

Gaskins Prevails

Playoff Bid Evades Gryphons



The Gryphons' conference title hopes were swished away by the Bertie Falcons and Arthur Gaskins by a score of 70 to 68.

Unlike the first two meetings against the two teams, Rocky Mount was in good shape to win the game with a lead and just three minutes to play. But poor free throw shooting at crucial points and weak rebounding down the stretch gave Bertie the edge.

Rocky Mount had the lead at 66-63 with 1:40 to play before Buck Williams and Reggie Barrett both missed a one-and-one chance that could have given the Gryphons a six point lead. Arthur Gaskins then tied the game on a 15 footer with a minute to go. After a Gryphon turnover Hilton Thompson scored with 22 seconds to make

it 68-66. Dennis Coit of Gryphs then dribbled down court and took a low percentage shot and missed, allowing the Falcons to get the rebound. James Robbins was then fouled by Rocky Mount, and he hit both shots to seal the victory for the Falcons.

Gryphs Charge

In the fourth quarter Bertie widened its lead to 61-53 with six minutes left in the game causing Coach Reggie Henderson to call time out. At that point the Gryphons began to press the Falcons and they scored 11 straight unanswered points to take the lead 64-61 with 3:40 to play. But then Gaskins returned after twisting

his ankle to guide the Falcons to their narrow victory.

Bertie made 16 of 20 throws while Rocky Mount only hit 8 of 13 from the line as the Falcons won the game at the charity stripe. Rocky Mount was also out rebounded by the Falcons 8-11 in the second half for a 30-26 advantage for the game.

Buck scored 19 points, 10 of which came in the last period, and snatched 11 rebounds for the game. The opposing center, James Robbins, scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. The quick Gaskins scored 26 points even with good defensive player Reggie Barrette hawking him.

Quarterfinal

Two nights before the Bertie game Rocky Mount was having difficulties with Greenville Rose, but a fourth quarter spurt put the game away, advancing The Gryphs to the semi-finals.

The Gryphons were led by Buck Williams and Jeffery Battle who combined for 58 points to carry the Gryphs to a 92-75 win, that broke a three game losing streak. Buck scored 30 points and gathered in 22 rebounds, while Jeffery hit 28 points and grabbed 16 rebounds.

Greenville applied a full court man-to-man press, and it gave the Gryphs trouble for three quarters. Finally, in the fourth period the Gryphons pulled away from the Rampants, making 10 of 13 field attempts and connecting on all 13 free throw attempts.

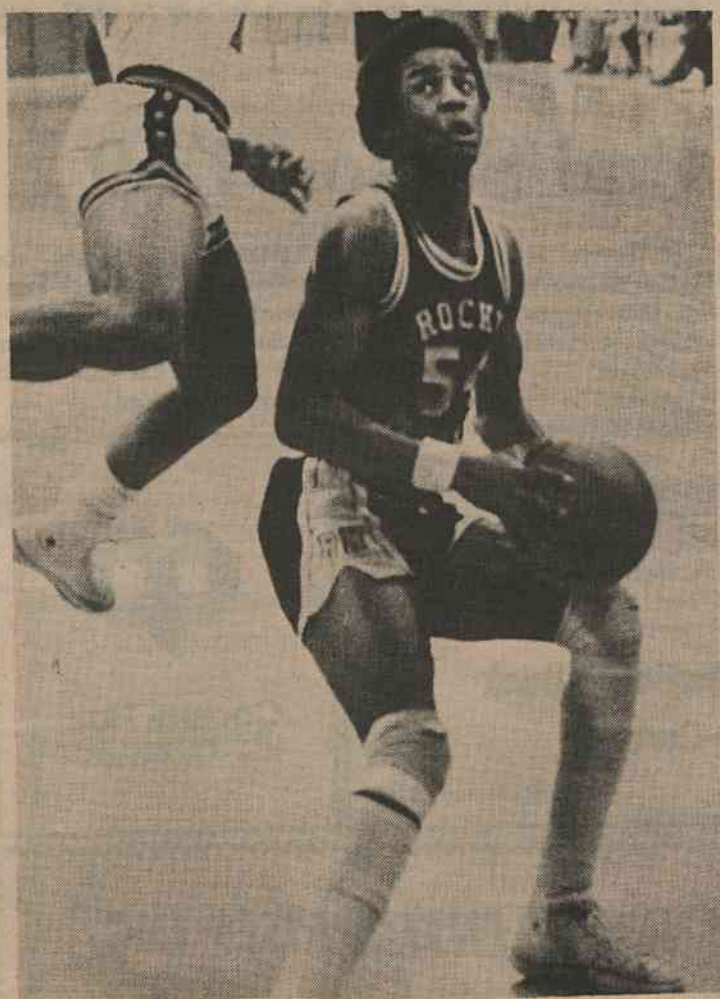
In the first half it was Jeffery Battle's shooting that kept the Gryphons close, trailing by a score of 36-35 at half. Battle was the only player in the first half to beat the Greenville press. He hit his first six shots scoring ten of the team's first 17 points.

In the second half Buck Williams took over the starring role as he scored 23 of his game high 30 points. Buck also grabbed 13 rebounds and blocked three shots. The Gryphs inside play was well supported by guards, Reggie Barrette and Dennis Coit who scored 10 points each.



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