

Reynolds sweeps Parkland in jayvee action

By RANDY PETTITT
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To borrow an old script, it was much like David and Goliath when Parkland and Reynolds' jayvees collided last week. This sports version of the biblical saga was slightly different, however, as Goliath had two resounding victories.

In the opening girls matchup, Parkland had trouble doing even the simplest of tasks -- like bringing the ball up the floor for instance. The Lady Mustangs shot less than 10% from the floor and were crushed by the Demons, 52-4. Reynolds forced more than 30 turnovers and Parkland took only seven shots inside of 15 feet.

The boys game proved to be much better, however.

Reynolds had a decided height advantage and used it to forge a 25-20 lead at halftime. The Demons had five players over six feet tall, while Parkland had 5-10 Kevin Tedder jumping center.

The Mustangs were on the ropes most of the third quarter, but the Demons never applied the knockout punch. After trailing 41-22, Parkland's Gary Williams almost single-handedly put his team back into the ballgame.

Williams stole the ball four straight times and converted three layups during a key run that cut the margin to 56-43 with five minutes left in the final quarter.

Parkland's Terrick Miller then converted two layups off of a missed shot and a steal for a 58-47 Reynolds lead.

Coach Norman Trzaskoma of Reynolds called a time out and reinsorted his starters. The result was eight unanswered points and Reynolds coasted to a 70-58 win.

"They were really aggressive," said Trzaskoma of the Mustangs.

"I think we had a big advantage in size and experience. It also helped us to play at home. You have give credit to Parkland, though. They made the most out of what they had."

Don Puckett, the head coach of the Mustang jayvees, said his team played remarkably well considering their handicap.

"We're outsize every time we hit the floor," said Puckett, whose team has only three returnees with significant playing time last season. "We did about as well as we could. We could have rolled over and died -- but they hung in there and made a game of it."

Williams led the Mustangs' losing effort with 20 points, while Miller finished with 11.

Meanwhile Reynolds had three players in double figures led by Kendrick Stoddard, a 6-4 sophomore forward who finished with 18 points, 10 rebounds and a pair of steals. Sean Gibson and George Lyons, added 14 each as Reynolds improved their record to 5-2.



Surrounded!

Darlene Marsh of Parkland's junior varsity girls' team found herself completely surrounded by Demons. Reynolds crushed the Mustangs, 52-4, by forcing numerous turnovers (photo by Randy Pettitt).

Freshmen teams could offset losses

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identify incoming talent.

"It would certainly help us. We have to play a very limited schedule because there's not that many school systems nearby with ninth-grade teams."

Dr. William (Bill) Russell, the director of athletics for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System, says there has been no official discussion on the topic of ninth grade teams.

"It has some possibilities," said Russell. "But there has been no official discussion or anything at this point."

"I think before we consider anything, it ought to be studied to see what kind of impact it would have. The bottom line is we need to give more kids a chance to play, but there are a lot of things to be taken into consideration."

"Can we afford it? Do we have the facilities? Do we have the personnel? It certainly warrants discussion."

Russell said perhaps a limited program of ninth-grade only teams would be a compromise to help offset the loss of middle school athletics.

"Intramurals weren't intended to produce athletes," said Russell. "The idea there is participation. We have a tremendous number of youngsters involved in the intramural programs."

"I can see a better justification for considering a ninth grade program because it would allow greater participation in high school sports. That is ultimately what we aim for."

Russell said if the idea of having freshmen teams is brought up and considered, the decision would ultimately be up to Superintendent Zane Eargle and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board.

"If it got that far, they would be the ones to decide," he said.

Homer Thompson, the head football coach and athletic director at Parkland High School, said he isn't very optimistic.

"It (the ninth grade program) would help," said Thompson. "But there would be some problems with it."

"We have a lot of trouble getting coaching help from the middle schools. We would need middle schools to release more coaches so we could make such a program work. Right now, it almost takes an act of congress to get a coach from one of the middle schools."

"I think there are some coaches in the middle schools who would like to get back in it, but there are some who would rather babysit intramurals for the same money."

"If you're a teacher, then you

ought to have the interest in helping kids to begin with. These days, that's not always the case."

Gray Cartwright, the athletic director at North Forsyth, said he would support any program to alleviate the loss of middle school sports.

"I'm really surprised at the parents," said Cartwright. "They haven't questioned the intramural program at all. Parents don't seem to be worried about anything. It (interscholastic sports) was a big loss at that level."

"You can see it starting to come on -- especially in your girls sports and minor sports. We just can't compete with the Greensboro schools (Page and Smith) in our conference (the Metro 4-A)."

"Anything to help would be tremendous for the kids. Girls have little or nothing outside of what the school system offers."

Durwood Pack agrees with the idea of ninth-grade teams in theory, but says it has some holes in it.

"I'm out of coaches, now," said Pack, the athletic director of West Forsyth High School in Clemmons.

"I would prefer to have athletics back in the middle schools. That would help us the most."

"But if we can't have that, then we need to do something. We had 70 kids try out for junior varsity basketball. We certainly have the athletes to support an extra team."

"The problem would be getting coaches. Right now, it is very difficult for us to get middle school coaching help."

"Our concern is that our freshmen wrestlers and the girls have to go against Davie County and other outside schools with far greater experience. At the junior varsity level, we have people who've never played before taking on people who've already had two years of junior high experience."

"We need something to help offset that. If we couldn't get the middle schools playing sports, then maybe ninth grade teams would help some. There would be some problems to iron out, though."

One administrator, who asked not to be identified, said the intramural program is in the middle schools to stay and a ninth-grade program may be the only alternative.

"Hell will freeze over before they put athletics back in the middle schools," he said. "The administrators and middle school principals love it because they don't have to fool with it."

"The parents love it because it's free daycare. There are buses to pick the kids up and the parents

don't have to get involved or go to any games. Parents can sit home and do what they want to do. The principals can leave early and go to the golf course. And the kids get the shaft as usual."

"You go to any middle school -- there is little or no school spirit -- not like it used to be when they had sports. Sports give poor children and blacks something extra to work for in the classroom."

"The black community is the key in getting anything passed. If the black community would voice some support for the ninth-grade teams, then they have a chance to come about."

Athletic Directors are expected

to meet with Russell within the next two weeks and the issue will be officially brought up in the meeting. Most AD's and coaches are hopeful but concede they need help.

"The squeaky wheel get the grease," said Thompson. "If the parents -- particularly the black community -- get behind us, then we might get something done."

"When they (the school board) do away with something, you never get it back. Maybe having ninth grade teams would sort of be a compromise for losing the middle schools."

"I'm always for anything that helps the kids. That's my job."



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