

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Topics galore

This week's column is going to be a little different. There are a bunch of things I want to touch on a little bit, so I'm going to jump right in.

- Nobody was happier than Cam Newton that Beyonce's halftime show created so much controversy. The fuss surrounding her new song and dancer's outfits insured her Super Bowl performance was much more memorable than his, and his was a performance I'm certain he would like everyone to soon forget.

- Peyton Manning won the Super Bowl, and I hope for his sake, he takes the opportunity to "ride off into the sunset." The quarterback I consider one of the greatest of all time is about to watch his once stellar image crumble.

I have a feeling we have not heard the end of the HGH story first reported out of Al Jazeera, and he was among several named in a lawsuit filed against The University of Tennessee last week. The lawsuit, coupled with newly (and conveniently) released court documents from over a decade ago, bring to light an ugly incident from Peyton's days in college.

- The NBA All-Star weekend was in Toronto this past weekend and it was impressive to say the least. Drake served as unofficial host and did a great job. A big man won the skills competition, the Splash Brothers (Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry of Golden State) faced each other in the finals of the three-point contest, and the dunk contest was just nasty. I thought we would never have a dunk contest that drew comparisons to the days of Jordan and Dominique Wilkins but that is exactly what we got on Saturday.

While Sting's halftime show at the NBA All-Star game will not be nearly as controversial as Beyonce's, I really listened to the words

GIRLS BASKETBALL: LADY FALCONS 64, HERTFORD COUNTY 50

Unscathed

Bertie girls wrap up perfect Northeastern Coastal slate

By JIM GREEN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**AHOSKIE** - Unscathed. Bertie High School's girls basketball team wrapped up a perfect Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference slate on Saturday with a 64-50 triumph over neighboring rival Hertford County.

The Falcons finished the league schedule 12-0 under Joan Sharpe McCullough and emerged 21-1 overall entering the league tournament as the No. 1 seed. The only loss Bertie has suffered this season was an intercontinental defeat to Rowville (Australia), which it will be able to drop for seeding purposes in the state playoffs.

Just as in many of its wins this season, Bertie has been led by different players nearly every game.

Early on, it was the Falcons' duo of Carlisa Spivey outside and Autumn Mornings inside that sent the visitors out to the lead.

Spivey hit a pair of three-pointers in the first quarter while Mornings added a pair of



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Bertie's Autumn Mornings (No. 22) goes to the floor to retrieve a loose ball as Kyara Rodgers (No. 10) of Hertford County watches during Saturday's regular-season finale in the Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference schedule. The Falcons finished 12-0 in the league with a win.

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See **FOURTH**; page B6 Hertford County's Evans Simmons gets a hand on a layup attempt by Bertie's Erick Speight (No. 11).

Bertie boys fall, tie for 2nd

Tiebreaker gives Falcons No. 2 seed for tournament

By JIM GREEN  
 Bertie Ledger-Advance

**AHOSKIE** - Tied for second place.

Bertie High School's varsity boys basketball team fell to neighboring rival Hertford County 84-72 on Saturday, ending the regular-season deadlocked with the Bears in the Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference.

The Falcons and Bears both finished the regular season with 8-4 conference records. Bertie (14-8 overall), however, will be the No. 2 seed for the league tournament based on a pair of head-to-head victories over fourth-place First Flight, while Hertford County (14-7) split with the Nighthawks.

The team that goes farther in the confer-

ence tournament will earn the higher seed for the state 2A playoffs.

Hertford County led for all but 28 seconds and outscored Bertie 24-12 after the Falcons knotted the score at 60 with 7:04 remaining in the game on a rim-rattling dunk by Darquail Wilkins.

While the dunk completed a major comeback - the Falcons trailed 52-31 with 6:05 left in the third period - Bertie never regained the lead because officials ruled that Wilkins hung onto the rim too long and assessed him a technical foul.

Jacquaril Roberson made the second of two shots for the lead, and Evan Simmons followed with two more

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