

Bursting at seams

from B1
 player in the county during the season, undoubtedly the reason he was selected as the Central Piedmont Conference Player of the Year.

Skinner, who also played four years on the varsity, led the team and was also its leader on the court. His 14.7 points a game led the league, an impressive statistic considering Skinner, a 5-10 point guard, was responsible for distributing the ball, as well as score.

His 4.8 assists a game shows he understood his role as point man, and his 2.3 steals per contest are a sign of his defensive prowess.

Skinner saved his best play for the big games, including the sectionals and regionals, where he led the Demons to within two games of a state championship. Coach Howard West called him the glue that kept Reynolds' team together. Skinner also had to take on the leadership of a team that featured seven sophomores, including three starters.

Rhamen Love-Lane was also a tried and true leader. Love-Lane helped lead West Forsyth to a share of the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference regular season championship. The 6-5 senior forward, was the

heart-and-soul of the Titans and was the teams go-to player down the stretch.

Love-Lane was also an excellent defender who seemed to always play bigger than his size. His grittiness was something on which Coach Denny Key's team could hang its hat. Love-Lane averaged 14.8 points, 8.2 rebounds and 5.3 assists, leading the team in all three categories.

Derick Singleton showed as much improvement from his junior season to his senior season as anyone in the area. The 6-8 center came on strong down the stretch run of the season and averaged 11.1 points, 8.6 rebounds and 2.5 blocked shots per game for the Spartans.

Coach Andy Muse said that Singleton, who has committed to St. Paul's College, ran the floor as well as any big man that he's been associated with in recent years.

The second five might not have produced the same kind of numbers or had the same kind of impact as the "fab" five, but they also played key roles in the development of their respective programs.

Charles Dearmon of Carver earned all-conference honors

and was also named to the sectional and regional teams. The 6-2 guard was the Yellowjackets' most productive scorer during the season. He also had to show leadership when he took over at the point guard slot early in the year. He was one of the main reasons Carver advanced all the way to the Regional finals.

Dearmon averaged 13.0 points, five rebounds six assists and two steals per game for the Yellowjackets to help them advance to within one game of the state championship.

Jimmy Caldwell of Mount Tabor was perhaps the most versatile performer on this year's team. Caldwell, a 5-11 senior, averaged 12.8 points, 6.3 assists and 2.8 steals per game for the Spartans. Caldwell also provided strong leadership for his squad and combined with Singleton to give Mount Tabor a solid 1-2 punch.

Tyree Manns of East Forsyth might be a year away from being an imposing perimeter player. The 6-7 junior had his share of moments during the season and dominated many of his opponents at times. Manns averaged 14.7 points per game on 57 percent shooting from the field and pulled down seven rebounds per game. Only his

propensity to get in foul troubles prevented him from being an even more productive member of the Eagles' team.

Jonathan Butler of North Forsyth also enjoyed several big nights during the season. The 5-10 junior guard led his team in scoring and also was its assist leader playing for his father, Coach Sonny Butler.


Butler set a school record last year with 266 assists and continued his uncanny ability to create opportunities for his teammates, this year by dishing out 8.1 assists per game. Butler also provided the offensive punch for North Forsyth averaging 13.5 points a night and was the model of stamina averaging just over 31 minutes a game. Coach Butler said that Jonathan Butler's ability to break down defenses and distribute the ball was the key to their season's success.

Geoff Williams of West Forsyth was one of the county's top athletes, but didn't put up the numbers that he might have in another program with an up-tempo style. Williams nevertheless came through with his share of clutch performances to help the Titans to a share of the conference championship. Williams averaged 14.3 points, 5.5 rebounds and 3 1/2 assists and led the team in block shots,

steals and forced turnovers.

All told, the '96-97 season was one which produced its share of drama and excitement.

It also produced players who added luster to their respective programs with their hard work, determination and effort.



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1997 City/County Player of the Year

from B1

was the focus opponents' defensive schemes and was continually able to overcome all attempts to stop him and still put up tremendous numbers. Howard showed this ability to nullify defensive plans to contain him in the season's very first game when he burned North Forsyth for 32 points. He added a stellar shooting night in the Morganton Freeman Tournament when he had 35 points. And in Glenn's two match-ups with Trinity Howard dropped 30 and 27 points respectively.

"I believe my quickness makes me effective," said Howard. "When I am facing a larger opponent I can usually just go around him and put the ball in the basket."

Howard anchored the Glenn front court this season and made inside scoring a daunting task for Bobcat opponents. His lean frame, long arms, previously mentioned quickness and his explosive rise off the court made him a pure shot blocker.

Howard believes that his coach has been and continues to be a fundamental ingredient to his success.

"Coach [Napoleon] Cloud



Josh Howard goes up for a jumper against Sun Valley in the state 3A sectionals.

has taught me and continues to teach me how to play in the post," said Howard. "With him and his advice I would not be the player I am now."

Howard recognizes the support of his family also has given him an advantage.

"My mom has always been my motivation," said Howard. "She is always telling me I can be better and she comes to most of my games."

Howard looks to his future with a critical eye. He sees college in his future but isn't ready to look past next year and the chance to advance even further

in the State playoffs.

"I just want to come back next year and play well and hopefully have the chance to play for the State Title."

As for life after college, Howard is determined that will find him playing professionally somewhere.

"I want to play pro ball. Whether its the NBA, the CBA, or overseas," he states.

The only future the Bobcats want to think about is one with Howard returning. His talent is a blend of impressive elements and is capable of lifting the Glenn team to a State crown.

On the other hand toting the hefty tag of "star" can be a curse and high expectations have a way of wilting even great talent. Howard, however, has shown the ability to handle the demands his team and Glenn fans have made on him. He takes it all in "long" stride.

"I am just a good kid, trying to do the right thing, who loves to play the game."

Lakers to host State Regional Pool Play Tournaments

The Winston Lake Lakers will play host to two State Regional AAU Pool Play Basketball Tournaments. The Lakers will host the 13-and-under tour-

The Winston Lake organization is very excited and anticipating have more than 35 teams to converge on Winston-Salem for the tournaments. The top two qualifying teams in each pool will participate in their respective age-group State Tournaments in Concord and Elkin, respectively.

The top teams from each state tournament will qualify for competition in the National AAU Tournaments. The 13-and-under national tournament will be held in Memphis, TN, June 29-July 6 and the 14-and-unders will be held in Walt Disney World, July 5-12.

President Ike Black is encouraging the community to come out and support the local tournaments and their participants. He would also like to encourage and support kids to compete in AAU basketball.

Black and the Board of Management are currently making preparations for the two State Regional Pool Play tournaments.

The Board has been vigorously preparing for the event. The Winston-Salem Basketball Association is affiliated with the Winston Lake Family YMCA and plays under the name: The Winston Lake Lakers. The Winston-Salem Basketball Association members are: Ike Black, President; Kenneth Dobbins, Vice President; Leslie Barnes, Secretary; Glenn Manning, Treasurer; Richard Williams, Fundraising/Public Relations; and Malissa Dance, Corresponding Secretary.

The Motto of the Winston-Salem Basketball Association is: Promoting the Student-Athlete. Its Mission Statements says: The purposes of the AAU Boys' Basketball Program are to initiate, stimulate, and improve opportunities for amateur boys' basketball competition, and to promote and develop leadership, sportsmanship, physical fitness, educational opportunities, and athletic excellence.

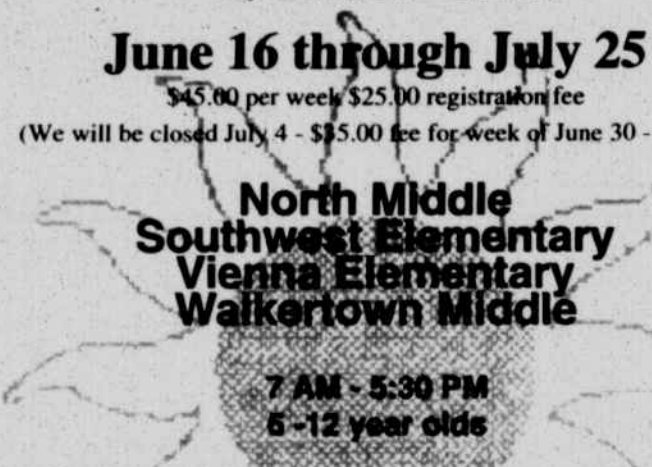


Ike Black, president Winston-Salem Basketball Association.

namment April 4-6 and the 14-and-under tournament April 11-13.

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