

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

FEBRUARY 14, 2002

Vikings clinch Metro 4-A title; turnaround complete



Mike Drum leads North Forsyth in scoring (17.3) and rebounding (9.8).

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Basketball is big again at North Forsyth. The Vikings took the final step in their rebuilding mode by taking a 66-44 victory over Mount Tabor last Friday night. That victory gave the Vikings their first conference championship in basketball since the 1985-86 season.

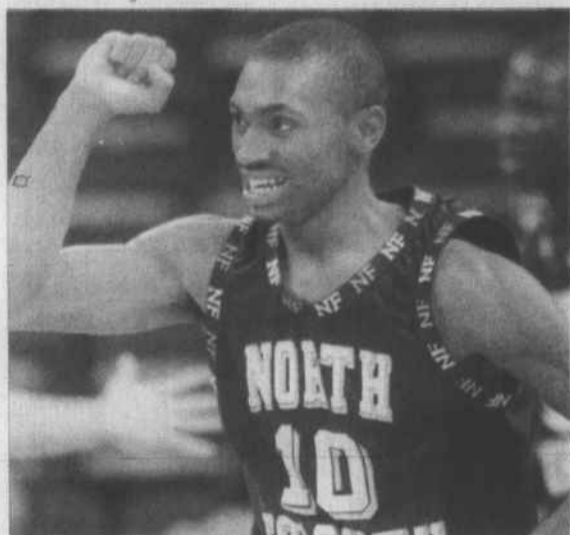
The Vikings, who have enjoyed a long legacy of success in basketball, captured their eighth conference championship in school history and moved to within one game of their first 20-game winning season in nearly a decade.

North Forsyth gained a measure of confidence early in

the season when it traveled to Utah to play several games and surprised some of the state's top teams. That confidence carried over to the Frank Spencer Holiday Classic when the Vikings captured the tournament championship for the first time since the 1980s.

The biggest cog in the success story being enjoyed by the Vikings is 6-6 pivotman Mike Drum, whose grit and determination have been embraced by the rest of the team. Drum leads the team in scoring (17.3) and rebounding (9.8) and ranks second in assists (5.0).

"Drum is an all-around player," coach Mike Muse said. "He's very unselfish and that's



Stephano Jackson

See Vikings on B2

Toya Davis, first-year coach, puts Mustangs' JVs on winning track

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Last year this time Toya Davis was preparing for graduation from St. Paul's College and trying to figure out what career path she would follow. Less than a year later, she's enjoying her first season as the head girls' junior varsity basketball coach at Parkland High School, where the Mustangs are in contention for a conference championship for the first time in more than a decade.

Davis, who played her high school basketball at North Forsyth, has led the Mustangs to a 12-7 overall record and a 10-3 mark in the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference. The Mustangs went into this week with three conference games left and an outside chance to capture a league crown. Although her team's accomplishments are surprising, Davis said the Mustangs have worked hard to get where they are right now.

"This is a team full of hard workers," Davis said. "They're not very talented, but they work hard every day and they are very dedicated. It is really a good group of girls to work with."

The nucleus of the team is made up of sophomores. Of the seven in the regular rotation, four were on the squad last year when the team struggled through a tough season.

It took a leap of faith by Davis to put her in position to be the team's coach this season.

After she received her degree last May, Davis was talking to Marlon Brim, an assistant coach in the Parkland boys program who attends the same church (Union Baptist) when she expressed her desire to coach on the high school level. Brim put Davis in touch with Erica Turner, the girls' varsity head coach and the rest is history. At first Davis was slated to be an assistant on the varsity team. But when the junior varsity head coach quit, Turner asked Davis to fill the slot.

"I feel blessed," Davis said.

"At the time I didn't really know what to expect, but after this experience I know this is something that I want to do the rest of my life," she said.

Davis said it has helped to have her father.

See Davis on B2



Patrick Jenkins, center, is joined by his parents, Daniel and Patricia Jenkins, and sister Alicia at Carver's annual Football Signing Day.

Signing day is always a big event for Wilkes

The first Wednesday of February is always a joyous occasion for coach Keith Wilkes. It is his tradition to meet with the parents of his Carver High football players as they make their decisions about where they will spend the next four years of their lives.

Last Wednesday was no exception. Wilkes and the parents of six of his players met in the media center to celebrate as the players signed their national letters of intent to play college football next fall.

Watching his players sign their scholarship papers helped Wilkes forget, for the moment, the Yellowjackets' 6-



FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

started out four years ago with clean slates.

They made choices on and off the football field that will affect the outcome of the rest of their lives. For the most part, they did the things that will help them become successful in the future, and right now they are being rewarded for it.

"Not every kid who leaves here is going to sign a scholarship to play college football," Wilkes added. "But, we try to do everything in our power to make sure the ones who have the ability and desire get the opportunity."

Many times, according to Wilkes, that means pushing his players in the classroom

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Jones leads the way as Carver gets revenge on Rockingham County

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Porsche Jones played like the Northwest area's top player last Friday night. Despite injury and illness, Jones poured in 25 points and handed out nearly a dozen assists to lead Carver to a 46-42 victory over Rockingham County.

With an overflow crowd watching, Jones came through with a clutch performance to help the Yellowjackets avenge a double-digit loss to the Cougars earlier in the season. The win tied the teams atop the standings in the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference and probably set the stage for two more battles. If the teams continue on the paths they have been on throughout the season, they'll likely meet again in the conference tournament and again in the state 3-A playoffs. Carver defeated Rockingham County in the playoffs last year en route to its state 3-A championship.

Jones provided the spark early and late to lift the Yellowjackets. She scored 12 of Carver's 19 first-half points as the Yellowjackets went to the locker room trailing 21-19 at halftime.

In the fourth quarter, Jones scored 5 of the Yellowjackets' final 7 points on five-of-six shooting from the free-throw line to seal the victory.

Coach Gerald Carter said Jones' play was without a doubt the key to the win.

"She's the gutsiest player I've ever seen," Carter said. "She's still hurt but she went out there tonight and played a great game. I knew going into the game she was a little sick too, but she didn't show any signs of it."



Jones

See Yellowjackets on B2



Photo by Franklin Wong

Mike Lloyd of Mount Tabor accepts his award after capturing first place in the 300-meter dash at the State Indoor Meet in Chapel Hill. Lloyd set a state record in the event and captured first place in the 55-meter dash to lead Mount Tabor to the state championship. The Spartan girls also captured first place.

Demons' Byrom, Ijames sign scholarships

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Two varsity players from the R.J. Reynolds varsity football team signed scholarships to play football in college next season. Omar Byrom, a defensive end, and Dwayne Ijames, a defensive back, signed grants last Wednesday at the school.

Both Byrom and Ijames were named to The Chronicle Super 25 after outstanding senior seasons. During the 2001 season both also were named to the Central Piedmont 4-A All-Conference Team. Byrom, a 6-3, 230-pounder, signed with Appalachian State. In addition to being named to the CPC

See Demons on B2



Omar Byrom, seated, signs his scholarship to attend Appalachian State. He is accompanied by his father, Chuck Byrom; Stan Elrod; Lord Byrom; Pricilla Byrom and David Atkins.