

## Sports

## Boys

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free throws 22 seconds later for a 63-60 advantage with 6:47 left.

Bertie was able to slice the deficit to one point on two occasions - the first at 63-62 on a driving basket by point guard Bobby Askew; the second at 65-64 on a nice dish from Askew to Chris Morning with just under six minutes to play.

Simmons drove for a basket, and Talik Totten followed with a pull-up jumper after a Falcons turnover that pushed the Bears' lead back to five (69-64) with 4:43 left.

Hertford County then scored seven of the next eight points - five of them by Simmons - in 1:28 to extend its advantage to 11, 76-65. The run continued with free throws from Totten and a follow shot by Roberson before Askew's two free throws with 2:08 ended the flurry and made it 80-67.

The damage, however, had been done.

The Bears scored the first six points of the game, but Bertie rallied within a point (18-17) at the end of the first quarter behind Erick Speight, Tra Riddick, Josh Tann, Anthony Rascoe and Wilkins, who had his first dunk.

Rascoe's two foul shots at 7:46 of the second stanza gave the Falcons their first and only lead (19-18), but momentum quickly shifted when Roberson converted an old-fashioned three-point play with 7:18 left to give the Bears a 21-19 advantage.

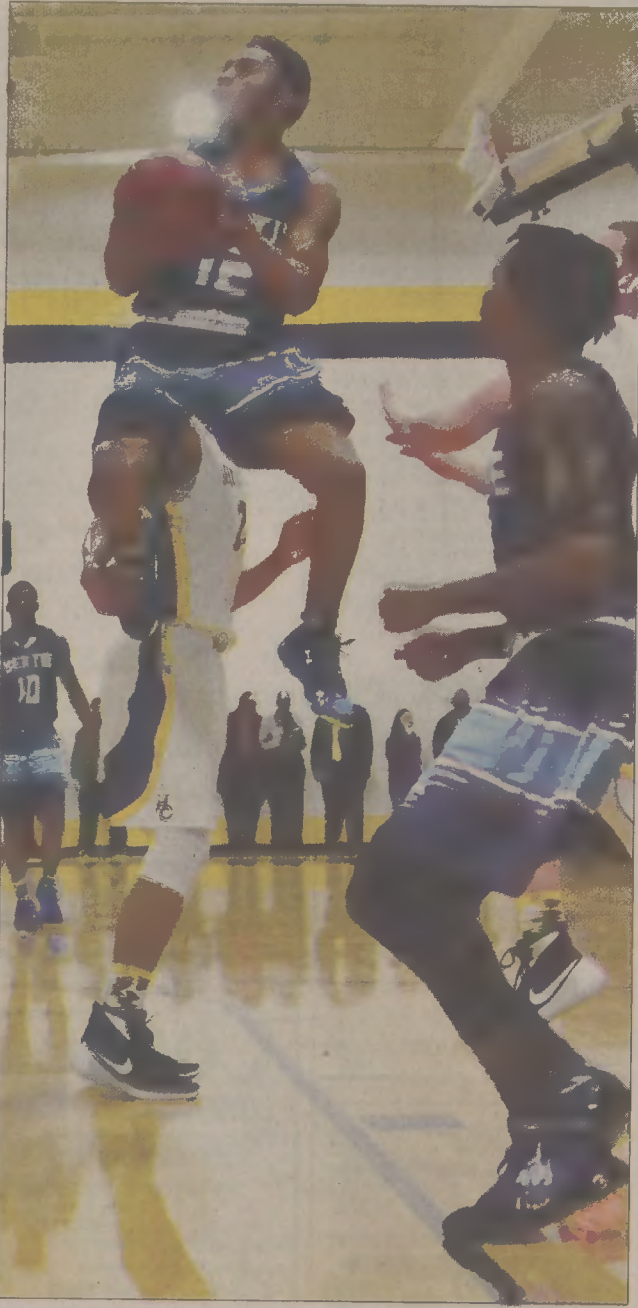
Hertford County then went on a 25-8 run over the remainder of the quarter to take a commanding lead, 46-29, at halftime.

After trailing by 21 early in the third quarter, Bertie slowly crept back into the game behind

Askew, who had 10 points in the period. Speight was also a big factor, garnering seven points, while Morning added a pair of baskets to pull the Falcons within four (60-56).

Askew led the Falcons with 19 points, while Morning added 18 and Wilkins and Speight tallied 12 each.

Roberson poured in 30 points for Hertford County, while Simmons added 20, Totten chipped in 12 and Delmonta Cherry contributed 10.



Bertie point guard Bobby Askew (No. 12) hangs in the air as he prepares to release a shot during Saturday's loss to Hertford County.



Bertie High School junior varsity player Nassir Brown (No. 10) pulls up for the jumper against Hertford County on Saturday.

#### JV BOYS Bertie finishes with two defeats

The Bertie High School junior varsity boys basketball team finished its regular season with a pair of losses in Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference play. The Falcons lost 48-25 to Northeastern on Tuesday (Feb. 9) and then fell to Hertford County 61-51 on Saturday.

Nassir Brown led

Bertie with nine points against Northeastern, while Jamari White and Zackias Williams added six apiece.

In the loss to Hertford County, White (17 points), Brown (13) and Williams (13) paced the Falcons, who trailed 47-30 after three periods but made the final margin closer with a 22-14 edge in the fourth quarter.

## Girls

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buckets and a blocked shot to spark the Falcons to a 13-7 advantage.

Hertford County tried to stay with Bertie with the play of point guard Kyara Rodgers, who had five of her team's seven points (Jessica Weaver also had a basket).

In the second quarter, it was Jomiya Earley's time in the spotlight. Earley, returning to the lineup after missing three games with a sprained knee, drained a pair of three-pointers and finished with nine points in the quarter, while Mornings, Akyia King and Nyasia Barnes also contributed offense as the Falcons extended their lead to 32-19 at halftime.

The Bears were able to cut the deficit to nine early in the third quarter on a three-pointer as Earley re-injured the knee that caused her to miss more than a week.

Earley's exit proved no problem for Bertie. Mornings hit a mid-range jumper, Spivey scored off a steal, and Mornings added two more buckets to make it 42-25 with 4:13 left in the third.

The teams matched offense the remainder of the quarter. Akia Jordan had a three-pointer for the Falcons, Mornings added a basket, and Spivey, Zariah Harris and Jakyiah Askew added free throws to keep the lead at 17.

The Bears never could get any closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

Spivey had a pair of blocked shots, scoring on one of them and passing to Jordan for the other bucket. Mornings and Barnes each had a basket in transition for



Bertie guard Jomiya Earley (No. 15) braces for contact in Saturday's conference victory over Hertford County.

Bertie to account for the final margin.

Mornings (19 points) and Spivey (13) led Bertie in the victory, while Earley and Jordan added nine each and Barnes chipped in seven.

#### TUESDAY'S GAME Bertie 45, Northeastern 40

ELIZABETH CITY - Bertie built an eight-point lead through three quarters and held off Northeastern in the fourth to claim a five-point victory in conference action on Tuesday.

A 24-18 edge in the second and third quarters enabled the Falcons to take a 33-25 lead into the fourth against the Eagles.

Akyia King led Bertie with 21 points and 18 rebounds, while Autumn Mornings added 10 points and 13 rebounds. Carlisa Spivey chipped

in with eight rebounds.

King scored 15 of her points in the second half to fuel the Falcons.

#### TOURNEY STARTS

The Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference Tournament started Tuesday at Bertie with three girls games.

The boys play today (Feb. 17) at First Flight with Bertie taking on Edenton at 4:30 p.m., followed by Currituck vs. Hertford County at 6 and Pasquotank vs. First Flight at 7:30 p.m.

The girls semifinal games will be played Thursday at Northeastern (4 and 5:30) with the boys' semis to follow at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

The championships are Friday at Hertford County at 6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$7. Only conference and NCHSAA passes are accepted.

## Fourth

From PAGE B1

to his hit song "Every Step You Take" and am convinced that it is the official stalker anthem. I don't know who he wrote that song for, but I fear they may be chained at the bottom of his basement.

Bertie County native and UNC alumnus Jessica Breland has resigned with the Chicago Sky in a multi-year deal. Breland has found a coach in Pokey Chapman, who recognizes and appreciates her ability to impact both ends of the court. As long as Jessica Breland

is playing in Chicago, my household only roots for the Sky.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has little credibility with me anymore, and the debacle surrounding preparations for the Summer Games in Rio is getting more outrageous by the week. The news that some athletes, including U.S. soccer goalkeeper Hope Solo, are considering skipping the games due to concerns for their health because of virus and water conditions is a public relations issue for the IOC.

I am convinced, however, that real changes

will not come unless the U.S. Olympic Committee takes a stand and threatens to pull out. Public relations issues can be difficult to deal with, but even the threat of not having U.S. athletes at the games (and subsequently U.S. viewers not watching on television) would deal a financial blow that would be impossible for the IOC to ignore.

David Friedman is a long time sports writer and columnist. A Bertie High graduate, he and his family currently reside in Wilmington. David can be reached via e-mail at [fourthandlongcolumn@gmail.com](mailto:fourthandlongcolumn@gmail.com).



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL EAST CAROLINA vs. #1 UCONN

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