

Tip Your Hat To Carl Tacy

My hat is off to Carl Tacy and to the Wake Forest Deacons (3-1 in the ACC). I picked them to end in a tie for last in the conference, and they have surprised me. I didn't figure them to win three ACC games all year. But anyway, let me explain why they are winning, and why I am sticking with my prediction.

First, I have the greatest respect for Carl Tacy. He is a big reason why they are winning. He can flat-out coach basketball. He has his people believing they can win—which took a selling job. Second, Tyrone Bogues is giving all the teams something entirely new to think about with his hustling, where-the-hell-is-he-now? defense which has thrown off the rhythm of stars like Vince Hamilton and Johnny Dawkins. Third, a theme I've hit on several times before, Wake doesn't have a whole lot of great players, and this is a plus in Wake's case, because it means they look to get the ball to Kenny Green and they play within their limitations. They exploit their big positive, and when the opposing teams react to stop Green, the perimeter shooters do their thing. Both Delaney Rudd and Mark Cline are fine shooters. In the big Duke upset, these three players took 46 of Wake's 65 shots. Bogues often passes up side open shots—it's great for a basketball team to have people passing up shots—and Charlie Thomas rarely looks to score. It makes sense that the best shooters should take most of the shots.

By contrast, Duke's most consistent shooter, Mark Alarie, managed just 9 of Duke's 71 shots in that same game. The point is, people who are hitting 77% (Alarie hit 7 of 9) should be getting more than 9 shots. But when a team has too many good players, that often fails to happen.

Now, let me explain why I am sticking with my prediction, with the feeling that Wake will win only two more ACC games.

Basketball teams are normally reluctant to change what they are doing in response to what some other team does. Sure, they scout their opponents to decide who should guard whom or to know what defense will likely be most effective. But they are hesitant to prepare a special offense or defense just for one team. The feeling is that the percentages favor executing what you work on all year, as opposed to something you put in and work on for just a few days. This makes sense, yet nearly all teams will abandon this sense at special times, and I think Wake has now created those special circumstances. Up to this time, I think most ACC coaches felt they could beat Wake just by playing their regular game. Maybe they still can, but more are going to be tempted now, in view of Wake's success, to respond particularly to Wake's weaknesses, for example....

1. In the Duke game, three Duke players fouled out, though none from Wake did. This is a travesty when you consider the strength advantage that Duke has inside. Look for Duke next time to throw more passes (Duke had 37 possessions in the Wake game where they threw 2 or less passes). Patient passing will get the ball inside more and force Wake to get in foul trouble. Duke was too content the first time to shoot from outside.

2. Look for some gimmick defenses that play man defense on Green, Cline and Rudd, while the people guarding Bogues and Thomas just pack it in and force them to take shots from outside.

3. Look for pressure one-on-one on Bogues to make him do more things with the ball. Duke was content to merely contain Bogues and let him run the show, while Clemson wasted two people trying to double-team him.

4. Look for some teams to begin "posting a guard on the low box." That means putting the guard down where the center usually plays so that he can get the ball and shoot over Bogues.

With Wake's slim bench and frail starting five, a "down" period could last a long time. And I am guessing that will happen. Having seen Wake in an early season practice, in a dismal first half against Davidson, and in a slaughter by Temple, I have to admit I didn't think they could win in the ACC. They have already proven me wrong, and I hope I'm wrong again, but I don't think Wake can win three of the last ten even though they won three of the first four. Six ACC wins will put Wake back in the NCAA—and I sincerely hope they get there. In deference to Carl Tacy, I'm making reservations early, despite the prediction I'm stubbornly sticking to.

SPECIAL

LAST SPRING, 216 N.B.A. PLAYERS VOTED FOR "PLAYER OF THE YEAR". THEY CHOSE A MAN WHO HAD A SUPER SEASON FOR THE N.Y. KNICKS... FORWARD

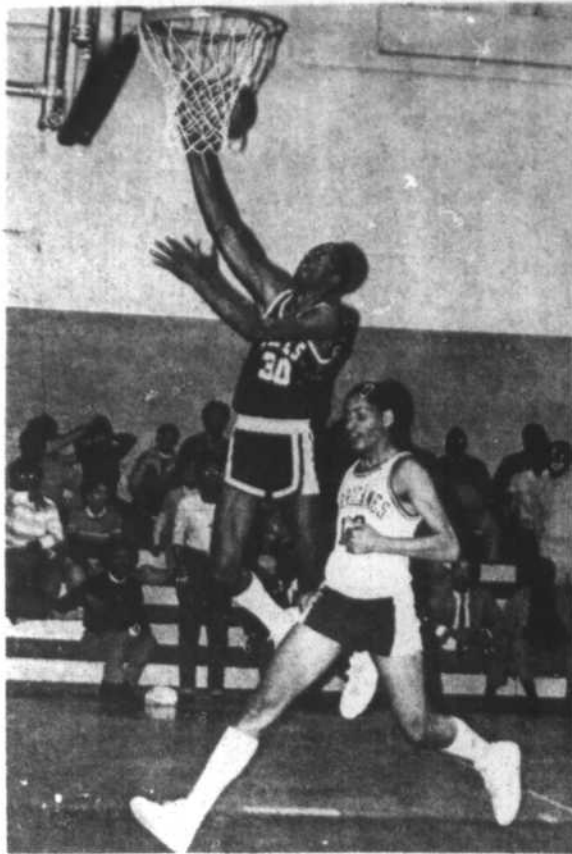
Bernard King

WHO AVERAGED 26.2 POINTS A GAME, SCORING 50 POINTS TWICE (ON CONSECUTIVE NIGHTS), IN THE PLAYOFFS, KING SET A RECORD FOR A 5 GAME SERIES WHEN HE SCORED 213 POINTS AGAINST DETROIT.

KNICK'S COACH, HURIE BROWN SAID, "THIS GUY'S A TRUE SUPERSTAR. HE'S THERE WHEN YOU NEED HIM."

THIS FORMER TENNESSEE STAR LED THE KNICKS TO A 47-35 RECORD.

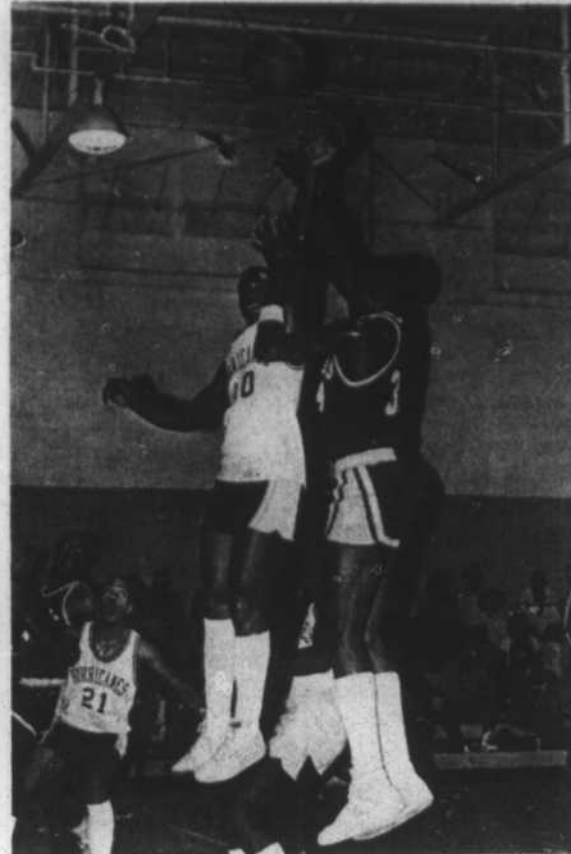
BERNARD HAS A NIFTY QUICK-RELEASE JUMP SHOT. HE'S 6'7".



Eagle scorer Jeffrey Hayes (30) beats his Hurricane opponent, Charles Moody, to the basket in Warren County High's Jan. 15 against Northampton-West.



Sean Mosely (42) catches his Northampton-West guard Charles Moody (12) off balance and takes aim for two points in the Eagles' road game last Tuesday. Monte Steverson (34) keeps close watch over the opposition.



Thwarting an attempted block by a Northampton-West's Mark Bell (10), Warren County High's Monte Steverson (34) lobs the ball toward the goal. Steverson's 24 points were the game-high.



Warren County High's Derrick Alston (52) goes high for a two-pointer while teammate Sean Mosely (42) positions himself for a rebound in a game against Northampton-West on Tuesday, Jan. 15. The Warren Eagles were defeated 78 to 63.

(Photos by Consherto Williams)

High Flying Club Suffers Nosedive

By CONSHERTO WILLIAMS Sports Writer

The flying-high Warren County Eagles made a crash landing on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at Northampton - West, when the Hurricanes handed the Eagles their first conference defeat by a score of 78 to 63. The loss dropped the Eagles' conference record to four-and-one, while they are 13-and-three overall.

The first period was a battle to the end, with the Eagles and the Hurricanes exchanging a one-point lead throughout. The first quarter ended with the Hurricanes on top, 16 to 15.

Three fouls committed during the first quarter sent the Eagles' all-conference player, Monte Steverson, to the bench for the entire second period. Sean Mosely, another starter for Warren, sat out the second period also.

The Eagles connected on 12 points during the second quarter, while the Hurricanes scored 17 and the period ended with the Hurricanes in the lead, 32 to 28.

Monte Steverson re-entered the game at the beginning of the third period and scored 10 of the Eagles' 16 points. The Hurricanes, however, scored 20 points and gained an eight-point lead to end the quarter, 52 to 44.

The Eagles fought hard during the final period. With 6:15 left on the clock, Monte Steverson made a field goal which cut the lead to two points. Again, with 4:34 on the clock, Derrick Alston connected to bring the Eagles within two points. From there, however, the Hurri-

canes moved away to claim a 15-point victory.

In spite of one entire period on the bench, Monte Steverson was the high scorer of the game, with 24 points. Derrick Alston added 16 points and nine rebounds. Other Eagle scorers were Jeffrey Hayes with 10 points, Sylvester Davis with four, and Sean Mosely, Arnie Steverson and Mark Taylor with two points each.

Robert Sledge led the Northampton - West attack with 20 points. Mark Bell scored 17 points, Dassie Ranoon, 14, and Bernard Jones and Maud Ingram, 10. Charles Moody added seven.

Baby Eagles Drop Cage Tilt, 65-60

The Warren County Baby Eagles lost last week's conference game against Northampton-West by a final score of 65 to 60. The loss dropped the Babies' record to one-and-four, with a five-and-10 overall record.

The first period of the game ended in a tie at 15 points each, but the Baby Eagles dropped behind during the next quarter, ending the half with a score of 24 to 31. Trailing again at the end of the third period of play, they ended the game with a 15-point deficit.

Fredrick Wilkins, with 16 points, was the top scorer for the Eagles. Randy Jordan followed with 14 points. Other scorers were Ronnie Durham, who contributed eight, James Howell, Jr., six, and Alan Ellington, four.

Warren Varsity Girls Win Conference Game

By CONSHERTO WILLIAMS Sports Writer

Warren County High's varsity girls defeated Northampton-West on Tuesday, Jan. 15, by a score of 55 to 44. The win gave the Lady Eagles a four-and-one record in the conference and pushed the overall record to nine-and-seven.

The Lady Eagles trailed at the end of the first half, 19 to 24. The big

turnaround came early in the third period when the Lady Hurricanes from Northampton-West began to get in foul trouble. Fatima Crawford made one foul shot to cut the lead to four points, and Zenobia Hopkins followed with a three-point play to make the score 24 to 23. Tracy Evans then shot the field goal that gave the Lady Eagles the lead. Fatima Crawford made the final Eagle points of the

period from the foul line, shooting two for two and ending the period with the Eagles on top, 36 to 32.

The Lady Eagles maintained their lead the entire fourth period to come out with a 10-point victory. Coach Shaw commented, "My team played good pressure defense," which drove the Lady Hurricanes into foul trouble. The Lady Eagles made 19 of 33 from the foul line, and the Lady Hurricanes made eight of 15.

Zenobia Hopkins led the Lady Eagles' line-up with 19 points. Nicole Tunstall connected on 14 points, and Fatima Crawford contributed 10 points and the game-high 10 rebounds.

Northampton - West was led by Nelson with 19 points and Ingram with eight.



Lady Eagle Tracy Evans drives in for two points in Warren County High's Jan. 15 victory over Northampton-West. (Photo by Consherto Williams)

COOK YOUR GOOSE FOR LESS.

Practically everything you cook in the oven, you can cook in a microwave for a lot less. How much less? A microwave not only cooks faster, it uses just one-third of the energy required by a conventional oven during cooking time. Which means you save two ways. So cook your goose in a microwave. And save, save, save.

We're All In This Together. **EMC**

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation
Enfield, North Carolina

Toy Train

On its steep, spiraling descent via the so-called Batasia Loop from Ghum, the highest railway station on the Indian subcontinent, the famous narrow-gauge "toy train" appears to tie itself in a knot while whistling to clear its own caboose out of the way.