

By James Cuthbertson

Prep Chatter



According To Consensus, Phifer Has The Skills To Become A Great Guard

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

"Roamin'" Roman Phifer had his way during the Myers Park Christmas Tournament and in the process may have come into his own in establishing himself as a top notch college prospect.

"Roman has many skills," said former junior high school coach, Nathan Kelton.

Kelton, who possesses one of the best junior high records during his tenure as a basketball coach at Quail Hollow, had Phifer on his "Super Team" that dominated the Southern Junior High Conference two years ago.

"He has the skills to become a great guard in college basketball," said Kelton of the 6-2, 185-pounder.

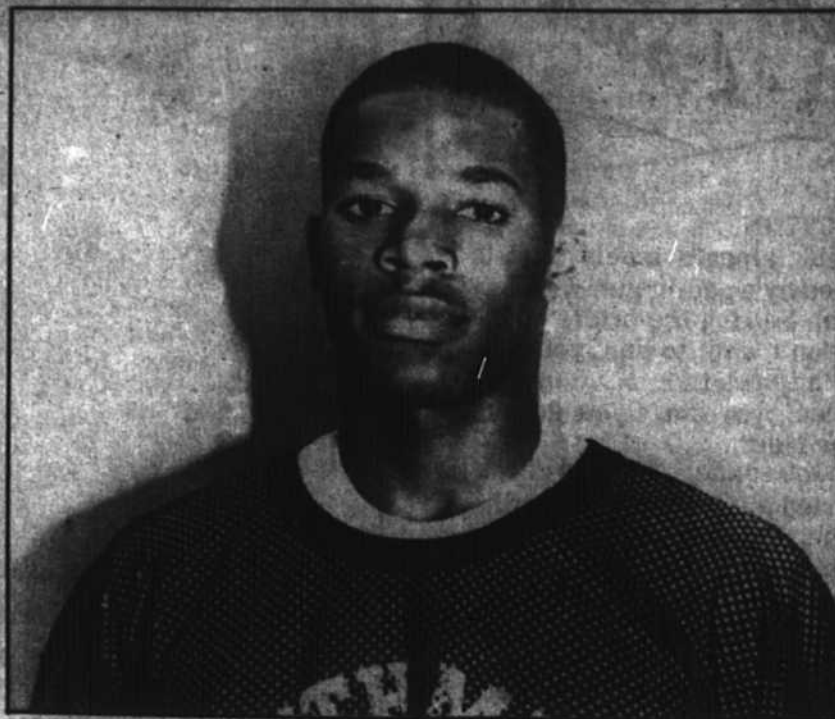
In a 73-65 win over West Mecklenburg, Phifer, who was named to the All-Tournament team, garnered 28 points to go with his 20 points in a 65-58 loss to West Charlotte and averaged 24 points per game in the tournament.

Previously, he had scored 14 against Rock Hill, 15 against West Charlotte, five against West Mecklenburg, 13 against Garinger and six against Harding in December games.

The 13 against Garinger were crucial because Roman's team won the slowdown game, 28-25, in what was termed as a major upset and he scored almost half of his team's points. That is a lot of pressure for a young high school junior.

But with the same reckless abandon that he showed on the football field, he played almost every minute alternating at line-backer, punter, wide receiver and on the punt and kickoff return teams, he has emerged into his team's leader on the basketball court.

"I feel real good about the Myers Park Tournament," he said. "My shots were not falling before the tournament, but now I seem to



"Roaming" Roman Phifer
...Has coaches drooling

have found some consistency."

Roman predicts that the Sabres, who already have a better record than last season, will get better as the season goes along and will make the conference playoffs.

Last year, they stayed at home when the other teams played for the championship.

"I think we'll be much better than last year," he revealed. "The coaches are giving us a little more freedom in the offense as we improve and we are playing better together."

South's fortunes indeed should be better as "Roamin'" Roman Phifer cuts and weaves his way through opposing defenses to lead the Sabres to more victories.

Academically Phifer also excels. He is a B+ student.

WHERE THEY PLAY

WHERE THEY PLAY
COLLEGE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11
UNCC at Old Dominion
SATURDAY, JANUARY 12
Livingstone at JCSU
NCCU at St. Augustine's
Fayetteville State at Shaw
Elizabeth City at Hampton
Jacksonville at UNCC
MONDAY, JANUARY 14
WSSU at Livingstone
Fayetteville St. at Bowie
Georgia Tech at UNCC
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15
Fayetteville State at Virginia Union
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16
JCSU at NCCU
FRIDAY, JANUARY 11
East at Olympic
Garinger at Harding
South at North
West Charlotte at Myers Park
West at Independence

The hottest players in the Southwestern 4A Conference are Garinger's Willie Walker, who scored 65 points in last week's three games, Myers Park's Terry Massey, who had 55 in three games, Olympic's Donald Simmons, who had 61, and South Mecklenburg's Roman Phifer, who popped the nets for 86 in four games. Shootout.

Lonnie Tucker of Harding hit his season high of 28 in a shootout win over Gaffney, S.C.

Myers Park's Dee Pritchett hit 26 in a shootout over the Olympic Trojans, an 81-63 win that established the Mustangs as a legitimate contender.

In that game, Myers Park shot 48.3 percent in the first half and 76.3 percent in the second half.

Primising Players to Watch Develop:

John White, the 6-5 center-forward, for West Mecklenburg, hit 16 over Garinger's twin towers of James Elmore and Willie Walker.

Garinger's Ralph Stephens is coming into his own hitting a season high of 17 against West Mecklenburg.

Olympic's Elliot Dunlap has averaged 10 points per game in the last four games to add a new dimension to the Trojans' attack.

Olympic's Reginald Wilson hit a spectacular shot from out of the corner to beat West Mecklenburg in overtime in the Myers Park Tourney and hit some nice turn around jumpers in the Trojans' attempt to come from behind in the Myers Park game.

South Mecklenburg's Tony Lindsey hit 22 over Independence.

Damon Rawlinson, the South point guard, has averaged 10 points per game in the last three to aid the Sabres' cause.

Hottest Team in the Conference - The Myers Park Mustangs of coach Bob Nastase have been getting great scoring from Dee Pritchett, Paul Grier, Tony Burris, and Terry Massey.

THE RANKINGS (Boys)

1. NORTH MECKLENBURG - The Vikes keep moving with the groove.
2. WEST CHARLOTTE - The Lions are right on the Vikings' tail.
3. MYERS PARK - They are the hottest team in town.
4. INDEPENDENCE - The Pats are coming into their own.
5. OLYMPIC - The Trojans are playing streak ball, sometimes hot, sometimes cold.
6. GARINGER - The Wildcats are not out of it yet.
7. HARDING - The Rams could cause problems for some upper division teams.
8. EAST - The Eagles are playing like they want to make the playoffs.
9. SOUTH - The Sabres are getting more consistent.
10. WEST - The Indians are trying to readjust to the loss of two, key players.

THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS (Boys)

1. Providence Day; 2. Country Day; 3. Latin; 4. Catholic; 5. Northside; 6. Christian.

THE RANKINGS (Girls)

1. OLYMPIC - Veronica Harris keeps the Trojans' powerhouse moving up the court.
2. EAST - The Eagles have Renee Davis on a streak.
3. NORTH - Andrea Stinson and Sherry Mobley are the ladies to watch at North.
4. SOUTH - The Sabres are led by Angie Smith.
5. HARDING - The Rams have Lisa Austin who hit a season high of 24 on West Charlotte.
6. INDEPENDENCE - Lavetta Dawkins and Gina Ferguson lead the Patriots.
7. WEST MECKLENBURG - Lori Helton of West hit 23 against Garinger last week.
8. WEST CHARLOTTE - The Lions have Maria Parker.
9. MYERS PARK - The Mustangs are trying to keep the spirit.
10. GARINGER - Tammy Rorie is developing into a fine player for the Wildcats.

THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS (Girls)

1. Country Day; 2. Latin; 3. Christian; 4. Providence Day; 5. Catholic; 6. Northside.

UNCC's Clinton Hinton played basketball at Myers Park High under coach Bob Nastase from 1981 through 1983.

He prepped last year at Laurinburg Institute leading the team to a 20-2 mark.

At Myers Park, he averaged over 20 points per game as a senior and earned All-Mecklenburg County and All-Southwestern Conference honors.

If I had to pick an All-County Team today, here is what it would look like.

First Team: Donald Simmons, Olympic; Antonio Howard, Olympic; Roman Phifer, South; Willie Walker, Garinger; and Byron Dinkins, East.

Second Team: Kevin Reid, West Charlotte; James Elmore, Garinger; Terry Massey, Myers Park; Dee Pritchett, Myers Park; and Maurice Caldwell, West Charlotte.

Third Team: Paul Grier, Myers Park; Carol Raley, West Mecklenburg; Todd Holden, North; Anthony Houston, Harding; and Letura Stitt, North Mecklenburg.

Other players who stand a chance of being on one of the three teams at season's end are: Eric Scott of East; Ralph Stephens and Pervis Thomas of Garinger; Lonnie Tucker and J. D. Cauthen of Harding; Art Jones, Ronald Downer, Julio Morrison, and Keith Simpson of Independence; Tony Burris of Myers Park; Rodney Sims of North; Elliot Dunlap, Reggie Wilson and Lamar Simonds of Olympic; Damon Rawlinson, Alex Houston and Tony Lindsey of South; John White of West; and Horace Small, Duane Montgomery, Lance Jones and Mike Cureton of West Charlotte.

Congratulations to the Myers Park Mustangs for winning the Myers Park Christmas Tournament.

Roman Phifer of South, Antonio Howard of Olympic, Maurice Caldwell of West Charlotte, Paul Grier of Myers Park, and Dee Pritchett all deserved to make All-Tournament Team.

A-1 PAINT AND BODY SHOP, INC.

23 Years Experience

Specialize In:

- Foreign & Domestic Cars
- Complete Auto Painting
- Rust Repair
- Two Stage Auto Painting
- Free Estimates

We Do Insurance Work



Hours:
Mon.-Sat.
8:00-5:00

A-1 PAINT AND BODY SHOP, INC.

1201 S. Mint St. 333-5368

You've got what it takes.

Salem Spirit

Share the spirit.
Share the refreshment.



Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.