

Dudley's Dawkins Makes Steps Toward Future by Moving Back to Panthers Jayvee Team

By MICHAEL JOHNSON
Chronicle Sports Writer

Greensboro Dudley's Kenneth Dawkins could have played on the varsity if he wanted to. But he thought he should step down to the junior varsity level.

"I wanted to get more playing time this year, so I came back down," said the 15-year old ninth grader who is averaging better than 24 points and 12 rebounds this season for the Panthers. "I can work on my game here and be a better player when I move up. If I sit on the bench, I can't do anything."

Dawkins has gotten off to a running start early this season because that's what he does best — running the court. A lanky 6-2, Dawkins releases soon as the other team shoots the ball. Whenever a teammate grabs the ball, he finds an easy and large target in Dawkins.

"Kenneth creates a great option on the break with his size and his ability to finish a fastbreak," Dudley coach Calvin Hunt said. "The way he runs the court makes it easy to find him on the wing."

But what has Hunt beaming about his big man is that he is improving at a rapid pace. When the game slows down to a crawl, Dawkins is able to display a devel-

oping low-post game. In addition to his quickness on the blocks, Dawkins has worked on his turnaround jumper and a baby hook.

"I want to work on everything while I have a chance to, offense, defense, free throws," Dawkins said. "I might go up to the varsity this year, and I want to play."

Dawkins almost found himself on the varsity as a freshman because of his potential. But Dawkins moved down to the jayvee squad when the Panthers' varsity planned to return most of its players from last year. Hunt said the move may turn out to Dawkins' advantage.

"Kenneth would have sat the bench as an 11th or 12th man because he was a freshman," Hunt said. "It wouldn't have been to his advantage in the long run because he still needs to work on his game."

Hunt is also glad Dawkins is aboard because he returns only one player from a squad that went 18-4. Having a player as talented as Dawkins more than makes up for the inexperience on the roster. But Hunt wants to see Dawkins help out in other areas besides scoring.

"Kenneth's got to be a better rebounder for us and work harder on defense," Hunt said. "He also needs help

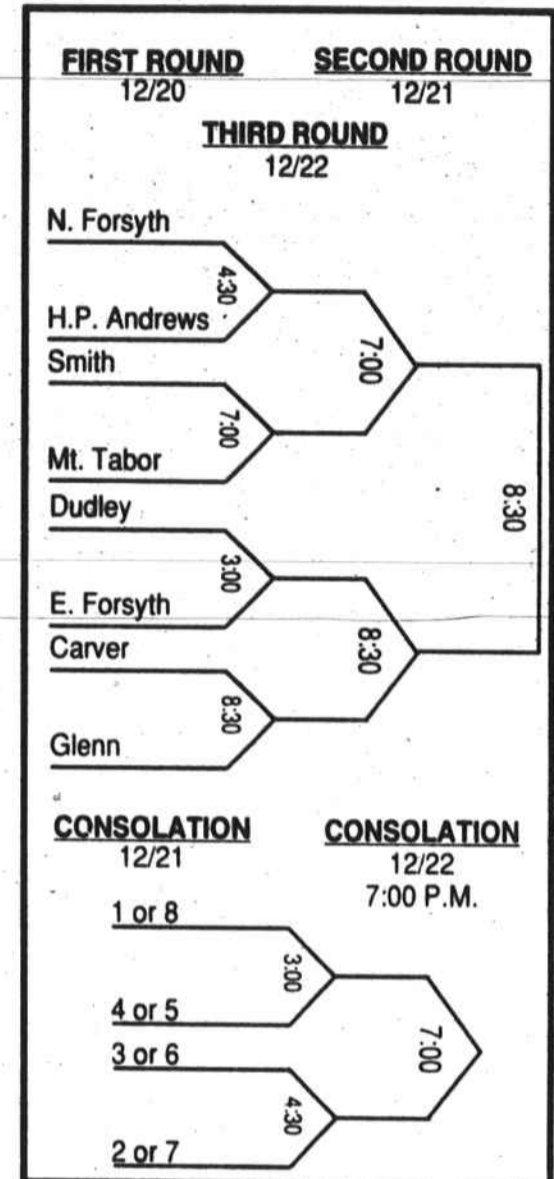
with his outside shooting. At the varsity level, he's going to be a wing player. That's why we've been running him out there. But he's a good athlete with solid fundamentals who will just keep getting better every game."

Dawkins has shown a tendency to start slow in contests. Against Carver earlier this month, Dawkins scored just six points in the first half that saw his Panthers leading only 35-32. Then Dawkins displayed more intensity, running the floor with a fervor and demanding the ball in the post. Dawkins finished with 27 points and Dudley took home a 65-57 win.

"That's something I've working on more in practice, getting started a little faster," Dawkins said. "But most teams double-team me in the first half, so I can't get open as often."

Hunt believes that Dawkins' slow starts can be attributed to his young team not getting the ball to him early. However, Hunt wants to push his young star before he moves up to the varsity, which could be as early as later this season.

"Kenneth can as good as he wants to before he leaves Dudley," Hunt said. "It's been a pleasure to have him so far and I'm going to enjoy it because he's not going to be down here much longer."



Golf Sale!!!

50% OFF

at

Reynolds Park Golf Course

Come join us for Winter Fun at Reynolds Park, the triad's best golf value.

Play 18 holes at the posted green fee on weekdays and receive a coupon worth 50% off your next round. And if you ride when you play, you will receive 50% off your cart fee on your next round. Either way, you'll get **MORE GOLF** for **LESS GREEN** at one of the Triad's best conditioned courses.

So come join us for Winter Fun!
Call **650-7660**
for your tee time and start saving money **NOW!**
(Excludes already discounted green & cart fees.)





THE CAROLINAS
REYNOLDS PARK
GOLF CLUB