

**Reynolds**

from page B1

throughout the game, using 12 of his 13 players on a regular basis. That helped to wear down the Mustangs, who hadn't been tested in their first two games in the tournament.

"Their legs went on them a little," West said. "We play 13 (players) every night," he said. "That minute of rest for our starters means a lot when you get to the fourth quarter."

In particular, West said the play of Mike Noel and Jason McDougald off the bench helped push the Demons over the hump.

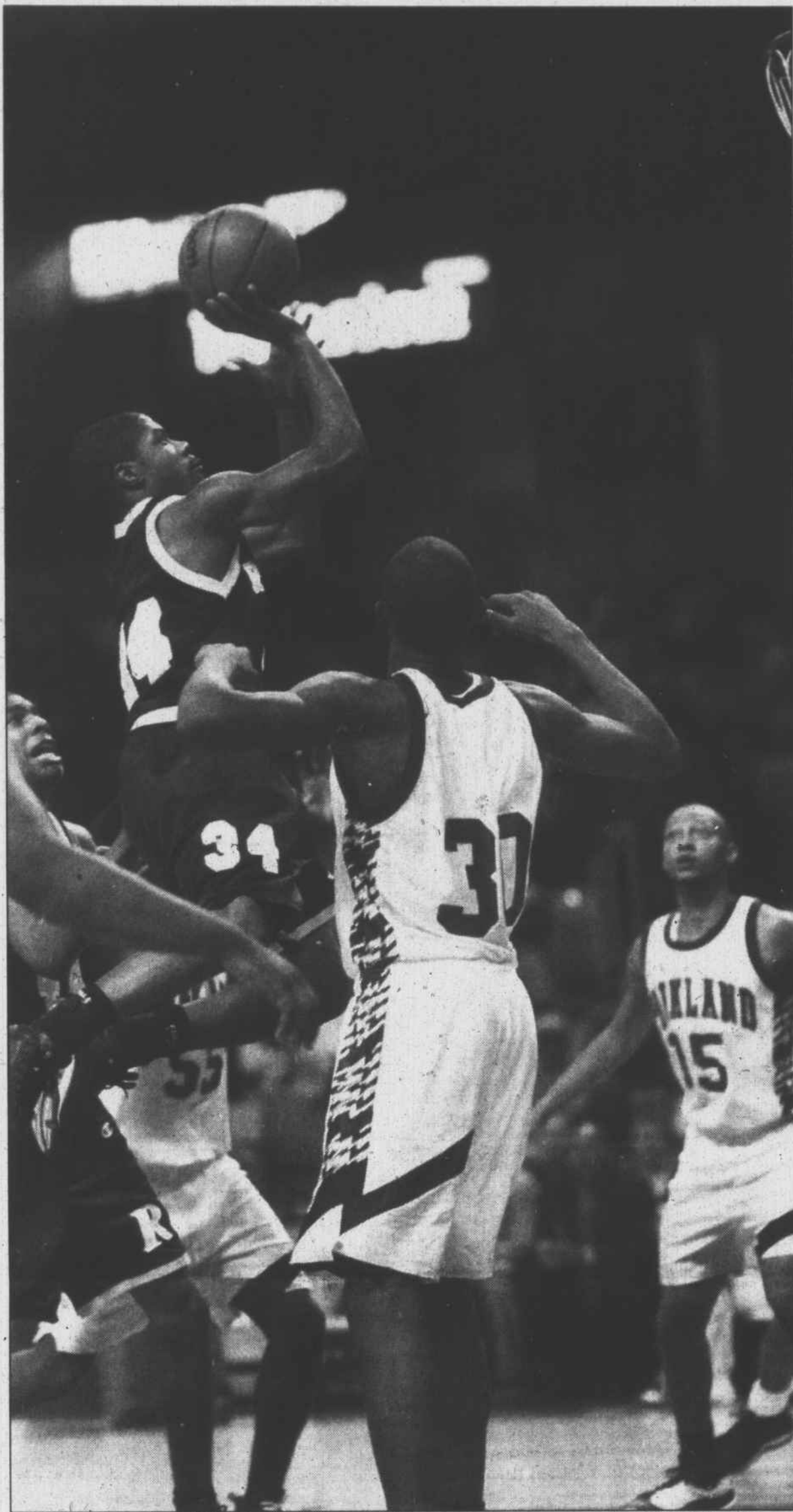
"McDougald fueled the Demons' first quarter run by coming up with six of his eight blocked shots in the first quarter. Noel contributed several key baskets and also dished off some big assists throughout the game in a back-up role at the point guard slot.

Coach Mike Pennington of Parkland said his team's horrendous start hurt its chances of capturing the championship.

"Everything bad that could go wrong did go wrong," Pennington said. "They came out and hurt us on the boards. That and the foul trouble to Cliff really hurt us.

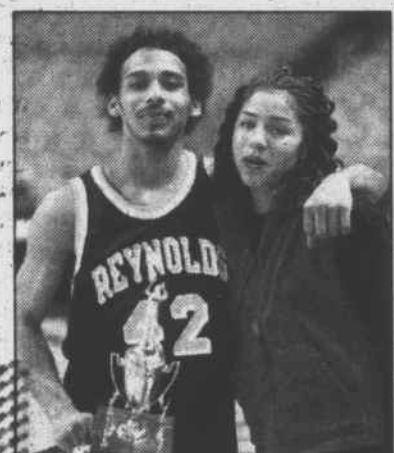
"McDougald was also big-time for them," Pennington said. "That and the fact that they're so experienced. Early in the game, I thought we were tight."

The Demons got out of the gate quickly, using their tough man-to-man defense to generate fast break opportunities on the offensive end. West also took



"Petey" Noel of Reynolds goes airborne for two points.

Photo by Bruce Chapman



Travis Holcomb-Faye and friend Kim McMillan.

advantage of a deep bench, substituting early and often as the Demons worked well together, running their lead to 19-8 on Noel's looper in the lane with 1:44 left in the first quarter.

Parkland, which was hurt by Crawford's second foul early in the first quarter, got a big effort from Brandon Isaiah off the bench to get the lead down to 19-14 at the end of the period. The Mustangs closed to 19-16 when Isaiah made two free throws in the opening minute of the second quarter. But Reynolds came back with a flurry of its own to extend its lead to nine, 25-16.

Crawford finally got his offensive game going and scored five of the Mustangs' next seven points to pull his team to within 31-27 with 3:26. The teams played evenly until the end of the half, with RJR going to the locker room with a 35-29 advantage at intermission.

Rod Dunlap, who was also named to the All-Tournament Team, got into the act in the third period. Dunlap scored six of his points over the first 3:08 of the period to help extend the Demons' lead to 46-33 with 4:52 to go.

That's when Crawford took over for Parkland. he scored 10

points in the final 4:18 of the half to help pull his team to within 54-51 at the end of the period.

Tuttle's long-range bombs at the start of the fourth quarter helped the Demons get back on course and Reynolds held on down the stretch, getting its lead to as many as 16 points in the fourth quarter.

"Every time we made a run, Tuttle was there to hurt us with a 3-pointer or they'd get a stick back," Pennington said.

Dunlap and Crawford were joined on the All-Tournament Team by Isaiah, Danny Gathings and Landon Moore of West Forsyth.

**Lewis**

from page B1

of Shell and Ray Rhodes, who was fired by Philadelphia Monday. Or there just aren't enough "qualified" candidates, whatever that means.

That's a weak argument, especially when recycling coaches is an annual event in the NFL. Remember Rich Kotite? He had the opportunity to screw up two franchises, so why can't Shell or Lewis get a break?

Steve Spurrier, a career back-up as a professional player, is the hottest candidate to make the leap to the pro coaching ranks. But what about Pete Richardson, a former pro defensive back in the old AFL, and head coach at I-AA Southern, or Billy Joe of Florida A&M. They can't even get call from a Division I-A school. Same story, different leagues.

Professional sports is a small fraternity where elitism is rampant. And for African Americans who have fought to break down barriers on the field are finding it difficult to smash the coaching ceiling. For years, black athletes have run, blocked and tackled as well as anyone in the NFL, but it seems as if the playing field is as far as it goes. True, Dennis Green is a leading candidate for coach of the year and Tony Dungy is solid in Tampa Bay, but there's more of

where they came from. If somebody would just give them a chance.

Dom Capers, the deposed Panthers coach, got his shot because he was successful as Pittsburgh's defensive coordinator. Shaw has the same job and is one of the best in the business at what he does. Do you think he'll get a promotion anytime soon?

Some will say too much is made out of the lack of black head coaches, that there's no affirmative action in pro sports. That's true enough when it comes to putting the product on the field. But keep in mind the NFL is just 37 years removed from the total desegregation of the last all-white team, the Washington Redskins. And that was only because the D.C. Parks Commission threatened to bar the Redskins from playing in the city-owned stadium if owner George Preston Marshall didn't hire black athletes.

Affirmative action has its pros and cons, but something is amiss when the NFL can produce only three black head coaches (now two) and no general managers despite African Americans making up 65 percent of its players. It's not about going by some quota to make anyone happy. It's about giving people an opportunity to fail or succeed on their own merits.

It's about putting the recycling bin out to pasture.

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