

## Rockets edge out border rival Comets

PHS BOYS' BASKETBALL

### Bench supplies early spark in 63-62 victory

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SOUTH BOSTON, Va. — You can basically throw out any preconceived notions when the Person Rockets and Halifax Comets hook up in boys' basketball action, as the two teams, more often than not, end up in a close barnburner.

That was the case again Friday night at the Halifax High School gymnasium.

The Comets climbed to within one point at 61-60 on Dakota Delaware's turnaround jumper from inside the paint with under a minute left. But two free throws by Tyrone Outlaw Jr., who scored Person's final seven points, turned out to be the winning tallies in a 63-62 squeaker in the Rockets' favor.

A backcourt violation against the Comets with 10 seconds remaining appeared to clinch it for the visitors but four missed free throws by the Rockets in the waning seconds still kept Halifax's hopes alive.

Halifax guard Ford Bradshaw was fouled on a rebound and sank both freebies to make it a one-point contest with exactly 2.8 seconds on the clock. That's how it would end, though, as the home team could muster no miracle on this night.

"It's always an emotional game when we play each other because of the rivalry aspect of it," said Person head coach Charles Dacus. "I thought we kept our composure at the end and Terrick [Scoggins] did a great job of helping us control the tempo, get into the offensive sets we needed to get into, and get the ball to where it needed to go."

Scoggins finished with a season high 14 points, including two three-pointers. He produced 11 of his total in the third period.

The Rockets, who were coming off another tight 62-60 loss at Orange on Wednesday, im-

proved to 4-1 with the victory while Halifax dropped to 1-1.

Momentum appeared to be on Person's side after Outlaw, who finished with a game-high 23 points, drove in for a dunk off a Comet turnover just as the third quarter buzzer sounded. That play gave the Rockets a 50-48 edge but Halifax wouldn't go away, as the contest remained tight throughout the final eight minutes.

Backup players Ricky Winstead and Marquis Torain also played key minutes in the final quarter for Person.

They were both part of a game-altering, five-player substitution that occurred with about three minutes left in the first quarter.

The Rockets had fallen behind by a hefty 20-5 margin and looked listless (five turnovers

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Person boys' basketball coach

on their first six possessions and 10 overall in the first period) through the opening five minutes of the contest.

That's when Dacus sent in Winstead, Torain, LeRon Cash, Jashawn King and Devin Scoggins. That lineup promptly ignited a 10-0 run that got the Rockets right back in the game.

"We were really flat at the start and with about three minutes left in the quarter I thought we've got to change something and do something totally different," he explained. "Those guys got us going and energized the entire team and brought back our intensity."

Downtown baskets by Terrick Scoggins and Logan Coats and eight points from Outlaw helped Person outscore Halifax, 23-14, in the second and close the gap to 34-32 at the half.

Two free throws from Scog-



KENNETH MARTIN | SMITHSPHOTO.COM

Rocket forward LeRon Cash is fouled by Comet Tavon Petty as he goes to the basket in Friday's one-point win over border rival Halifax.

gins gave Person its first lead at 37-36 early in the third. The teams traded the lead several times during the second half. Halifax forged back in front, 48-45, late in the third before the Rockets would score the final five points of the quarter to enter period four with a 50-48 edge.

Freddie Edmunds was the top scorer for the Comets with 17 points, followed by Bradshaw's 16 and 11 from Tevon Petty.

In Wednesday's loss at Orange, the Rockets trailed by

seven points late but climbed back to take a one-point lead. In the end, the Panthers, behind a game-high 26 points, including seven baskets from beyond the arc from Keegan Crabtree, managed to come away with a 62-60 win.

Outlaw finished with 21 points while Marquis Torain collected 10 and Maurrelle Stephens and Terrick Scoggins eight each for the Rockets. Jerry Smith also added seven points in the defeat.

The Rockets remain on the road for a contest at Oxford Webb next Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. Person drubbed the

Warriors by 22 points in the season opener back on Nov. 22. They open the Piedmont Athletic Conference season next Friday night at Northern Durham in a 7 p.m. contest.

### COMETS VICTORIOUS IN JV GAME

The Person junior varsity team fell behind by 16 points after three quarters and couldn't recover in a 65-53 loss to Halifax on Friday.

Tre Tapp led the Rockets with 14 points, followed by Jae'Ron Rogers with 10 and Nick Bailey with nine. The Person JVs fell to 1-1 on the season.

### Person 63, Halifax 62 Friday, December 2 at Halifax High School

**Person (63)** — Jashawn King 1 0-0 2; Marquis Torain 1 2-6 4; Maurrelle Stephens 1(1) 0-0 3; Terrick Scoggins 4(2) 4-9 14; Logan Coats 1(1) 0-0 3; Ricky Winstead 1 2-2 4; LeRon Cash 0 1-2 1; Jerry Smith 1 1-5 3; Tyrone Outlaw 7(1) 8-10 23; Devin Scoggins 3 0-0 6. Totals — 20(5) 18-34 63.

**Halifax (62)** — Ford Bradshaw 4 8-11 16; Thomas Brooks 2(1) 0-0 5; Freddie Edmunds 6 5-8 17; Shaquill Ford 0 1-2 1; Evan Morrison 0 0-0 0; Dakota Delaware 3 0-2 6; Tavon Petty 5(2) 1-2 13; James Jennings 2 0-0 4. Totals — 22(3) 15-25 62.

Score by quarters:  
Person 9 23 18 13 63  
Halifax 20 14 14 14 62

3-POINT GOALS: PERSON (5): TScoggins 2, Stephens, Coats, Outlaw. HALIFAX (3): Petty 2, Brooks. REBOUNDS: PERSON (25): Outlaw 9. HALIFAX (19): Edmunds 6, Petty 5. TURNOVERS: PERSON 19. HALIFAX 18.

## Bulldog boys off to fast start at 2-0

RCS ROUNDUP

ZEBULON — The Roxboro Community School Bulldogs are already within one win of equaling their total amount for last season.

And that's just two games into the campaign.

On Wednesday, the Bulldogs, once again, received strong performances from transfers Charlie Burton Jr. and Jalen Bass, who finished with 22 and 20 points respectively, and wound up rolling to a convincing 83-62

victory at East Wake Academy in boys' varsity basketball action.

Burton and Bass have combined for 88 points over the first two games.

The win left RCS at 2-0 on the early season. The Division 1A Bulldogs traveled to play Noble Academy on Friday and open their Carolina 12 Conference season at Granville Central next

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KENNETH MARTIN | SMITHSPHOTO.COM

Person's Terrick Scoggins reaches in to steal the basketball from Comet Dakota Delaware.

## Five Rocket players earn all-

PHS FOOTBALL

Though the 2011 season didn't turn out as successful as the Person Rockets would have liked after finishing with just one victory, five Rocket players received all-Piedmont Athletic Conference recognition for their performance this fall.

Most notable amongst the four Rockets who were named to the all-conference team was senior running back Thurman Clayton, who busted open for 1,443 yards and 11 touchdowns, which included two 200-plus yard games.

Clayton finished with four 200-plus performances over his three-year varsity career, which was marred by injuries until this season when he stayed healthy for all 11 contests.

He produced three quarters of the team's total rushing yardage and was also responsible for just over half the team's total yards of offense this season.

The other all-PAC-6 selection on offense was all-purpose junior player Joseph Downey, who



Thurman Clayton



Joseph Downey



Tyriel McCain



Derrick Tuck



Daron Blackwell

caught 24 passes for 508 yards and three scores and rushed for 399 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground.

Downey was also named to the all-conference squad as a return specialist. He was a feared kickoff and punt returner, scoring on a kickoff return against Oxford Webb and producing

several other long-gainers over the course of the season.

On defense, junior tackle Tyriel McCain made the team for the second year in a row. He is considered one of the top defensive linemen in the PAC-6 and is solid at stuffing the middle and stopping the run, as well as fighting off blocks and pursu-

ing the ball. He was also one of the team's better pass rushers.

Perhaps the biggest surprise honoree was senior defensive back Derrick Tuck, who picked off three passes during the season and was one of Person's best players in one-on-one coverage.

Senior linebacker Daron Blackwell, one of the team's top

tacklers and pass rushers, received honorable mention. He was also strong in pursuit, especially side-to-side, and was one of the emotional leaders on this year's defense.

The Rockets struggled to a 1-10 overall finish and an 0-6 mark in the PAC-6 this season.

Notes: This 2011 Iron Man

## PAC-6 gridiron recog-

Awards for perfect attendance went to varsity players McCain, Jashawn King, Shaquille Oliver, and Cory Torain. Junior varsity Iron Man recipients were Matt Allen, Adam Griffith, Jared Link, Francisco Jimenez, Najee Davis, and team manager Archie Knott