

# There's Only One Thompson

As a new collegiate basketball season unfolds, many comparisons are being made about the top teams, players, and coaches in the game. North Carolina has one of the best freshmen in Michael Jordan, a 6-4 guard from Wilmington.

Jordan has already been compared to the immortal David Thompson, a comparison that doesn't seem fair to either player. While Jordan is talented, he in no way resembles Thompson — either physically or athletically. Jordan reminds me more of Walter Davis, a former Tar Heel great — but again, no David Thompson. Every time a great player comes into the ACC, he undoubtedly will be compared to the one and only (Thompson), but that's just it; there is only one David Thompson.

The other day I was trying to pick the "Best Five" college basketball players I had ever seen in person. Now I saw my first college game back in '56, so that takes in quite a few players. But I was able to narrow it down to a starting five.

The most valuable player I ever saw in college (either in person or on the tube,) was Thompson. Not only was the 6-4 forward fabulous in his skills, but "DT" was a bonafide "winner," and that lifts him above some other great players.

Of my "Best Five," three others were Phil Ford, the best point guard in history, a 6-2 version of Thompson; Jeff Mullins, Duke's 6-4 forward and the best shooter I ever saw; and Princeton's Bill Bradley, as smooth on the court as Heifetz was in Carnegie Hall.

While this foursome was magnificent, and Thompson was the best "all-around" player, the most talented collegian I ever saw was "Pistol" Pete Maravich. Maravich played high school ball at Raleigh Broughton when his dad, Press, coached State. Most people considered Pete a "hot dog" back then, but Maravich was a rare talent.

The Pistol went on to LSU where he averaged over 40 points a game for his career, breaking all the all-time NCAA scoring records. I saw Pete play three of those games for LSU and they were all unbelievable performances.

The first game I witnessed came when Maravich, then a junior, accompanied LSU to Athens, Ga. for an SEC game against Georgia. Pete scored 57 that day, but it was his final basket that had the crowd standing on their heads. With time running out, Maravich took a pass beyond the center court line. Pete dribbled all alone toward the basket for a gumme layup. But, curiously, Pete passed up the sure layup and instead, dribbled toward the corner of the court. And just as the buzzer was set to go off, the whiz kid turned and fired a HOOK SHOT toward the goal. The ball stripped the net and the crowd went bananas.

On the day that LSU was to play at Georgia during Pete's senior year, this writer got in line for a ticket at 1:30 in the afternoon. The game didn't start until 8:00, but I was already behind about a hundred other fans that couldn't wait for the "Pistol Pete Show" to begin.

After six and a half hours of waiting, the "show" finally started. The crowd was buzzing with anticipation, especially after watching Pete bounce balls between his legs through the goal in the warm-up. And the 6-5 guard was doing that trick with his back toward the basket — and making every shot — er, bounce.

Well, Maravich disappointed the throng — by not shooting. Ten minutes had elapsed in the game and Pete hadn't taken one shot! Averaging 44 a game — and he refused to shoot.

But finally, with under 10 minutes to play in the first half — Maravich took a "routine" 30-footer. Swish. And before the game was over, the great Maravich had scored 41 points.

Georgia had a real good guard, Lanny Taylor. (I once saw Taylor score 30 against Kentucky.) Late in the game, and with Taylor pressing Maravich in the backcourt — the

## LEW HEGE



great one put a couple of head fakes on Lanny. Taylor fell flat down on the court, Pete dribbled downcourt and again, swished another 30-footer.

Taylor was embarrassed and was removed from the game in favor of Greg Main, a good defensive player. As Maravich took the ball in bounds, Main clapped his hands and said, "Come on Maravich, come on Maravich." Well, Pete put a couple of terrific head fakes on Main, who was flat-footed. And quick as a wink, Maravich dribbled the ball through Main's legs, went around the defender, picked up the dribble, scooted downcourt and canned a 35-footer!

The crowd instantly responded, "Come on Main, come on Main."

While these performances were marvelous, Maravich's best college game came one afternoon at Alabama. The Tigers only suited up nine players for the contest that day, and two of them were ejected from the game for fighting near the end of the first half. As the game wore on, three more LSU players fouled out of the contest.

But Maravich was smoking, and, with just four players on the court, LSU sent the game into overtime. LSU was playing a 2-2 zone with Pete and little Jimmy Hess (5-foot-9 and NO talent,) at the guards. It was an amazing show by Maravich that day.

LSU finally lost the game, something like 106-104; but the amazing Maravich kept the Tigers in the game — scoring 67 points!

Now Pete was a great professional player, first with Atlanta, then with New Orleans, and finally with the Celtics for a short while. It was in Atlanta that Maravich possibly played his best game as a pro. Having been traded from Atlanta to New Orleans, the "Pistol" returned with the Jazz to face the Hawks.

A capacity crowd was ready to see what the great Maravich would do against his former teammates. New Orleans (now Utah) didn't have much of a team and Pete was their only real star. And that night in the Omni, he was truly the best player I ever saw.

Pete scored 51 points, making almost all of his shots from the 25-30 foot range. And I promise, not one of his shots ever hit the rim of the goal. Nothing but net. The Jazz won and the Hawk fans wished Pete had never left Atlanta.

While Maravich was an amazing shooter, his best skills were his dribbling and passing abilities. He was easily the best ball-handler I ever saw (even better than Lou Pucillo,) and there has never been a better passer than the Pistol. Maravich's bad rap was that he wasn't much of a defensive player — and in college he wasn't.

But when Pete played in the NBA, he ALWAYS guarded the other team's best guard — people like Jerry West and Walt Frazier. Maravich was a black belt in karate, was quick as a cat and definitely no slouch on defense.

Unfortunately, Pete had to play for losing teams throughout most of his career and those teams relied heavily on his scoring ability. Maravich always scored in the 25-32 point range — he had to. But had the Pistol been a point guard on a team like the Celtics or Lakers, he would have averaged around 18-22 a game and been known as the best player of all time. Oscar Robertson and West were great, but they weren't even in the same league with Maravich. I doubt there will ever be another "Pistol" Pete Maravich, the magician of the hardwood!



Tommy Callahan of Fairlane Drive, Warrenton displays a six-point buck which he bagged near Arcola on Saturday. Callahan, 13, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Callahan. He killed the 170-pound buck with a shotgun during his first year of deer hunting. (Staff Photo)

## Joe Greene Is Selected On Class AAA All-East Team

RALEIGH — Warren County's superb tailback, Joe Greene, was selected to the Class AAA All-East football team, announced Sunday. The squad is annually chosen by The News and Observer.

Greene, a 6-1, 194-pound senior, rushed for 1,708 yards and scored 20 touchdowns in leading Warren County to the Roanoke River 3-A Conference championship this season. Greene averaged 8.1 yards per carry and totaled more than 2,200 yards in total offense for the season.

The Norlina native scored 120 points, averaged more than 50 yards booting kickoffs for the Eagles, and was the safety on the Eagles' heralded "Brick Wall" defense, which allowed just 71 points in 12 games.

For his two-year career, the speedster rushed for more than 2,500 yards and

had over 3,400 yards in total offense. Greene has 4.5 speed in the 40 and is being recruited by North Carolina. His best game of the season was a 285-yard performance against Gates County, (on just 12 carries.) Greene also ran for 221 yards in the conference title game, a 36-0 shellacking of Northwest Halifax.

Henderson Vance coach Tony Oakes called the star back, "a big leaguer, a major college back." Eagles' coach Billy Frazier called Greene, "one of the best backs I've seen in my 19 years of coaching."

A second Eagle, quarterback-linebacker Mark Ellington, received honorable mention status. The 6-0, 193 pounder, ran for over 400 yards this season, passed for 400 more, and scored 84 points, second in the conference to Greene. Ellington, making the all-conference team for the

third straight season, guided Warren County to a 7-1 record as a starter this season. Ellington also caught seven passes and was a part-time punter for the Eagles.

Ellington was also a mainstay of the Brick Wall defense from his linebacker spot, blocking two punts for touchdowns. A native of Norlina, the senior quarterback may attend North Carolina, possibly on a Morehead Scholarship.

Four other members of the team were named to the all-conference team last week. They are John Falcon, a 6-1, 199-pound tackle; Eric Twitty, a 5-10, 160-pound wide receiver; Alvin Crossin, a 5-9, 180-pound tackle-kicker; and James Fitts, a 6-0, 175-pound guard. All were seniors (athletically,) except Fitts, who is a sophomore. Warren County finished 7-0 in league play, 9-3 overall, and was ranked seventh in the state this year.

## Henderson's 25 Lead Eagle Win

SKIPWITH, VA. — David Henderson poured in 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead Warren County to a 64-55 victory over Bluestone last Wednesday night in a non-conference clash.

Henderson, averaging 21 points per game after three games, ignited an Eagle rally in the third quarter that salted the game for the visitors.

Warren County managed a one-point lead after the first quarter, but the Barons came back to knot the score at 29 at intermission. But the Eagles outscored Bluestone 17-7 in the critical third period and held on in the final stanza for the win.

Backing up Henderson's effort were 6-7 center Jerome Cooper with 12 points and 11 rebounds, 6-1 senior Joe Greene with 10 points, Kenneth Crews with nine, John Falcon with four, and Mark Ellington and Robert Burchette with two each. The game was the first for Greene and Ellington, both all-conference performers last season. Both players had been involved in the Eagles' state football playoff games and joined the

team late. Burchette, a 6-3 senior who is finally getting some playing time, hauled in nine rebounds for the Eagles, while Crews had six assists. Henderson added four assists.

Topping the Barons' scoring were Jordan with 15, Evans with 13, and Jones with a dozen points. In the jayvee preliminary game, the Baby Eagles saw a two-point lead vanish in the fourth quarter as the Barons took a 52-40 win. The Eagle jayvees are now 0-3.

The game was dead even as both squads scored 10 points in the opening period and nine in the second stanza. Warren County forged ahead 33-31 after three quarters, but fell apart in the final quarter as the Barons outscored the visitors by a whipping, 21-7 margin.

Monte Stevenson topped the Baby Eagles with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Joe Gibbs added 10 points. Ruben Clayton and Melvin Palmer helped out on the boards with six rebounds apiece.

Scoring by quarters:  
Varsity Game  
Warren Co. 12 17 18 — 64  
Bluestone 11 18 7 19 — 55

## John Graham, Norlina Split

John Graham and Norlina split games in the season opener for both middle schools Monday afternoon.

The John Graham boys slipped by Norlina 21-17, while the Norlina girls took the opener with a 21-15 win.

In the first game, Shelia Justice and Lola Rowlett teamed for 15 points to lead Coach Bill Shulenberger's Blue Waves. Norlina jumped to an 11-2 halftime lead, then withstood a fourth-

## Eagles Club Votes To Give Funds

The Eagles Club, Warren County High's booster club, voted to donate \$2,000 toward the purchase price of the school's new basketball uniforms in action taken at the club's regular monthly meeting Monday night at the school.

The club also voted to donate \$275 toward the purchase of letter jackets for members of the Eagles' championship football team, with the other \$600 being raised from outside sources.

President Donald Wimbrow called the meeting to order and treasurer Herbert Moseley reported \$2,787.89 in the club's account. Wimbrow thanked the Norlina Ruritan Club for a donation of \$50 made by the Ruritans to the athletic fund.

Principal Ben Terrell reported that Supt. Mike Williams had received bids on the new bleachers for the school's gymnasium and that school officials were only awaiting word from the county commissioners before taking action toward the purchase of the bleachers.

The club discussed the purchase of basketballs for the varsity teams, and following the action on the uniforms, Terrell said the school could go ahead and obtain some new balls right away. The teams had been borrowing the middle school's basketballs.

Secretary Lew Hege said the school should proceed with receiving bids and information on baseball uniforms. It was decided to have athletic director Monte Allen gather the information and bids and present that information to the club at the Jan. 4 meeting.

The club decided to have a letter of recognition drawn up and sent to the football team, commending them on their outstanding season.

The next meeting will be held Monday night, Jan. 4, 1982, at 7:30 p. m.

quarter rally by the Yellow Jackets to cop the victory. Justice finished with nine points, while Rowlett had six points and eight rebounds. Mayfield, Bullock and Gill added to each for the Waves.

In the second game, the JG boys held off the Blue Waves in a game that was nip and tuck all the way. The Jackets outscored Norlina 5-2 in the final quarter to preserve the triumph.

Stanley Jefferson topped the Waves with six points, Kim Ward had five, Mark Taylor four, and Alan Ellington chipped in two points. Ward was the top rebounder with eight. Individual scorers for JG were not available at press time.

Norlina next games are set for Thursday against Franklinton at Norlina.

Score by quarters:  
Girls Game  
J. Graham 0 23 10 — 15  
Norlina 6 5 4 6 — 21  
Boys Game  
J. Graham 5 3 8 5 — 21  
Norlina 5 0 10 2 — 17  
Officials: A Hundley, R. Shearin.

## Eagles Get Act Together For Win

Warren County's Eagles, lackluster for three quarters, outscored Franklinton 29-11 in the final period and went on to record a 78-57 victory last Friday night at the John Graham

Gym. Franklinton, not expected to give the Eagles a close game, led 12-10 after the first quarter. Warren County rebounded to take a 29-28 lead over the Red

Rams at halftime. The Eagles increased the lead to 49-44 as the third quarter ended.

However, the Eagles came alive in the final quarter as senior David Henderson, quiet all night, hit six straight shots to put the game on ice. The 6-5 All-State guard had suffered through three quarters with but six points and was not an integral part of the WC offense. It was his explosiveness in the final period that rescued Warren County from a potentially embarrassing defeat. Franklinton finished last in the Tar River Conference a year ago, lost their best player (Maurice Kearney) and should have been a patsy for the Eagles.

But the Rams easily broke the Eagle press and stayed in the contest for three quarters.

Joe Greene led Warren County with 20 points and kept the Birds ahead in the third period. Henderson's 18 points equalled his season's low in 1980-81, but 12 of those came in the fourth period. Kenneth Crews, in his first season on the varsity, had 18 points; while Jerome Cooper added 11 points, most coming in the first half when Cooper kept the Eagles in the game.

Leading the Red Rams' attack were Crudup and Allen with 18 points apiece. This was Warren County's second triumph over Franklinton in 10 days.

"We played pretty good in the second half," noted head coach James Howell, adding, "we had real good consistency and that can be attributed to our hustle."

Our defense was very excellent also."

Topping the Eagles in the rebounding department were Henderson and Cooper with 11 each.

Two starters on the 20-7 Norlina team a year ago, point guard Mark Ellington and power forward John Falcon, were used very little in the game. Falcon, an all-tournament selection last year, saw only spot duty; while Ellington, all-conference last year, played just over two minutes in the game. Both players, expected by many to be starters, have been used minimally in the two games they have suited up for so far. A third letterman, 6-1 senior guard Randy Garrett, was not used in either the Bluestone or Franklinton games, and has quit the team. Garrett had been expected to see considerable action at both guard spots, but was not inserted in either game and left the Eagle bench while the game with Franklinton was still in progress.

The Eagles, now 3-0, with a win at Bluestone, Va. last Wednesday night were slated to host the Barons Tuesday night. Howell's team will face its toughest challenge Friday night when they travel to Henderson Vance for a non-conference tilt.

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## Warriors Capture First Boys Win

Dr. vis Capps poured in 25 points and led a fourth-quarter explosion as Warren Academy's boys took a 55-49 win over visiting Franklin Christian last Friday night. The win was the Warriors' first of the season.

In the opener, the unbeaten Warren Academy girls held Franklin Christian scoreless in the opening quarter and went on to trounce the visitors, 47-19.

The Warrior boys, losers of their first four games this year, trailed Franklin Christian 32-24 after three periods. However, the home team outscored their opponents by a 31-17 margin in the final eight minutes of play to take the victory.

Warren Academy won the game at the free throw line, canning 17 of 25 in the game, with 15 of those coming in that final stanza.

Supporting the career-high night by Capps were Keith Carroll and Darin Smith with 10 points apiece, Dee Perry with eight, and Darryl Kilian got the other two. The visitors were led by Kenny Ferguson with 18 and Thomas Edwards with 15 points.

In the first game, the Warrior girls outscored Franklin Christian 11-0 in the opening quarter and sailed to an easy victory. Warren Academy led 21-2 at the half, and 35-7 after three periods of play.

Pacing the Lady Warriors was Caroline Shearin with 15 points, while Wanda Carroll chipped in with 12 points and a game-high 13 rebounds. Other scorers for the winners were Paula Hayes with nine, Martha Newman with eight and Joanne Robertson and LuAnne Qualls with two each.

Shelley Glenn led Franklin Christian with eight points.

Now 2-0, the Warrior girls are slated to play St. Mary's in Raleigh Wednesday (at 6:00) Warren Academy will host Halifax Academy in the first conference encounter Friday night.

Four games are on tap, with two jayvee and two varsity games set. The first game taps off at 5:00.

Score by quarters:  
GIRLS GAME  
FCA 0 2 5 12 — 19  
WA 11 10 14 12 — 47  
BOYS GAME  
FCA 9 16 7 17 — 49  
WA 10 8 6 31 — 55

IT'S BEEN FRUSTRATING FOR WALTER PAYTON THIS SEASON. THE HIGH-PAID STAR RUNNING BACK OF THE CHICAGO BEARS HAS BEEN STYMIED MANY TIMES AND HIS BLOCKERS HAVE BEEN OBVIOUSLY NEGLIGENT. ALSO, AN INJURY HE SUFFERED AT HOME, CAUSED PAYTON MANY A BAD SUNDAY AFTERNOON. WALTER HAS TIPS AMONG N.F.L. RUSHERS LAST YEAR. HE RAMPED FOR 1,460 YARDS IN 317 CARRIES — 6 TOUCHDOWNS!

"THE BEARS' OFFENSE HAS BEEN CALLED ONE-DIMENSIONAL, WITH PAYTON BEING THE ONLY BIG THREAT. SO OPPOSING TEAMS ZERO-IN ON HIM. WALTER WANTS TO PLAY 3 OR 4 MORE YEARS, THEN QUIT."

SPORTS \* SPECIAL