

SPORTS WEEK

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Bobcats' girls varsity keep championship hopes alive with 59-25 victory

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Glenn's girls' varsity team started the season slowly, but that didn't concern Coach Marty Stanley much.

The Bobcats began the season with a freshman and a sophomore in the starting lineup. Their backup center was also a freshman and Stanley figured it would take time before they started to come around.

It didn't take the Bobcats long to prove that they would be a force to be reckoned with in the North Piedmont 3-A Conference. And in recent weeks Glenn has played like a veteran team.

The Bobcats defeated

Carver 59-25 last Friday night to improve their record to 13-5 overall and 6-1 in the NPC. Glenn's only conference loss came at the hands of league-leading High Point Andrews.



Lashanta Johnson (#20) of Glenn scored 12 points in the Bobcats' win.

Against Carver, the Bobcats fought off a sluggish start to stay in the race for the regular season championship. Carver, which entered the game winless, jumped out to a quick

start and led 4-0 with 4:55 to play in the first quarter.

The Yellowjackets, playing without head coach Karen Norris, deployed a delayed offensive attack that caused problems for the Bobcats. Carver would have taken a lead at the end of the first quarter had it not been for a foul it committed just before the buzzer.

The Yellowjackets led 9-8 when Jaime Utt was fouled trying to launch a long 3-pointer just before the buzzer. Utt stepped to the free throw line and nailed all three of her shots to give Glenn an 11-8 lead.

Utt's free throws ignited a Bobcat run and Glenn reeled off 11 unanswered points to take control of the game. Glenn increased its lead to 26-13 at

the end of the half and continued to roll in the second half, outscoring Carver 19-8 in the third quarter.

Stanley said his team was sluggish early, but did a good job once it got untracked.

"We played a sloppy first quarter," Stanley said. "I thought that the game wasn't being played at our pace in the first half, but we picked it up with our defense in the third quarter."

"We were able to force them into making some turnovers and that allowed us to put the game out of reach."

Tasha Harris scored 22 points to lead the Bobcats in scoring. Harris, Glenn's point guard, did most of her damage from beyond the 3-point line.

She also did a good job of penetrating the Yellowjackets' defense and dishing off to open teammates.

"She's played real well the last couple of games," Stanley said of the 5-6 sophomore. "When you have a point guard who can penetrate and also shoot from outside that's going to give the team a boost."

Lashanta Johnson was next with 12 points. But Johnson, the team's leading scorer, suffered through one of her worst shooting nights of the season.

"Lashanta hurt her ankle Tuesday (Jan. 28) against Trinity and that bothered her some," Stanley said. "But she still scored 12 points. I think she

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Thank God for a second chance!

Some people never get a second chance.

Steve Wagner is, thankful that he's getting his.

Wagner, a senior at Parkland High School, is hoping that he can use his final semester of eligibility to help his team to its third consecutive state 3-A wrestling championship. He also hopes to gather enough momentum during

the dual championships to catapult him to an individual championship in the 145-pound division.

If he accomplishes those goals, Wagner says all that he's gone through in the past year will have been wiped away.

It indeed has been a difficult

year for the 17-year-old. After helping his team to the state championship last year and finishing in the top six in the state in his classification, Wagner was looking forward to completing his junior year at Parkland and was hoping to have a banner season on the Mustangs' football team when the '96 season got underway.

All those hopes and dreams fell by the wayside when Wagner did something that even he says was foolish. Wagner was caught with drugs at school, an act he says resulted from a combination of peer pressure, youth and ignorance.

"It broke my mother's heart," Wagner says. "It hurt her and knowing that I hurt her really hurt me."

It was the first time that Wagner had been in trouble with the law and he was put on probation. However, the most hurting thing to him was the fact that he wasn't

allowed to finish the year at Parkland.

Instead, Wagner was told he would have to finish out the year at Independence High School.

That too, was a difficult thing for Wagner to do. Wagner grew up in Davidson County and the only friends he had in Winston-Salem were at Parkland. At Independence, he felt isolated. He also felt that he had been branded for life because of one bad decision. So most of the time he didn't attend classes.

"When I got in trouble everybody turned their back on me," he says. "It seemed like I didn't have any friends any more or anyone that I could talk to."

His only friend, during that time was his mother, Ruby Wagner.

"She was there for me," he says. "She always encouraged me. She got me through a lot of

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Rams get key win over St. Aug's, NCCU up next

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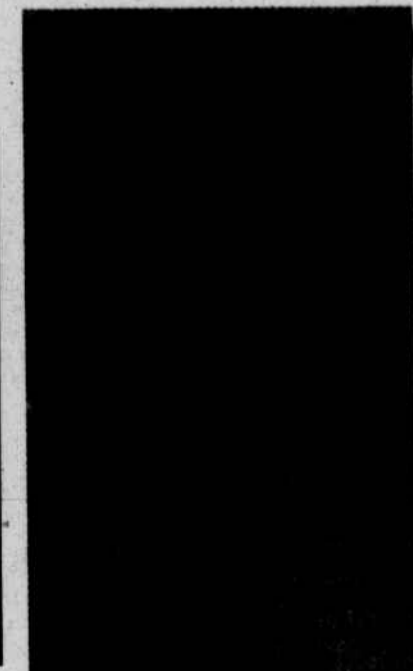
The fact that his team defeated St. Augustines wasn't the big issue with Coach Sam Hanger. The fact that his team beat a good team was a big deal.

The Rams, hungry for a key victory, put together a strong offensive performance to capture their 96-82 win at the C.E. Gaines Center on Monday.

WSSU placed four players in double figures, led by

Windell Owens' 21 points. The Rams also had five other players to play a complimentary role with four or more points.

It was one of the first times this season that the Rams shot better than 50 percent in both halves of the game. The Rams connected on 20 of 31 shots in the first half, but had a slim 49-47 lead at intermission. They made 17 of 30 second-half



Toby Jordan of WSSU blocks off Norfolk's Rodney Carmichael in a loss last week. Jordan and the Rams went to the wire before losing to the Spartans.

we didn't have stretches in the second half like we had in the first half. We beat a good basketball team."

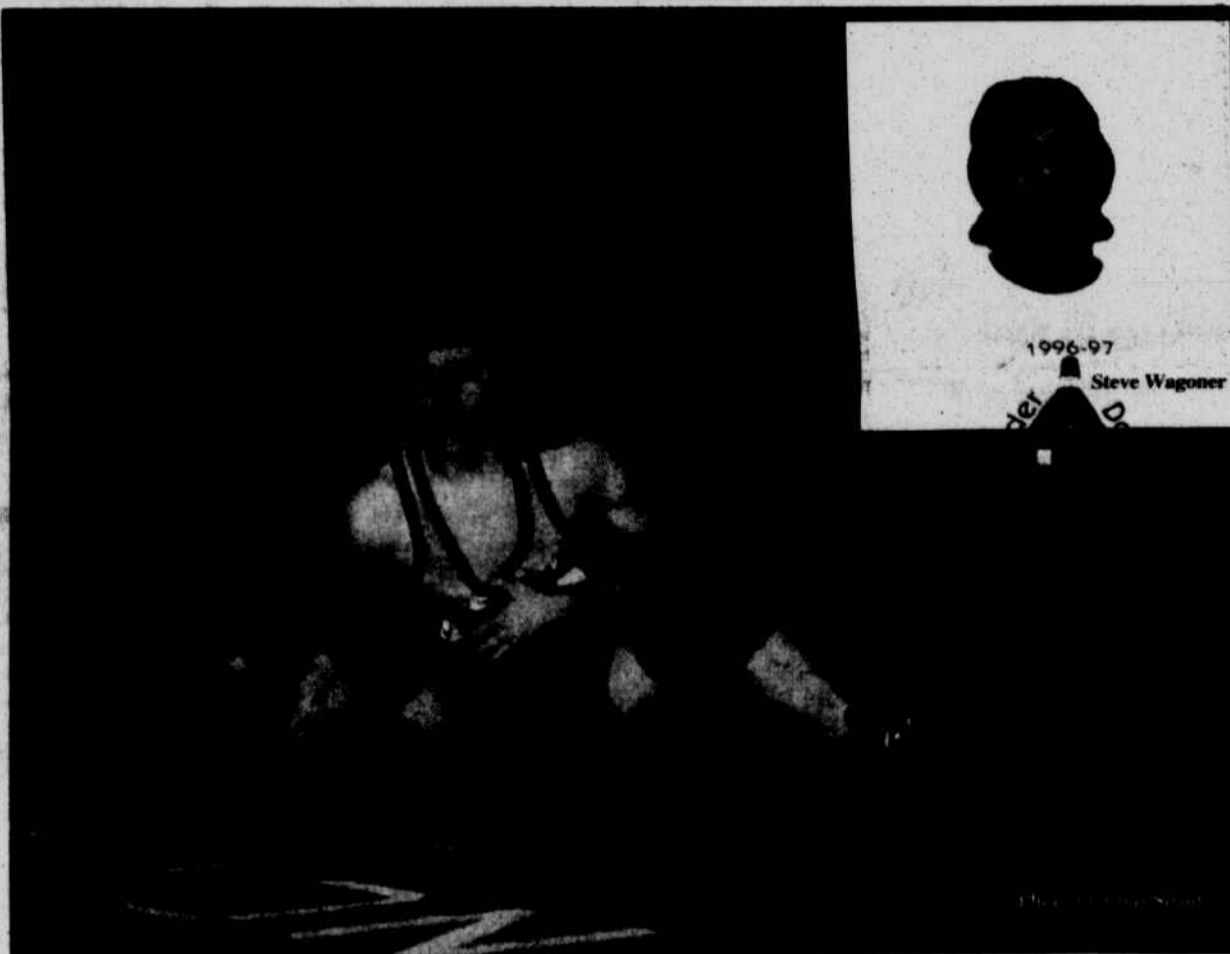
The Rams also had to overcome an outstanding individual performance by Lafonte Moses in the first half. Moses had 19 points at halftime. But Johnny Watkins of WSSU shut Moses down in the second half, limiting him to only seven points in the final stanza.

"Johnny didn't shoot the ball well on offense," Hanger said. "But he did an excellent job of defending Moses in the second half. That was really key for us."

So was the play of Owens, who moved to the power forward position with the insertion of Michael Broadnax at the small forward slot in the starting lineup. Owens was nine of 13 from the field and also grabbed six rebounds.

"Windell came to life tonight," Hanger said. "I wrestled with it for a long time. Finally, I said that's it. I moved Windell back inside. He played with a lot more confidence. We knew he could make shots on the outside, but we needed him to go inside where he could

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Steve Wagner of Parkland scored two points in the final minutes of the third period to record a victory in his most recent match to help Parkland to another conference wrestling championship.

