

By James Cuthbertson

Prep Chatter



There are two junior varsity basketball players in the Southwestern 4A Conference who carry the "can't miss" status for next year's varsity teams and the lucky recipients of these players are two teams that are struggling in the middle of the conference.

Olympic and Harding are the lucky teams. Patrick Floyd and Anthony "Lizard" Houston are the standouts.

According to Coach Chanslar Chavis, one of the big reasons that Olympic is staying above .500 is P. Floyd.

"He is a tough young man in the center position," said Chavis of Floyd who stands 6-2 and is averaging 18 points per game and 9 rebounds per game.

Floyd comes to Olympic from Smith Junior High School where he was the top rebounder in the Southern League with 19 per game.

This was on a team that also contained standout Harry Davis, Jr. Floyd lost the MVP trophy to Davis, but managed to average 19.4 per game and be named to the All-City Team.

His brother Derrick got him interested in basketball. Derrick Floyd was a standout on the Olympic team that went to the state quarterfinals in 1982.

"He taught me how to make central certain kinds of moves, to dribble and to go behind men on breaks to the basket," said Floyd.

Floyd is presently hitting 60 percent from the field and 70 percent from the line.

He is aided on the Olympic junior varsity by Andy Muriel who is averaging 10 points per game. Muriel is a 6-0 forward.

A few miles away another player of equal stature put his football cleats away for the winter and donned his sneakers.

Anthony Houston, not be confused with his cousin of the same name, started as quarterback for the Rams.

Coach Tommy Knotts said that in his three most recent games, he has hit 34, 33, 31 to average 18.5 for the season.

The Rams are red hot. They have scored in the ninties a few times. Last year, they were 15-5. This year, they should be better.

Helping "Lizard" to keep the Rams at the top of the conference are ninth graders Troy Johnson and Darryl Gray.

O'Neal Faulcon is another standout Ram. He is 5-11 and 160 pounds and a great defensive player according to Coach Knotts.

The Rams are 13-2. Independence High has won or shared the junior varsity title for seven years and under Coach Dean Dreibelbis they are headed for an eighth.

The Patriots are 2-0 and are led by 5-9 guard Bo Whitmire who is averaging 10 per game, 6-2 shooting guard Nate Baskins 11.0, 6-3 center Danny Allen 12.0, 6-2 forward J.T. Jant 8.0 and 6-2 forward Dennis Renfro 8.0.

The team has great balance and no super star.

The West Charlotte Lions of Dan Hyder are 11-1. They are led by Charles Ellis a 5-9 point guard who is averaging 12 per game, 6-1 guard Eric Broadway 16.0, 6-3 center Gerald Smith 8.0, and 6-4 Venton Bell 4.0.

Other hot Lions are Anthony Johnson, James "Jay" Budes, Jeff Nance and Mark Hubbard.

The West Mecklenburg Indians have 6-2 forward Brewster Hearn, 12.0, 6-1 forward Joe Monroe 12.0, 6-1 point guard Chip Bean and 5-10 Albert Alexander and Kerry Crenshaw.

The Indians bettered their fortunes recently by beating Myers Park and Olympic.

The South Sabres are led by point guard Rick Forte who is averaging 12.0, guard Chris Doukedes, forward Robert Mason, forward Mark Kistler, and center Derrick Long. Long is averaging 8, Doukedes 10, Mason 8 and Kistler 7 per game.

The North Vikings got 23 points and 9 assists from Bobby Moore who has seen some playing time on the varsity to give them renewed hopes.

The Vikings have Tim Little who is averaging 7 points and 10 rebounds per game. He is 6-1.

Junior Darryl Stevenson is averaging 14.3 per game. He is 6-1 and shoots 65 percent from the floor.

Sophomore Dwayne Carter is averaging 16.1 per game and 7 rebounds. The Vikings should be strong again next year.

NEXT WEEK: Junior varsity reports on Myers Park, East Mecklenburg and Garinger.

Hottest Team in the Conference: The West Charlotte Lions are the hottest team in the conference.

The Rankings: Southwestern 4A Boys: 1. West Charlotte, 2. North, 3. Independence, 4. Myers Park, 5. Garinger, 6. Olympic, 7. Harding, 8. East, 9. South, 10. West, 9. West, 10. South.

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

Private Boys: 1. Country Day, 2. Providence Day, 3. Latin, 4. Christian, 5. Catholic, 6. Northside

Private Girls: 1. Latin, 2. Catholic, 3. Country Day, 4. Providence Day, 5. Christian, 6. Northside

Hottest Player in Conference: BYRON DINKINS of East Mecklenburg is red-hot with 22 points in an upset of Myers Park.

Congratulations to South Mecklenburg defensive stand-out Tony Lindsey on being chosen to play in the East-West football game in Greensboro in July.

Tony was a split end also. He had 131 tackles and intercepted nine passes for the Sabres and was named to the Charlotte Post's Exhilarating Eleven All-Star Team.

He caught five touchdown passes from his split end position.

Independence' Standout

Ronald Downer Is "Player Of The Week"

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Independence's Ronald Downer is partially responsible for the success of the Patriots.

Coach Dave Christenbury believes the Patriots would have a difficult time this year, but as usual they are up there near the top of the conference.

Downer is averaging 14.3 points per game and 7 rebounds per game. He is a 6-3 175 pounder.

Wingate College is making some serious overtures for the services of the young man from Independence.

His best game was against East

Mecklenburg when he netted 28 points and pulled down 12 rebounds for the Patriots.

Downer began playing basketball in the sixth grade when he played for Idlewild.

He played at Albemarle Road in seventh, eighth and ninth grades.

But his first real success came in his sophomore year at Independence when he teamed with Eric Reichard, Keith Simpson, and Lee Rozler to compile an 18-3 record.

The team tied with Olympic that year for the conference championship.

Downer believes that his Patriots can do well this year.

"We are beginning to play better," he said. "We had some problems at the beginning, but we are jelling now."

The Patriots always finish strong in the conference.

Last year, was the first time the team hadn't been to the playoffs in three years.

Downer hopes to return to the playoffs this year.

"We definitely would like to return," he said.

He credits junior varsity coach Dean Dreibelbis with helping him to become the player he is.

"He helped me because at one point I was not doing what I should," he said. "Some outside influences were hurting my game. He told me I had to stick with my game and I did."

Downer is still growing.

Who does he admire the most? "I admire Ralph Sampson because I really like to see big men perform," he said.

In a 76-64 Patriot win over the Garinger Wildcats, Downer scored 22 points.

Presently, he has over 200 points already and is well on his way to making this season one to remember.

"I really enjoy playing basketball," he said. "I believe that I have to play well if we are going to win."



Dante Johnson
.....Talented Bull sophomore

Golden Bulls Host

Shaw Bears Here

Saturday Night

By LaShun Lawson
Special To The Post

The Golden Bulls of Johnson C. Smith University will play their next four consecutive games at home. Saturday, February 9 the Bulls will host the Bears of Shaw University in Brayboy Gym in the first of four CIAA home games. The action begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Bulls still rank third in the Southern Division and Shaw and Winston-Salem are tied for first place.

Coach Robert Moore cited "The Bears got us by three points in their gym, but we are thinking revenge... it's championship time and somebody must pay," he continued with good sportsmanship humor.

The upcoming game is important because (1) This period marks the championship cycle, (2) Smith is confronted with the 'pressure point' because the CIAA tournament is close at hand and (3) The Bulls still have a shot for first place.

The next few games will definitely determine the Bulls rank, but both coach and players feel they have the advantage because the next four games will be played on home court.

Monday night Dante Johnson scored 38 and Reggie Moses dropped the ball for 22. Both lead the Bulls in an overtime victory over the Trojans of Virginia State. The final score was 117 to 11.

The Bulls will take on the Eagles of North Carolina Central University February 13, 7:30 p.m. in Brayboy Gym.

"I Can Cope" Series

The American Cancer Society, Mecklenburg County Division, will sponsor its next "I Can Cope" series beginning February and continuing every Thursday through March 21. Sessions are from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St. John's Baptist Church, 300 Hawthorne Lane. "I Can Cope" is a patient education program for cancer patients and their loved ones.

The program provides participants an opportunity to discuss problems encountered with their disease. It helps many of them become more resourceful and aware of their own strengths in coping with cancer. Topics will include the disease of cancer and its treatment, daily health concerns; relieving stress, improving communications with the family and health concerns, relieving stress, improving communications with the family and health professionals, and body image.

Nancy Hunter is the coordinator for "I Can Cope." Guest speakers will include: Tim Cominger, M.D.; Bonnie Robinson, R.N.; Alan Thalinger, M.D.; Smitha Parth, R.D.; Robert Fraser, M.D.; and James Hall, M.D. To register for "I Can Cope" or for more information, call the American Cancer Society, Mecklenburg Unit at 31-2659 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

A subscription to The Charlotte Post will keep you informed of community news. Call 376-0496



BLACK HERITAGE WEEK SPEAKER, Dr. Robert L. Albright, President of Johnson C. Smith University, addressing CPCC students and visitors on observance theme: "Academic Excellence Through Involvement, Commitment, and Training." (Photo by Peeler's Portrait Studio)

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Prices Good At All Family Dollar Stores Through This Weekend. Quantities Limited. On Some Items. No Sales To Dealers.

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