



JIM MONTOYA

Person's Kenny Jay makes quick work of his opponent in the 132-pound match Wednesday at Northern Durham.

## Knights surge past Rockets, 46-36

### PHS WRESTLING

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DURHAM — Through six matches, it looked as if the Person Rockets might be well on their way to knocking off the defending Piedmont Athletic Conference champion Northern Durham Knights in wrestling action Wednesday evening at Northern High School's Poe Gymnasium.

The Rockets won five of the first six contests by pin and held a commanding 30-4 lead before Northern stormed back by taking five of the final eight bouts via pin and winning two others by forfeit to pull out a 46-36 victory in the conference opener for both squads.

The lone Person triumph over that last eight-match stretch was a forfeit win for James Hutson at 220 pounds.

The Rockets, now 2-1 in duals competition this season, had to feel good about their impressive showing in the lighter divisions against last year's PAC-6 champs.

"Overall I was impressed with their performance," said Rocket head coach Mark Litchfield Jr. of his wrestlers "I really liked their enthusiasm going into the match with the defending conference champs. We were one match away from pulling off a victory. I look forward to the rest of the season and watching these guys grow. There's a lot of



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Person's Shaquille Oliver (right) grapples with his Northern Durham opponent in the 160-pound match.

talent on this team."

Outside of Darius Pettiford's 17-3 loss by major decision in the 113-pound match, the Rockets completely dominated in lighter-weight events. Chase Gentry made fast work of his foe in the 106-pound category with a take-down just 33 seconds into round one. Francisco Jimenez eliminated his opponent at 1:20 of the first round of the 120-pound bout, and Ty Oakley ended his 126-pound match with a minute to go in round two.

Kenny Jay (132) and Markus Bowes (138) also took just over a minute to win their matches and give the Rockets their short-

lived 26-point lead.

Person's Nick Montoya battled hard at 145 before being pinned with 30 seconds left in that match while Shaquille Oliver was defeated in the second round of the 160-pound contest. Jeffery Wagner also made it to the second round at 195 before suffering a takedown.

Luis Aldaz (170) and Matt Allen (heavyweight) were also pinned in their matches. Person had to forfeit in the 152 and 182-pound divisions.

Person is taking part in the annual Jim King Orange High School Invitational this weekend.

## BULLDOGS: Roll to 21-point win Wednesday

FROM PAGE A6

Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

"It was a pretty good performance by our boys, we took about a quarter and a half to warm up," said RCS head coach Justin Bettendorf of Wednesday's game.

"When we finally woke up, our full court press started working. The baskets came a little easier and our defensive intensity picked up. Every player made positive contributions and we couldn't be happier about starting off 2-0."

RCS led by just one basket, 24-22, after the first quarter but outscored the hosts, 28-14, in period two to enter halftime with a 52-36 advantage. A 14-8 edge in scoring in the third quarter put the Bulldogs in a comfortable spot, leading 66-44 and basically putting the contest on ice.

RCS drained 37 field goals in the game and shot 6-of-13 from the charity stripe.

James Hawley had a strong defensive game with four blocks, two of which came on East Wake fast break attempts.

Burton's 22 points came on 11 field goals while Bass ended up with nine hoops, including one from downtown.

Other contributors in the scoring column were Hawley and Justin Mosley with 11 points each, Khari Johnson with seven, and Jordan Fields and Jonathon McNeil with six each.

The Bulldogs finished with 26 rebounds, 14 steals, and 10 assists as a team. Bass hauled down six boards and Hawley had five.

Johnson and Burton dished out three assists each, and Burton and Bass each had four steals to their credit.

In girls' action, RCS dropped a 53-40 decision to East Wake

and fell to 0-2 on the season.

Danielle Holt and Abbey Barnette both tallied 12 points to lead the Bulldogs. The girls resume play next Tuesday at Granville Central (scheduled 6 p.m. start).

The boys' junior varsity team was also defeated 55-40 in a game at Clover Garden to fall to 1-1 on the season.

### RCS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

## Jalen Bass wins award

Roxboro Community School boys' basketball player Jalen Bass is the winner of this week's RCS Athlete of the Week award. A transfer to the Bulldogs this season, Bass was one of two RCS players to finish with 23 points in last week's season-opening 66-65 win over Burlington Christian.

Pouring in five 3-pointers in the game, Bass and teammate Charlie Burton Jr. helped key a fourth-quarter comeback from an eight-point hole.

Bass can pick up his award at R&S Sporting Goods/Sign Graphics.



Jalen Bass

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2695 Hurdle Mills Road  
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KENNETH MARTIN | SMITHSPHOTO.COM

Person's Akira Outlaw fires a shot for one of her six field goals against Halifax Thursday night.

## Person girls crack win column

### PHS GIRLS' BASKETBALL

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**Person 58, Halifax 49**  
Thursday, December 1  
at Rocket Gymnasium

**Halifax (49)** — Khadijah Brandon 0 0-0 0; Janiyah Logan 3 0-2 6; Lexi Tucker 5(1) 7-13 18; Mecca Cole 1 0-0 2; Che'Leese Bowman 2(1) 0-2 5; Ashley Hill 2 3-6 7; Briyana Jackson 0 0-0 0; Brianna Lindsey 2 0-0 4; Ashley Snead 3 1-2 7; Alara Edmondson 0 0-1 0. Totals — 18(2) 11-26 49.

**Person (58)** — Jasmine McCain 2(1) 1-5 6; Cassidy Solomon 1 0-2 2; Hannah Riley 1(1) 1-2 4; Dynasty Pettiford 2(1) 4-4 9; Lisa Bass 0 0-0 0; Elsie Mangum 0 0-0 0; Akira Outlaw 6 6-9 18; Christina Harris 4 5-6 13; Tiana Hatchett 0 0-2 0; Morgan Villines 2 2-2 6. Totals — 18(3) 19-32 58.

Score by quarters:  
Halifax 11 12 10 16 49  
Person 9 16 8 25 58  
3-POINT GOALS: HALIFAX (2): Tucker, Bowman. PERSON (3): McCain, Riley, Pettiford. REBOUNDS: HALIFAX (14): Bowman 4. PERSON (32): Harris 12, Outlaw 9, Hatchett 4.

Concluding a grueling, season-opening stretch of five games in seven days with a 58-49 win over the Halifax Comets Thursday night at Rocket Gymnasium might be what the doctor ordered to turn things around for the struggling Person Rocket girls' basketball team.

The Rockets, who were coming off a rough 32-point loss at Orange the night before, performed with poise and confidence in the fourth quarter of Thursday's contest by outscoring the Comets, 25-16, and sinking 11 of 16 free throws to secure their first W since early last season.

"I'm just glad to get off this losing streak and end this busy stretch of games," said Person head coach Ray Reaves, whose team is now 1-4. "We made some adjustments at the half and did a better job of stopping the penetration of [Halifax guard] Lexi Tucker in the second half."

While neutralizing Tucker (18 points) was the key on defense, running the offense through both Akira Outlaw (18 points and nine rebounds) and Christina Harris (13 points and 12 boards) in the post area worked effectively as well.

The Rockets had a noticeable size advantage, out-rebounding the visitors by a significant 32-14 margin, and they made the best of that advantage by going to their two top front-liners on a consistent basis.

"We definitely want to work the offense through them," said Reaves of Outlaw and Harris. "They're smart players and they know when to kick it out to the open shooter. It worked well for us tonight but we still need to improve our guard play when it comes to handling pressure and feeding the post."

Outlaw and Harris combined for 12 of the team's 25 fourth-period points, and they were complemented well throughout the game by the efforts of guards Dynasty Pettiford (nine points and 4-for-4 shooting at the line), Morgan Villines (six points before she fouled out late in the game), and Jasmine McCain (six points).

The Rockets overcame a 22-14 deficit by going on an 11-1 run, capped by a McCain 3-pointer, late in the second quarter to take their first lead at 25-23 at halftime.

The contest was dead even, 33-33, after three periods before Person pulled away to a 50-40 lead with 3:24 remaining.

The Comets, who fell to 1-1 on the season, battled back to within five before a key basket by Person's Hannah Riley from downtown helped take the wind out of the visitors' sails and preserve the long-awaited victory for the home team.

Halifax didn't help itself

by connecting on less than 50 percent (11-for-26) of its foul shots and missing several open perimeter shots down the stretch.

It was an emotional game for Coach Reaves, who was facing his former team for the first time as an opposing head coach. He coached the Halifax girls' junior varsity and varsity teams for seven years.

"It was an uneasy feeling. I was getting worked up all day knowing that I was getting ready to face a team I loved when I was there," he said after the game. "I'm glad we got this win but it's a little bittersweet for me."

Person has a few days off before it hosts Oxford Webb Tuesday night, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m.

In Wednesday's 69-37 loss at Orange, Outlaw finished with 13 points, followed by Harris with nine and Elsie Mangum with seven.

### JVS SUFFER TWO LOSSES

The Person junior varsity team was defeated 71-11 by Halifax on Thursday. Raquel Dixon led the Rockets with eight points.

In Monday's season opener at Oxford Webb, Person lost by a 40-29 margin to the Warriors. Jacquetta Graves was Person's top scorer with 12 points.



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Person guard Cassidy Solomon advances the ball past Halifax's Lexi Tucker in second quarter action.