

# Player of the Year From Page B1

"I've got a pretty nice scrapbook," he laughs. "I've put the really good ones in there."

Though opening the many recruiting letters is old hat by now, Feggins admits the first few were pretty exciting.

"The first one from the ACC was pretty special," he says.

"It was from Coach (Bob) Staak and Wake Forest. Then I got one from UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State, Clemson ..."

Feggins plods through the list, which sounds more like a compiling of a college basketball who's who society. Bobby Cremmins and Georgia Tech, Virginia, Virginia Tech., University of Miami, Georgetown, Louisville, UNLV, Kentucky, DePaul and Notre Dame are among the heavyweights.

Howard University, Furman and S.C. State join the countless number of small schools who strive to pull off a major recruiting coup.

"And the University of Hawaii," said Feggins, completing the list.

He laughs at the notion of a possible trip to the sunny beaches of Hawaii.

"Man, I don't know where I'm going," he replies.

"I'm going to look at as many schools as I possibly can."

Though some speculate that the ACC has the inside track to Feggins' services, he flatly denies it.

"Like I said, I have no idea where I'm going right now. I still have another year of school to get through."

## Best Friends

Many coaches and members of the community speculate that where Feggins decides to go, then so will Thompson and vice versa.

Feggins does not deny that he and his best friend would like to stay together.

"Kevin is just like family to me," said Feggins, who first met Thompson in the seventh grade at then Philo Jr. High School.

"He's like a brother to me. He can come over to my house any time he wants to. And I go over to his house and watch television just like I'm at home.

"We grew up together. We would very much like to attend the same college together. It would make settling in a whole lot easier if we had each other to lean on a little bit.

"We want to go together -- but if things come up different -- then life goes on. Kevin will always be one of my best friends no matter

*"We grew up together. We would very much like to attend the same college. It would make settling in a whole lot easier."*

*-- Bryant Feggins on his friend and teammate, Kevin Thompson.*

what happens."

Feggins says though some schools have split feelings as to who would help their program the most, several appear interested in a "package deal".

"Some schools want a quality big man (Thompson), while others need someone on the wing. I still think the chances are pretty good that we could go together."

And despite the bum rap that is often given to high school basketball players, Feggins has the grades to get into school.

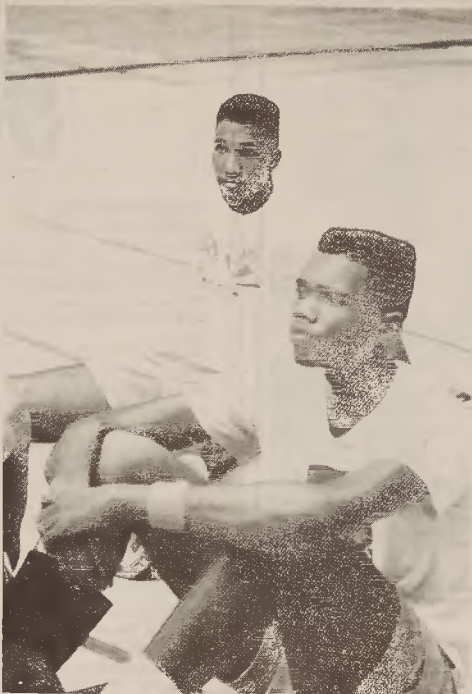
"I know how important my school work is," he says confidently, apparently having discussed the subject many times before.

The junior spends his day at Glenn High involved in English, Mathematics, Spanish, Advanced World History, Government Economics and Advanced Physical Science.

Though Feggins is quick to joke of a Calculus class slowing his Grade Point Average to a 3.6, he is actually a pretty fair student.

"I think I'm an average student," said Feggins, whose GPA is closer to the neighborhood of 2.6 -- still above the average John Doe. On the court, calling Feggins above average would be a severe injustice.

Spectacular would be a much better word.



Since the seventh grade, Kevin Thompson and Bryant Feggins have been close allies on and off the basketball court. The two say they would like to attend college together, too (photo by Randy Pettitt).

## Inconspicuous Start

Ironically, it was football that really turned Feggins on to basketball as his first love.

As a 5-7, 147-pound seventh-grader, Philo grid coaches were quick to persuade him into giving football a try.

Spending most of his time as a second-string quarterback, Feggins was a popular and very large target. "Everybody loves to hit the quarterback," he smiles.

"I always felt pretty sore after practice. I really didn't get hurt all that bad, it was just the bruises and aches and pains."

He quickly tired of the sport, but not being one to quit in the middle of the season, Feggins endured the seven-game schedule and quietly hung up his cleats at the end of the campaign.

It was then he realized which sport he really loved -- basketball -- and tried out for the Rebels' basketball team.

His coach, Winfred Watkins, kidded him at first.

"I thought I might have to play two years of junior varsity at times," he admitted.

"But then again, sometimes I felt like I could do it."

The summer before, Feggins kept his skills sharp though playing time in Robert Little's Reynolds Park Recreation Center team. He averaged nearly 10 points and six rebounds a game, but something was still missing.

"I was kind of nervous," he said.

"I thought I could play, but when I got out on the court, I was thinking about messing up too much. When you think too much, mistakes do start to happen.

"So I realized I had to be a leader. You lead by coming to practice on time and working hard to keep everyone else in sync. I figured the rest would come."

Indeed, the rest did come, as Feggins and Thompson spent considerable time battling seniors for a starting position at Glenn. Neither were established starters, but the two played an uncanny amount of varsity time for freshmen.

"Coach (Napoleon) Cloud told us that if we worked hard and stuck with him, then we'd probably get to start regularly as sophomores," Feggins said.

"The coaches at school wanted me to play football, but I didn't have the interest. I devoted my time to playing basketball and being the best player I could possibly be."

Glenn took the Elon College Basketball Camp by storm that summer, impressing several veteran teams with a fine showing. Feggins truly emerged as a confident force when he captured the one-on-one competition.

"I really thought I was the best one-on-one player there," he said of the camp.

"I had to prove it to the rest of the guys there -- and I did."

## Paying Off

Though he was still second to Thompson statistically, the commitment to the one sport he loved began to pay dividends during Feggins' sophomore season. He improved his average to 20 points a game and eight rebounds.

The Bobcats as a team also began to let the basketball world know they were for real, finishing a respectable third in the tough Metro Conference. Had it not been for a pair of heartbreaking losses to North Forsyth, Glenn might've taken second.

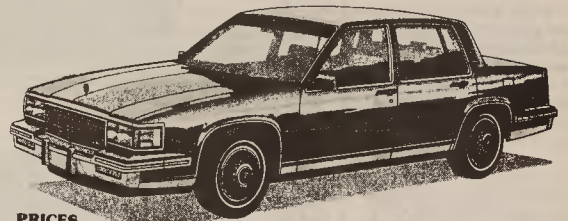
But they avenged the losses by knocking off North in the tournament and capturing a playoff bid when the championship game was wiped out because of a snowstorm.

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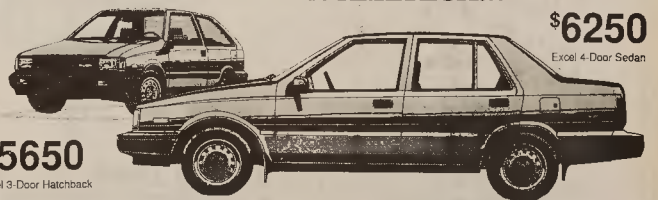
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