

# High School Basketball 1997 Preview

## Bobcats pin hopes on Howard's talent

By SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

There's no question who opponents in the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference are pointing their fingers toward as the loop's top player.

Last season Glenn's Josh Howard established himself as one of the premier players in the state. The 6-6 forward averaged 24 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots per game.

With that kind of productivity, all the Bobcats need to do is come up with a supporting cast to make a run at the conference championship.

That shouldn't be too difficult for Glenn. It returns 12 of its top 14 players from last season. The Bobcats posted a 17-10 overall record and finished second in the North Piedmont Conference last season.

The going could be a little tougher in the new conference with the addition of several strong programs. However, the Bobcats should have enough manpower to



Josh Howard

In addition to those two, Glenn has several others who played a significant role in last year's performance.

Angelo Evans, a 6-3 forward, will be counted upon to help supply inside support for Howard. Evans saw considerable action for the Bobcats as a freshman, mostly in a reserve role. But he did have several outstanding games.

Antonio Thomas, a 6-2 swing man, should also be a factor in the Bobcats season. Thomas was a part-time starter last season.

Another unknown for the Bobcats could be the play of Rodney Waters, a 6-4 guard. Waters has considerable talent, but didn't play go out for the team last season.

Last season Howard kept his team in many games with his ability. He came through with several big games in the State playoffs, leading Glenn to within one game of the sectional finals. If he continues to provide the same type effort this season the Bobcats could contend for the league title or go deep into the playoffs.

be a factor in the race.

Howard is one of three starter back in the fold for the Bobcats. Ryan Blake, a senior guard, averaged 12 points per game last season. Jerrrell Morgan, a 6-3 forward supplied eight points per game.



Coach Mike Muse will look for his team's defense to step up until the Vikings' offense jaks.

## Vikings girls in rebuilding mode

▲ Only one of top eight players back from team that advanced to championship game

By SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

North Forsyth advanced to the championship game of the State 4-A classification, but the Vikings lost all five starters and seven of their top eight players from that team.

Coach Mike Muse will have to bring along a young group of players quickly if the Vikings expect to do well in the tough Metro 4-A Conference.

"We're going to take some bumps and bruises early in the season," Muse says. "The quicker we grow up, the better off we'll be."

The Vikings got a chance to get their feet wet quick. Like the other Forsyth County women's teams, they opened the season by competing in the Mary Garber Classic during the week of Thanksgiving.

North finished with a 1-2 record. The Vikings opened up with a narrow victory over East before losing to Mount Tabor in the semifinals and Glenn in the consolation game.

"That was great for us," Muse says. "We got to play against three good basketball teams. That's going to give us a bunch of experience. I thought that was really good for us."

"The tougher the teams we play early, that's just going to make us better. There were some things that we didn't do well on, but there are a lot of positives."

While some coaches and media have picked the Vikings to be among the leaders in the conference, Muse says his team will do well to avoid a losing season.

"When you lose seven of eight of your best players, it all but wipes out your team," Muse says. "We averaged around 57 points per game last year and out of that we have only about seven points coming back."

Those points were provided by Renada Flynt and Davina Simmons. Those two are the only returnees who logged considerable minutes. Flynt averaged a five points and Simmons supplied about two points per game.

"This is the way programs go," Muse says. "Especially when you can't recruit. You take what you have and you build on it."

"You're going to go through holes when you have a young team. But you're also going to have years like last year."

Of the 15 players on the Vikings'

roster, only three are seniors and four are juniors. The rest of the roster is comprised of two freshmen and six sophomores.

"The good thing about this year is that is that three years from now eight of these players will still be with me," Muse says. "My philosophy is to coach next year's team this year."

One good thing for the Vikings is the fact that their playing style doesn't predicate one player carrying them. Although Davina Simmons has been the leading scorer thus far, Muse expects others to step up as the season progresses.

"I've never had one player average more than 20 points per game," Muse says. "I've always been in favor of having balanced scoring. For us to be successful, we have to have a team concept."

North will need to get leadership from its seniors to finish the season strong, according to Muse.

"They have to step up and provide senior leadership," Muse says. "We're looking for Renada, Keesha (Dover) and Monique (Hickman). They've been there last year and now it's their turn to step up."



Nell Pollard, (34) and Shamry Kenley (12) helped Reynolds to the championship of the Mary Garber Classic.

## Will Demons' girls early success last?

By SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

The 1997-98 high school basketball season is still in its infant stages, but Reynolds' girls team already has accomplished one of its goals.

The Demons captured their first-ever Mary Garber Holiday Tipoff Classic by defeating archrival Mount Tabor last Wednesday night.

That early-season success should be enough to help boost the Demons to one of their better seasons in recent history.

The RJR girls programs has struggled to get above .500 since Jeff Faullin came to RJR five years ago. Last season was the team's best to that point when the Demons posted a 12-13 record and advanced

to the second-round of the State 4-A playoffs.

At last week's tournament, the Demons showed they have all the ingredients to make a run at a conference championship. They have great senior leadership, a solid inside game and scoring off the bench.

Senior Shamry Kenley is the emotional leader. Kenley was named to the all-tournament team and has already signed a basketball grant with UNC-Asheville.

"Shamry works hard and that's why we put the ball in her hands," Faullin said. "We depend on her to distribute the ball."

Kenley has a host of weapons at her disposal. Terita Allen and Ketisha Wiley are both explosive backcourt players in the three-

guard offense. Up front, Nell Pollard and Rachel Stockdale are solid inside players.

Kenley said her team has the weapons to do well this season.

"I want to leave Reynolds with a winning record and a chance to play for the conference championship," she said. "We have a lot of experienced players coming back and if we work hard we'll have a chance."

Kim McMillian, a sophomore forward, might be the best athlete on the team. McMillian's scrappy inside play was one of the keys in the tournament championship. McMillian supplies inside scoring and tenacious defense.

The key for the Demons' success could be how well its reserves play down the stretch.

## New coach hopes new attitude will help Mustangs get back on winning track

By SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

There's a new attitude at Parkland.

At least that's what Mike Pennington would like to think. Pennington took over the Mustangs' basketball program this season and hopes to get the program back on solid ground.

Since Tom Muse resigned as the coach two years ago the program has had to endure a lot of ups and downs. Charlie Schoederbeck, who served as Muse's assistant, took over the program after Muse left the program. But Schoederbeck had some off-the-court problems that resulted in him resigning his position.

Pennington, a long-time assistant to Coach Alfred Poe at Carver, says he thinks the Mustangs are now ready to move forward.

"Overall things are going pretty well," Pennington said. "We did pretty well in scrimmages our two scrimmages (against East



Mike Pennington

Surry and Burlington Williams), the kids are working hard and getting better.

"The most important thing is that they believe in what they're doing," Pennington added. "When they believe in what they're doing you have a chance to be successful."

The Mustangs, who opened the season on Tuesday against Mount Tabor, return a lineup of veteran players. The team is athletic, but lacks height.

Clifford Crawford heads the list of returning players. Crawford, a 6-2 forward, averaged 17 points per game and was named to the all-conference team as a sophomore.

Tramond Cobb, a 6-2 forward, also started last season for the Mustangs and will lend his experience to the team.

"Tramond is only 6-2, but he's a 6-8 high-jumper," Pennington said. "He's very athletic."

Lamont Wilson, a 6-1, 250-pounder, will man the pivot position. Wilson will be pushed by 6-6 sophomore Brandon Bowman.

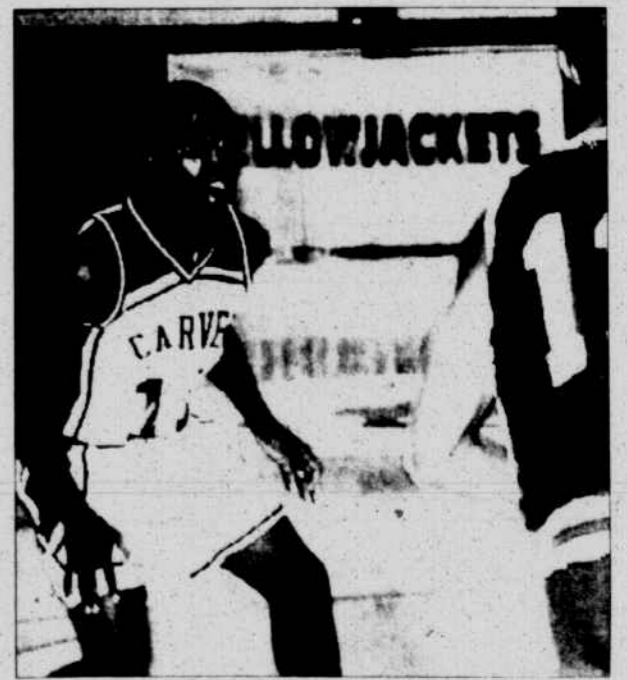
At guard, Reggie Hunt will handle the point position. In addition to his ball-handling ability, Hunt is a deadly 3-point shooter. He'll be joined by Camden Banner or Tyrone Davis. Davis, a 6-2 senior, has considerable ability, but has never played organized basketball.

Pennington said the Mustangs will rely on defense early in the season until their offense jells.

See PARKLAND on B4



Charles Dearmon (15) and Anthony Nelson form a solid 1-2 punch at guard.



## Yellowjackets hope to continue winning tradition

By SAM DAVIS  
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Replacing a legend is never easy.

Coach Ricky Holt of Carver is getting that experience on a first-hand basis.

Holt was named to replace Alfred Poe, who guided the Carver program for 25 years.

He realizes that it will take a while to win some over to his way of doing things, but it's all part of the game.

"I feel like it's a good situation," Holt says. "We're in a very competitive league, the tradition is here and Carver usually has its share of athletes."

For the past seven years, Holt has served as the head coach at Kannapolis Brown, where he led the Wonders to the state playoffs each season. He says that background should help him lead the Yellowjackets' program.

"I feel very good about it," he says. "It's been a very good program and I would like to keep it on the same level it's been on in the last few years."

One reason for Holt's optimism is the number of veterans returning to the team. The Yellowjackets' backcourt duo of Anthony Nelson and Charles Dearmon returns intact. The duo was considered one of the best in the league last season.

"The two of them are excellent high school players," Holt says. "Anthony is in his fourth consecutive year starting. He's the glue or the mortar that keeps the bricks together. He's our team leader. He's someone whose name may not jump out at you when you read the box scores, but he does the things that coaches dream of having their players do. He gets the ball into the right people's hands."

Dearmon is nearly opposite in style to Nelson.

"Charles is the creator," Holt says. "He's the guy you go home and say: 'man he's something else.' He's the leading returning scorer."

See CARVER on B4