

# SPORTS

## Edenton boys hoops begin season 3-0

### ACES ROUNDUP

BY CHIC RIEBEL  
Correspondent

Any concerns that the Edenton boys basketball team might get off to a slow start because an extended football season limited the Aces to only one full week of preseason practice were categorically eliminated last week.

Displaying heart, hustle and unselfish play, Edenton opened the season with three wins in five days.

First to fall was Tarboro last Monday. James Duncan's 3-pointer in the final minute was a key in the 59-56 road win. Duncan finished with 14 points. Markus Holley and NyReese Moore each contributed 11 points and Verrick Parks had a team-high 11 rebounds.

On Wednesday, Perquimans became victim No. 2. The 61-52 win in Hertford had Parks' fingerprints all over it. The 6-1 junior forward saved 10 of his 20 points for the fourth quarter when the Aces broke open a tight game. He also pulled down 15 rebounds, eight off the offensive boards.

"I think Verrick had a good game for us," said Edenton coach Andy Downing. "That's the way the game of basketball is. It's a game of runs. Who's going to get a run? Who's going to get a stop? And that's what happened, and Verrick stepped up for us."

Holley (19 points, seven assists) and Kyheem Stanley (12 points, eight assists) also delivered.

And Friday's 72-45 conquest of Currituck in the Northeastern Coastal Conference opener at home was a thing of beauty.

"We played well at both ends of the floor," Downing said. "We made a lot of steals and moved the ball around."

Parks struck for 18 points and 12 rebounds, Cordareous Pierce scored 11 points and Stanley collected 10 points and seven assists.

Edenton had five different players score in double figures last week. Downing says that kind of balance makes him optimistic about the season.

"I feel good about what we have shown so far," he said. "Right now we have a bunch of guys who don't care who is scoring the points. If we keep that mentality and continue to play as a unit, we can be in the top three or four teams in the league."

"I'm looking forward to seeing how we respond when we face some adversity, get behind by eight or 10 points in a game. It's

easy to play ahead. We've got a tough league. I know Northeastern, Bertie and Hertford (County) are pretty good.

"How we do against those teams is going to tell us a lot."

The Aces were to find out quickly. Edenton was to be at Bertie Tuesday.

Thursday the Aces host Tarboro in a rematch of the season opener, and then they are off until Dec. 26 when they play in the South Creek Christmas Tournament.

### WRESTLING

The Aces accomplished in one week what it took an entire season to do a year ago ... win three matches.

Edenton, which went 3-15 last winter, pounded Northeastern Coastal Conference rivals Hertford County (48-27) and Pasquotank (54-24) in a tri-meet last Tuesday, then toppled conference foe Northeastern (42-24) on Thursday.

"Knowing what the other schools had, I'm not surprised we went 3-0," said Aces head coach Lenny Plummer, whose team won only one NCC match in the 2012-13 season. "We're excited, but there is still a long way to go. We still haven't seen Currituck and First Flight yet."

Currituck and First Flight have combined to win all but one of the team championships in the last 10 years.

The Aces were to have a shot at Currituck on Tuesday when the Knights and Pasquotank came visiting. Through a scheduling quirk, it was to be the last home appearance for Edenton this season. The Aces don't see First Flight until Jan. 8.

Plummer was relatively optimistic about his team's chances against Currituck.

"We always seem to wrestle them well and Hertford got 20-some points on them," he said.

The big point producers for the Aces last week were freshman 120-pounder Andrew Bass, senior 170 Tyler Schuyler, junior 195 Anthony Brownridge and senior 220 Tywon Bond. All went 3-0.

Bass and Schuyler won all three of their bouts by fall. Bond had two pins and a forfeit and Brownridge two forfeits and a pin.

The only match that had any drama was the one against Hertford. Schuyler, Devin McKinney (182), P.J. Bunch (195) and Brownridge, wrestling up a weight at 220, all scored pins to close out what had been a close competition.

Also winning contested bouts against the Bears



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNEY

Edenton's Markus Holley gets to the basket against Perquimans in an Aces victory last week.

were Anthony Provencher (pin at 152) and Bond (fall at heavyweight).

Randal Stallings (decision at 138) and Stanley White (decision at 160) joined Bass, Schuyler and Bond as winners of contested bouts against Northeastern, which forfeited four weights.

Pasquotank forfeited seven bouts to the Aces. Kairu Edwards (113), Bass and Schuyler scored pins in contested bouts.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

A frustrating two-game stretch of missed scoring opportunities came to an end on Friday when the Lady Aces upended Currituck 51-45 in their Northeastern Coastal Conference opener at home.

Edenton dropped a 63-55 decision at Tarboro in their season opener on Monday and a 54-49 verdict at Perquimans on Wednesday.

Both were winnable games.

"We just couldn't make our layups," said coach David Peeler. "We got a lot of steals and breakaways, but we missed a truckload of layups."

"We finally made them against Currituck and that was the difference. We've been quick to the basket, then rushing our shots."

Hadiya Bemby was strong in the season opener, scoring 21 points and handing out four assists against Tarboro. My'Keyah Bunch and TyAsia Martin added 10 points apiece.

Martin collected 15 points, 11 rebounds and two

blocks in the loss at Perquimans, a game which went down to the wire. Bemby filled up the stat sheet with eight points, six steals and four assists.

Martin (13 points, seven rebounds), Bemby (11 points, five steals, four rebounds, four assists) and Bunch (10 points, four steals) led the way in the victory over Currituck.

Edenton outscored the Lady Knights 32-12 in the second and third quarters to take charge.

Considering the youth of his team, Peeler didn't think it was such a bad debut

week.

"We progressed, from losing by eight and then six and then winning," he said. "And any time you win your conference opener, that's a plus."

The Lady Aces were at perennial NCC power Bertie Tuesday and will host Tarboro Thursday. After that they are idle until the South Creek Christmas Tournament Dec. 26.

### SWIMMING

Sophomore Ailyn Duruman, swimming distance events for the first time this

season, continued to make an impact in the longer races in last Friday's meet.

Duruman won the 400 freestyle by 16 seconds over the second-place swimmer, Duruman was second in a 200 free race earlier this year.

Also swimming well for the Lady Aces, who finished fourth in the six-team meet, was senior Hannah Nixon, who took second in the 200 free and fourth in the 100 backstroke.

Peri Peeler finished fifth in the 100 breaststroke. The 200 medley and 400 freestyle relay teams both claimed third place.

Lamar Gilchrist led the Edenton boys with a third in the 200 back. Trey Johnson was fifth in the 400 free and sixth in the 200 individual medley.

On Wednesday, Edenton's girls were second in a four-team meet as Duruman took second in the 200 individual medley and Nixon second in the 50 free and all three relay teams swam well.

But the highlight for coach Deanna Chesson was the performance of freshman Ellie Rinehart in the free sprints.

"She shaved four seconds off her 50 and eight off her 100," Chesson said. "She's not a natural, but she has a great work ethic, athleticism and desire."

The team will take part in a tri-meet at the Albemarle Family YMCA today and return to Elizabeth City Friday for a full NCC meet.

"We're going to try the kids in some new things Friday before they settle into the events they will compete in the rest of the year," Chesson said.

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