

SECTION **B**

Sports

WEDNESDAY • MARCH 1, 2017

Inside:

- BACA boys 3rd
- Rec signups
- Church Briefs

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Heels make me nervous

The nervous feeling I can't shake serves as a reminder just how spoiled I am as a UNC fan.

As I write this, my beloved Tar Heels are one of the best teams in the country. They are coming off impressive wins against Virginia and Louisville with upcoming rematches against the Cavaliers and Blue Devils to end regular season play.

With a 25-5 record, a likely top five ranking and a piece of the ACC regular season championship already clinched, I should be elated.

If N.C. State fans found themselves in a similar situation, they would be planning parties and parades. I on the other hand am waiting for something bad to happen.

Will we lose any opportunity we have a number one seed in the NCAA tournament by falling to Virginia or Duke this week? Will we have an injury during ACC tournament play that impacts us during the big dance? Will we have a bad shooting day against a team who, by facing UNC in the early rounds of the NCAA tournament, is playing he biggest game in the history of their program?

These things are not just possible, they have already happened.

Sixty Eight teams go into March Madness and only one doesn't lose the last game of their season. Winning a Siemens Trophy requires a unique and concentrated blend of coaching, talent, experience and luck.

Coaching is something my Heels have. Not just in Roy Williams, but one of the best benches in college basketball.

They also have talent and experience, and in the right places. Talent is required at all five positions and at least three deep on your bench. Carolina's rotation thus far in-

See **FOURTH**, page B3

Bertie girls break 'curse'

Falcons stop Jackets, reach 4th round

BY THADD WHITE
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR — More than talk.

The buzz surrounding this year's varsity girls basketball team at Bertie High School was never about winning the league title or earning 20 victories. While both were important to first-year skipper Kelvin Hayes and his staff, many fans wondered if it would be the year the Lady Falcons could "break the third round curse."

It was. The Lady Falcons broke open a close game and pulled away

for 56-41 victory to earn a place in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Eastern Semi-Final. That contest, played at home against Bartlett Yancey, finished too late for press time Tuesday night.

Bertie had beaten Roanoke Rapids twice in the regular season — 50-30 at home in early December and 53-37 at Roanoke Rapids two weeks later.

Winning a third time didn't come easy.

The teams battled in the first quarter, with neither team able to gain more than a four-point edge, and the Fal-

cons leading 13-12 at the end of the stanza.

Anna Vann started the scoring with an early hoop for the Lady Yellow Jackets, but Autum Morings answered with a pair of free throws for the Lady Falcons. After two shots from the charity stripe gave the Jackets a lead, Akia Jordan scored from behind the arc seconds before Carlisa Spivey did the same as Bertie pushed ahead 8-4.

Roanoke Rapids rallied with free throws from Vann and Michelle Steward before Vann hit a floater with 3:02 to



ABBY PARKER / The Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie senior Autum Morings controls the tip during the Falcons' third-round victory over Roanoke Rapids.

See **BERTIE**, page B2

Falcons land at ECSU

Williams follows father, brother onto college gridiron

BY JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR — Greg Williams always dreamed of playing college football as he watched his brother, Desmond Williams at Old Dominion University, and most recently, Bertie High School alum Malcom Cherry, who was a standout at Elizabeth City State University.

Now, Williams — the 18-year-old son of Greg Williams Sr. and Tina Mitchell of Lewiston Woodville — gets his opportunity, as he committed to play for ECSU this fall.



JIM GREEN / The Bertie Ledger-Advance

Joining Greg Williams (seated center) were (front row, left) grandfather Curtis Mitchell and sister Kristin Mitchell; (back row) father Greg Williams Sr. and mother Tina Mitchell.

See **WILLIAMS**, page B3

Cherry gets second chance after recovering from injury

BY JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR — Corey Cherry is getting a second chance to play college football.

Cherry, a 5'9" running back at Bertie High School, will attend Elizabeth City State University this fall and continue his career on the gridiron.

Cherry, the 18-year-old son of Andre Cherry and Tarvara Pugh, had several offers from Division-I schools, but suffered a season-ending MCL injury on Aug. 6 — his birthday.

"It was the first day we had practice with pads," Cherry said. "It



JIM GREEN / The Bertie Ledger-Advance

Joining Corey Cherry (seated, center) were his parents, Andre Cherry and Tarvara Pugh; (second row) Daphne Williams (Bertie STEM Principal), Dora Harris (grandmother), Patrick Berryman (uncle), Katrina Berryman (aunt) and James Cherry (grandfather).

See **CHERRY**, page B3



Duck Thru Food Stores congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.



Athlete of the week

BACA
Daniel Castello
Basketball

