

Sports

Twin City rolls out the red carpet for Freedom Bowl

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

You could log enough airline miles to win a free trip to the Bahamas and still not see as much football talent that arrived in Winston-Salem this week.

The biggest array of black college football talent ever to be gathered on one playing field will collide at Groves Stadium this Saturday, as Winston-Salem has rolled out the red carpet for the fifth annual Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic.

The Freedom Bowl All-Star

Classic pits top talent from Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) against the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) in a North-South format.

The nation's only major all-star gathering for college seniors from historically black institutions, appears to have found a new home in Winston-

Salem.

The event, which was a brainchild of MEAC Commissioner, Ken Free, originated in Atlanta and made its home in Fulton County

would have greater impact and improved financial stability if it were moved closer to home.

Bowman Gray Stadium and Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, and Aggie Stadium in Greensboro, were among the three top choices as a new site for the game.

At an August 7 press conference, it was announced that officials of the Freedom Bowl had struck an agreement with the City of Winston-

Salem and Wake Forest University to move the game to Groves Stadium.

"The Washington Redskins had several home games during the month of December," said Free. "That left the date of the Freedom Bowl up in the air and that was our opportunity to move it closer to home," he explained.

Free said that Groves Stadium was the chosen site because of several reasons.

"Well, Aggie Stadium just didn't have enough seats for us to

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For a further look at this Saturday's Fifth Annual Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic, please see pages B2 and B3.

Stadium for the first three years. The Freedom Bowl then held its fourth game in Washington's RFK Stadium.

But officials of the game felt it



Ken Free

Carter's surprising big night helps Spartans crush North 80-62

Mount Tabor may have the Central Piedmont to themselves

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

If Mount Tabor's 80-62 win over North Forsyth was any indication, then it's going to be a long season for everyone in the Central Piedmont Conference. Everyone except the Spartans, of course.

There wasn't much coaching for Dick Jamback to do last Friday night, as his fine tuned scoring machine easily put away one of the County's most consistent basketball programs.

From the word go, Mount Tabor jumped on the sluggish Vikings, building a 12-0 lead before North's Pat Caesar finally broke the drought with a driving layup and drew a foul. But there was only 2:46 left in the first quarter when Caesar completed his three-point play, leaving the Vikings to play catchup the entire game.

While North tried to contain 6-8 center Joe John Bryant, guard Phil Glenn and forward Stu Epperson, another less touted Spartan, forward Heath Carter, outfoxed the Vikings for 18 points on some smooth outside shooting.

Carter's jumper was effective coming off the screen, while the driving penetration of Glenn, and Bryant's force on the inside, were good for 15 points each. But there was more where that came from, as reserve forward Hassan Stevens came off the bench and assaulted the lane for 14 points, while Epperson struck early for 12 points of his own.

In all, the total balance of the Spartans simply outmanned the Vikings and even impressed Jamback, who has undoubtedly the best team of his coaching career in the 4-A ranks.

"In all honesty," said Jamback. "If this isn't the best game we've played since I've been here, then it has to rank as one of the top two or three.

"Take nothing away from North Forsyth -- they have a good basketball team -- but I frankly think we dominated every phase of the game. We shot the ball well, we made good decisions, we rebounded well and kept our mistakes to a minimum."

Carter No Surprise To Jamback

Jamback said he was pleased with the big game from Carter, but wasn't surprised that much.

"We knew Carter was a shooter," he said. "We just spotted him in the zone and he shot the ball with confidence. That's all he needs -- a few big games to boost his confidence -- and he'll be a big factor for us."

Meanwhile, it was back to the drawing board for Coach Olon Shuler and the Vikings.

"They just jumped on us at the start and didn't let up," said Shuler, whose Vikings were led by 17 points from Caesar.

"I thought we made a few good runs at them, but could never quite get over the hump. We cut the lead to under ten a few times, but we turned it over and they got some big shots."

The Spartans, once tagged as strictly a man-to-man team, threw a 1-3-1 defensive scheme at North and drew quick results. The Vikings coughed up the ball 25 times due to the various Spartan defensive looks.

"North Forsyth is such a well-schooled team," said Jamback. "We knew that we had to force the issue on both defense and offense. Offensively, you have to be patient against them -- and I thought we were."

"I was very pleased with our defensive play, too. We gave them several looks and that definitely slowed them down."

Shuler, whose team opened the season with a pair of convincing wins before dropping to 2-1, said the loss

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Timely Aggie spurt stymies Rams 65-58

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Two heavyweights met in Memorial Coliseum Tuesday night, and the N.C. A&T Aggies took round one over Winston-Salem State, 65-58, by using a keen sense of timing.

The Rams held a 24-17 advantage with 2:24 left in the first half and appeared to be well on their way of pulling off an upset over the Division I-AA Aggies. But A&T took advantage of the lackluster Rams, as they put together an 8-0 run and went into the dressing room with a 25-24 lead.

WSSU shot an airball, missed a one-and-one, was the victim of a ten-second call and missed three shots during the critical Aggie charge.

A&T head coach, Don Corbett, said his team was fortunate to make their first-half run at just right time.

"We were fortunate to get it when we needed it," said Corbett, whose Aggies returned three starters off of last year's 24-6 MEAC championship team. "Had we won in at the half trailing by very much, it could've been a different ballgame."

WSSU opened the second half by trading baskets with the A&T for more than six minutes, but the Aggies responded with another run off of turnovers and cold Ram shooting, pushing their lead to 50-39 at the 8:33 mark.

From that point, Corbett kept his players patient with an occasional timeout, and A&T withstood two brief WSSU runs for the win.

Corbett said his team's first half comeback was a key.

"I think the press might've hurt them," said Corbett of the Rams' scoreless stretch before the end of the first half.

"We didn't do anything extra. We just kept pressure on Charlie Spell since he's their ballhandler."

Coach Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines said his Rams went down hill and never recovered.

"We just didn't execute when we had to," said Gaines, whose Rams dropped their first loss and fell to 3-1.

"We did some things wrong. We missed some shots close to the basket and didn't pose enough of a threat inside. You can't beat an inside team like A&T with guards."

Kenny Cox, a 6-7 center, paced the Aggies offensively, hitting the Rams inside for 20 points. Meanwhile, guard Thomas "Iceman" Griffis struck for 18. He also handed out four assists to lead A&T's fast break.

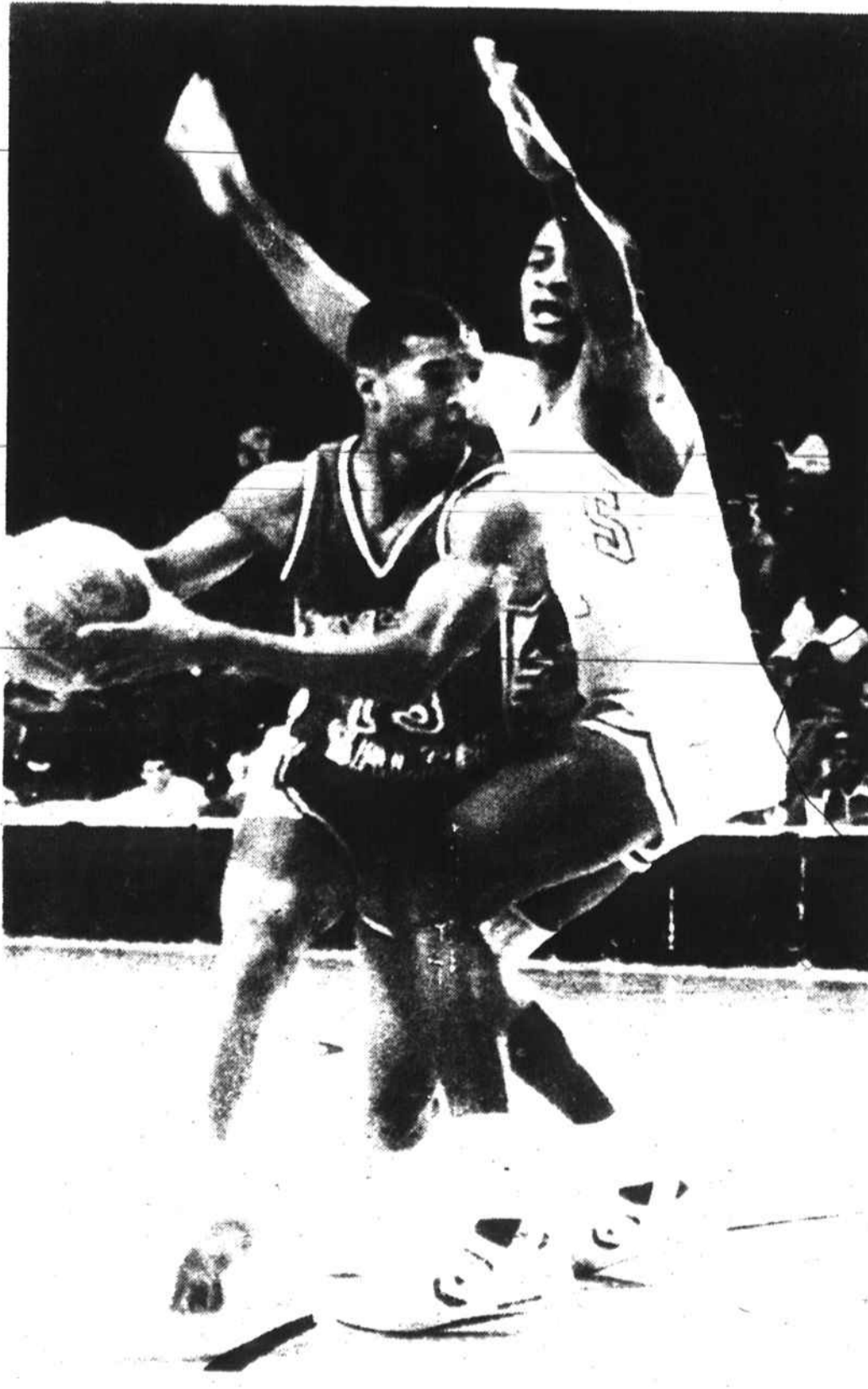
Charlie Spell, who paced the Rams with 20 points, said he was disappointed with the outcome.

"We just got too laid back," said Spell of the Rams' cold snap in the first half.

"We had a lead and started playing to keep the lead instead of taking advantage of what they were giving us. We didn't take some shots we should have because we were trying to find a better one."

Spell said the Rams were confident heading into the game.

"We knew we could score on them," said Spell. "Our goal was to



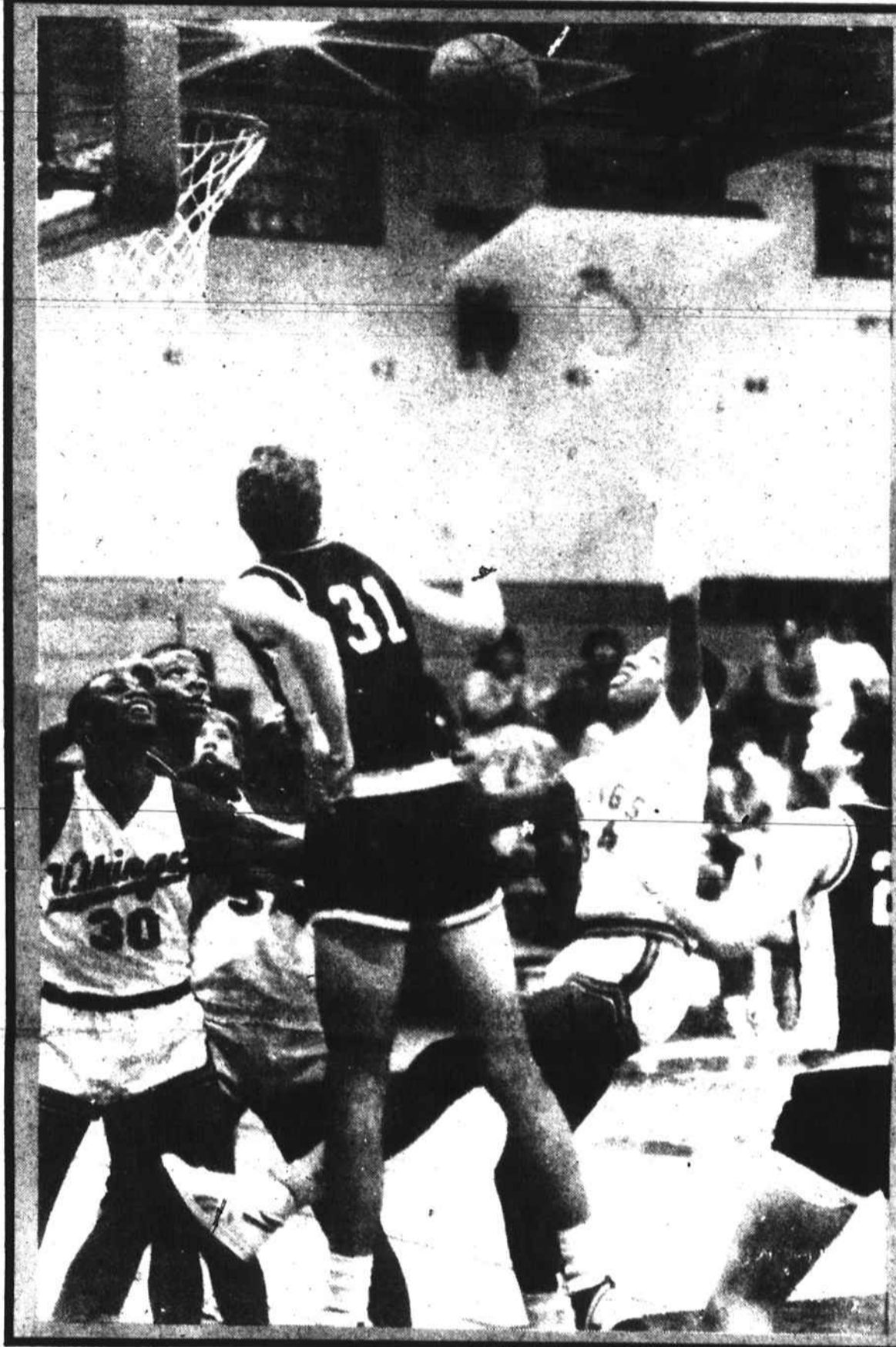
Carlton Becton of N.C. A&T applies the pressure to WSSU's Charlie Spell. The Ram guard finished with 20 points, while Mathew McMullan added 10 in the losing effort (photo by Santana).

slow them down inside and hope they would miss some shots on the perimeter.

"Sure, we're disappointed.

However, the point is they are not a better team than we are. Sure they're well-coached and have

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Jayvee Battle

Vick Seat of North Forsyth's junior varsity boys basketball team stumbles backwards as he launches a shot over the head of Mount Tabor's Kyle Macemore (31). Viking teammate Derrick Glover (30) snared the rebound on the missed shot seconds later, and scored for North. But the Spartans built a 35-26 half-time lead and cruised to a 69-56 win. See page B4 for the story (photo by Randy Pettitt).

ON THE SIDELINES

Basketball's a funny game, just examine the Metro 4-A

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Basketball is a funny game these days. Consider the case of Glenn High School.

The Bobcats lost seven players who started a year ago, yet they have been repeatedly singled out as the team to beat in the Metro 4-A conference.

Of course there are two rather large details being left out of the picture -- namely 6-8 Kevin Thompson and 6-5 Bryant Feggins, who account for a big handful of points whenever they are anywhere near a basketball.

One thing is for certain, three city schools are glad that the Bobcats are not in the Central Piedmont Conference. Glenn has wrecked havoc on the CPC, notching a close victory over Reynolds, pounding Parkland, 65-39, and clobbering West Forsyth, 91-59.

The thought of having the Bobcats match up with an unbeaten Eden Morehead or Mount Tabor in the finals of the Frank Spencer Classic, probably has crossed the mind of a basketball fan or two.

"We're going to take them one at a time. If you start looking ahead, then you get into trouble."

**-- Napoleon Cloud
Glenn Head Coach**

But for Coach Napoleon Cloud, his thoughts simply rest on the next victim on the Bobcat's schedule.

"We're going to take them one at a time," said Cloud. "If you start looking ahead, then you get into trouble."

And anyone looking ahead of the Bobcats for first place in the Metro Conference, could be in trouble as well.

Glenn has Feggins and Thompson, but the rest of the supporting cast is solid as well. Cloud, who uses three post players in his centerless offense, has looked to 6-3 Antoine Mobley to support the "Twin Towers" down low.

The Bobcats also received an early Christmas present upon the arrival of 6-3 forward Carlos Minor, a transfer from West Forsyth.

Cloud, who once struggled to have enough quality guards, now says the position is well filled.

"We have four five good kids at the guard spot," said Cloud. "I feel like we have talent and depth at every position."