



HERALD SPORTS

By GARY STEWART

Dirty Trick

It's not often that you see Gardner-Webb College basketball coach Eddie Holbrook mad, but the successful young Bulldog mentor was steaming hot prior to Tuesday night's championship game of the Kings Mountain Invitational.

Gardner-Webb's foe, Barber-Scotia, had cancelled its Monday night game with Shaw University of Raleigh and had two days rest before meeting the Bulldogs.

Barber-Scotia Coach Al Coefield was cornered by Holbrook prior to the game and what was said we don't know. But you can bet Holbrook let Coefield know a few things. Holbrook, whose Bulldogs played and barely defeated a very good Australia Olympic team Monday night, agreed to play the championship game Tuesday under the assumption that Barber-Scotia also had a Monday game. "I don't mind playing anybody as long as it's on an even basis," said Holbrook. "When I found out that Barber-Scotia cancelled its game on Monday, I came awfully close to calling this tournament off."

Things worked out fine (Gardner-Webb winning 118-102) but Holbrook's club might have been mentally and physically drained. And the Bulldogs have their biggest District 26 test of the season Thursday at Boiling Springs, meeting Holbrook's alma mater, Lenoir Rhyne.

"We really need this game Thursday," said Holbrook. "These tournament games don't count on our district record so you can see why I was so hesitant about playing Tuesday night. We need all the district wins we can get."



EDDIE HOLBROOK

Must Games

Holbrook says every game this year is a must game for Kings Mountain All-American George Adams.

"We've had pro scouts at just about every one of our games this year," says Eddie, "and George is having to give his all in every game. He can't afford to have a bad game. If he goes out there and has a bad night it's taking money out of his pocket."

Adams hasn't had any bad games so far, though. He's off to his best start ever, averaging 38 points per game and hitting close to 70 percent of his field goal attempts.

George sat out a good portion of Tuesday's title game after picking up three early fouls. But his clutch play Tuesday following a 42-point effort against St. Augustine's College Saturday night earned him the tournament most valuable player award.

St. Augustine's coach, Harvey Heartley, in his first year as a collegiate mentor, was highly impressed with Adams' play Saturday night.

Heartley, talking to Coach Holbrook after Saturday's game, said, "Coach, how about sending me a diagram of your stack offense. And, while you're at it, put George in an envelope and send him too."

Of the three most publicized players (Adams, Elon's Tommy Cole and St. Augustine's Curtis Pritchett) in Saturday's opening round games, Adams was the only one that gave a decent performance. Pritchett, who was guarded by Adams, managed only eight points and Cole, an All-American, scored only 11 markers in Elon's 66-64 loss to Barber-Scotia.

Elon, which came here undefeated and ranked 10th in the nation, has since lost another game and now sports a 3-2 record. The Fighting Christians dropped a 72-70 decision at Lenoir Rhyne Monday. Elon earlier defeated the Bears 86-74 in the finals of Elon's Civitan Turkey Classic.

Surprise Visitor

Fans attending Tuesday's championship game were treated by the presence of a totally unexpected but welcomed guest.

Artis Gilmore, former 7-foot-2 star at Gardner-Webb and Jacksonville and now prize rookie of the Kentucky Colonels, dropped by to see some of his former teammates in action. Artis was in the area for a Wednesday night game in Charlotte with the Carolina Cougars. He received a standing ovation from the Gardner-Webb fans when public address announcer Jonas Bridges recognized him at halftime.

Adams, introduced by Bridges as Kings Mountain's favorite son, earned several standing ovations. One was when Bridges presented him a plaque for his athletic achievements and another when Mayor John Moss presented him his all-tournament and most valuable player awards.

Gardner-Webb fans, who had three of their players on the all-tournament team, almost brought down the rafters when Tony Spagnola was announced as a member of the all-tournament team. The New Jersey native doesn't score a lot of points but he always comes up with the clutch plays and G-W fans love him for it.

Prep Prediction

High school basketball is beginning to hit high gear with conference openers set Friday night. We haven't made any predictions in quite a while, so here would be a good place to start again.

Everyone's saying Crest is the team to beat in the Southwestern Conference, despite the loss of All-American David Thompson, now property of Norman Sloan and N. C. State's Wolfpack.

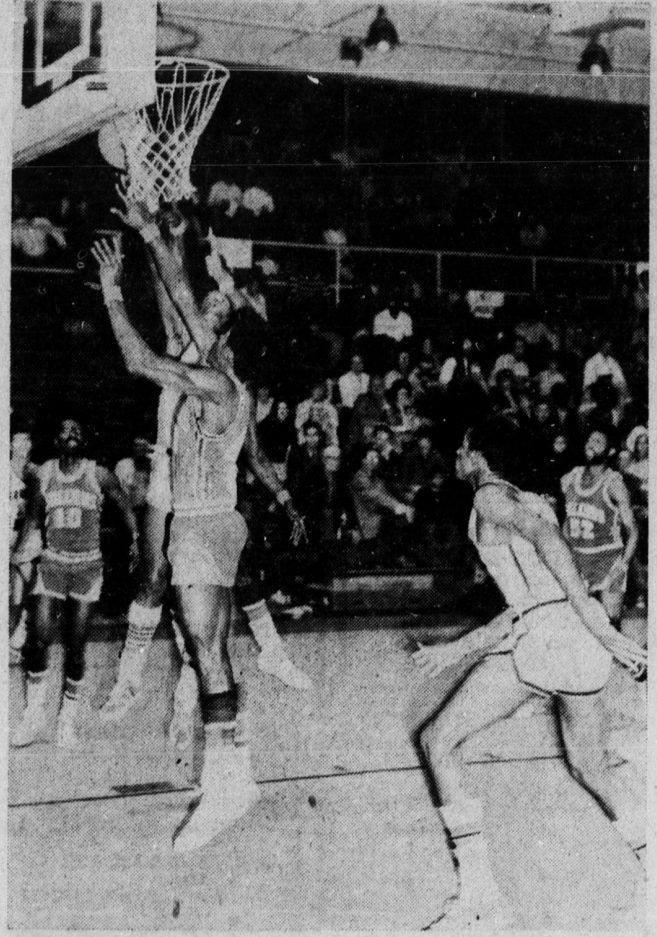
Crest, which has one of the state's top prep mentors in Ed Peeler, will certainly be in the thick of the battle but I don't think the Chargers will repeat as SWC champions.

Several clubs, including Kings Mountain, Lincolnton and Shelby, have all their starters back but I don't think any of those clubs will win either.

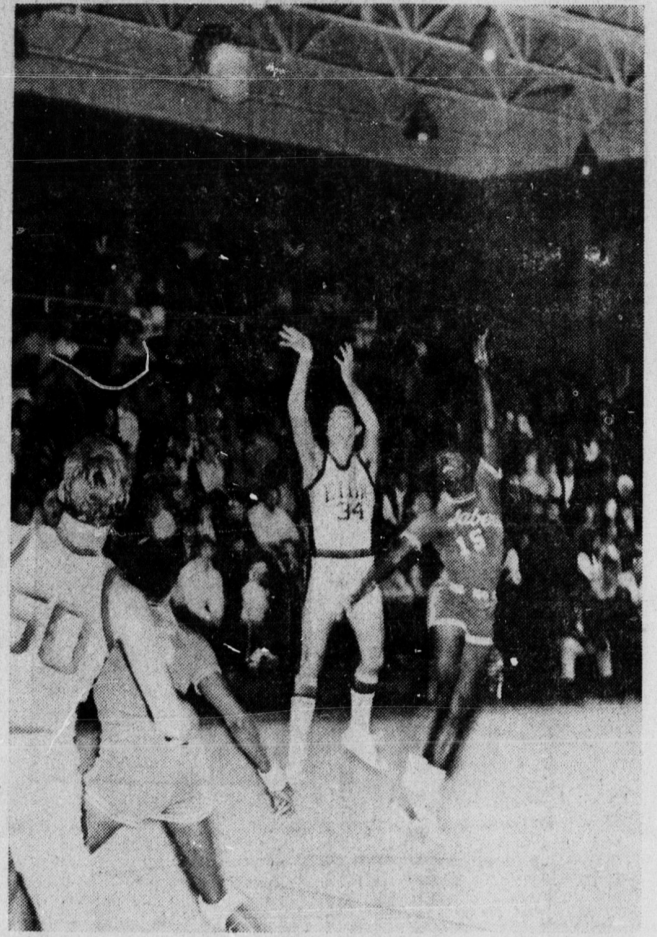
I'm going with a darkhorse as the champion and that choice is East Rutherford. The Cavaliers have come a long way the past few seasons under Coach Connie Hamrick and they'll edge out Shelby and Crest for the title this year.

My prediction sheet looks like this:
1, East Rutherford. 2, Shelby. 3, Crest. 4, South Point. 5, Burns. 6, R-5 Central. 7, Cherryville. 8, Lincolnton. 9, Kings Mountain. 10, Chase.

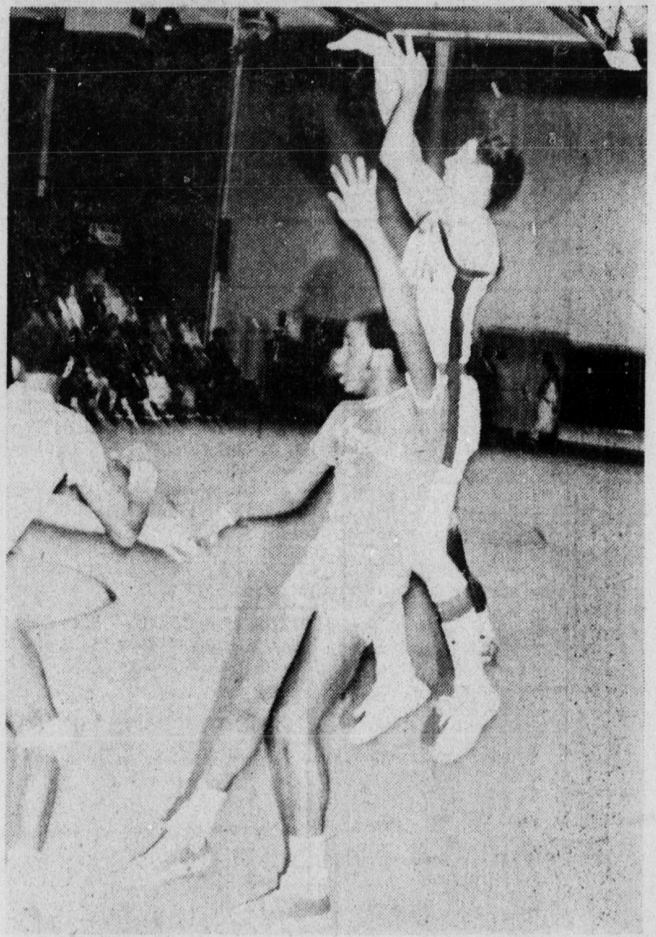
A Night In The Life Of All-Americans George Adams And Tommy Cole...



ALL-AMERICANS Tommy Cole and George Adams made an appearance in Kings Mountain Saturday night in the first round of the Kings Mountain Invitational Basketball Tournament. The small college superstars are shown doing their thing in the



series of shots above. In photo at left, Adams, King Mountain native, fires from close range for two of his 42 markers in Gardner-Webb's 112-97 win over St. Augustine's. In center photo and in the one at right, Cole is gunning from downtown. The Bur-



lington senior, however, managed just 11 points in Elon's 66-64 upset loss to Barber-Scotia. (Photos by Jim Belt)

Despite Flu Bug, Adams Leads G-W To Title

KM Cagers Open Conference Play

Kings Mountain High School's basketball teams open Southwestern Conference play here Friday night against Belmont South Point. The Mountaineers and Mountaineettes were scheduled to go to Bessemer City last night for their second non-conference twinbill against the Gaston County 2-A school.

The local boys club was scheduled to play in the Burns Tipoff Tournament last weekend but the heavy snow forced postponement of the event. Coach Allen Dixon said the tournament will probably be played over the Christmas Holidays.

Dixon said he'll probably start Al White and Mike Thombs at guards, Vernon Crocker at center and Ben Brown and Randy Wingo at the forwards here Friday night. The same five were supposed to start at Bessemer City.

Kings Mountain's Girls will be going against the pre-season SWC favorite in Friday's opening game at 7 p. m. The Raiderettes, coached by Earl Lingafeldt, came on the tournament title and Lingafeldt has the same players back.

Beth Baily, a junior, sparks the Raiderette charge. The Mountaineettes, who were 1-0 heading into last night's game, will probably start Diane Cornwell, Jane Lovelace, Carolyn Mitchem, Deborah Crockett and Debbie Lee.

South Point's boys, playing their first season under Coach Mike Huddock, are expected to be a strong contender also. Bill Harrison, who quarterbacked the Raiders football team, heads the list of returning players and he's probably the top guard in the conference.

In addition to Hannon, the Raiders also return Johnny Anderson and Scott Crawford off last year's line up and several junior high graduates, led by sharpshooter Butch Harris, will help bolster the already strong Belmont club.

Next Tuesday night, the KM squads won't breathe any easier as they go up against still another contender, Crest. That twin bill will be played at Crest.

The Crest boys, despite the loss of All-American David Thompson, are tagged by KM Coach Dixon as the team to beat in the SWC. The Chargers return Larry and Jerry Hunt and lending support are graduates off a jayvee team which finished 12-2.

Next Friday, the KMHS clubs will play at East Rutherford in their final pre-Christmas contests.



ALL-SWC — All-Conference performer Carolyn Mitchem, a senior, leads Kings Mountain's girls into conference play here Friday night against South Point. The South Point girls are pre-season picks to win the conference title.

BULLDOG All-American Scores 67 Points, Wins Most Valuable Award

Gardner-Webb's two wins here give the Bulldogs a perfect 6-0 record heading into a game against Lenoir Rhyne tonight in Boiling Springs. Four of G-W's wins came in tournament play, two in Asheville in addition to the two here.

Adams not only scored his season's high of 442 points Saturday, but he also held St. Augustine's leading scorer Curtis Pritchett to a season low of eight points, 13 below his average. Pritchett, who was selected in last year's ABA draft, was regarded as the best shooter in the tourney.

Big George, playing for the first time here since his high school days, scored 67 points in the two games and won the tournament most valuable player trophy.

Adams scored 42 points in Saturday's win over St. Augustine's, hitting on 16 of 28 attempts from the floor and 10 of 11 from the foul line. He sat out much of Tuesday's game with four fouls but still led the Bulldogs in the scoring column with 25 points.

The tournament, which was postponed from Friday night due to snow, was played before an estimated crowd of 1,200 Saturday night and 1,000 Tuesday.

Although the Gardner-Webb scores appear to be runaway, Coach Eddie Holbrook's Bulldogs had all they could handle both from St. Augustine's in the final nights. The Bulldogs pulled away two minutes and they trailed much of the first half Tuesday against Barber-Scotia.

In addition to winning the MVP trophy, Adams also headed the all-tournament team and he also was presented a special plaque for his athletic achievements and for the recognition he has brought to the city of Kings Mountain.

Adams was joined on the five-man all-tournament team by teammates Richard Thomas and Tony Spagnola and John Steele and Joe Powell of Barber-Scotia. Elon, which lost to Barber-Scotia 66-64 Saturday, and St. Augustine's failed to place a man on the all-tournament team.

Thomas, a senior guard who is regarded as Gardner-Webb's top defensive player, and Spagnola, a senior forward who is vastly underrated, played key roles in Gardner-Webb's two victories.

Thomas scored 53 points in the two contests, hitting 29 in Saturday's win and 24 Tuesday night. Thomas was G-W's key figure Tuesday when Adams got into foul trouble.

Spagnola scored 18 points in the two games but his rebounding and key plays earned him a spot on the all-tourney squad. He scored 14 points in Saturday's game.

Seven-foot center Henry Boyd, who was benched by Coach Holbrook Saturday for not making last week's practice sessions, chipped in with 21 points in Tuesday's title game and reserve Al Jones added 24, many of them coming from downtown Kings Mountain.

Freshman Kirby Thurston, a 6-9 Florida product, played a key role also, hitting 17 points Saturday and six Tuesday. Thurston, who started in Boyd's place Saturday, also helped shoulder the rebounding load.

BOWLING ...right down your alley...

Richard Bridges won high set honors in men's bowling league action Monday night at Mountain Lanes Bowling Center.

Bridges scored a 367 series to lead Mull Ramsey's team to three wins over Quality Sandwich. Joe Beam added a 133 line for the winners while Bob Herndon topped the losers with a 132 line and 359 set.

Ranny Blanton scored a 132 line and 363 set to lead Childer's Roofing to a 2-2 split with Albert Brackett's team. Brackett led his team with a 139 line and 325 set.

Dilling Heating swept four games from Cub's Paint Co. Gene Stone led the way for the winners with a 135 line and 351 set. Ronnie Culbertson paced the losers with a 118 line and 341 set.

Tommy Manning scored 15 points and Wendell Jackson added 12 for the Patriots of Coach Porter Griggs.

The Patriots had to come from behind in the fourth quarter to win. St. Michael's jumped off to a 14-4 first quarter lead and the Gastonia club was on top 20-16 at the half and 33-30 heading into the final period.

Central hit 43 percent of its field goal attempts in the second half.

The Patriots host Gaston Day School Monday afternoon at Central with a 42-38 victory over St. Michael's of Gastonia.

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Central Cops Opener 42-38

Central Junior High's basketball team opened its season Monday with a 42-38 victory over St. Michael's of Gastonia.

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Harlem Stars Here Dec. 17

The Harlem Stars will come to Kings Mountain Community Center on December 17 to play a local men's all-star team in basketball.

Game time is 8 p. m. Admission is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

Invitational Boxscores

FRIDAY'S GAMES (First Game)	
ELON	(64)
Ball	F 4
Ross	F 12
Trautwein	C 24
Cole	G 11
Hicklin	G 13
BARBER-SCOTIA (65)	
Bynum	F 10
Powell	F 7
Ward	C 11
Stokes	G 11
Steele	G 11
Subs, Barber-Scotia: Howard 1, Garvin 10, Spears 4, Price 1, Halftime Score: Barber-Scotia 35, Elon 32.	
(Second Game)	
GARDNER-WEBB (112)	
Spagnola	F 14
Thurston	F 17
Adams	C 42
DeSanctis	G 1
Thomas	G 29
ST. AUGUSTINE (97)	
Flintall	F 13
Montague	F 16
Pritchett	C 8
Fleming	G 15
Merriman	G 22
Subs, G-W: Jones 3, Napier 2, Ellis 4, Dugger, Long, Moore, Lyde.	
Subs, St. Aug.: Sport 4, Leggett, Richardson 2, Ross, Faison, Clarke 15.	
Halftime Score: Gardner-Webb 61, St. Augustine 52.	
TUESDAY'S GAME (Championship Game)	
GARDNER-WEBB (118)	
Adams	F 25
Boyd	F 4
Thomas	C 21
DeSanctis	G 6
BARBER-SCOTIA (102)	
Bynum	F 10
Cooper	F 2
Powell	C 24
Garvin	G 14
Johnson	G 2
Halftime Score: GW 53, Barber-Scotia 44.	
Subs, GM: Thurston 6, Moore 6, Jones 24, Napier 3.	
Subs, Barber-Scotia: Spears 8, Steele 14, Stokes 16, Ward 17.	