

Sports

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# Bertie

From B1 play which gave the Yellow Jackets a 9-8 edge. Jomiya Early answered on a give-and-go and then Dwaunti Combs scored to make it 12-9.

Alizae Neville then buried a triple for the visitors to knot the game at an even dozen, but Mornings hit 1-of-2 from the line to give Bertie a one-point edge.

The Lady Falcons started the second quarter with a triple from Spivey, a bucket from Combs and another three-pointer by Ny'Asia Barnes to make it 21-12.

The Yellow Jackets scored back-to-back hoops, but a Barnes free throw and a Combs hoop helped Bertie lead 24-16.

Vann scored again for the Yellow Jackets, but Spivey answered and Mornings added a free throw to push the lead to 27-18.

Roanoke Rapids closed to within six (29-23) at the intermission.

Spivey opened the third quarter with a triple, but Vann answered with a free throw and a pair of hoops to make it 32-28.

Early interrupted the spurt with a three-pointer, but Vann responded with another hoop and a field goal to close within 35-33.

Just as it appeared the Jackets were making gains, the Lady Falcons cut them off at the pass - scoring the final five points of the quarter

to reestablish a working margin. Barnes and Combs had successive hoops and Early added a free throw to give Bertie a 40-33 lead after three quarters.

The break between quarters didn't help the visitors as Bertie picked up just where it had left off - scoring the first seven points of the stanza to establish a 47-33 lead. The Falcons did most of their damage at the free throw line, where they went 5-for-6. Barnes added the other hoop.

Vann stopped the run with a pair of free throws, but Spivey answered with a hoop for the Falcons.

Bertie's lead was 10 with just over two minutes to play when the Yellow Jacket began fouling and sending the Lady Falcons to the line.

The strategy seemed to work early as the Falcons missed their first four free throws, but Spivey and Early then combined to make 7-of-8 to close out the contest and send Bertie into the Eastern semis.

Spivey led the way for the Lady Falcons (28-1) with a double-double as she scored 16 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Early added 12 points and three steals while Mornings had 12 boards and seven points. Combs had 10 points and Barnes added eight.

(BLA sports writer Travis Jackson contributed to this story.)

## Aulander sets signups

Looking for a good wholesome outdoor activity for you and your child this summer?

The Aulander Youth League will be celebrating their 10th season of baseball & softball beginning in June.

Signups will be held at the Aulander Civic Center, located at the old Aulander gym on Rice Avenue every Saturday in March from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Registration fee is \$35 per child, or \$30 per child if you have two or more in same household.

Registration fee includes insurance, team shirt and cap.

Be sure to bring birth certificate or other proof of age.

Tryouts will be held at the John Asa Drew Jr. Field of Dreams for the purpose of drafting players to a team.

For more information contact Billy Drew at 252-642-2772.

# Bethel boys finish third

## Eagles win two of three in state tournament

BY JIM GREEN  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

ASKEWILLE — Two of three.

Bethel Assembly Christian Academy's varsity boys basketball team took third place in the North Carolina Christian Athletics Association state tournament over the weekend on its home floor.

The Eagles won their opener Thursday, then fell to Victory Christian School 70-53 on Friday to drop to the consolation game.

BACA secured third place with a 77-40 victory over Liberty Christian Academy.

Bethel (15-11 overall) opened the tournament with a 62-31 triumph over Gramercy Christian.

Bethel led 14-10 at the end of the first period and used a 21-7 run in the second stanza to take control.

The Eagles then outscored the Warriors 27-14 in the second half.

Caleb Simmons and Lucas Doughtie led BACA with 14 points each, while Josh Bunch added 13.

The following day, the Eagles faced Victory Christian without the services of leading scorer Caleb Simmons, who was averaging 16 points per game.

"Caleb was just too sick to play (against Victory)," said BACA head coach David Simmons, the younger Simmons' father. "He was able to play through it on Thursday but just couldn't go Friday after he got worse."

Baskets from Daniel Castello, Paul Northcott and Josh Bunch staked the Eagles to a 6-3 lead, but VCS went on a 25-12 run over the last 6:48 of the first quarter to take a 28-18 advantage.

Bethel couldn't keep Victory guard Shareif Blount out of the paint, and he scored six times and added two free throws to account for 15 of his team's total in the first period.

A basket from Kyle Cullipher - who scored off a pass from Bunch - cut the deficit to 32-



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bethel Assembly Christian Academy's Daniel Castello (No. 14) goes to the basket against Victory Christian; (below) Eagles head coach David Simmons exhorts his team.



20 with 6:23 left before halftime, but Victory finished the second stanza on a 12-3 run (Blount scored eight of the 12) to take a 44-23 lead into the break.

VCS was able to main-

tain its 20-plus point lead in the third quarter, but Bethel attempted a rally in the fourth period.

The Eagles, behind Will Bazemore, Bunch, Lucas Doughtie and

Northcott, managed to pull within 13 (62-49) with 3:36 remaining, but could get no closer.

"I am really proud of our guys for not giving up against a very good team," Coach Simmons said.

Bunch paced the Eagles with 20 points, followed by Doughtie with 12 and Kyle Cullipher with 11.

Blount led VCS with 29 points.

Bethel then ended its season on a high note with the win over LCA in the consolation game.

The Eagles led 14-4 after one quarter and 40-20 at halftime.

Castello led the way with 19 points and 11 rebounds, while Caleb Simmons added 15 and Doughtie chipped in 12. Northcott contributed nine points and seven rebounds.

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