moved here I applied for a job at Appalachian Power Company. Out of the four I know applied, I was the only one who didn't get called back for an interview. I also applied for a job at Pizza Hut when I first came to Charlotte. One of the assistants took me to the oven and asked me if I really thought I could reach the top level of the oven (approximately six feet). I told him no and thanked him, and he thanked me for coming in and trying."

Price believes that the song "Short People Ain't Got No Reason To Live" applies to him sometimes.



Randy Price  
.....Stands 4-feet-8

"I'm by myself, without a girlfriend and not dating anyone. Other days I can cheer someone up, and that makes me feel like I'm worth something."

The cook at McDonald's hamburgers fears nothing, and nothing prohibits him because of his height. In fact when he worked as an electrician in West Virginia, he could get in tight places under houses and up in attics which others couldn't. If you want to know what to refer to Randy as, just ask him. "I hate the word dwarf," he continued, "because they are three feet or less. A midget is simply three feet. I'm just short-stuck in the middle of four and five feet. This is the only thing which disqualified me from enlisting in the Marines. The recruiter showed me on paper that the requirement was five feet. He told me that I only missed by three inches."

Price wears size 12 pants, 16 shirts, and 4 1/2 shoes when the weather is warm-2 when the weather is cold. He purchases his clothes from the boy's department. Sometimes he drives his mother's Volkswagen Rabbit. When he was in junior high school in Ohio, he dated regularly. "All of the girls were younger and pretty close to

my height then. Most females I meet on a daily basis now are kind of afraid of me because of my height," admitted Price.

He is treated as an equal by his friends and family. "When I go home to West Virginia, I get more of the work burden because my brothers are lazy," he laughed. There are others who can only think of cruel things to say to him like shorty, midget or shrimp. "I don't mind little kids saying this, but it's the older people who should know better, who do this."

The rewards of being short are "Little children ask my why I'm so short, and I tell them that I didn't eat all of my vegetables when I was young. This encourages them to eat theirs." The disappointments are "not being able to date or find someone my age and height."

The 1978 graduate of Blue Field High School, West Virginia, who attended one year at Blue Field State University, enjoys giving birthday parties, jogging and karate. He has taken six years of karate but hesitates to use it unless a life or death situation arises. Randy Price wants you to know "I'm human also. I have feelings, love to travel, meet people and I'm friendly."

**James Elmore Is "Player Of The Week"**

By James Cuthbertson Post Staff Writer

James Elmore of Garinger High School is this week's Charlotte Post "Player of the Week."

Elmore believes that although his season is progressing, he hasn't done what he would like to have done.

"I could have done a little more," he said, "I could have played better defense."

The Wildcats were rated as one of the team's to beat in pre-season and their season so far has been mediocre.

But the bottom line is that one team goes to the playoffs this year and their chances of making it are as good as anybody's.

Elmore is averaging 16 points per game and seven rebounds per game and has been getting feelers from Missouri, Baylor, Old Dominion and Radford.

"I think that we have a good chance to finish the season strong," he said. "We lost a lot of close ball games. It is kind of hard to regain your composure when you are losing close games."

Coach Kreutzer has told his team that man for man, they are as good as any in the conference.



James Elmore  
.....Averaging 16 points

"We know that we have a good team," said Elmore, "and we are hoping to use the playoffs to prove it. We are beginning to play with more intensity."

The Wildcats could finish as high as fifth or as low as seventh or eighth place.

The probable finish, counting the games left to be played, is sixth or

seventh. They play Friday at Harding, host Independence on Tuesday and close out at Myers Park next Friday.

One thing is certain - Elmore is ready.

"We believe it is time to make things happen," he said.

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