

# Jacket Girls Sweep District Play, Enter State Tournament Tonight

**By DON STITH**  
"We're number one" was heard from the John Graham section of the bleachers as the final buzzer sounded and the Lady Jackets clinched the District III title over Fuquay-Varina, 51-40, in Raleigh's Millbrook High Wednesday night of last week. The Lady Jackets and Coach Ben Howard made history as it marked the first time Warrenton has had a girls team to advance to the state playoffs.

"We've come a long way and we still have a tough road to travel," was the comment given by John Graham girls coach Ben Howard after his team received their championship trophy for winning the district tournament. Coach Howard said that "now we're going to shoot for the state title at Union Pines." Win or lose, his team has gone further than any other team in the schools history. Saturday night their win over Zebulon broke a school record of 18-1, previously held by Coach Janice Allen's 1963-64 squad. The Lady Jackets have a 22-2 record with at least one more game to play.

Troubles mounted early for the Capitol Area 2 A champions as they found themselves down by two at the end of the first period and five at halftime. John Graham grabbed a ten point lead in the third frame when they outscored Fuquay 11-6.

Jill Rollins, Fuquay's leading scorer and rebounder throughout the season and tournament, was held to seven points by the Lady Jackets 21-2 defense and set offense. In tournament games against Norlina and Lillington Rollins scored in double figures. Linda Stuart paced Fuquay with 19 points.

Edith Rodwell and Lorraine Williams paced the Lady Jackets from both ends of the court. Williams hit for 29 points, a tournament high for her and Rodwell added another 17. The two girls teamed for 21 rebounds.

In the final period, Fuquay tried to run a full court press on

the Lady Jackets only to have the press broken by sharp ballhandling by Michele Carroll, who got the ball cross the half court mark almost every time. On two trips Carroll was fouled and went to the charity stripe.

With six seconds left on the game clock signs of relaxation could be seen on the faces of John Graham fans especially Coach Howard. Only a few nights before hand, Fuquay staged a comeback victory over Lillington in the last minutes of play.

Tonight (Thursday) the Lady Jackets travel to Union Pines for a quarter-final round of state playoffs against Chatham Central, starting at 8:30 p. m. Chatham enters the playoffs undefeated. The winner of that game will play the winner of Wednesday night's second game winner with the finals being held on Saturday night.

## Smoking Heater

## Summons Firemen

A fire call from the mobile home of Cleveland Davis on the Harris Town road was answered by Warrenton rural firemen around 7:30 p. m. Tuesday. Two trucks and a crash wagon were dispatched to the scene, where smoke from a water heater was responsible for the alarm. The fire was out when the firemen reached the home. No damage was reported.

The Warrenton rural firemen answered calls to three other fires during the week as follows:

Three firemen and one truck responded to a truck fire on the Snow Hill Road on Wednesday morning of last week. Estimated damage to the truck, the property of Maroeca Stetson of Route 1, Warrenton, was \$1,000.

Eight men and four trucks responded to a call to a woods fire on the north side of Lake Gaston near Eaton's Ferry bridge at 11:15 a. m. last Thursday. Owner of the property was reported as not known. Ten acres were burned over.

Nine firemen, two trucks and a crash wagon responded to a fire called at the home of Mrs. Malcolm Stewart of the Warren Plains community on Monday at 8:45 a. m. The fire from an overheated oil stove was out on arrival of the firemen.

**MOVE TO NEW HOME**  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hayes moved to their new home on the Country Club Road during the weekend.



District III lady champions, the John Graham High Lady Jackets and staff. [Staff Photo]

# Firemen To Explain New District

A new fire district has been formed in Warren County for the Norlina area. The district was formed in 1976 and will enable firemen to better serve the area. The Smith Creek Fire District will extend to a four-mile radius and will cover the Norlina, Ridgeway, Oine and Wise communities.

Firemen from the Norlina Fire Department will be going door-to-door next week from Monday to Wednesday to distribute literature to homes in the new Smith Creek Fire

District. This literature will contain a map of the new district as well as "What To Do In Case of Fire" instructions.

Assistant Chief Hector Aycock said that many times "we have received calls reporting fires with such statements as, 'My house is on fire' from excited victims of fire, and then they hang up the telephone."

He added, "We are hoping this instruction sheet will give the needed information to help us save someone's property or life."

Aycock said that when calling give your name, give location of fire, give type of fire (house, grass, woods, barn, etc.) and if possible, have someone meet the truck at the road.

During the door-to-door campaign, firemen will also be selling brooms. Proceeds from the broom sales will go to up-date the fire districts equipment and trucks.

The brooms are manufactured by Industries of the Blind of Greensboro.

## Yellowhammer State

Alabama became known as the Yellowhammer State when, during the Civil War, Alabama troops stuck yellowhammer feathers in their caps.

# Invitational Tourney Set

Norlina High School's Athletic Department will sponsor a men's invitational basketball tournament on March 21-26. Trophies will be presented to the first and second place winners. A \$35.00 entry fee will be charged for the double elimination tourney.

Anyone interested in playing should contact Carl Spraggins at 492-8681 or 586-4269 or Coach Tom Evans at 456-2162 or Norlina High School 456-2996.

A March 15 deadline is set for entries.

# New York Playgrounds Helped Prepare Norlina Star Cager

**By DON STITH**

At the start of the 1976-77 basketball season the Norlina Blue Waves found themselves young and inexperienced except for one player, James Green, a 6-1 smooth shooting, fancy dribbling, ballhandling ace who was starting his second year for Norlina.

Green's basketball career started in the Bronx where he says that midnight is not too late to see a group of athletes shooting baskets in the park. When his family moved from New York, James transferred to Norlina with hopes of gaining a starting position. While at New York's Dewitt Clinton High, Green was a starting forward for an all-boys school that has turned out some of the best in professional and college basketball. Steve Sheppard of Maryland; Butch Lee of Marquette; Nate Archibald and Artie Taylor, professional NBA players, are only a few of the players that started their careers at Dewitt. In a school with 7,500 boys, Green says that the competition is tough and the game is played with more style than he has seen since moving to Carolina.

Last year he was named to the All Metro (Raleigh) second team, with a 19-point average and 10 rebound per game average, to add to his 47 percent field goal average and 70 percent average at the charity stripe.

At the outset of the past season Coach Tom Evans was in need of a point guard. His selection was Green. Although he has always played at a forward position, Green accepted the challenge and got off to a

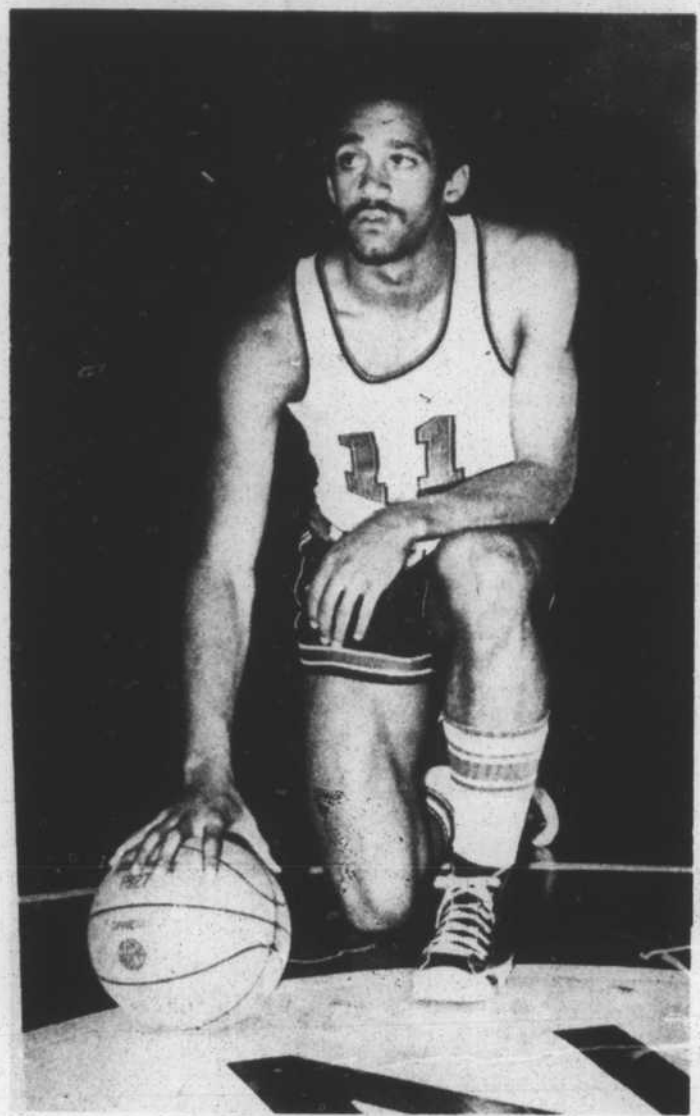
slow start. Adjusting to the new role before the last half of the season, he shot a fantastic 53 percent from the floor and averaged 21 points per game. Coach Evans said that not only was Green a good player, he was an outstanding captain.

Norlina finished the season 11-11 after facing tough competition under the direction of Coach Evans. After taking a beating from almost everyone at the start of the season Norlina finished in a three-way tie for second place in Tar River standings. It was Green who almost pulled out a victory in Norlina's 69-68 loss to Apex in the district tournament.

Louisburg's Steve Brown and Green shared the "Most Valuable Player" title this season. James was the only Norlinian to be named to the Tar River all-conference team.

One of his biggest dreams is to someday play for a college team and if he's good enough, he'd like to get a shot at the pros. "I've played basketball for most of my life. It's the only sport that I really enjoy," he said.

Coach Evans says that he has seen many outstanding basketball players and that if Green had played in Evans' home state of Ohio, he would've definitely made all-Ohio.



Norlina's James Green



Michele Carroll [11] pumps before she shoots over Fuquay's Jill Rollins in the closing minutes of John Graham's 51-40 win to clinch the district tournament title.

# End To Bickering Sought By Board

J. Roger Peeler, superintendent of Warren County Schools, appeared before the County Commissioners with a request for better cooperation between the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners. He said that one of the first actions of the new board, with three new members, was a discussion to put an end to bickering between the two boards.

Peeler said that recently he and his wife celebrated their 36th anniversary. As his wife was a Warren County girl, this meant that he had been coming to Warren County for more than 36 years.

He said that he soon began to notice the similarity between Warren County and his native county of Cleveland. They had about the same racial percentage and the same educational advantages. While Shelby, the county seat of Cleveland County, was larger than Warrenton, there was much similarity between the two towns. He said that both he and David Thompson, the great former State University basketball player, were both graduates of Cleveland County high schools, but not of the same school. He said that he was graduated from a small high school and David Thompson was graduated from a fine consolidated high school.

Peeler said that several years ago when "T" Taylor represented Warren County in the General Assembly, that the Representative from Cleveland County sat next to him in the

House. "T" said that he and the Cleveland House member both noticed the similarity between the two counties.

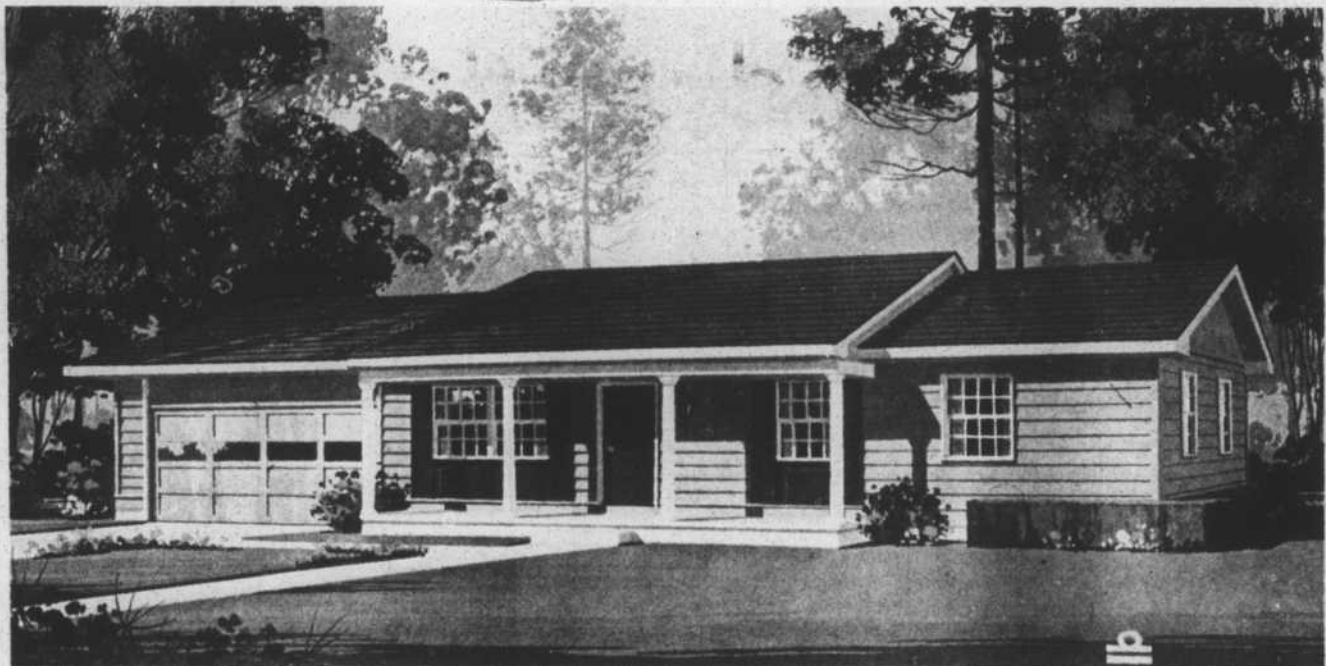
Peeler said that today Cleveland County has one of the finest school systems in the state while Warren is one of the few counties in the state without a consolidated high school.

The superintendent gave credit for Cleveland advancement to its investment in education and said that Warren must have a consolidated school if it is to make any real progress.

He recalled that both Warren County and the Board of Education lost out in their efforts to receive grants for a water line and a consolidated high school and blamed this upon the fact that they did not unite in asking for a single grant.

Again the Federal Government, he said, has appropriated funds for a work grant, this time for \$4 billion for public works and that it was his understanding that this time only those who were turned down in the former application for grants would be considered. The Board of Education, he said, would again apply for a grant for a high school. This time, he said he would like to see the commissioners endorse the board's application and build the water line with a bond issue.

The commissioners while thanking Mr. Peeler for his remarks, had no further comments.



# The Kevin

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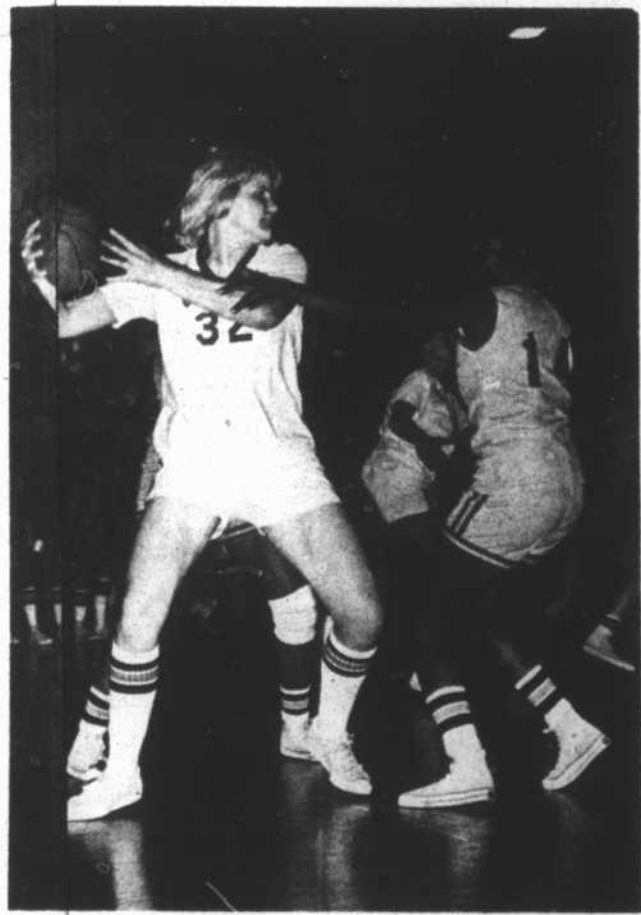
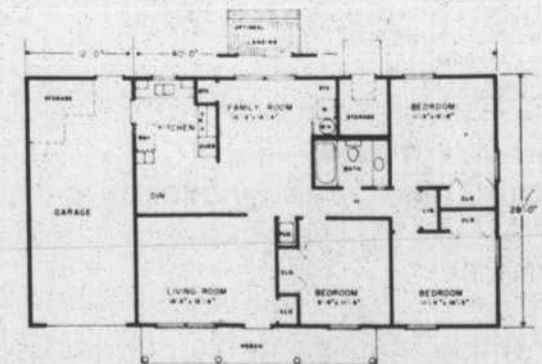
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Jill Rollins [32] grabs a rebound as Warrenton's Barbara Pulett [14] misses on an attempt.

# TRUCK FOR SALE

A 966 Chevy flat bed dumptruck will be sold by the Town of Warrenton. Sealed bids will be accepted at the Town Hall and will be opened at noon on Friday, March 18, 1977. The town reserves the right to refuse any bids which are too low.