

Carver girls working on fundamentals

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Kerry Taylor hopes his tenure as head coach of the girls program at Carver will be different from his predecessors.

The Yellowjackets haven't been above the .500 level in more than a decade and Taylor hopes he can work enough magic to get the program a winning season.

To do so, Taylor will need to get his team to jell quickly. The Yellowjackets have some experience returning. But considering the fact that the team won only one game last season after a winless record the year before, Carver will be hard-pressed to be a factor in the Piedmont 3-A Conference race.

Among the veterans, Latoya Scales is the top player. Scales stepped into the lineup last season as a freshman and gave the Yellowjackets an inside-outside threat. Scales was among the leading scorers with a 10-point average last season. Junior Charlena Carlton also logged considerable playing time last year and averaged six points per game.

The only other players that saw playing time were Christina McCray and Kristine Ford.

"We have a few players with playing experience, but we will depend heavily on a lot of young players," Taylor said. "We are bringing in a totally new system and way of doing things, so we expect the process to be slow in the beginning. But we think we'll be a lot better by the time the conference season begins."

The Yellowjackets' lack of experience showed early. They were defeated soundly in their two games in the Mary Garber Classic.

But Taylor said he expects the Yellowjackets to bounce back. "For us to go into the tournament without any game experience was tough," he said. "We were thrown to the wolves early. But we'll learn from it and get better."

Taylor will have to rely on a freshman at the point. Ashley Creswell will quarterback the



Ashley Creswell

Yellowjackets team and Taylor hopes her ability will compensate for her lack of experience.

Another freshman, Kyuanna Napper, will also step into the starting lineup at the shooting guard slot. Napper will also see action at small forward.

Newcomers Stephanie Griffin and Kristen Theodore will also vie for playing time.

"It's really too early to tell how this team will come together," Taylor said. "Right now we just want to work hard and improve. We're in the first year of a rebuilding process. We're going to work hard on the fundamentals."

Carver High Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec. 2: @ East) Dec. 5: Mt. Tabor) Dec. 9: Reynolds) Dec. 12: @ West) Dec. 13: @ North) Dec. 20: East) Dec. 26-29: Frank Spencer); Jan. 6: Glenn) Jan. 7: @ Bishop McGuinness) Jan. 9: @ Western Guilford) Jan. 13: Parkland) Jan. 16: Bye) Jan. 17: North) Jan. 20: Southwest Guilford) Jan. 23: Smith) Jan. 27: @ Dudley) Jan. 30: @ Glenn);



Kyuanna Napper

Feb. 3: Western Guilford) Feb. 6: @ Parkland) Feb. 10: Bye) Feb. 13: @ Southwest Guilford) Feb. 14: Bishop McGuinness) Feb. 17: @ Smith) Feb. 20: Dudley); Mar. 2: Conference Tournament @ Dudley

Girls Games 6:00
Boys Games 7:30

Experience, depth Spartans key attributes

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

All of the ingredients are in place for Mount Tabor to have one of its finest seasons in recent school history.

The Spartans were 18-8 last season, including a first-place finish in the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference. They advanced to the second round of the State 4-A playoffs.

The Spartans got off to a flying start this season, winning their first two games of the season in the Mary Garber Classic. Mount Tabor made short work of Carver and North Forsyth. But they ran into trouble against Reynolds in the championship game and lost a close decision to Reynolds.

In the championship game, the Spartans ran into foul trouble and couldn't come up with enough inside scoring after Nena Lekwauwa ran into foul trouble.

Mount Tabor has a senior group that has played together for four years. They include Lekwauwa, who was named the Most Valuable Player at the Garber tournament.

Coach Melita Wise said the team's experience should pay dividends during the season. "It makes my job easier," Wise said. "They know each other's moves and what to expect from each other."

While Lekwauwa will be the big gun on the inside, Rochanda Saunders will be expected to provide outside firepower. Saunders will also make the transition from shooting guard to the point.

But there's no question about where the Spartans will turn to get key points. Lekwauwa has been the team's most consistent scorer for



Nena Lekwauwa

three seasons.

"She's very strong inside," Wise said of Lekwauwa. "She's also able to get the ball out on the floor and penetrate. When she does that, it sets up the rest of our offense."

Another key for the Spartans will be getting solid play from the rest of their roster. The other starters, Amanda Niles, Lauren Thompson and Megan Stahle, all have the ability to score points in bunches.

Off the bench, Mount Tabor will look to

SPARTANS cont B9



Tasha Stewart, one of the newcomers from the junior Varsity, will provide depth.

Trio of veterans look to take up slack for West Forsyth girls

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

The "A.L. (after Laquanda)" period begins at West Forsyth, where Coach T.R. Richards will be hard-pressed to fill the gaps left by the loss of Laquanda Barksdale.

Barksdale, who was named the winner of the Mary Garber Award, as the premier female high school player in the Western Piedmont, averaged 25 points and 17 rebounds last season to lead the Titans to a 20-8 overall record and 9-3 mark in the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference.

The Titans, last season's Mary Garber Classic winner and conference tournament champs, return enough experienced players to make Richards believe that his team has a chance to contend for the conference title.

West will pin its hopes on a successful season on three seniors who made a mark on the program last year.

The trio is led by Jennifer Wood, who was named to the all-conference team last season. Wood, an athletic point guard, will be joined in the backcourt by Angie McGlamrock. In addition, the Titans have a veteran player in the middle with the return of 6-0 center Tiffany Roberts.

"I think we can be right there in the conference race because I can honestly say that even

though we lost Laquanda, we are more athletic this year," Richards said.

In the backcourt, the Titans will look to Tasha Stewart to provide depth and quickness. Up front, junior Jonah Smith could add rebounding and inside scoring punch.

The Titans started off the season with a loss to Reynolds in the opening round of the Mary Garber Classic. They came back with a lopsided victory over Parkland in the consolation round.

West Forsyth High Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec. 2: @ Glenn) Dec. 3: H.P. Central) Dec. 5: @ East) Dec. 9: Parkland) Dec. 10: @ H.P. Central) Dec. 12: Carver) Dec. 19: @ North) Dec. 26-29: Frank Spencer Classic); Jan. 6: Watauga (Endowment) Jan. 7: @ Parkland) Jan. 9: North) Jan. 13: East) Jan. 16: South Stokes) Jan. 21: @ South Rowan) Jan. 23: @ Davie) Jan. 27: Reynolds) Jan. 30: @ MT. Tabor); Feb. 3: @ South Stokes) Feb. 6: South Rowan) Feb. 10: Davie) Feb. 13: MT. Tabor) Feb. 17: @ Reynolds);

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