

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

Also Religion, Obituaries, Classifieds

JANUARY 12, 2006



East Forsyth freshman point guard C.J. Harris has already established himself as an elite guard in the city.

THE FUTURE

East's Harris bursting on varsity scene

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The future of prep basketball looks stronger than ever at the point guard position, especially here in Forsyth County. Three area schools start freshman point guards, and most of them seem to be performing up to the competition.

East Forsyth is one of the schools that has allowed a ninth-grader to run the show. C.J. Harris, 14, has done more than run the show for the Eagles. Harris has also set the tone and given head coach Clyde Reynolds reasons to feel good about the future of his Eagles. Reynolds, who's in his second year at East, said that he's never seen a freshman han-

dle the pressures of being a point guard quite like Harris.

"I really haven't seen a player like him in 25 years," Reynolds said. "I've seen two guys come up through JV and play just as well in varsity - Tobe Jackson and Brian Howard. Some people may disagree with me, but that's my opinion."

But Harris hasn't had the luxury of fine-tuning his game on the junior varsity level. He was just tossed to the wolves this year, his first year of high school basketball. But he's seemingly flourished, and handled the pressure, size and speed of varsity basketball quite well.

"That's why he's in a whole 'nother category than the other



Reynolds

See Harris on B3

Black has best game of career

Former East star shines

against Maryland

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem native Chante Black scored a career-high 19 points to help lead the No. 2 Duke Blue Devils to improve to 14-0 overall and 3-0 in the ACC after dismantling No. 6 Maryland 86-68 Sunday at the Comcast Center in front of a crowd of 16,097.

Lindsey Harding also scored a career-high 19 points for the Blue Devils. Monique Currie added 18

for Duke, including 13 in the second half. Harding and Black com-



Black

binated to hit 11-of-11 from the field in the first half as Duke held a 48-31 lead. Currie did most of her damage in the second half, including 10 down the stretch run of the second half. Currie became the school's fourth all-time leading scorer, passing Katie Meier.

Black scored 16 points against Jacksonville State University last season to record her previous career high in points. She also had a career high in steals, field goals and free-throw percentage in that game last season.

"She (Chante) has been playing really well and practicing very well," said Duke head coach Gail Goetsenkos. "It's nice to see her put another complete game together. She gave us the lift that we really needed when our post players got in foul trouble in the first half."

Black connected with a number of shots, behind a selection of fancy moves in the post - mostly in the first half. She continued to dominate in the second half as well.

"We still have some areas of our game to improve upon, but each game helps us prepare for the next," Black said. "This game definitely boosted my confidence for the next game."

Duke, the highest-scoring team in the country, was held about 13 points under its aver-

See Black on B3

Kee inherited championship attitude

Coach strives to be positive role model and successful coach

BY JAESON PITT
THE CHRONICLE

In a new year many people have the tendency to throw out the previous year's trash and make resolutions to do away with bad habits once and for all. Sometimes, though, people reflect on all they've accumulated over time, good or bad, then judge it and decide to build from that point rather than disregard it all in the name of a fresh start.

Stephawn Kee knows much about this approach. The third-year junior varsity boys basketball coach at Mt. Tabor High School was distraught a year ago about this time of year after losing in the championship game of the David Lash Chronicle Holiday Tournament. Kee and his team came to a resolve right away... that next year they would win it all.

Well, things have come full circle and their mission came to fruition when they beat Carver in their own gymnasium 62-46 to capture this year's title on Dec. 30.

"We put in a lot of hard work right when school started," Kee said. "...That was our primary goal this year. Our second (goal) is the conference (title)."

Kee, who graduated himself from Mt. Tabor in 1991, already knows some things about being a winner, especially on the basketball court. His father, the late, locally great, James "Hickey" Cunningham, was a legend here in the city.

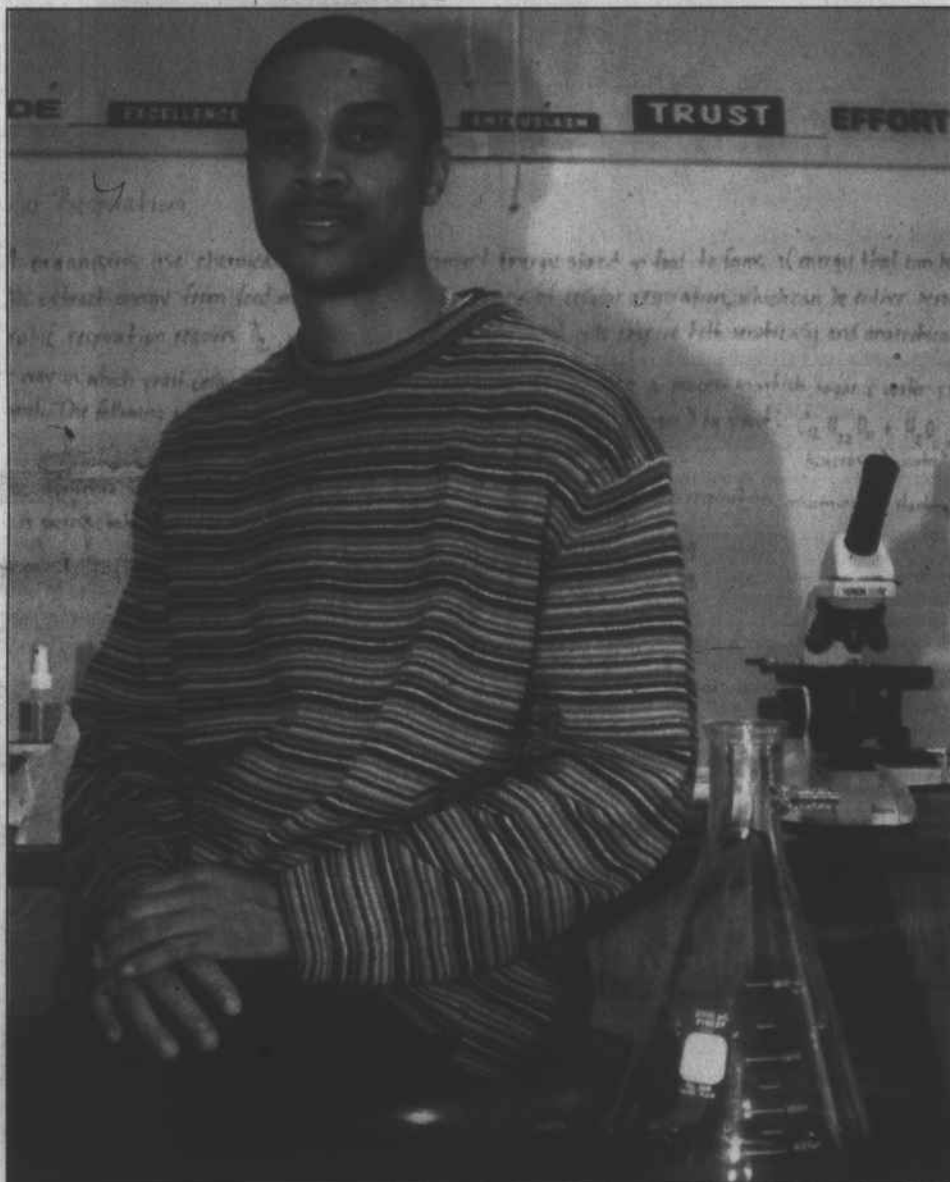
Cunningham earned his reputation as an outstanding athlete at R.J. Reynolds, playing wide receiver on the football field and forward on the basketball court. He was the first African-American to be named MVP in the Frank Spencer Classic before graduating in 1972. Cunningham passed in August of 1995. Since then, Kee has only been able to watch tapes of his dad getting busy.

"Everybody tells me how good he was and that he was the best, or one of the best to come through Winston," Kee said.

Some of that talent was innately instilled in Kee's blood. When Kee was playing at Tabor he was told that he didn't have the same fight in him that his dad had. Cunningham's old football coach Ken Hayes, who was the athletic director by the time of Kee's tenure, pointed it out to Kee.

"He used to watch me play and used to tell me I didn't have enough fight in me, I didn't have that mean streak that my dad had, and he would always put that on me," said Kee.

With that in the back of his young mind, he



See Kee on B4 Stephawn Kee recently led the Mount Tabor JV squad to the Lash championship due to supreme team chemistry.

Photo by Jaeson Pitt

WHAT'S UP WITH MIKE'S LIL' BROTHER?

FROM THE
HUDDLE
Anthony Hill



Well, I guess there probably won't be discussions of which brothers are the best between the Mannings, Barbers and Vicks. The Mannings (Peyton and Eli) and Barbers (Tiki and Ronde) are obviously already in the NFL.

Michael Vick's (Atlanta Falcons QB) little brother, Marcus Vick, probably won't make it to the league now. If he does, it will be so late that he will probably struggle to earn a spot. Marcus definitely won't be mentioned with some of the better quarterbacks in the league anytime soon. He's not exactly ready for the league yet.

Marcus Vick, 21, recently said that he was going to enter the NFL Draft after he was kicked off the Hokie football team last Friday. As I read and heard about Virginia Tech punishing the younger Vick for stepping on Louisville's Elvis Dumervil (NCAA sack leader) in the Gator Bowl, I couldn't help but wonder what the big deal was. Sure, he stepped on a guy in a bowl game, and he was supposed to go and apologize after the game. I didn't think he should've been kicked off the team, though. Was the offense that bad?

"Every time I look up, it seems like this kid is getting in trouble," said UNC-Greensboro guard Ricky Hickman. "I think he would've had a bright

See Hill on B3

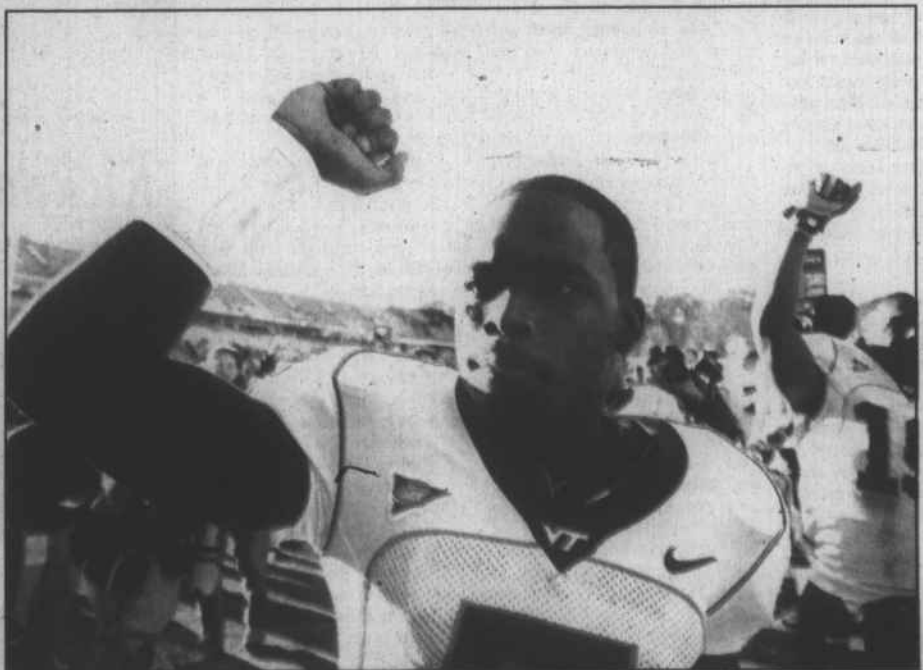


Photo by Joe Riddigan US PRESSWIRE

Virginia Tech Hokies quarterback Marcus Vick celebrates after a game against the Virginia Cavaliers in Charlottesville. Vick, who was kicked off the team for unsportsmanlike conduct during the Toyota Gator Bowl, has also faced trouble off the field.