

WAKE FOREST

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

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



Photo by Bruce Chapman Robert O'Kelly



Tony Rutland goes to the basket

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.

Wake Forest's youth move-

CARVER

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"What can you say," Holt said. "Despite all that happened, we still had a layup right there at the end. What else can you ask for."

"We had a timeout left, but anytime you have confusion you want to push the ball down court and we got a good look down the seam."

Carver kept the huge Goldsboro crowd out of the game until the final minutes. The Yellowjackets fell behind 0-2 in the opening 15 seconds, but didn't trail again until the 1:40 mark of the fourth quarter.

The Yellowjackets reeled off nine unanswered points to open up a 9-2 lead on Rashad Davis' traditional three-point play with 5:39 left in the first quarter.

Carver would have blown the game open had it been able to make its field goals. But the Yellowjackets 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 period.

Antoine Barnes, who missed most of the first quarter with a dislocated finger, gave Carver a spark at the start of the second quarter and Carver increased its lead to 15-10 at the 6:04 mark.

The Yellowjackets limited the 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 lead.

Behind the play of Charles 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.

But Carver was up to the challenge and pushed its lead back to six, 42-37 at the end of three quarters.

The Cougars', playing only about 30 minutes from home, finally 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.

Dearmon took charge for Carver, scoring the team's next six points over three minutes. But the Yellowjackets didn't take advantage of their free throw opportunities and the Cougars closed to one, 53-52.

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

LOCAL FOLKS

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the Cougars had a large, vocal crowd.

But the impressive part was the fact that people from the community came out to support the team. Not only that, but they were all on one accord.

Goldsboro trailed throughout the game, but there were no comments 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 rescue.

When they scored down the stretch run of the game, the noise of the fans made it nearly impossible to hear anything in the gym.

Perhaps that contributed to the Cougars' unconscious shooting. 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.

ment was again put to the test. While the backcourt starters supplied 36 points, the freshmen in the front court didn't hold up their end. Consequently the Deacons had to resort to a perimeter game. To live and die by the outside shot puts a strain on the team.

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 top.

The victory allowed Wake to earn a berth in the second round of the NIT, where the Deacons took on Vanderbilt at the LJVM on Tuesday (March 17).

That game, played after The Chronicle's deadline, featured teams with similar 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.

Photo by Bruce Chapman



Niki Arinze dunks in two for Wake.

Photo by Bruce Chapman

BRAD ALBERT

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

"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 mound for the Eagles and held Watauga scoreless through five innings. Jason Walters, a freshman, closed for the Eagles and allowed three runs.

Albert said that game might have been a better indication of his team's talent, although he wasn't thrilled 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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