

# Sports

## 'Early planning' pays off for Bucks in tournament play

A sudden "burst" of emotion and determination drove the Hoke High varsity basketball team through three games and a triple overtime to capture the 4-A conference tournament championship last week, Head Coach Greg Killingsworth said.

"We had a slump, but we were ready when the tournament rolled around," Killingsworth said.

"We were knocked out early in regular conference play so we spent our time getting ready for the tournament," he added.

"Everyone else was worrying about the regular season. We got a head start on worrying about our championship play," Killingsworth said.

The Bucks, who ranked fourth in regular conference play, proved their "early planning" paid off as they marched through tournament play to become victors.

In first round action last week, the Bucks barely slipped past Lumberton 73-70.

The varsity squad lost to Lumberton in a final regular season game two weeks ago.

"We were up for the game. We had some good practices, and we were ready for almost anything," Killingsworth said.

Buck player Barriet Easterling was high scorer during the Lumberton game with 21 points.

Marco Pickett scored 17 and James Graham added 11 to round out players in double figures.

Tony McRae scored eight points, Ronnie Melvin added six, and junior varsity transfer Bruce Moore scored four.

Teammate Harry Southerland scored four points while Kevin Galbreth added two to round off scoring for the Bucks.

Second round action provided the Bucks with a triple over-time and a 65-61 victory over Fayetteville's Reid Ross.

"It was a close game for a while, but we were confident the entire time," Killingsworth said.

The big difference in the Reid

Ross game and the other two was the play of our two guards, Harry Southerland and James Graham," Killingsworth said.

"We had problems all year filling our guard positions. They pulled it together when it really counted," he added.

The two guards along with the entire Buck squad helped ice the tournament cake with a 74-66 upset victory over Pinecrest.

In regular season play, Pinecrest had defeated the Hoke team twice.

"Once again, our free throws helped us win the game," Killingsworth said.

"We made 28 of 34 from the line. That is a good average," he

added.

"My boys played a great ballgame. I was really proud of them," the head coach said.

Tony McRae was high scorer in the championship game with 22 points followed by Barriet Easterling with 14, James Graham with 11, Harry Southerland with 10, Ronnie Melvin with eight, Marco Pickett with seven and Bruce Moore with two.

The Bucks must now face Fayetteville's Seventy-First High School in first round state tournament action.

"That is going to be a tough ballgame," Killingsworth said.

"We have beat them twice. They

are going to be looking for some revenge," he added.

"I think we can win but we have got to play our best ball and be ready," Killingsworth said.

"I feel like we can go all the way now," he added.

"We have finally come together as a team. We have always had the talent...it was just a matter of getting it all together," Killingsworth said.

"We are really where we want to be right now. We are getting better and better with each game," he added.

"We are taking it one game at a time. We want to take it right to Greensboro," Killingsworth said.

## Girls' season ends with narrow defeat

The Hoke High girls' varsity basketball team ended their season last week in the last round of tournament action after being defeated by Fayetteville's Reid Ross High School 55-51.

"The girls played with all their heart. They went after it," Head Coach Audrey Long said.

"They knew what was at stake. We just missed out," she added.

"I am still proud of my girls. They played a good ballgame," Long said.

The lady Bucks lost the Reid Ross game at the free throw line, according to the head coach.

"We had them beat from the floor, but our free throwing really lost the game for us," Long said.

Hoke player Del Pridgen was high scorer with 25 points with Sharon McNeill adding 11.

"All the girls worked hard all season. I couldn't be prouder of them," Long said.

Although the Hoke girls lost in final round action, they defeated

both E.E. Smith and Lumberton in semi-final play.

The lady Bucks soared past E.E. Smith during last Monday nights game, defeating their opponents 57-35.

Del Pridgen was high scorer with 17 points. Brenda Melvin added 16 to round out scorers in double figures.

In Wednesday's game against Lumberton, the lady Bucks pulled away victors winning the game 59-52.

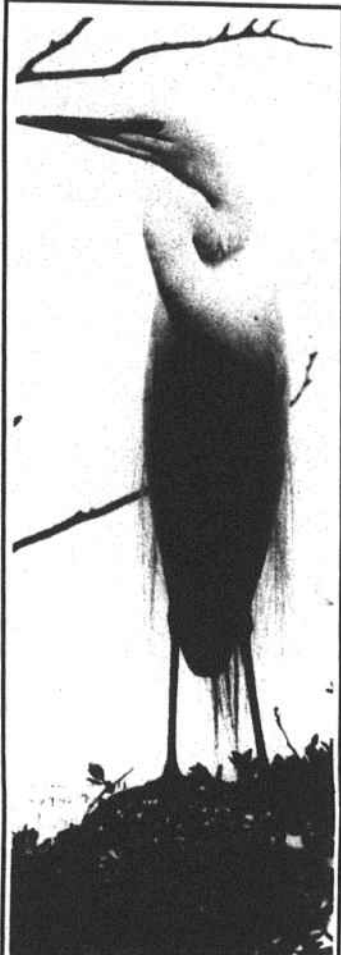
"We had an excellent first half," Long said.

In second half action, the lady Bucks "had to watch" their 18-point lead dwindle down to a two-point lead.

"We had to struggle to win," Long said.

Del Pridgen again was high scorer for the Bucks with 21 points.

Sheila Southerland scored 14 points and Brenda Melvin added 10.



**Standing tall**  
This Common Egret shows up occasionally in Hoke County and can be seen around local ponds. The Egret is one of 415 species of birds that visit North Carolina each year. Watchers here can see about 80% of the birds that populate the eastern United States.

## Two cagers honored by coaches

Two varsity basketball players have been honored as Buck Athletes of the Week for the week of February 27 - March 2, by the Hoke High coaching staff.

The Varsity Male Athlete of the Week honors went to Harry Southerland. Harry a 17-year-old junior plays guard on the Bucks Boys' Varsity basketball team.

Harry was nominated for his outstanding play in the three victories last week against Lumberton, Reid Ross and Pinecrest which culminated in the 74-66 win over Pinecrest on Friday night to clinch the Southeastern 4A Tournament Championship and move the Bucks into the state playoffs.

In nominating Harry, Coach Greg Killingsworth commented, "Harry is a fine young man with a great attitude. Harry was the spark plug we needed for the conference tournament. Harry plays with a lot of emotion and it rubbed off on the other players. This helped us gain and keep the advantage to beat Pinecrest."

Harry is an excellent example of what coaches refer to as a "Student/Athlete." Harry has played three sports- football, basketball, and baseball each year since he was in the 7th grade. He

was rewarded for his excellent sports ability by winning the Coaches Award in the 8th grade. Harry's academic record is equally impressive. He presently is on the high school's academic "Honor Roll"

Harry is extremely active in extracurricular activities in addition to sports. He is presently a member of the Student Government Association and serves as President of the junior class. He is a member of the Spanish Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and serves as a student tutor with HOSTS.

For his excellence in academics and sports and his involvement in extracurricular activities, Harry was recently named to receive the Achievement Award from the National Achievement Academy of Secondary Schools of Lexington, Kentucky.

Harry plans to attend NCSU upon his graduation from Hoke High.

Harry attends Wall's Chapel Church and resides with his mother Elvenia Southerland at Route 1, Raeford.

The Varsity Female Athlete of the Week honors went to Delanita Pridgen. Dela, a 5'5", junior plays

guard on the girls' varsity basketball team.

Dela was nominated for her play in last week's three Conference Tournament Championship games against E.E. Smith, Lumberton and Reid Ross.

The Lady Bucks captured victories over E.E. Smith and Lumberton to advance into the finals on Friday night. In the championship game against Reid Ross, the Lady Bucks came up a little short as they lost 55-51.

In the E.E. Smith game Dela had 17 points and 3 rebounds. In the Lumberton game, Dela canned 21 points and had 2 rebounds. In the Reid Ross game, Dela capped off the week by hitting 25 points and pulling down 3 rebounds.

Dela is very involved in activities other than basketball. She is a member of several clubs at school and is a member of the choir at Buffalo Springs Church. Dela's favorite hobbies, excluding competitive sports, is music and skating.

Dela plans a future in real estate so therefore plans to attend college and seek a degree in business administration.

Dela resides with her mother, Bessie Pridgen at Route 3, Raeford.

## Merchants Bowling League

TOP BOWLERS		MARCH 8 SCHEDULE	
James Nixon	171	Seventy Five vs. Auto Parts	
Luther Taylor	167	Towne Barber Shop vs. Strikers	
Larry McDonald	167	Hollingsworth Bus. Co. vs.	
Zeke Wiggins	161	Foursome	
James Singletary	161		
200+ AND HIGH SERIES		STANDINGS	
Mike Smith - 200		Auto Parts	W 71 L 29
Dwight Crawford - 214		Towne Barber Shop	64 1/2 35 1/2
James Singletary - 556		Hollingsworth Bus Co.	56 1/2 43 1/2
		Co.	
		Strikers	52 48
		Foursome	28 72
		Seventy-Five	27 73
RESULTS			
Towne Barber Shop 2		Dieters take note -- the people who live longest appear to be those who eat the most, but don't get fat because they are physically active.	
Hollingsworth Bus Co. 2			
Strikers 1	Seventy-Five 3		
Foursome 0	Auto Parts 4		

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## Local runners win in SC races

Four members of the IEA Road Runners won awards in road races held in Florence, South Carolina on Saturday.

The races consisted of a 2 mile and a 10K (6.2 mile) race.

The races were part of the Diet Pepsi 10,000 Meter Series which were sponsored by Diet Pepsi, WPDE-TV and the Swamp Fox Striders.

In the 10K race the Road Runners won two awards.

In the 14 and under age division the Road Runners captured the gold and the silver awards.

The first place award was won by Robert Lambert who clocked in a new personal record time of 15:13.

In cutting over a minute off his former best time, Robert finished eighth overall in a field of 183 runners.

Also setting a new personal record, 12-year-old Ronnie E. Locklear captured third place. Ronnie broke the tape at 36:19 for a 16th place overall finish.

The Road Runners also garnered two awards in the two mile race.

The Road Runners captured both 1st and 2nd place in the 12-14 year old age group.

First place was taken by Marty Locklear who finished the course in a time of 10:14. Marty finished fourth overall in a field of 161.

Second place was garnered by 12-year-old Ivory Henderson in a time of 10:16 which was good enough for a fifth place overall finish right behind team mate Marty Locklear.

Fourth and fifth place age division finishes went to Ray Godwin and Chris Locklear respectively.

Ray finished 18th overall in a time of 11:08.

Chris finished 20th overall in a time of 11:20.

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## Recreation Bits

**Basketball action continues**

On February 27, the Mens' Basketball League continued another week of regular season play. The action began with Park's Grocery defeating Hollingsworth Bus Company 80-72. T. Covington pumped in 15 points, D. Revels had 15, V. McDougald - 14, and M. McDougald tossed in 11 points to lead Park's Grocery in scoring. L. McDonald had 21 points, J. Carthens - 15, M. Brown - 14, and L. McBryde and K. McDonald had 10 points a piece, to lead the scoring attack, for Hollingsworth Bus Company.

The second game of the night was a close one, as the Suns edged the All Stars to claim a 78-76 victory. R. McNeill scored 29 points and W. Love pumped in 28 points to lead the Suns scoring drive. The All Stars were led by the scoring of Maynor with 37 points and G. Maynor with 20 points.

**Junior Basketball League**

February 29: Lakers 69 Bullets 54  
Team statistics: Lakers: Jones - 25, G. Morrison - 16, Covington - 16, McNeill - 9, and D. Morrison - 2.  
Bullets: Murchinson - 30, Craigmiles - 8, Daniels - 6, Patterson - 4, Johnson - 4, and Blackshear - 2.  
Sonic 34 Rockets 32  
Team statistics: Sonics: Andrew - 23, McLean - 4, Lide - 2, Gupton - 2, Gibson - 2, and Ray - 1.  
Rockets: McDonald - 19, Maynor - 9, Hailey - 2, and Henegan - 2.  
March 1: Nuggets 40 Hawks 30  
Team statistics: Nuggets: McLaughlin - 14, D. McLean - 12, Holmes - 8, R. McLean - 4, and Carthens - 2.  
Hawks: Monroe - 14, Day - 6, Liles - 4, Dukes - 4, and Leach -

**Senior Citizen bingo**

Come on out to play bingo! The action begins on Wednesday, March 28 at 2 p.m. in the Recreation Office. Be sure to come and bring a friend to join in on the fun and fellowship.