

Sports

Coaches Honor Team, Other Buck Athletes

The Hoke High Coaching Staff has named one team and three individuals as Athletes of the Week for the week of February 6-10.

The team was the ninth grade girl's basketball team which received the nod as the Non-Varsity Female Athletes of the Week.

The team won the conference championship on Wednesday afternoon by defeating Anson County by a score of 60-49. This win also completed a perfect season for the 9th grade team who went 15-0 for the year.

The Non-Varsity Male Athlete

of the Week is Paul Purcell. Paul, a 16-year-old, 6'1" junior is a member of the boy's junior varsity basketball team.

Paul was nominated for his play in the 47-38 win over Scotland County and the 57-46 win over Reid Ross last week.

In the Scotland game, Paul hit three of six field goals and five of ten free throws for total of 11 points. He also had six rebounds. In the Reid Ross game Paul had four of five from the floor for eight points to go with six rebounds.

"Paul is a student first and a basketball player second. He excels in both very well," said Coach George Drawhorne. "With his leadership ability, he has helped keep things under control while he was on the floor. We are looking forward to his ability as a leader to help us next year."

Paul, an excellent student, plans to go to college to major in either computer science or engineering.

The Varsity Female Athlete of the Week honors go to Toni Rheames. Toni, a 17-year-old sophomore, is a forward for the

Lady Bucks Varsity basketball team. Toni was nominated for her play in the 66-37 win over Scotland County and the 60-39 loss to Reid Ross last week.

In the Scotland game, Toni scored eight points and pulled down 12 rebounds. In the Reid Ross game, Toni scored seven points and hit the boards for 11 rebounds.

This is Toni's fourth time this year that she has been honored as Athlete of the Week. This sets a record for any Lady Buck Athlete. The Varsity Male Athlete of the

Week honors went to Barriet Easterling.

Barriet, a 17-year-old senior, plays forward on the boys' varsity basketball team.

Barriet was nominated for his play in the games against Scotland, a 61-51 loss, and against Reid Ross, a 59-58 win.

In the Scotland game, Barriet scored 12 points and had 10 rebounds. In the Reid Ross game, Barriet scored 20 points and pulled down 12 rebounds.

"Barriet is the captain of our team and an excellent leader," said

Coach Greg Killingsworth. "Barriet is a fine young man. He is going to ECU this fall on a football grant, but he has had several colleges interested in him for his basketball ability. The entire team is proud of Barriet."

Barriet, an excellent athlete, has announced that he has signed a grant-in-aid to play football with East Carolina University this fall. Barriet, recruited by several major colleges and universities, announced his choice based on both the schools academic and athletic programs.

Sharper Play Aids Buck Win

A "very good press" and "good foul shooting" during the last quarters of Hoke's Friday night basketball game against Reid Ross helped edged the Bucks away from their opponents, Head Coach Greg Killingsworth said.

"Both our press and good foul shooting were instrumental in the third quarter of the ballgame," Killingsworth said.

"If we had not hit those key shots from the foul line in the last few seconds, it could have been a different ballgame," he added.

The Bucks took the game 58-57 giving them a 3-7 conference record and an 8-10 season record, according to Coach Killingsworth.

"It was an overall good win for us but we did have our problems," the coach added.

"We came out real slow. Mentally we were just not prepared," Killingsworth said.

"Reid Ross was ready. They came out and went up by 12 points," he added.

At the half, the varsity Bucks were trailing 33-25.

"We came back in the fourth quarter and cut their lead to 42-40," Killingsworth said.

Key free throws by James Graham and Harry Southerland in the last "few seconds" of the ballgame gave the Bucks the needed drive to help them take a conference victory.

"It was a total team effort. We had players who have seen very little action this year make key plays for us," Killingsworth added.

"Doug Winter came off the bench and made a key rebound for us," he added.

Buck player Barriet Easterling was high scorer with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Tony McCrae lead with 12 rebounds and scored seven points.

Hoke player Ronnie Melvin scored 13 points while Marco Pickett added 12.



Hoke football player accepts scholarship

Hoke High Buck defensive safety Barriet Easterling (center) signed last Wednesday with East Carolina University in Greenville. Easterling chose East Carolina over offers from both University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University. "There is no doubt in my mind that he is one of the premiere defensive backs in the state,"

Head Football Coach Tom Jones said. "To my knowledge, he was the only defensive back asked to sign with any school," he added. Easterling, who is a varsity football, baseball and basketball player is a member of the Hoke High Antler club. Pictured with Easterling in addition to Jones are his mother and father.

JV Team Wins, Record Is 12-3

The Hoke County Junior Varsity Bucks pulled down another win last Tuesday night against Scotland County.

The win pushes the J.V. Bucks to 12-3 for the season.

"Good bench motivation" helped give the Bucks the winning edge in the second half, according to Head Coach George Drawhorne.

"As a team, we were outstanding," Drawhorne said.

J.V. player Bruce Moore was high scorer for the night with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Paul Purcell added 11 points and brought down eight rebounds while Michael McRae scored five points and pulled away two rebounds.

Friday night's game against Reid Ross also proved productive for the J.V. Bucks as they rallied past their opponents 57-46.

A solid "trapping defense" and "press" helped the Bucks to hit "key, quick baskets" during the game, according to Drawhorne.

Marvin Maynor was high scorer for the Buck team with 13 points and nine rebounds.

Lady Bucks Break Even During Week's Cage Action

The Hoke County girls' varsity basketball team broke even last week, winning one game and losing another, to bring their record to 8-2 in the conference and 13-5 for the season.

In Tuesday's action against

Scotland High, the lady Bucks showed "good offensive play" that helped them topple their opponents 66-37.

Hoke player Sheila Southerland was high scorer in the game with 16 points. Sharon McNeill finished

the night with 15, Del Pridgen scored 13 and Brenda McCain added 12.

Although the team had a good offensive game Tuesday night, Head Coach Audrey Long said they "played poor defensively."

"We played much better offensively than we have in the past," Long said.

"Overall, it was a good game for everyone," she added.

In Friday's away game against Reid Ross, the lady Bucks "never

got on track," losing to their opponents 39-60.

Long noted that Reid Ross's "outstanding defense" help edge the lady Bucks out of Friday night's game.

"We did not play up to our potential," Long said.

Hoke player Del Pridgen finished the night with 18 points while Toni Rheames added seven points and 11 rebounds for the Buck team.

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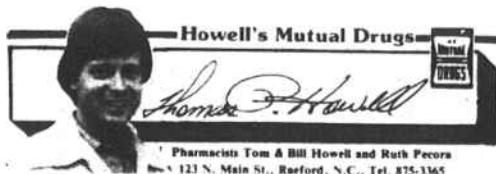
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