



## BASKETBALL FIGHTS TILL THE END

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Contributing Writer

A nail-biter basketball game in the "Spoon" Tues., January 27th, came down to the final minutes as the Meredith Avenging Angels fell to the Averett Cougars (58-52). The Angels now drop to 0-11 in the USA South Conference, while the Cougars advance to 5-4 in the Conference.

After the Angels started off strong, the Cougars pressed full court from the start of the game, something other teams have used to hurt the Angels this year. Other tactics can also help: the Cougars warmed up with a "flopping" drill where they would take the hit from the player with the ball and get a charge called on them. Used in much of the first half, this device ran up Angel team fouls and got Averett to the free throw line earlier than they might have otherwise.

Half time saw the Averett Cougars ahead 29-28, and in the second half they built the lead quickly to 9 ahead. But the Angels rallied past this and built a substantial lead of their own. With 6'1" Angel center Kristin Stewart established under the basket, the Angels were able to hit several times from the low post, keeping the ball in their possession with good offensive sets and a tough zone defense that cut Averett's scoring and gave us many important rebounds. With nine minutes remaining, the Angels led by six.

But then, with about five minutes left, Cougars' seniors 3-point shooter and point guard Taylor Poirier fi-

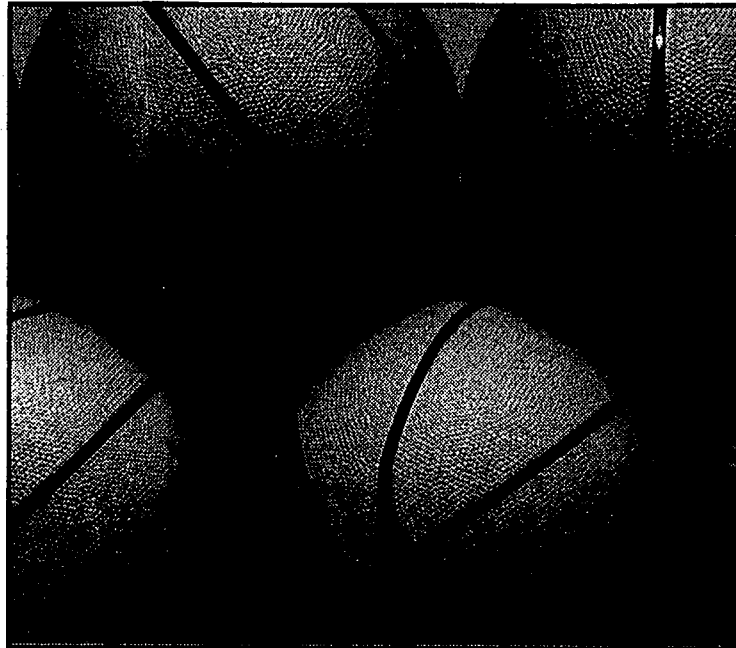


Photo taken from [fabuloussavers.com](http://fabuloussavers.com)

nally took over the game, breaking down the Meredith zone with drives, free throws and some 3-point daggers. From there the Cougars fought back to gain the lead with three minutes left and never looked back.

The Angels were led in scoring by Kristin Stewart with 15 points and Brittany Cornelius with 10, while the Cougars saw Taylor Poirier ring up a remarkable 30 points. Despite the loss, this may have been the best game the Angels have played this new year.

The Angels close out the season with four home games, next Sunday, Thursday, Monday and Saturday. ■

## BEING THERE

Herb Score  
Sports Editor



Photo courtesy Meredith College Athletics Website

Gentle readers: Important Part at End!

Yes, we lost to Peace College last week on our end of the annual cross-town hoops duet. The short take: we turned the ball over too often, didn't execute our offense well and shot too low a percentage, especially in the first half. Our opponents were older, more experienced, faster, and could work an assassin's offense around two players with extraordinary skills and a disciplined cast of role players to support them—hence our demise.

And yet: We never gave up. We never DO give up. We regrouped for the second half, shot a higher percentage than the other team did, played very good zone defense and got more rebounds. Mary Woessner was perfect from the floor and added six boards. Kristin Stewart established herself down low and made 11/13

free throws. Megan Rahn and Brittany Cornelius were all over the court, gathering 26 points, 13 rebounds and five assists between them.

As usual, we played a better second half than first, which is hard to do when you are on a long losing streak. The loss to a stronger Averett team last Tuesday night, covered in another article, was even closer. Exceptional student-athletes. Incredible heart.

But my real message begins here: Alabama football coach Bear Bryant captured the essence of college sports when he said, "I have yet to see 80,000 people get together and holler like maniacs about a history class." To this, add Woody Allen's line: "90% of life is showing up." It's all there.

Those who showed up for the basketball game got something better than any digital simulation because together they created a single supercharged community. The shared hopes, the fears, the edge of the seat excitement, the overwhelming roller coaster ride of it all—these are not available at any price. Don't take my word on this, readers. Come find out.

There is indeed agony in defeat. But the real thrill lies not so much in victory as in showing up and caring. (Just ask any Cubs or Indians fan!) For this opportunity I extend heartfelt thanks to the basketball team, their coaches and the staff who together made it possible. I very much hope to see another full house in Weather-spoon soon, because it really is about being there. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, Feb. 4**  
Basketball @ N.C. Wesleyan

**Friday, Feb. 6**  
Soft Ball vs. LEES-MCRAE @  
1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 8**  
Basketball vs. Chris. Newport  
Pinkzone Game @ 2 p.m.

**Thursday, Feb. 12**  
Basketball vs. METHODIST @ 7 p.m.

**Sunday, Feb. 15**  
Soft Ball vs. BLUEFIELD STATE @  
2 p.m. and 12 p.m.

**Monday, Feb. 16**  
Basketball vs. GREENBORO @ 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**  
Soft Ball vs. Guilford @ 2 p.m.  
and 4 p.m.

