

Eagles fly by White Oak, 116-79

by Glen Seamster
Special to the Highlights

Vanceboro-West Craven's 30 point win over Jones Senior in the Christmas Tournament didn't satisfy Head Coach Lorenzo Jones' Eagles as they broke the 100 point mark for the first time in their basketball career as they defeated conference foe White Oak by 35 points, 116-79. This score was a long way from last year's game where the Eagles under then Head Coach Bill Cutts won by a score of 7-5.

The Eagles opened the game where they had left off during the tournament with a hot hand as they outscored the Vikings 11-0. It wasn't until the 4:48 mark when the Vikings dented the scoreboard but they didn't stop West who took advantage of White Oak's turnovers to build a 15 point lead at the end of the first quarter, 29-14.

The Eagles came out in the second quarter and built a 23 point lead, 37-14 at the seven minute mark but White Oak managed to cut the lead back 3 points as West took a 53-23 lead into the half. Kenny Wesley led the Eagles with 14 points in the half.

White Oak never came

close to the Eagles as the second string played most of the second half. At the end of the third quarter, West Craven lead 82-53 and the fans started shouting "We want a 100" and the Eagles did just that as James Blount made a foul shot which put the Eagles over the 100 mark. Blount in the fourth quarter went 10-10 from the foul line! His 10 foul shots plus 10 points from the floor placed him as top scorer of the game with 20 points. Blount and five other players scored in the double figures as Clifton Green and Rufus Harris scored 17 each, Kenny Wesley with 16, James Cherry with 11, and 10 for Jeff Jones. Coach Jones played everyone on his bench and they showed their gratitude by everyone scoring. For the Vikings, this is their second loss in 7 wins and their first conference loss. Mike Meadows had 16 and Charles Fonville with 14 lead the losers. The Eagles shot over 60% from the floor while White Oak shot a low 37% hitting 38 out of 104 attempts and 41% from the foul line.

The Eagles upped their record to 8-1 overall and 1-0

in conference play.

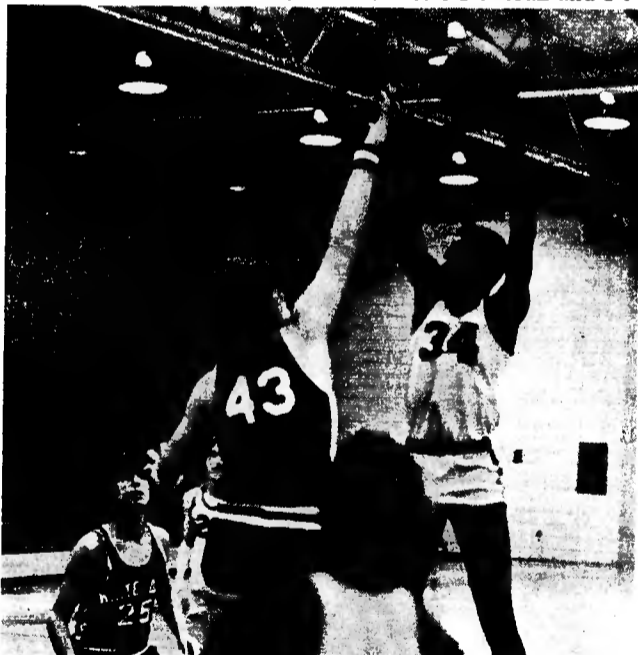
In the girls contest, the lady Eagles of John Baxter's played one of their best games this season as they defeated conference runner-up White Oak by a score of 54-47. Michelle Sutton's 14, Brenda Gatlin's 13 and Monica Brown's 12 led the winners and Shelia Humprey's 14 and Dorien Brinn's 12 led the losers.

White Oak led at the end of the first quarter, 14-10, only to let West Craven keep chipping at their lead to take a one point lead at the half, 28-27. In the third quarter West Craven outscored White Oak 14-5 but in the fourth quarter White Oak outscored West Craven but didn't score enough to putt away with a victory. White Oak outshot West Craven from the floor, 52% to 34% but it didn't help.

West Craven's JV's player Caesar Harris' jumper with one second left bounced off the side of the rim as they lost their conference opener in a heart-breaker 64-63. The baby Eagles kept clawing at the Viking's lead but could never gain the lead. Harris led West Craven with 27 points while Steve Mattocks' 20 led White Oak.



EAGLES BREAK 100—Rufus Harris scores two of his seventeen points as he helped lead the Eagles to a 116-79 drubbing of Conference foe White Oak last Thursday night. James Blount led the Eagles' scoring with 20, while Clifton Green had 17, Kenny Wesley, 16 and Jeff Jones had 10. James Cherry was the sixth Eagle to hit in double figures with 11. [Photo by Timmy Weatherington]



CLOSE—The Eagle Junior Varsity lost a close decision to White Oak's JV's, 64-63. [Photo by Timmy Weatherington]

Sports

Beat the Editor

(Here are the editor's picks for this weekend. All entries that have a better won-loss record will go into a special drawing.)

UNC
Clemson
Maryland
N.C. State
UCLA
Alabama
Notre Dame
LSU
Va. Commonwealth
William & Mary

Tie-Breaker

UNC 82 points

Cougars win opener

Vanceboro—Eddie Dawson led the Vanceboro Cougars to a 93-52 victory over the Havelock Knicks in a game played here on Saturday night. Van Jenkins added 18 points for the Cougars in the season opener for the Craven County Recreation Department's basketball league.

Vanceboro—E. Dawson 28, M. Dawson 1, R. Dawson 6, V. Jenkins 18, T. Campbell 2, J. Adams 8, R. Harris 4, G. Pecham 4, K. 10, R.

Blount 12, Total 93. Havelock—K. Boynes 4, V. Corben 6, L. Blanch 18, G. Brunol 16, M. Hall 5, R. Brewer 3. Total 52.

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