

Sports

The fabric of Bertie County since 1832

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

Giving thanks far from over

Thanksgiving and Christmas may have come and gone but with New Years still pending and miracles happening around us every day, the time to give thanks is far from over.

It's with this in mind that I was so thrilled to see my favorite Tar Heel of all time, Jason Brown, on the cover of December's Born & Bred magazine. I've written about him a few times before, and this was the perfect excuse to write about him again.

There is no one reason Jason Brown is my favorite Tar Heel; there are several. It all started because he played center, the same position I did, for UNC.

He was tough and tactical without seeming cold and calculating. He could flip pancakes and grade road with the best of 'em but still managed to come across as a good guy. It's easy now to see why.

Brown is a man of God, lost his brother in service to his country, married the love of his life while they were still in college and delivered one of his own children when the midwife couldn't get there in time.

Those are all really good reasons to like Jason Brown. Now let me tell you why he is my hero.

Brown walked away from a dream and followed a calling.

It's a commendable thing to consider, but truly give it some thought and you will find yourself in awe. He left an NFL career earning him millions of dollars and securing his family for life because he felt compelled by God to move them back home, learn how to farm on YouTube and help feed his community.

The story seems too outrageous to be true. Who walks away from a great paying "job" playing football for a "career" earning nothing?

If he had failed miserably, he would still be a hero for having tried. I feel far more confident that I would fail if I tried than I am

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COOKE COMMUNICATIONS HOLIDAY INVITATIONAL

Falcons claim inaugural Cooke tourney crowns

Bertie tops Holmes twice for boys, girls championships

BY JIM GREEN

Enterprise & Weekly Herald

ROBERSONVILLE - It was raining threes inside Atkinson-Calfee Gymnasium Wednesday night (Dec. 20).

Bertie High School's Quatravis Riddick and Alden Cottle were the rainmakers.

Riddick swished seven triples on his way to being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, while Cottle added three 3s of his own, as the Falcon boys defeated John A. Holmes (Edenton) 70-48 to capture the championship in the inaugural Cooke Communications Holiday Invitational Tournament at South Creek High School.

The victory was part of a championship sweep by Bertie, as the Lady Falcons took care of Holmes 50-42 in the girls title game.

In the boys' championship game, Bertie (3-5 overall) and the Aces traded the lead in the early going before Riddick made his first three-pointer to give Bertie a 7-5 lead.

Holmes tied it at 7-all on a basket by Kel Boston off an inbounds pass, and then grabbed a 9-7 lead when Nakevin Hill stole a pass and went the length of the floor. Antuan Sharpe and Boston scored near the end of the quarter to help the Aces hold a 13-11 advantage.

That was the last time Holmes would lead.

Riddick's first of three triples gave Bertie the lead for good, 14-13, one minute into the second stanza. He added another 3 and a free throw to push the lead to 18-13 before K.D. Raynor ended the run with a basket that made it 18-15.

Riddick wasn't the only Bertie player to get hot from behind the arc.

Enter Cottle, who made two three-pointers and added another bucket on a drive to the basket.

With Jamarii White (six points) helping Riddick and Cottle on offense and the defensive efforts of Jacquan Baylor, the Falcons went on a 17-4 run in the final 4:44 of the quarter to stretch their lead to 35-19 at halftime.

The Aces made a small comeback in the first half of the third quar-



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie High School's Quatravis Riddick (above) and Akyia King (No. 24, below) were selected as the most valuable players during last week's inaugural Cooke Communications Holiday Invitational Tournament at South Creek High School in Robersonville.



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Bertie Ledger-Advance congratulates this week's Athlete of the Week.

Bertie
Ledger-Advance

Bertie Ledger-Advance
109 S. King St., P.O. Box 69
Windsor, NC 27983

Athlete of the week

LA
Basketball
Lindsay Smith

