

Sports

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Rams start '91 with a big surge on coast

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If the start of the new year is an indication of things to come, Winston-Salem State roundball fans should be in for a real treat for the rest of this season.

The Rams (now 5-4) won back-to-back games for the first time since Thanksgiving when they cap-

"We executed our game plan very well, plus we had good play coming off the bench. We can go 10 deep and that will be a big help for the rest of the season."

-- "Bighouse" Gaines

is concerned, Phillips proved to be extremely bothersome. Going into January, Mattison had scorched opponents to the tune of 30.5 ppg. But against Phillips, the CIAA's top gunner finished with 20 points and shot just under 41 percent from the field.

As a team, the Falcons shot a miserable 38.5 percent from the floor and 45.4 percent from the free

offense will take care of itself."

That philosophy worked to perfection in Wilmington as several Rams besides Hardin came through with better than adequate offensive contributions. In the finals, for example, shooting guard Kevin Edwards popped the cords with the kind of regularity that has always been expected of him. Edwards hit five of six shots and finished with 13 points and six boards coming off the bench.

Edwards, though, wasn't the only Ram providing points to compliment Hardin and Phillips' efforts in the finals. William Bennett added 12 points and seven rebounds, while James Doggett tallied nine points and six boards.

All-tourney Rams

..... Hardin and Bennett were the two Winston players named to the Smoke On The River All-Tournament team. Bennett finished the two-day affair averaging 13.5 points and nine rebounds (including 15 points and 11 boards vs. Elizabeth City State).

Upcoming opponents

..... The Rams will face a lot of offense over the next few days with home games against St. Augustine's and Morehouse College. The Falcons (83.6 ppg) have a Saturday night date vs. Winston at 7:30. This game will have a big impact on how the Southern Division shapes up by mid-month.

..... On Monday, Morehouse's Maroon Tigers face-off against the Rams at 8 p.m. Last season, M-House won the South Atlantic Regional title and finished fourth at the Division II nationals. This season, they are the pre-season pick to win the Division II championship.

The Maroon Tigers have one of the nation's most explosive offensive teams (93.5 ppg) and are a huge favorite to repeat as SIAC champs. The presence of forward Harold Ellis (25.6 ppg), South Atlantic Regional MVP in '90, is a prime reason why. The Atlanta junior has been viewed as one of the premier players in Division II for the last two seasons.

throw line (five of 11).

"We're going to stay with Phillips being our defensive stopper," Gaines said. "He's going to have to be our man to shut down other teams' top scorers."

Defense, it seems, will be the Rams' salvation in order for them to emerge as top dogs in the conference's Southern Division. In the most recent league stats, Winston is ranked third in scoring defense (allowing 71.4 ppg).

Winston's early resurgence has not been a case of coincidence. During the holiday break, Gaines decided to make some changes to bring about a greater level of consistency.

"Defense is the difference," Gaines said. "Earlier in the season, we devoted a lot of time to shooting. But heck, it didn't do us any good. The more we practiced shooting, the worse we shot during the games. So I felt we should cut down on the time we spend in practice on it and place more emphasis on defense. We won't use any more gimmick zone defenses. We'll go with a straight man-to-man, over-play people and go with more of an uptempo game. That will create turnovers for us so we can get some easy baskets. When you do that, the

ured the Smoke On The River Classic at Wilmington last weekend besting Elizabeth City State the first night (90-71), then dusting St. Augustine's in the finals, 91-72.

Power forward Jon Hardin, who was voted tournament MVP, was the scoring force at the tournament, averaging 23.5 points and eight rebounds. But in the finals, it was swingman Mike Phillips who entered the spotlight, scoring 25 points and doing a defensive number on St. Aug's Gary Mattison, the CIAA's leading scorer. Phillips, by the way, produced his finest offensive showing of the season, hitting eight of 11 field goals and seven of 10 foul shots to go along with five rebounds.

"I believe we've finally found the right combination in our rotation," said "Bighouse" Gaines, Winston coach. "But against St. Augustine's, I think the major difference was conditioning. Our kids came back from the holidays in good shape and ready to play. St. Aug's timing seemed to be off.

"We executed our game plan very well, plus we had good play coming off the bench. We can go 10 deep and that will be a big help for the rest of the season."

As far as the Falcons' Mattison

East jayvees topple Greensboro Smith to go 7-0

By Chronicle Staff

County junior varsity basketball action is back in full swing after a two week holiday break. The following is a summary of how those teams fared during the first

week of the season's second half.

East Forsyth

The 7-0 Eagles kept their winning streak alive by downing Greensboro Smith, 73-62.

Andrew Stroud was the highest scoring East player with 17 points.

James Lee, a back-up guard, came off the bench to supply solid defense while scoring eight points.

East coach Philip Beeson felt his guys' defensive effort was the difference in the game's final outcome. "It was easy to see that we

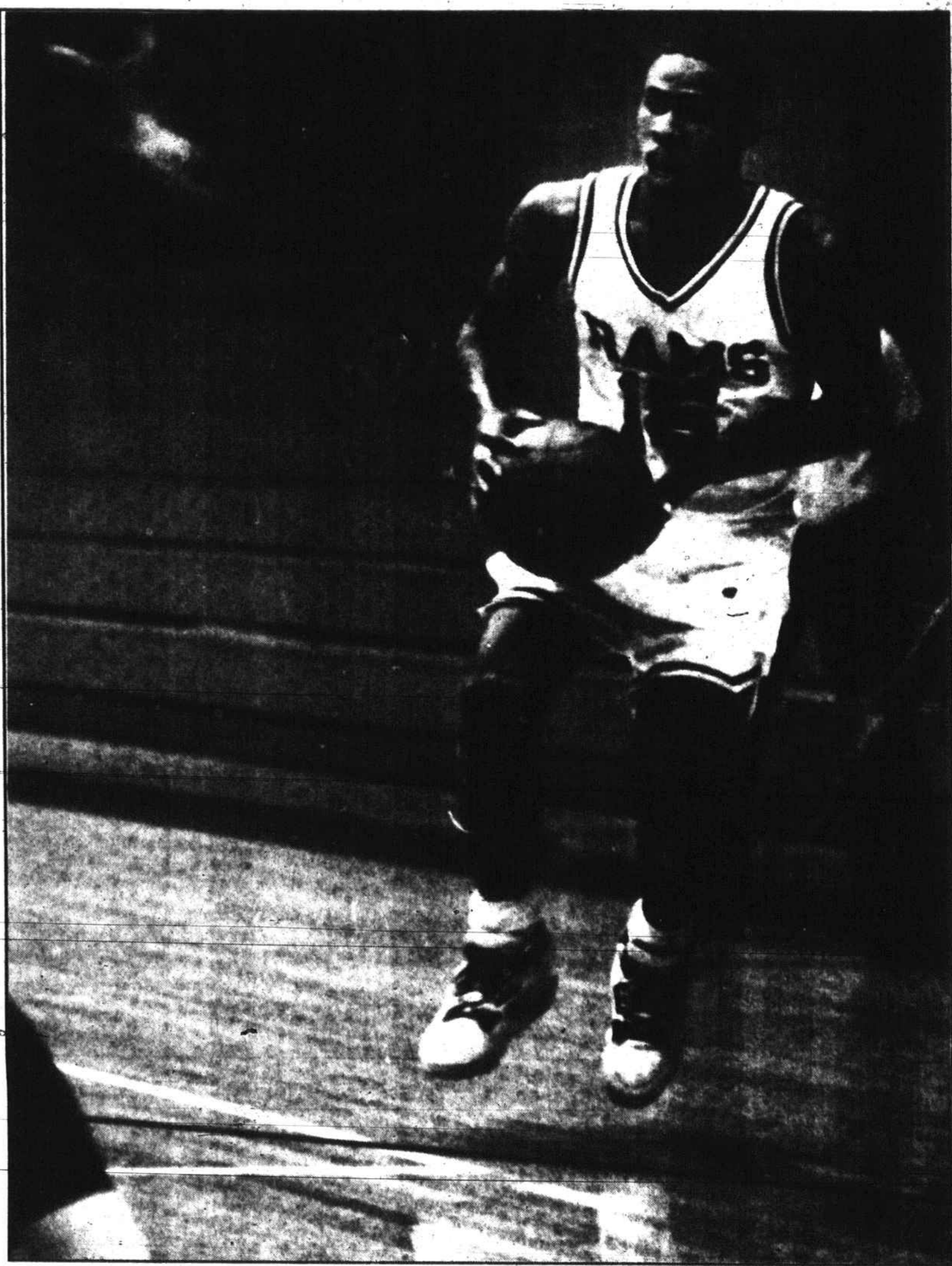


Photo by T-Lee

Swingman Mike Phillips could prove to be the Rams key performer in their quest for a CIAA Southern Division title because of his ability to play chest-to-chest defense against opposing scorers. Phillips faces another challenge when WSSU plays host to St. Augustine's on Saturday.

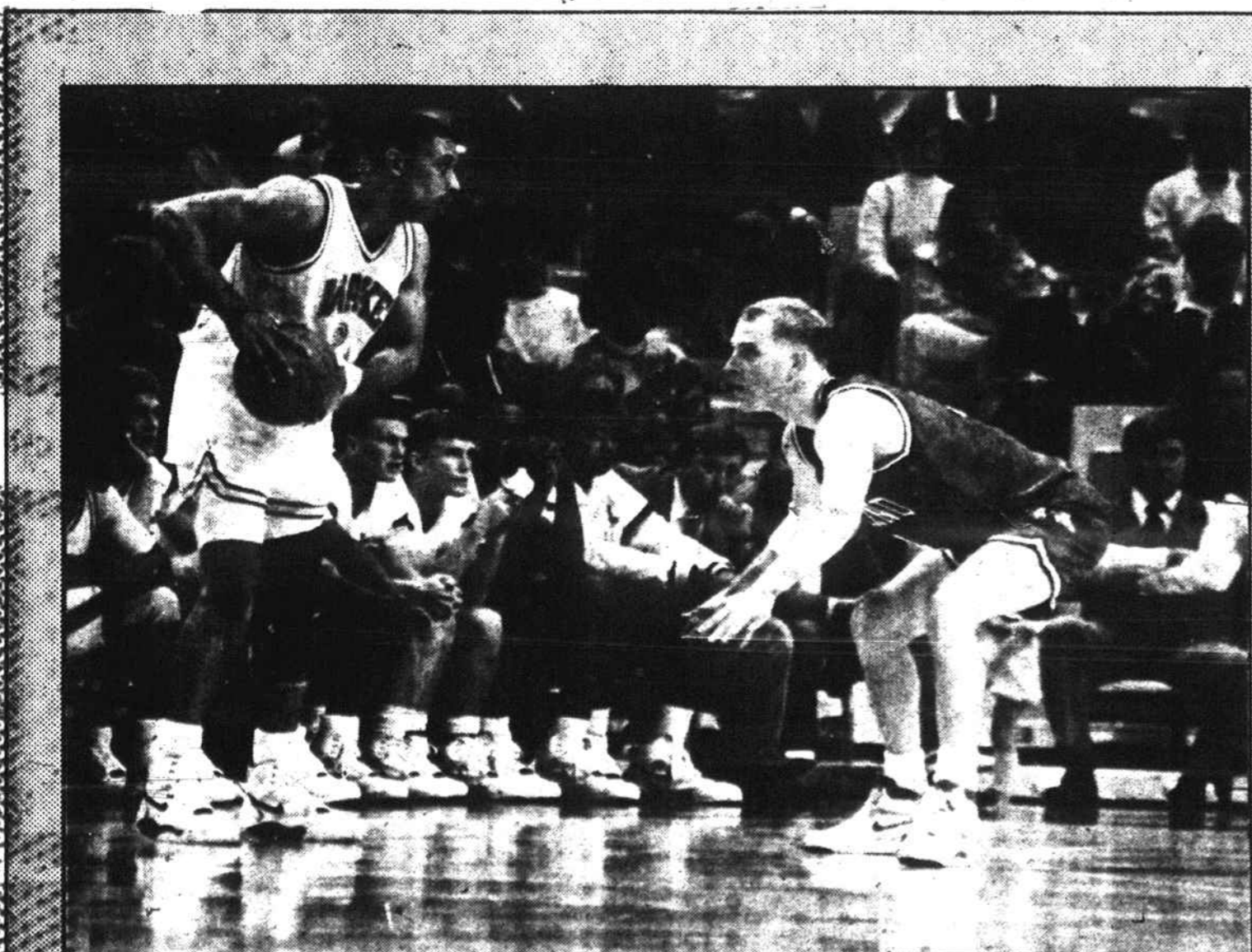


Photo by Max Dunhill

It's Your Move

Robert Siler, the Deacons' designated sixth man prepares to make his move on a Maryland defender in the ACC opener for both teams. Going into last night's game against Colorado, Siler was averaging 11.1 points a game, shooting 50 percent from the field and better than 90 percent from the foul line.

were rusty from the holiday lay-off," said Beeson. "But defensively, we did very well. We pressured the ball like we always have, so defensively, we're picking up where we left off from last month."

Reynolds

The Demons split a pair last week, winning in OT against High Point Central while losing a close game to South Rowan, 56-51.

Against Central, Derik Briggs (18 points), Linwood Skinner (17 points) and Scott Wainwright (15 points) paced the attack. RJR roared back into contention after trailing by 12 points at the half.

However, the Demons pulled to within seven at the end of the third quarter. The final surge was initiated by the outside shooting of Paul Wolf and Cooper Williams. Wolf hit two, three-pointers and Williams added another three to put Reynolds in a position to force the overtime.

"By the time we got into overtime, we were in control," said Mike Muse, RJR coach. "The key for us was hitting our free throws down the stretch, running our offense and playing outstanding defense."

Against South Rowan, the Demons dug a hole for themselves early, trailing 21-6 in the first quarter. From that point, Reynolds had to play catch-up and was never able to come back all the way. Wolf was the lone Demon in double figures with 10 points.

"The best we could do was cut their lead to two points," said Muse. "But we had a good effort. They just outplayed us in the first quarter

and that was the difference."

Mt. Tabor

The Spartans pulled off a 53-47 win over Greensboro Grimsley in spite of foul trouble.

With starting guards Jimmy Hunt and "Beanie" Montgomery having fouled out in the fourth quarter, Matt Parker and Vic Beroth stepped forward to help stabilize Tabor's offense. However, it was Anthony Caldwell (10th grader) who did most of the offensive damage with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Matt Fearington added nine points and six boards, while Joe Michalski had eight points and seven rebounds.

"Our guards coming off the bench did a good job of protecting the ball and we were able to hit some key free throws late in the game," said Tabor coach Frank Marjin. "It was a slow game. But we played well when we had to."

Parkland

The Mustangs paid the price for cold shooting in dropping a decision to Davie County.

"We made a run in the second half to get their lead down to six points," explained coach Steve Thornton, "but we could never get any closer. Davie County's trapping defense gave us some problems. We were confused on our offensive patterns and never got things going for us at the offensive end of the floor."

Glenn

The Bobcats opened the first week of the season's second half with a win over South Stokes and a loss vs. High Point Andrews.

Glenn shook off a cold shoot-

ing touch, to nudge South Stokes, 57-56. The Cats' comeback was successful thanks to 65 percent field goal shooting in the second half. In the first half, they were far off the mark, shooting 25 percent from the field.

Darrell Johnson led the way with 26 points and Paul Feggins scored 17. In addition, Jeremy Maynard contributed nine assists in a reserve role.

In the loss to Andrews, the Bobcats siezed an early lead, but fell prey to the press which led to their defeat.

Cleveland Brown was the top scorer with 24 points and Johnson had 16 points.

West Forsyth

The Titans put up a good fight, but eventually fell to Greensboro Dudley, 62-57.

West got in trouble early, falling behind by 16 points by the end of the first half. In the second half, they applied more defensive pressure which created turnovers and easy baskets, cutting Dudley's lead to three points with a minute left to play in the game.

The Titans second unit (composed of Bradley Boverder, Jay Lewandowski and Jay Nelson) were instrumental in the team's comeback, according to West coach Brian Holt. "We made that hard run at the end," the coach said, "but we just couldn't get any closer."

Mike Ruffin was the Titans leading scorer with 12 points. Rob Burke had 10 points, while Jason Lott and Troy Hendrix scored seven points each.