

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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FEBRUARY 12, 2004



Mt. Tabor's Josh Miller led the Spartans to a 20-point victory over East Forsyth on Tuesday. Miller finished the game with 25 points.

Spartans' size too Busted!

What is going on at Eastern Alamance?

FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill



I have one question for most of you: What in the heck is going on in Eastern Alamance County? Most of you have heard about the huge drug raid that took place at Eastern Alamance High School last week. One of the kids arrested was the state's all-time leading men's basketball scorer, James On Curry. "Certainly the arrests of students, including some student-athletes, in the Alamance-Burlington school system on various drug-related charges represents a dark day for high school sports in North Carolina," said Charlie Adams, executive director of the N.C. High School Athletic Association. "It is difficult to imagine going from the top of the mountain and a player who is North Carolina's all-time leading scorer, to being arrested.



Curry

"But unfortunately, in many ways it's a sign of the times and the drug-infested culture in which we live," Adams continued. "Sadly enough, the lives of many young people have been changed by the kinds of situations that some of our student-athletes now find themselves in, and they will have to live with the consequences of poor decisions."

Dang, things have changed a great deal since I was in school. Sure, there were drugs and even arrests, but athletes rarely got caught in all the drama. I'm not saying the athletes of my generation didn't do anything wrong. I am simply saying that we didn't do anything wrong during the season. But most of the athletes who were into some shady things (the ones that I knew), whether it was smoking, fighting or whatever, would at least stop what shady activities they might have been into until the season was over. That didn't make them first-class citizens, but hey, it at least got them on the field on Friday nights, and on the court during game days.

Athletes these days think they can get away with murder. For some reason they don't think anybody is watching them either. They couldn't be more wrong.

See Hill on B7

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The East Forsyth junior varsity basketball squad fit the mold of a pesky team when it played a talented Mt. Tabor squad on Tuesday night. Just when it seemed like the Spartans were about to deliver the knockout blow against East, the Eagles would simply pick themselves up off the canvas.

However, Mt. Tabor's size and defensive strategies played a key role down the stretch as the Spartans came away with a 74-54 win at home. The Spartans also benefited from a great game by Josh Miller, who finished with 25 points, four rebounds and three steals. Miller was moved from the point guard position to the shooting guard position to give him more scoring opportunities. And, it paid off for the Spartans as he scorched the Eagles with an impressive performance.

"I'm going to tell you this: Josh is a great player," said Mt. Tabor head JV coach Monte Gray. "He can really stroke it from the outside. We found out that Josh can really light it up when you put him in a scoring position. We moved him to the two spot, and put Darion Jackson at one. And, you saw that he could stroke it tonight."

Miller added: "I think the move was beneficial to me

because it let me score more tonight. It's still the same of thing, though. I just went out there and played hard. This is what I always do."

The Spartans began the game as if they were going to mop the floor with the Eagles. Mt. Tabor ended the opening quarter with as much as a seven point lead. Then, the Spartans increased it to as much as 14 points in the second quarter. Adam Kingsmoore, Miller, Ritchie Lyons and John MacDonald all played great in the first half, and helped the Spartans to a 33-26 halftime lead.

"We came out strong at the start of the game," Miller said. "Then, we kind of fell off toward the second half. We knew that we had to put something together in the second half."

Obviously, the Eagles felt the same way as they played like champions in the second half. Mt. Tabor was able to grab as high as a 12-point lead. That's when the Eagles made a tremendous run. East was able to get to within eight points at the end of the third quarter. The Eagle charge was led by the talented Nick Corak, who finished the game with 19 points, four rebounds and two steals. Michael Coleman and Justin Jordan also made big plays for East in the third quarter. The Eagles con-



Gray

See Rams on B7

Same destination, different paths

Six signs with Charleston Southern; Hall signs with Norfolk State

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Michael Six and James Hall both had dreams of playing college football after their playing days at R.J. Reynolds High School were over. Both players also felt they had a legitimate chance at earning a scholarship before they graduated from high school.

Well, before the start of last season, Six was the only player with a realistic shot at getting a scholarship. Six was one of the highest rated linebackers in the area before the season started. He found himself a little injured and very frustrated by the middle of the season. So he wasn't sure how close he would come to reaching his goal, and living out one of his dreams of playing college foot-

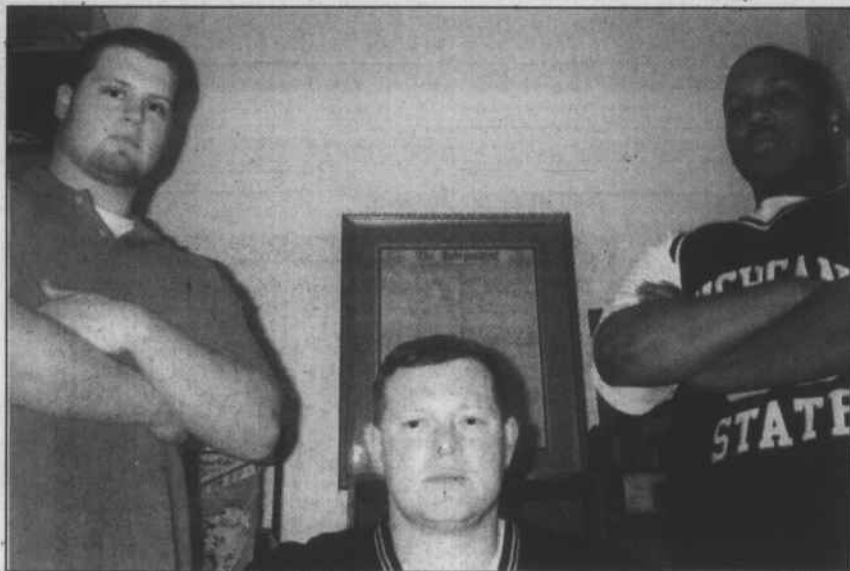
ball.

"It was up in the air for a little while," Six said. "I really didn't know who wanted to take a chance with me because of my injury and all."

Propst added: "Heck, we knew somebody was going to take a chance with Six. We knew he was going to get a scholarship somewhere."

Turns out that Propst couldn't have been more correct. Charleston Southern ultimately gave Six a chance to fulfill his dream of playing college football. And he made sure that his chances didn't slip away after he signed a national letter of intent last week.

"That was more of a relief than excitement," Six said. "I don't have that hanging over my



Reynolds head football coach Mike Propst sits between Michael Six (left) and James Hall after they signed their scholarships last week.

Photo by Anthony Hill

See Reynolds on B3

Nine players sign to play with Rams

Signees

- | Name, Pos., High School |
|--|
| Michael Miller, DL, Eau Claire |
| Quinten Jones, DL, W. Mecklenberg |
| Bennie Barbour, OL, Smithfield |
| Harold Bennett, K/P-Return, West Forsyth |
| Chas Sampson, DL/DE, Pine Forest |
| Thaddeus Griffin, LB, Crestwood |
| Michael Helton, OL, Crestwood |
| Steven Jordan, OL, J.A. Holmes |
| Justin Sherrod, QB, Westover |

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The old adage is that the rich get richer.

That statement holds true for the Winston-Salem State University football program as the powerful Rams have once again gotten even stronger as head coach Kermit Blount announced last Friday that WSSU has signed nine players to national letters of intent to play football for the Rams.

The Rams, who finished the 2003 season on a four-game winning streak in which they outscored their opponents 181-42 and posted two shutouts, have bolstered an already formidable lineup with their 2004 signees.

The players who have announced their intent to play football for the Rams are listed to the left.



Marion Returns

Abaca Press

After two years off from competing, Marion Jones returned to the track Friday at the Verizon Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Jones, who had a baby during her time off, won the Women's 60 meters at the event. Left, Jones waves at fans before the start of the race.

Reynolds Park ballers playing with passion

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The action at Reynolds Park simply doesn't seem to slow down. The ballers put on another great show for fans over the weekend.

"I told you that it's exciting every weekend over here at Reynolds Park," said director Bryant McCorkle. "The parking lot isn't as full as it was last weekend, but the games were just as exciting."

The first game in the 14-18-year-old division was between the red-hot And 1 Classics and the hungry and feisty Rams squad, led by John Kiser. The And 1 Classics have made themselves into the team to beat after beginning the season with an undefeated mark.

The Rams were trying to put a blemish on that perfect record by adding a little bit of size to its roster. The Rams looked more



Wright

See Ballers on B4