

Prep Chatter



Debra

"Life Is Full Of Surprises"

Who's No. 1? People, People have you heard - Harding, Harding is the word. It seems that now Harding has worked its way to the top due to three consecutive losses by South Meck against East Meck, West Charlotte and Garinger.

After what seemed like an endless playing of victory games to chase South Meck, Harding has finally gone ahead of the Sabres in leading the Southwestern 4-A Conference for the boy's basketball battle.

Because of South's defeat to Garinger 56-55 last Friday and the Rams' 69-61 win over Olympic has ended the chase. The Rams have an 11-2 record in the conference against South's 11-3 conference slate.

What does Coach Pete Campbell think of his Rams now? "I've always felt I had a good ball team," he commented. "I think what really put us on top was the extremely good talent and the close teammanship our players have on the court. They are a very unselfish team and they play very hard."

Why such a difference in an 11-12 record last year as compared to 15-3 overall record this year? Campbell feels that having three top players returning with the addition of 6-4- junior Elliot Avery, has made the difference. "Last year we lost maybe 8 or 9 games by less than 5 points. I think the experience from those games, and just by having an experienced team, has taught us to improve on those mistakes," Campbell said. The Rams must be doing something right this year, there's no denying with a great record for this season.

The Rams have only three games remaining and you can bet they will be giving good, strong, stiff competition to keep their record up to what they worked for; one of those games was against South Meck (Tues. Feb. 5) and the Rams expect it to be a tough game right down to the last couple of minutes with each team trying to let the other make mistakes.....

Also very surprisingly was the East Meck's edge over Myers Park, 63-61. North Meck whipped Independence, 81-70. Against Olympic, Harding was led by Mike Eppley's 23 points and took advantage of poor percentage shooting of the Trojans' 21 percent in the final half. A pair of late free throws by Eric Johnson lifted East over Myers Park, killing Andres Gillespie's 22 point effort for the Mustangs. Andres and Sanford Tillman each scored in double figures in two games, including Tillman's 19 points and Gillespie's 10 against Harding. Quick and good ball handlers have been key factors in Myers Park's 8-5 record and third-place standing for the 4-A Conference. Tillman, at 6-1, is a good one-on-one player; and Gillespie, at 6-0, is especially dangerous because of his quickness. Both played some varsity last year.

North put all five starters in two figures including B.J. Clark with 20 to hold off Independence. Jeff Means led the Patriots with 19. West Charlotte rolled all over West Meck 88-56. Sampson McCorkle as strong as his name scored 24 points Thursday, sparking the Lions to victory over host, the Indians. West Meck fell to 3-11 in the league and was led by Wayne Latimore's 17 points and Mark Witherspoon added 14. Billy Overcash added 19 as the Lions improved an 8-6 in the Southwestern 4-A. The Lions will definitely be seeking a ninth win when they play No. 1 ranked Harding. And they definitely think they can - can they? "Life is full of surprises."

Use Caution Driving In Bad Weather Conditions

One of the main reasons for accidents in inclement weather is improper application of brakes, according to safety engineers at Raybestos, manufacturers of quality brake products for passenger cars and light trucks.

When applying brakes in any kind of inclement conditions, moderation is always the rule. Never brake too heavily, and never steer too sharply or accelerate too quickly.

Even when you feel you are losing control of the car, such as in a hydroplaning situation, never brake or steer too sharply. Instead, take your foot off the

accelerator and let your tires regain traction as their revolutions slow.

The first rule in any kind of poor weather conditions, of course, is to cut your speed. Also, be sure and increase the usual distance of one car length per every 10 miles per hour by at least 50 percent.

Slow down at the first sign of precipitation. Remember, the most dangerous time for drivers in rainy conditions is during the very beginning sprinkles when oil and dirt on the road combine to create a slick film.

Once the rainfall increases, beware of deep puddles. Avoid them as much as safely possible. But when forced to "ford" wet areas, be sure to drive slowly. Do not stop. You'll end up with no power if you do.

Once out of the water, pump your brakes several times to test them. Wetness always affects the good performance of brakes, so be sure and drive extra carefully. While driving, press gently on the brakes to help them dry more quickly.

If your brakes should fail while driving, try to regain control by gently pumping the brake pedal. It's possible the disorder is temporary and the power will come back. If your brakes fail to respond, ease the parking brake into position and downshift quickly.

When driving on snow and ice, be sure you're carrying all the equipment you'll need to cope with adverse road conditions, including chain, sand, a short shovel, blankets, and ice scraper and matches.

If you feel your car start to skid let up on the gas immediately. Steer in the direction of the skid. Do not apply the brakes. Instead, tap them lightly in short bursts.

Hard braking can lock wheels on ice, eliminating their traction. When this happens, pump your brakes at one-second intervals to release them.

If you find yourself suddenly driving on glare ice, slow down either by tapping your brakes or coasting. Accelerate very gently. Always test slipperiness by gently jabbing the brakes or the accelerator depending on the speed you're traveling.

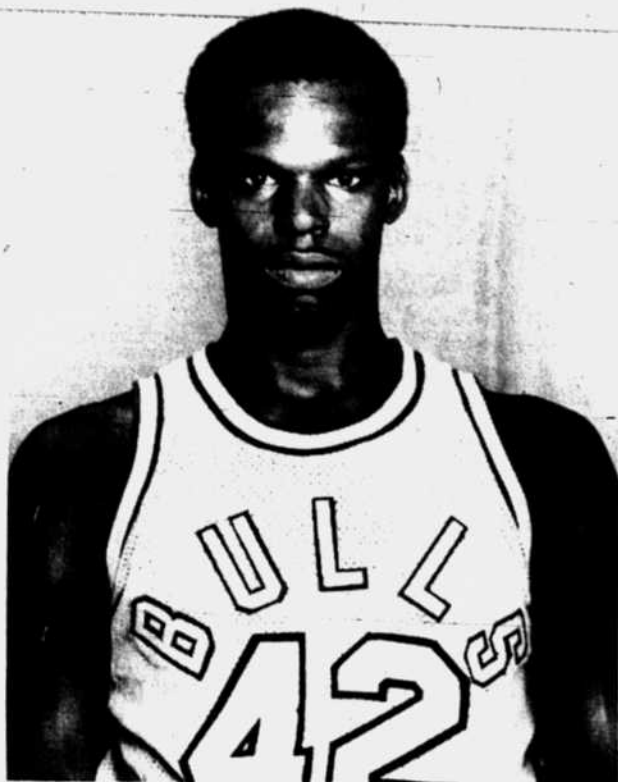
If you should get stuck in the snow, shovel paths in front of and behind each

wheel. Spread sand for added traction. Point your wheels straight ahead, and begin rocking the car gently forward and backward.

To rock the car, shift smoothly between reverse and drive. Change directions the instant you begin to feel your tires begin to spin, and be sure and let your transmission cool every five minutes.

When stuck in a blizzard, leave your car only if you know you can reach safety. Otherwise, remain in the car. Wrap yourself in blankets, newspapers, floor mats or anything available to keep yourself warm. Fast-idle the engine at intervals to warm the heater.

But be careful not to waste gasoline or wear down the battery.



Larcell "Blue" Oliver
...Cited by NAIA

"Blue" Oliver Wins

District 26 Honors

Special To The Post
PEMBROKE--Larcell (Blue) Oliver, 6-foot-7 sophomore forward of Johnson C. Smith University who averaged 23.3 points in three victories by his team last week and in one contest sank the winning shot in the last 19 seconds, is NAIA District 26 "Basketball Player of the Week." He had a tremendous 81.8 shooting percentage for the week, hitting 27 of 33 field goal attempts.

Oliver, a native of Leesburg, Va., scored 18 points in J.C. Smith's 95-90 win in overtime over St. Paul's. He burned the hoop for 30 points as the Golden Bulls whipped Fayetteville State 87-77. But it was in a big 79-78 triumph over tough Virginia Union that he really sparked. Against his team which came to Charlotte with a 14-2 record, Oliver collected 22 points, hitting 10 of 13 field goal attempts and two of three free throws. He made the game-winning basket on a 12-foot shot with those 19 seconds to go. He also had two assists and one steal.

Winston-Salem State's Reggie Gaines continued to blitz foes. The district scoring leader pumped in 30 points as the Rams edged Fayetteville State 84-82 on the road and bombarded the basket for 35 points as Winston-Salem crushed

winless Shaw 90-61.

Gardner-Webb also captured three in a row as 6-foot-7 freshman postman Frank Streater averaged 17.3 points and 11.7 rebounds. Streater scored 19 points as the Bulldogs conquered Claffin 107-75, tallied 15 in a 71-68 overtime win over Benedict, and added 18 points in a 108-81 victory over Allen.

Pembroke State took two of three games, including a big 46-45 win over Francis Marion, with a 6-3 forward Leslie Lilly averaging 16.7 points, eight rebounds, and hitting 57.5 percent of his shots.

High Point split a pair with Junior Brown contributing 24 points in one game and 26 in another. Catawba's Noah Mason had scoring performances of 28 and 18 points as the Indians divided. Fayetteville State won one of three, but Jeff Ballard had games of 25, 5, and 27 points. N.C. Central compiled only a 1-4 record for the week, but David Binion averaged 20 in those five contests. Mars Hill also split with John Patterson contributing 27 and 23 points plus 8 and 20 rebounds.

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Thursday, February 7th, 7:35 p.m.

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