

Lady Aggies top High Point

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Lady Aggies of N.C. A&T got their second win of the year earlier this week.

Camile Akins scored a game-high 16 points to lead N.C. A&T to a 52-50 victory over host High Point on Monday night at the Mills Center. The Lady Aggies improved to 2-7 overall, while the Panthers fell to 4-5.

With the victory, N.C. A&T avenged a 45-point loss to the Panthers last season. N.C. A&T made a little history during the one-point win

over High Point. Before Monday's win, the last time the Lady Aggies defeated High Point was during the 1980-81 season.

N.C. A&T went on a 23-7 run in the final minutes of the first half to take a 32-20 lead at halftime. The Panthers opened the second half with a 10-0 run to cut the lead to 32-30. But the Aggies pulled together and went on an 11-3 run of their own to push the lead back to 11 points.

The Panthers' Emily Mills hit a 3-pointer with 21 seconds remaining to cut the lead to 50-48. However, the Lady Aggies were able to run out the clock to seal the win.

Yanumbe Sherman finished with 15 points for the Lady Aggies, to go along with Akins' 16. Katie O'Dell led High Point with 15 points.

N.C. A&T will be back in action in January as it opens its Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference schedule on the road against Norfolk State on Jan. 3 at 2 p.m. High Point will host Longwood University on Saturday at the Mills Center.

Final

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going to run. We've just gotta have some poise and see what we're made of. And Darion hit those two big free throws to seal the win."

With the win, Witt also found out a few things about his squad.

"I'll tell you what I found out about my team the last two nights: We were down by 5 points with three minutes to go against Parkland. The guys

never lost their poise. They never felt like they were going to lose the game. And the win over Reynolds was big because we haven't really been challenged this season. We had to make plays late, and we did it.

"We're going to be in some tough games this year," Witt concluded. "We've got them (Reynolds) two more times. It's going to be fun. We're looking forward to it."

David Lash/Chronicle
All-Tournament Team

Darion Jeralds (West): MVP

Matt Koslic (West)
Daniel Stump (West)
Elliott Coleman (Parkland)
Gary Mahatha (Glenn)
Howard Coston (Reynolds)

Tournament Standings
1. West Forsyth (3-0)
2. Reynolds (2-1)
3. Parkland (2-1)
4. Glenn (2-1)
5. Mt. Tabor (1-2)
6. North (1-2)
7. East (1-2)

Hill

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showed the fans what they were made of by going 2-1 in the tournament.

Reynolds looked as impressive as usual by displaying its comeback ability during every game Reynolds played, even the championship game.

A few individuals shined as well. Guys like Carver's Rodney "Roc" Brown and Steven Ramsey stood out with their play for the Yellowjackets. North's C.J. Hendrickson and Mike Flomo displayed some talent as well. A few teams disappointed me too — teams like the Spartans, Eagles and Yellowjackets. I thought all three of those squads were going to play better than they did. But, hey, you never know when it comes to junior varsity sports. Sometimes all it takes is a simple gesture before a game to make most of these players choke under pressure.

"I believe you jinxed me," East star guard Josh Nofflett said after a lackluster performance in the Lash. "All I was thinking about was what you told me before the game."

Josh, you can't do that, dawg. You've gotta keep your mind on the game and concentrate on your mission at hand. I bet some of you are wondering what I told Josh before his final game of the tourney. I told him that if he has a decent game, he'll probably make the All-Tournament Team, based on his numbers (stats). Well, he had an awful game and didn't make the All-Tourney Team. But he's still a really good player. And he and every player and team besides the Titans (tourney champs) have the rest of the season to prove it.

Different bowl season, same ol' games — let's do something about it

For years I've watched bowl games with my boys, family members and associates. I used to enjoy the time together, but bowl games aren't what they used to be.

Bowl games once really meant something. Conference champions would square off against each other or against top teams from other parts of the country to defend the honor and tradition of dear old university, and we'd watch 'em do it. We didn't care about national champions. All we wanted to do was cheer for the school that was from the South (or close to it) and watch 'em whip those "other guys."

Naturally the Sugar, Orange, Cotton and Gator bowls were our favorites. We didn't pay the Rose Bowl attention. A lot of sunshine, a lot of flowers, a lot of bragging about being the oldest, and not much football — that's how we saw it.

Then, all of a sudden, everyone became preoccupied with being number one in the nation. A few years ago, coaches and fans began to ask for a playoff system. That struck terror in the hearts of bowl committees, college presidents, athletics directors and television networks. They were happy with things the way they were and with the

money that was brought in.

Determined to nip this playoff idea in the bud, the powers that be toiled long and hard to give fans what they didn't want. And guess what, they succeeded. Instead of a playoff they came up with the BCS, the Bowl Championship Series, which is no series at all and produces no champion. Best I can tell, it's just a sorry scheme designed to make every bowl but one insignificant.

This year, however, the BCS outdid itself. None of the games counts for anything!

Not that the bowl folks care. As long as the current system brings in the bucks, fans can moan and groan all they want but it won't matter. Which brings me to my point (you were wondering, weren't you?): Since it's all about money, fans should hit the bowl boys where it hurts.

Boycott 'em. Not the games, the sponsors. Without the sponsors there would be no bowls. If the sponsors wanted a playoff, there would be one. We just have to make them want one.

And here's how: For one month — say, February — don't buy a Mazda (Tangerine Bowl), a Toyota (Gator Bowl), or a Chevy, Chrysler or Ford (Motor City Bowl). Don't put Continental tires on the car you have because it sponsors the Continental Tire Bowl. No loans from GMAC (the GMAC Bowl), no insurance from Pacific Life (Holiday Bowl), no blooming onion at Outback Steak House (Outback Bowl), no sandwiches from Chick-fil-A (Peach Bowl), and no Tostitos — chips, dips or anything else (Fiesta Bowl). No trips to Las Vegas, New Orleans, or San Francisco (each sponsors a bowl), and no sleeping at a Gaylord Hotel (Music City Bowl).

Steer clear of EVI.net (Houston Bowl), Mainstay (Independence Bowl), Crucial.com (Humanitarian Bowl) and Insight.com (the Insight.com Bowl, what else). Of course if you are like me, you will have to check to see if you use what these folks make so you can stop using it; you can't always tell from the name. And don't plan a trip to Silicon Valley because it also has a bowl.

Avoid the traditional companies — AT&T (Rose Bowl), Wells Fargo (Sun Bowl), and FedEx (Orange Bowl) — as well as those you probably never heard of — SBC (Cotton Bowl), AXA (Liberty Bowl), and Conagra (Hawaii-Bowl).

Don't use your credit cards — Mastercard (Alamo Bowl) and Capital One (the Capital One Bowl). And don't buy anything from Nokia, which this year sponsors the Sugar Bowl, where two good teams are playing for something that isn't the national championship.

Let's cut 'em off without a dime. February's short. We can take it. They can't. We care about football. They don't. If they did, we would have had playoffs long ago. So get ready for battle, screw your courage to the sticking post, and just say, "No."

Then next year about this time, after the little bowls have hosted the first round of playoffs, the bigger bowls the next round, and the biggest bowls the final four, all of us can sit down to watch Miami of Ohio and Michigan battle for the national crown.

I can't wait.

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