



LaShanta Johnson



Mary Lazenby

Glenn girls eager to continue success

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Glenn began this season as the favorite to capture the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference championship.

But the Bobcats ran into a little pre-season turbulence, falling to surprising Reynolds in the semifinals of the Mary Garber Classic last week.

Still, Glenn appears to be in good shape. The Bobcats bounced back from their loss to the Demons to capture third place in the tournament by defeating North Forsyth to start the year with a 2-1 record.

That's a better start than the young Bobcats had in 1996-97 when they started slow and finished strong, compiling a 20-9 record.

The two top players off last year's squad are back this season and with the addition of several new players and the maturing of others who were on the roster a year ago, the prognosis for Coach Marty Stanley's team is excellent.

"We've got the talent, I don't know if we have the character and

heart yet, still being young, but this team is talented enough to go as far as it wants.

The Bobcats reaped the benefits of an excellent group of underclassmen last year. Competing for the first time in high school, freshman forward LaShanta Johnson led the team in scoring with a 17-point average, pulled down 8.6 rebounds and had 2.9 steals per game en route to being named to the All-Northwest team. With a year's experience under her belt, Johnson will be counted upon to step up her game a notch.

So will point guard Tasha Harris. Last season she averaged 12.5 points, 3.4 steals and 3.0 assists per game. She also established a school record with 35 3-point field goals.

Mary Lazenby, a 6-2 sophomore, is expected to be a threat in the middle. Lazenby saw some action last season in a reserve role, but will be thrust into the starting lineup this season.

Deidre Riffe will also move into the starting lineup and Stanley expects the senior to help solidify the unit.

"I think we're going to be okay," Stanley said. "I think we'll be better offensively for the simple fact that we have some people who can score. But our big question mark is defense. The key is playing defense."

Glenn High

Dec. - 2) West Forsyth; 5) @ Reynolds; 9) North Forsyth; 12) East Forsyth; 19) @ East Forsyth; 26-27) South Stokes Tourn.(G); 26-29) Spencer Classic (B);

Jan. - 2) Central Davidson(G); 6) @ Carver; 9) @ Dudley; 13) Western Guilford; 14) @ North Forsyth; 16) @ Smith; 20) Parkland; 27) @ Southwest Guilford; 30) Carver;

Feb. - 3) Dudley; 6) @ Western Guilford; Smith; 13) @ Parkland; 20) Southwest Guilford; Feb. 23-28) Piedmont Triad 3-A Tourn. @ Dudley;

Mar. 2-7) NCHSAA Regionals; Mar. 10-14) NCHSAA Regionals

Admission \$ 4.00
Boys(B) 7:30
Girls(G) 6:00

Butlers preparing to serve up top season

▲ Senior point guard ready for business after signing with ASU

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

The suspense about where he'll play on the collegiate level has been removed for Jonathan Butler of North Forsyth.

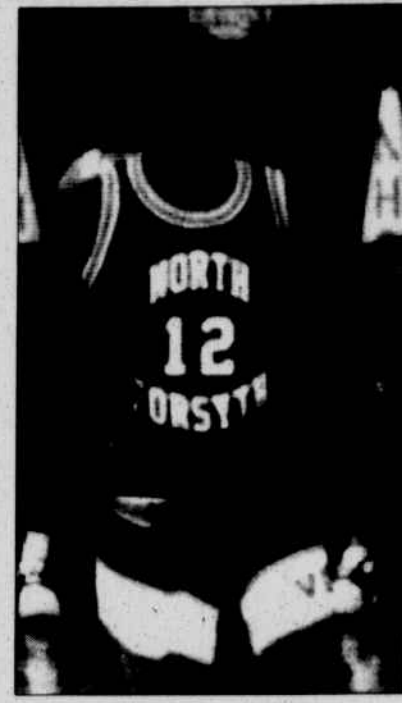
Butler, a four-year starter at guard for the Vikings, Butler decided to sign a basketball grant with Appalachian State during the early signing period.

Now, Butler says all there is to concentrate on is finishing up his senior season with the Vikings.

"I wanted to get it over with," says Butler, who plays for his dad Sonny Butler at North. "I didn't want to wait until after the season. I wanted to go to a good school, someplace where I felt comfortable and somewhere where I felt I could play."

The business of the 1997-98 basketball season occupies Butler's mind now. After a strong finish, that ended with a second-round finish in the State 4-A playoffs last season, the Vikings are looking for bigger and better things this time around.

"I think we can really do something this season," he says. "We feel that this is our year." It very well could be in the



Jonathan Butler

Metro 4-A Conference. Greensboro Dudley, last year's champion, is no longer in the 3-A ranks or the conference. Newcomers Northwest Guilford and Southeast Guilford don't appear to have the horses to com-

pete in the league on a consistent basis.

Butler, who averaged 16 points last season, isn't the only experienced player coming back to the North lineup. Backcourt mate Eric Jones has started alongside Butler the last two seasons. Steven Epps, who played a backup role in the back court is also returning.

Inside, the Vikings look to Joe Crompton, Shawn Shore, Adam Fox and D.J. Norman to provide the experience. Angelo Crowell, who led the junior varsity in scoring and rebounding will have to step up as well.

Jason Carter, a 6-5 transfer from Texas should also help at several positions. Carter has worked at the No. 3, 4 and 5 positions.

"We have some players who can get the job done," Butler said. "This is probably the best team I've been on since I've been here. We expect to go pretty far this season."

The Vikings began the season with an impressive victory over Mount Tabor. That win could serve as a springboard for the Vikings' season.



Craig Clark



Anthony Moore

Talented front court key to Spartans season

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Mount Tabor was a surprise team, of sorts, last season when it rolled to an 18-9 overall record and 7-5 record in the Central Piedmont 4-A Conference.

This season the Spartans will be more of a proven commodity under third-year Coach Andy Muse. Mount Tabor returns three players who started at one point during the 1997-98 season.

The Spartans' front court might be the strength of the team. Although they lost 6-8 Derrick Singleton, they return two power players.

Sam Lekwauwa, a 6-6 wing player, is drawing recruiting interest from several Division I programs.

Craig Clark, a 6-4 senior, is the team's leading returning scorer. Clark averaged 13.2 points per game last season.

The other top returner is 6-2 swing man Perez Wardlow, another senior. Wardlow can play either the off-guard or small forward slot. He is the most athletic of the players on the team.

Brian Gaither, a 6-2 junior, came up from the jayvee team last season and played in a lot of quality minutes for the Spartans.

The Spartans will also be bolstered by the addition of Anthony Moore, a 6-5 junior. Moore averaged 18 points and 11 rebounds per game on the junior varsity last season and was named The Chronicle's Player of the Year.

If there is a question mark on the Mount Tabor roster it is in the backcourt, where the Spartans lost Jimmy Caldwell and Aaron Bailey. The success of the Mount Tabor program could very well rest on how well the Spartans develop their backcourt players.

Gaither and Wardlow will be both be asked to shoulder much of the responsibility at guard until several youngsters develop.

MT. Tabor High Basketball Schedule (Varsity)

Dec. 2: @ Parkland Dec. 5: @ Carver Dec. 9: East Dec. 10: MT. Airy Dec. 12: @ North Dec. 19: Parkland Dec. 26-30: Frank Spencer Classic;

Jan. 5: Smith Jan. 7: @ East Jan. 9: @ MT. Airy Jan. 16: South Rowan Jan. 20: @ Reynolds Jan. 23: @ South Stokes Jan. 27: @ Davie Co. Jan. 30: West;

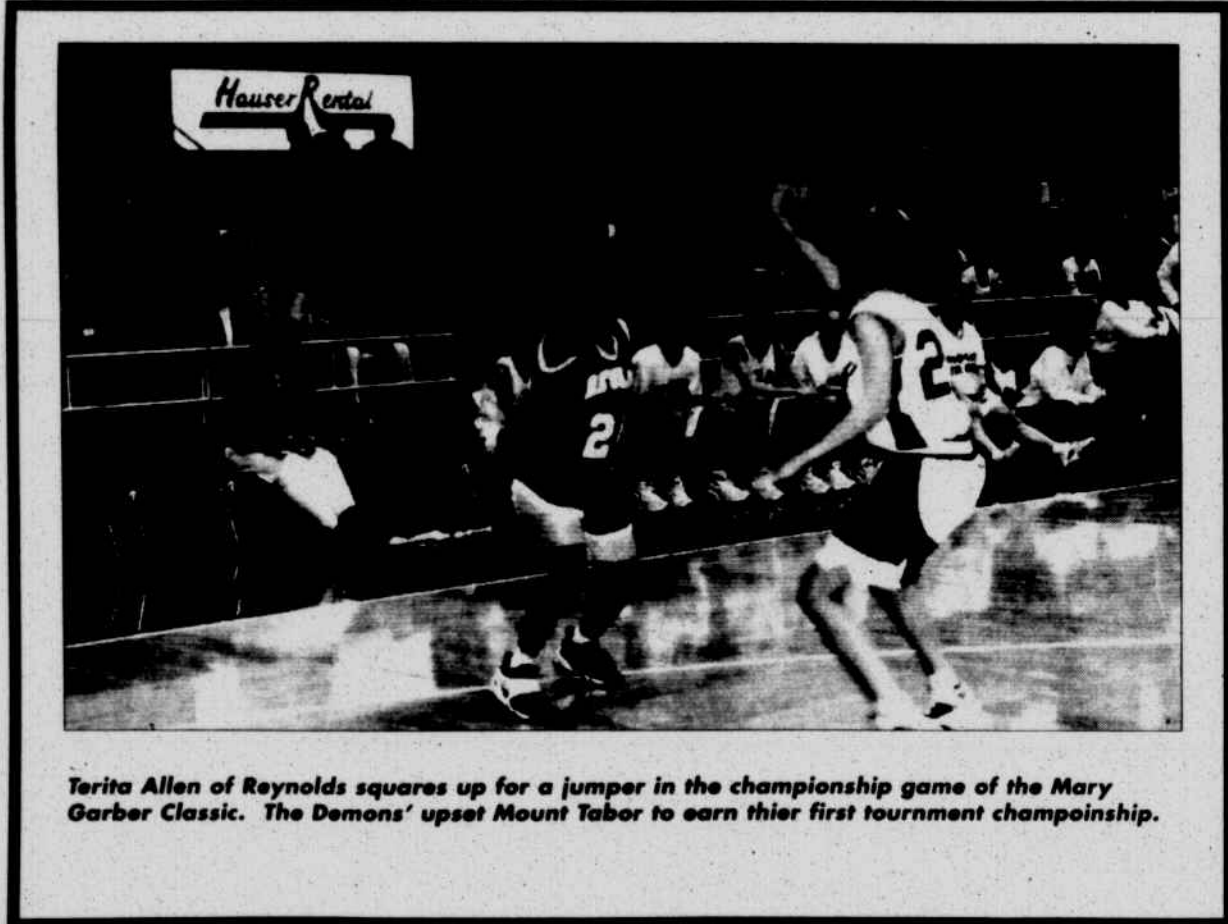
Feb. 3: @ South Rowan Feb. 6: Reynolds Feb. 10: South Stokes)

Feb. 13: @ West Feb. 17: Davie Co.) Feb. 23-28: Conference. Tour.;

Mar. 2-7: State Sectional Tournament) Mar. 9-14: State

Regional Tournament) Mar. 20-21: State Finals

Girls Games 6:00
Boys Games 7:30



Terita Allen of Reynolds squares up for a jumper in the championship game of the Mary Garber Classic. The Demons' upset Mount Tabor to earn their first tournament championship.

Dudley looking for another banner year

▲ Young Greensboro Smith boys' hoping to bounce back after dismal 5-18 finish in '96-97 season

By SAM DAVIS
The Chronicle Sports Editor

Last season Greensboro Dudley and Greensboro Smith were programs headed in opposite directions.

One year removed from a berth in the state championship game, the Smith Golden Eagles bumbled and stumbled en route to a 5-18 record and a sub-.500 finish in the Metro 4-A Conference.

Meanwhile, Dudley was on its way to a 23-3 overall record and Metro championship. That team sent three players to Division I programs, including Brendan Haywood who is currently a member of North Carolina's team.

Coach David Price is hoping Dudley can continue its success this season, with the return of several key players from a year ago. They include Braxton Williams, who led the team in scoring last season with 16 points per game. But Williams

has not had an opportunity to show his wares on the hardwood thus far. The 6-3 senior has been the top rusher on the Panthers' football team, which has advanced to the semifinal round of the State 3-A playoffs and is one game away from a berth in the championship game.

Another important returnee is 6-9 Jermaine Peebles. Peebles' height will be needed to compensate for the loss of Haywood's inside scoring and rebounding. Peebles averaged 11 points and seven rebounds for the Panthers last season.

Even though the losses were great, Price said the outlook is good for the Panthers.

"We won't be the same team as last year, but we could be very good," Price said. "The key is that we'll have to have some young kids step up, but I've been pleased with what I've seen so far."

Price will look to several newcomers to help fill the void caused by the losses they sustained.

They include Jeremy Warren, Mentrel Abney and Chris Ferguson. Warren (6-4) and Ferguson (6-7) will be asked to supply firepower in the backcourt, while Abney (6-5) will provide depth in the backcourt.

Smith has four starters returning and that should bode well for the Golden Eagles as they attempt to bounce back from their lackluster finish.

Lamarvis Mitchell, a senior point guard, heads the list of returning players. Another vital cog will be 6-3 forward Stewart Mitchell. Junior guard Jamie Cotton is the team's most athletic player and should add speed and quickness.

The spectrum between the two former Metro neighbors shouldn't be as broad this season. Dudley will be hard pressed to match its 23-3 mark and Smith figures to finish above its 5-18 mark of last season.

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