

By James Cuthbertson

# Prep Chatter



## TWO PLAYERS WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION INTO A SOUTHWESTERN 4A GAME....

Byron Dinkins of East Mecklenburg is without a doubt the best pure shooter in the conference.

Dinkins is averaging 24.6 points per game while shooting 57 percent from the field and 74 percent from the line. He is also averaging six assists per game.

Roman Phifer of South Mecklenburg is one of the strongest players in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

Only a junior, he is a cinch to be highly recruited next year for football and basketball.

He excels in both. He is averaging 18.1 points per game with 6 rebounds. He is shooting 51.9 from the field and 70 percent from the line.

Dinkins is reportedly headed for UNCC.

### EXQUISITE EIGHTEEN SCORERS:

Byron Dinkins, East, 24.1; Dee Pritchett, Myers Park, 19.8; Antonio Howard, Olympic, 19.18; Roman Phifer, South, 19.14; Milton Moore, West, 17.7; Donald Simmons, Olympic, 16.8; James Elmore, Garinger, 16.7; Julio Morrison, Independence, 16.5; Letura Stitt, North, 15.9; Todd Holden, North, 15.2; Paul Grier, Myers Park, 14.6; Willie Walker, Garinger, 14.4; Carol Raley, West, 14.1; Pervis Thomas, Garinger, 13.8; Lonnie Tucker, Harding, 13.6; Kevin Reid, West Charlotte, 12.9; Terry Massey, Myers Park, 12.5; and John White, West Mecklenburg, 11.6.

### The Southwestern 4A Rankings (BOYS):

1. West Charlotte - The Lions earned the number one seed in the conference tournament with two wins over North and a win over Myers Park. They are headed to the state.
2. Myers Park - The depth short Mustangs have made the most of their ability.
3. North Mecklenburg - The Vikings of North Mecklenburg under Leroy Holden are contending for their third straight conference crown.
4. Harding - The Rams have made the most improvement from last year.
5. Olympic - The Trojans have been battling teams this year.
6. Independence - The Pats are hanging on.
7. Garinger - The Cats are struggling.
8. South - The Sabres have Roman Phifer and Tony Lindsey.
9. East - The Eagles will be competitive as long as Dinkins is hot.
10. West Mecklenburg - The Indians have Milton Moore back, but it is too late in the season.

### The Southwestern 4A Rankings (GIRLS):

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

### The Private Schools (BOYS):

- The Private Schools (BOYS):  
 1. Providence Day, 2. Country Day, 3. Latin, 4. Catholic, 5. Charlotte Christian, 6. Northside.

### The Private Schools (GIRLS):

- The Private Schools (GIRLS):  
 1. Latin, 2. Catholic, 3. Country Day, 4. Providence Day, 5. Northside, 6. Christian.

### Spring is in the air...

Two former Southwestern 4A baseball players have a chance to go pro.

Christopher Hill, formerly of Harding, spent his college career at Walter's State in Morristown, Tennessee and Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee.

The highly touted pitcher signed in May of 1984 and spent last summer playing at Bradenton, Florida and Pocatello, Idaho.

His travels took him to Medicine Hat, Calgary, Edmonton, Great Falls, Butte, Boise, and Billings.

He was 3-1 at Pocatello and 4-1 at Bradenton. At Cumberland, he was 8-1.

A minor eye injury may keep him out of professional baseball.

"I have until May to make a decision," he said, "but I am enjoying my job as a teacher's aide in special education at Tryon Hills Elementary School. I would like to go into this as a career."

Reggie Barringer is a former North Mecklenburg Viking.

He is a shortstop and second baseman who played at Watertown in the New York Pennsylvania League.

He batted .277 and hit 12 RBI's. At Cumberland, he hit .346 and was all-state leading the team in RBI's with 43 and stolen bases with 18.

Hill advises potential players to go to college unless they are a number one draft choice because education is "important" and the minor leagues are "rough".

Hill is dismayed that not many Blacks are developed in college baseball saying it is time for the Black colleges to get some baseball teams.

A big force in the Olympic 81-79 Double Overtime Upset of West Charlotte last week was the play of center Elliott Dunlap.

Elliott had 16 points and eight rebounds to aid Larmar Simond on the boards. Simond had 8.

It was Olympic's third straight overtime win, two on the road. The Trojans may be peaking.

Reggie Clark of Providence Day hit an eight foot jumper with two seconds on the clock to give Providence Day a 60-58 win over Charlotte Latin in the CISAA semifinals.

Robert Leak of Elon, Odell Walker of High Point and Derrick Knox of Wingate were all named to the Carolinas Conference All-Conference team.

Leak was named as the Carolinas conference Player of the Year.

Leak played at North, Walker at Garinger and Knox at Garinger.

## All-County Standout Announced

# Antonio Howard Named Post's "Player Of The Year"

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

A look at this year's Charlotte Post Basketball Player of the Year reveals the following; a 19.6 points per game average, a 5.0 rebounds per game average, a 46.7 percent field goal percentage, an 80.3 percent free throw shooting average and a 3.7 Class Rank Index Average.

Antonio "Mr. Basketball" Howard, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Howard of 4024 Whitehurst Road, ranks number 31 in his class of 324 students and is a refreshing change in this era of "less than prepared athletes".

In the season-ending game at West Charlotte, he showed why he has been picked as the Charlotte Post Basketball Player of the Year for 1985.

With the Trojans down by 17 points late in the second quarter, "Mr. Basketball" went to work.

He scored six unanswered points to put his team back in the game and led them to a furious third quarter rally that sent the game into double overtime with the ball in his hands in the final two seconds.

The shot from the corner? SWISH! And the Trojans had upset the Lions for the second time this year; this time at the Lion's den.

Howard has the ability to dribble the ball, make fascinating dunks, shoot from the outside and most importantly he is a very coachable player according to his head coach Dave Johnson.

"I feel that I am just as good as the next person," Howard, 6-3 and 170 pounds, said. "I always give 100 percent in everything I do. Whether it is work or play, I always try to be myself and that is the best I can be. I always strive for the best."

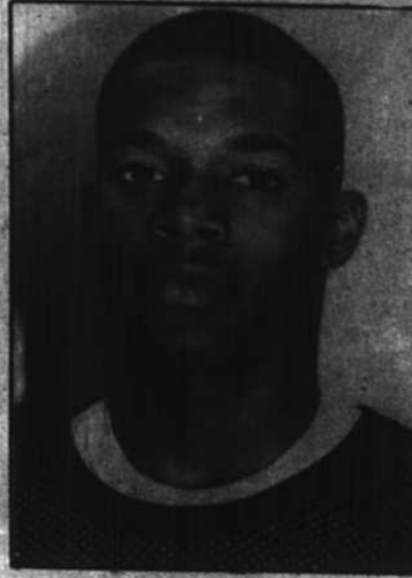
Antonio was the MVP at Olympic on a junior varsity that was tied for the conference championship.

Named to Who's Who, he is a perfect example of a student athlete. He also is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi's Beautillion Militaire.

A senior, Howard should be highly recruited before the Spring is over.

"Hot-Shot" Byron Dinkins of East Mecklenburg is the second member of the first team. He averaged 24.6 points per game to lead the conference, six assists per game and shot 57 percent from the field and 74 percent from the league. UNCC is hot on his tracks.

Dinkins is 5-11 and 160.



Roman Phifer  
..Finesses his way



Antonio Howard  
.. "Mr. Basketball"



Letura Stitt  
.. "Mr. Shotblocker"

"Roamin'" Roman Phifer is built perfectly for basketball. Like an army tank, he finesse his way through enemy zones to hit the basket. He led South out of a tie with East and into the playoffs. Phifer averaged 18.1 per game, 6 rebounds per game and shot 51 percent from the field and 70 per cent from the line.

Only a junior, he has another year to go. He is as good in football as he is in basketball. Some believe he is better. Which will he choose? It must be nice. He is 6-4 and 190.

North Mecklenburg's Letura "Shotblocker" Stitt blocked 37 shots this season and had 15 dunks.

Stitt is a 6-5 185 pound junior. He averaged 16.1 points per game and 8.7 rebounds per game this season.

At the inside position of center, Reid pulled down 18 rebounds earlier in the season when West Charlotte upset then unbeaten North Mecklenburg.

Reid is only a junior. The second team consists of Olympic senior Donald Simmons who averaged 16.6 points and 7 rebounds per game, Independence junior Julio Morrison who averaged 16.5 points and 10 rebounds per game, Myers Park senior Dee Pritchett who averaged 19.6 points and 3.2 rebounds per game, Harding senior Lonnie Tucker who averaged 14.0 points and 9.2 rebounds per game and Garinger senior James Elmore who averaged 16.7 points and 6 rebounds per game.

Paul Grier of Myers Park heads the third team with his 14.9 ppg and



Kevin Reid  
.. "Mr. Skywalker"

8.9 rpg. He is followed by Todd Holden of North, 16.1 and 2.1; Carol Raley of West Mecklenburg, 14.6, 9.3; Willie Walker, Garinger, 15.5, 4.0 and Tony Lindsey of South, 11.0, 9.0.

The fourth team consists of John White, West Mecklenburg; Pervis Thomas, Garinger; Terry Massey, Myers Park; J.D. Cauthen, Harding; Mike Cureton, West Charlotte and Dondi Edwards.

Honorable mentioned are: Milton Moore, West Mecklenburg; Damon Rawlinson, South, Tony Burris, Myers Park; Anthony Houston, Harding; Lance Jones, West Charlotte; A.J. Morgan, West



Letura Stitt  
..Second team selection

Charlotte; Maurice Caldwell, West Charlotte; Darryl Williams, North; Larmar Simond, Olympic; Ricky Huntley, East; Alex Houston, South; Raynard Stephens, Garinger; Reggie Clark, Providence Day; Ronald Hargett, Olympic; Everett Dunlap, Olympic.

Dave Johnson is in his first year of coaching varsity basketball in the Southwestern 4A and he'll be the first to tell you that he is not perfect.

When things seemed to be going bad for the Trojans at midseason, he had a long talk with his team.

The Trojans were 6-7 overall and fresh off losses to East and South.

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