own. The confrontation wasn't settled until the final minutes of the game when Wake Forest eeked out a 56-52 victory.

which UNC-Wilmington, plays in the shadow of many of its in-state Division I big broth-



Photo by Bruce Chapman Robert O'Kelly

"What can you say," Holt said.

"We had a timeout left, but

"Despite all that happened, we still

had a layup right there at the end.

anytime you have confusion you want to push the ball down court

and we got a good look down the

boro crowd out of the game until

the final minutes. The Yellowjack-

ets fell behind 0-2 in the opening 15

seconds, but didn't trail again until

the 1:40 mark of the fourth quar-

nine unanswered points to open up a 9-2 lead on Rashad Davis' tradi-

tional three-point play with 5:39

game open had it been able to

make its field goals. But the Yel-

lowjackets made only one of five

the rest of the quarter. Meanwhile

Goldsboro made four of eight to

close to 11-10 at the end of the

most of the first quarter with a dis-

located finger, gave Carver a spark at the start of the second quarter

and Carver increased its lead to 15-

Cougars to only three field goals in

the second quarter and took a 27-

17 lead at the half. Nelson and

Keegan Haggins supplied the bulk

of the offense to help Carver to its

Dearmon and Barnes, Carver got

its lead up to 30-19 in the opening

minutes of the third quarter, but

Goldsboro finally got untracked

and made a run of its own to cut

the gap to 33-31 with 2:48 to play.

lenge and pushed its lead back to

six, 42-37 at the end of three quar-

about 30 minutes from home, final-

ly got their big crowd involved in

the game. The key blow was a 3-

pointer by Angelo Maddox with 5:31 to play. That cut the Carver

lead from six points to three, 47-44.

Carver, scoring the team's next six

points over three minutes. But the

Yellowjackets didn't take advan-

tage of their free throw opportuni-

ties and the Cougars closed to one,

the Cougars had a large, vocal

fact that people from the communi-

ty came out to support the team.

Not only that, but they were all on

the game, but there were no com-

ments directed at the coach, the

players or the team's strategy. And

when the team needed their fans

most, the fans came to the team's

stretch run of the game, the noise

of the fans made it nearly impossi-

ble to hear anything in the gym.

Cougars' unconscious shooting.

Perhaps that contributed to the

When they scored down the

But the impressive part was the

Goldsboro trailed throughout

**LOCAL FOLKS** 

Dearmon took charge for

But Carver was up to the chal-

The Cougars', playing only

Behind the play of Charles

The Yellowjackets limited the

10 at the 6:04 mark.

Antoine Barnes, who missed

left in the first quarter.

period.

lead.

53-52

from page B1

one accord.

The Yellowjackets reeled off

Carver would have blown the

Carver kept the huge Golds-

What else can you ask for.

CARVER

ers, didn't go quietly into the night. Instead they went toe to toe with the Deacons before Wake Forest finally delivered the knockout punch. Tony Rutland, Wake Forest's senior leader, scored 19 points to lead the way and backcourt mate O'Kelly added 17 to help the Deacons to advance

Tony Rutland goes to the basket

Wake Forest's youth move-

session. David Hairston missed both attempts from the free throw line and Bryant scored on a clearout to give the Cougars the lead, 54-53.

Senior leadership by Dearmon, Nelson and Barnes paid off for Carver. The Yellowjackets matched Goldsboro on the next three possessions. But a layup and free throw by Bryant allowed Goldsboro to get the upper hand. Dearmon scored at the 1:01

mark to knot the score at 57-57. Goldsboro came right back with a basket by Chris Tann. Carver answered when Barnes scored at the 29 second mark

Goldsboro held the ball until the 19.9 mark to set up a final shot. The Cougars again cleared a side for Bryant and the 5-10 junior found a seam, penetrated and connected on a left-handed layup to give his team a 61-59 lead with six second showing on the clock.

In the confusion, Carver in bounded the ball to Braham who took the ball the length of the court and rushed up a layup from the left side of the lane. The ball rolled off just as the buzzer sound-

Holt said his team made a strong run in the playoffs and acquitted itself well after a sluggish

'I felt all along that this team had been waiting for the playoffs," Holt said. "Once our backs were to the wall we banded together and ed to play much better. We don't have anything to hang our heads about. We won nine straight games to get here.

Dearmon and Barnes led the Yellowjackets in scoring. Dearmon scored 17 points on seven of 12 shooting. Barnes had 15 on seven of nine shooting from the field and had a team-high seven rebounds. Nelson scored eight points, Davis had six and Haggins added five.

Carver held a 24-22 rebounding advantage. The Yellowjackets also forced 11 turnovers and gave up only six.

Goldsboro had the advantage in field goal shooting. The Cougars made 25 of 39 shots (64 percent) and Carver was 22 of 37

(59 percent). The thing that everyone told us that we talked to was how well Goldsboro shot the ball," Holt said. "I thought we did a great job on them in the first half (when Goldsboro made only eight of 20 shots). But in the second half, they made some outstanding plays

The Yellowjackets couldn't extend their lead on their next pos-



ment was again put to the test. While the backcourt starters supplied points, the freshmen in the front court didn't hold up their end. Consequently the Deacons had to

perimeter game. To live and die by the outside shot puts a strain on the team.

resort to

That was evidenced in the ACC Tournament against Clemson and during the regular season against North Carolina. In those games, Wake got its outside bombs to fall in the first half but couldn't sustain it after intermission and lost. Against UNC-W, the Deacons

were able to get into a slower tempo and the guard play of the Deacons pushed them over the

The victory allowed Wake to earn a berth in the second round of the NIT, where the Deacons took on Vanderbilt at the LJVM

Niki Arinze dunks in two for Wake. on Tuesday (March 17).

That game, played after The Chronicle's deadline, featured teams with similiar identities. The Commodores finished the season 19-12. They, like the Deacons, had hopes of playing in the NCAA Tournament but struggled down the stretch. Vanderbilt won only four of its final 12 games and was eliminated from NCAA consideration.

But the team brought a talented roster into Joel Coliseum for the game. Vanderbilt defeated St. Bonaventure 73-61 in the first round of the NIT.

### **BRAD ALBERT**

from page B1

set the tone for the newcomers and that makes Albert enthusiastic about the team's chances this sea-

"We just didn't hit the ball like we wanted to against Tabor," Albert said. "They threw a good



Coach Brad Albert, a former pitcher for the Eagles, is back at home as the junior varsity baseball coach.

pitcher at us. We made some errors and just didn't hit the ball."

Michael Idol, who started on the mound for the Eagles, got off to a shaky start and was eventually replaced by Paul Barrow. East managed only four hits. Kyle Iddings, blasted a solo homer and catcher Luke Smith had a two-out single that scored a run.

East evened its record at 1-1 the following day when it defeated Watauga 5-3. In that game, the Eagles jumped out to a 5-0 lead

and then held on for the win. Matt Landfair, a sophomore southpaw, started on the moundfor the Eagles and held Watauga scoreless through five innings. Jason Walters, a freshman, closed for the Eagles and allowed three

Albert said that game might, have been a better indication of his team's talent, although he wasn'tthrilled by its effort.

"I'm really expecting good things," he said. "The first two games we haven't been hitting the ball like we want.'

In addition to having veteran players, Albert said he also has capable assistants on his staff. They include Chad Laughlin, a community coach, who has been with the program for several years, and Chris Gaskill, a former football player at Wake Forest, who is doing his student teaching at East Forsyth.

"I'm very lucky to have two, assistant coaches," he said. "Some coaches on the junior varsity level are out there by themselves.

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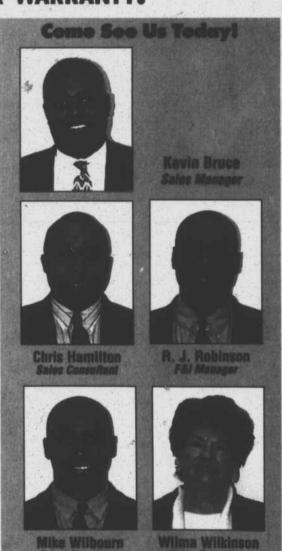
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The players on the court looked like they could feel the warmth and support of the crowd and reacted in kind by making all of their final eight shots. The shots they made weren't easy. Most came with one or two

Carver defenders draped all over the shooters.

When the game was over, the fans stormed the court and celebrated like they had already won the state championship. It was indeed something to behold.

(making 17 of 19 shots from the

field).

But it really came as no surprise. The fans stayed behind their coach and team. They attempted to get the team going on several occasions. But Carver's defense took them out of the game. However, they didn't give up. Even when they trailed by 10 points they still kept cheering and trying to make an impact on the game.

There are some lessons that can be learned locally by taking a clear, objective look at the situation.

Coaches need to have the support of everyone at their schools, along with that of the community. It brings honor to the schools and communities when a team is able to represent it on the state-wide level.

In a time when all the negatives that happen in our society are being pointed out, the youth need to be appreciated when they make positive contributions.

That includes the sports arena, where emotions run so high.