

Davis sparks Parkland's comeback victory over Mount Tabor

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

Parkland used its senior leadership to earn a 59-51 Central Piedmont Conference win over Mount Tabor last Friday night.

Trailing 30-27 at halftime, the Mustangs looked to seniors Arthur Davis, Jeff Rickert and William "Bam" Bitting to lead a second-half rally that produced the victory.

Davis was the catalyst of the comeback. He scored 12 of his team-high 15 points in the second half, including nine in the decisive fourth quarter when Parkland outscored Mount Tabor 23-15.

"At halftime my teammates were saying, 'Arthur you've got to take it to them; Arthur you've got to be the leader,'" Davis said. "Hey, that makes you feel good to know they're depending on you."

Davis showed his leadership in the very first 1 1/2 minutes of the third quarter. He got Parkland's first point and had back-to-back steals to set up a Cedric Lineberger 14-foot jumper for a 30-30 tie.

That was the first deadlock since it was 2-2 early in the first quarter. Indeed, the Spartans built leads of 11-2 and 25-15 before Parkland, ranked sixth in the Northwest by the *Winston-Salem Journal*, made a 12-5 run behind Bitting to close to within three at halftime.

Davis' third-quarter leadership was primarily of the defensive variety. Mount Tabor went scoreless for five minutes and 52 seconds to start the quarter before Stu Epperson canned a 12-footer from the base line.

"I thought they shot awfully well in the first half," said Mustang Coach Tom Muse, whose team improved to 8-3 overall and 1-1 in the Central Piedmont Conference. "We played zone in the first half and went man-to-man in the second half. I think our defense had something to do with their going cold."

Yet, Parkland wasn't exactly hot in the third period. The Mustangs made three of eight from the field and turned the ball over four times.

"It was pretty sloppy in the third quarter," Muse said. "But that's the way it goes when they put the full-court press on you and we play pretty aggressive on defense."

Still, Parkland entered the final period even at 36-36 and outscored the Spartans 10-2 to start the fourth.

"We just played team ball in the second half," Bitting said. "We said in the locker room that they hit everything they threw up. We knew they had to start missing some."

Though trailing 48-38 with 3:40 left, the Spartans weren't finished yet. Tyrone Lewis led a late charge that brought Mount Tabor within 52-49.

But Davis thwarted the comeback with two free throws with 38 seconds left.

"We needed this one bad," Muse said. "We were 0-1 in the conference and I didn't think we played well against Davie County or in the Frank Spencer. If we had lost tonight at home, I don't know when we would come out of it (the slump)."

Bitting, who finished with 11 points, said the Mustangs showed intensity that had been missing recently.

"We didn't play with any intensity at Davie County," Bitting said. "We felt we could go in there and win without hustling because they were a .500 team."

"Nobody shot well, either. I only made four of 14. You can't shoot like that and beat anybody."

The Spartans, led by Epperson's 17 and Lewis' 15 points, dropped to 1-1 in the CPC and 4-6 overall. Coach Richard Jamback was not too enamored with the officiating, for Parkland made eight more trips to the foul line. The Mustangs were called

for three second-half fouls, compared to nine for the Spartans. Sophomore forward Julius Reese suffered from foul trouble throughout the game, limiting Mount Tabor's floor speed and rebounding.

"We didn't get an opportunity to beat them," Jamback said. "I bet we outscored them from the field. We've outscored everybody from the field, except East Forsyth."

"I just think the kids ought to decide the game."

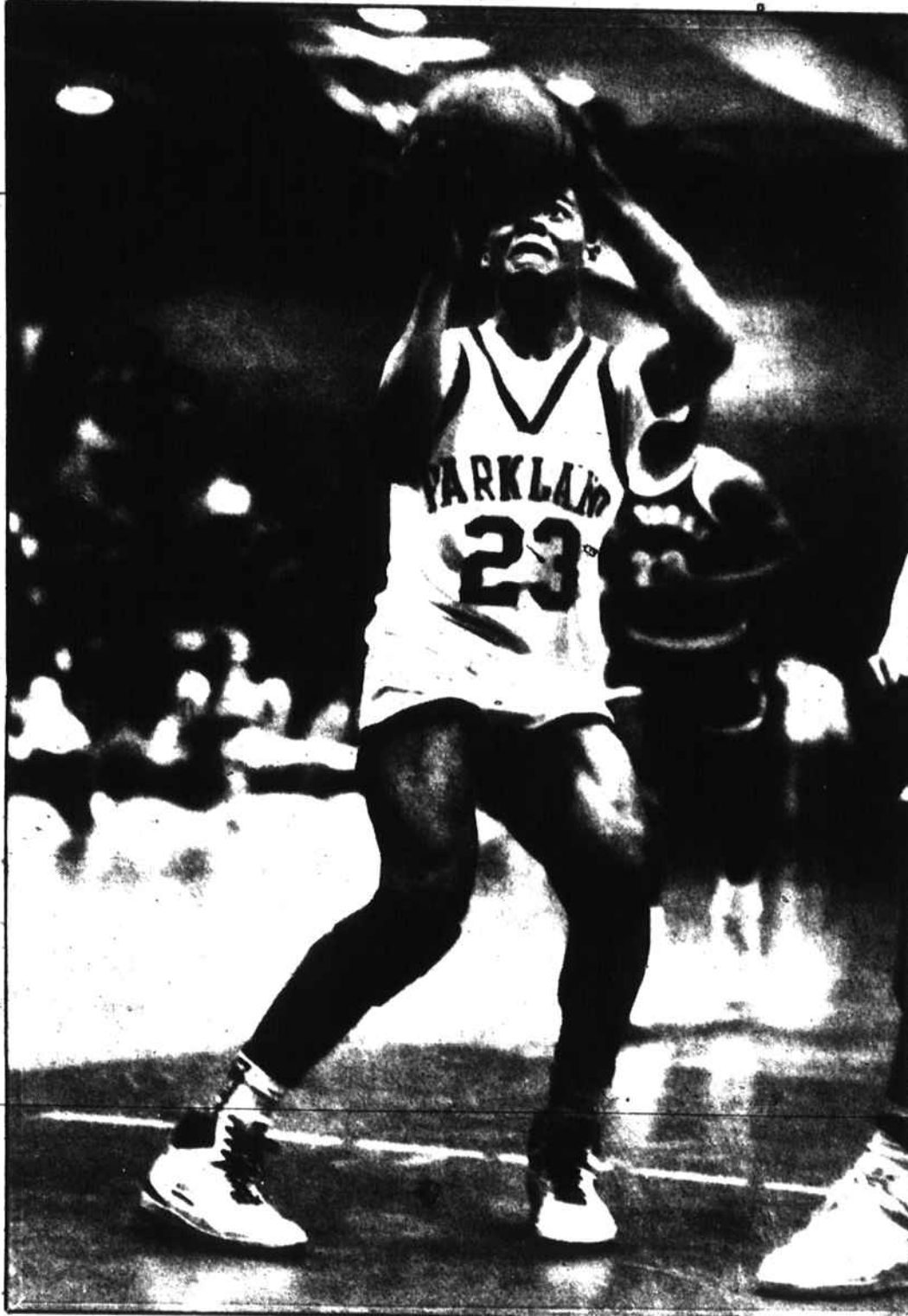
Galloway and Tracy Clinkscale scored 13 points each to lead Mount Tabor to a 55-37 victory over winless Parkland. The Lady Spartans (3-6, 2-0) built a 27-18 halftime lead and never looked back.

Monica Adams led the Lady Mustangs (0-8, 0-2) with 20 points.

Summaries

Girls' Game

MOUNT TABOR (55) -- Galloway 13,



Parkland's William "Bam" Bitting goes up for two of his 11 points in the Mustangs' 59-51 win over Mount Tabor (photo by James Parker).

Bitting said the game pointed to some fundamental differences between the veteran Mustangs and young Spartans.

"Mount Tabor pretty much scored from outside," Bitting said. "We scored from both inside and outside."

Rickert and Cedric Lineberger were Parkland's outside men, scoring 12 and 10 points, respectively. That enabled William and brother Jacques Bitting (seven points) to challenge Mount Tabor center Joe Jon Bryant (three blocks).

In the girls' game, Bonita

Clinkscale 13, Kelley 8, Hairston 8, Williams 6, Kennedy 4, Funderburk 2, McCullum 1.

PARKLAND (37) -- Adams 20, Brown 7, Rotnizer 7, Gethers 2, Doyle 1, Anderson 0, Holly 0.

Halftime: Mount Tabor, 27-18.

Boys' Game

MOUNT TABOR (51) -- Stu Epperson 17, Tyrone Lewis 15, Joe Jon Bryant 7, Pat Cunningham 4, Hassan Stevens 2, Julius Reese 2, Phillip Glenn 2, Kenny Gaither 2.

PARKLAND (59) -- Arthur Davis 15, Jeff Rickert 12, William Bitting 11,

Prep Standings

BOYS			GIRLS		
Team	W-L		Team	W-L	
North	9-3	South Rowan 67, Reynolds 53	East	8-0	Mount Tabor 31, Kannapolis 25
Parkland	8-3	Glenn 56, HP Andrews 51	North	7-2	Reynolds 46, South Rowan 33
East	7-4	N. Davidson 76, West 66	Glenn	5-3	HP Andrews 57, Glenn 39
Glenn	6-6		Carver	6-4	N. Davidson 67, West 39
Carver	5-5		Reynolds	4-4	
Reynolds	4-4		Mt. Tabor	3-6	
Mount Tabor	4-6		West	0-8	
West	2-8		Parkland	0-8	

Last Wednesday's Results

East 69, South Stokes 67 2OT

Last Friday's Games

Parkland 59, Mount Tabor 51
Reynolds 64, Kannapolis 46
South Rowan 71, West 55

Tuesday night's games not included.

Last Tuesday's Results

North 73, HP Central 67
Durham Hillside 65, Carver 44
Davie County 45, Parkland 41
Mount Tabor 69, Kannapolis 51

Last Tuesday's Results

HP Central 48, North 46 OT
Durham Hillside 58, Carver 46
Davie County 50, Parkland 48

Last Wednesday's Results

East 51, South Stokes 30

Last Friday's Results

Mount Tabor 55, Parkland 37
Reynolds 47, Kannapolis 33
South Rowan 74, West 34

Cedric Lineberger 10, Jacques Bitting 7, Lynn Smith 2, Chris Parks 2, Willie McCants 0.
Halftime: Mount Tabor, 30-27.

The Week

East's girls, ranked No. 1 in the Northwest, ran their record to 8-0 with a 51-30 win over South Stokes last Wednesday night.

Ashley Woods led the Lady Eagles with 18, while Shaunda Gamble added 12.

East held all-Northwest forward Traci Wolff to eight points.

In the boys' game, Mike Cole scored 20 points and Russell Tatum 17 to lead the Eagles (7-4) to a 69-67 double-overtime win. Ivan Miller and Chan LaRue combined on the game-winner, with Miller making a steal and LaRue a layup with three seconds left in the second overtime.

On Friday night, Danta Durant's 22 points lifted Reynolds to a 64-56 win over Kannapolis Brown. The Demons

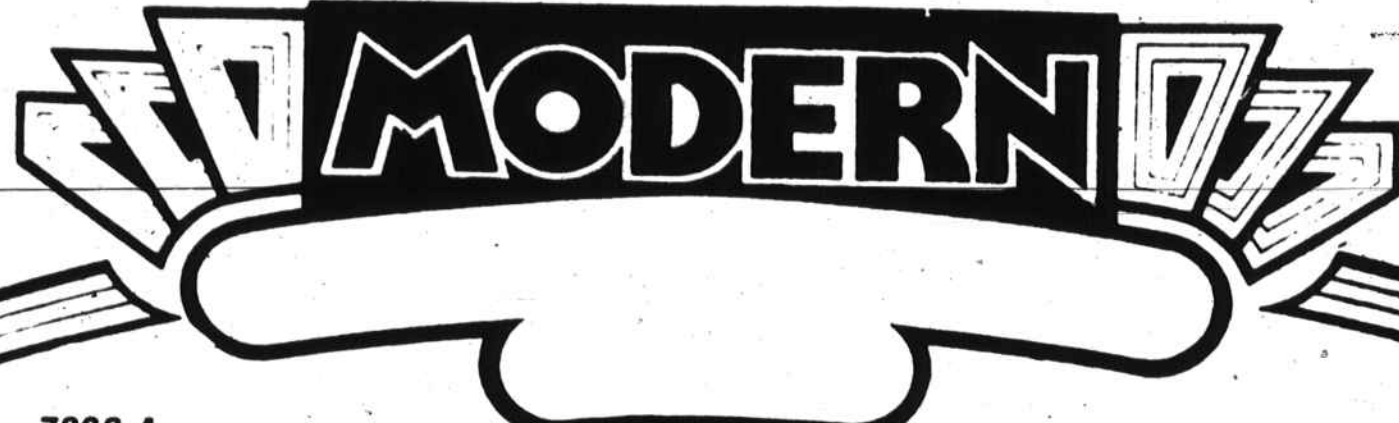
evened their Central Piedmont record at 1-1 and improved to 4-6 overall. Pat Thomas chipped in 16.

The RJR girls ran their record to 2-0 in the conference with a 47-33 win behind Jeri Simpson's 12 points. The Lady Demons ran their record to 4-6 overall.

West dropped a pair to South Rowan. The Titan boys lost 71-55, despite 23 points from Vince Hairston. In a game involving winless girls' teams, South Rowan registered an easy 74-34 rout.

North, which had struggled in a 73-67 win over High Point Central last Tuesday night, suffered a 67-57 loss to South Stokes, a team it had beaten by 18 last month. The 28-point turnaround could in part be attributed to the presence of Malcolm Dixon. Dixon missed the first game for the Sauras, but had a team-high 16 points last week. Rodney Scott led the Vikings (9-4) with 17. Pat Caesar added 11.

Amy Cole poured in 20 to lead the North girls to a 48-45 overtime win. Tina Banner added 11 as the Lady Vikings improved to 8-2.



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Sports Update

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season. He's improved in each of his three seasons and Howard's record has bettered accordingly. HU was 14-13 his freshman year, 15-11 two years ago and 19-10 last season.

Unfortunately, his health has gone the other way. Yet, Mellwaine said not playing this season was more of a precautionary move than anything else.

"It doesn't bother me now," he said. "They say I'm supposed to have shortness of breath and fatigue easily if I play. I've been playing pickup ball and none of the symptoms have shown up."

"When the doctor told me about my heart, I thought he was joking at first. He said it didn't sound too good and he wanted to send me down to the hospital (Howard University Hospital) for an EKG."

Mellwaine took precautions. He quit playing and waited for the test results. They actually proved inconclusive, although Mellwaine believes his problem is related to a virus he had while in Atlanta last season. The HU senior underwent additional testing at Bowman Gray Medical. Please see page B4