

Sports

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ROANOKE-CHOWAN  
NEWS-HERALD HOLIDAY CLASSIC

# Bertie girls suffer loss in title game

## Falcons fall to Vikings

From Staff Reports

**AHOSKIE** - Not quite enough. Bertie High School's girls basketball team rallied in the fourth quarter but fell short, 54-50, to Plymouth Friday (Dec. 29) in the finals of the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald Holiday Classic.

The Falcons emerged 6-4 overall after splitting their two tournament games at Hertford County High School.

In the championship, Bertie trailed 19-14 after the first quarter and 30-23 at halftime, but was unable to complete the comeback. The Falcons shaved three points off the Vikings lead in the second half.

Akyia King led Bertie with 17 points (which included three three-pointers) and six rebounds.

The rest of the Falcon offense proved to be balanced, with Dawaunti Combs adding nine points, Morgan Mazyck chipping in eight points and five boards, Armani Wise contributing six points and eight rebounds, Daesha Smith collecting six points and four rebounds, and Destiny Clark managing four points.

Wise and Combs eventually fouled out in the second half for Bertie.

In their semifinal game on Dec. 27, the Falcons defeated Northeastern 46-40 in a battle of Northeastern Coastal 2A Conference opponents.

Bertie established a solid lead in the first half - taking a 12-9 advantage after the first quarter and a 27-13 edge at halftime.

The Eagles made the final result closer by outscoring Bertie 27-19 in the second half.

Bertie was scheduled to return to the basketball court today (Jan. 3) at home against Roanoke Rapids. The Falcons will continue their NEC slate Friday (Jan. 5) at home against Northeastern.

Inclement weather could affect this week's games, however.



Bertie's Morgan Mayzck shoots against Plymouth in the News-Herald girls final.

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

## The year that was...

2017 has officially come to a close, and it was a year to remember.

The first thing that will inevitably pop in my mind when I reflect on 2017 was my Tar Heels mens basketball team winning their seventh national championship. Your college basketball team being the only worthwhile squad to win their last game of the season is always sweet, but after the previous year's heartbreaking loss to Villanova in the championship game, this win seemed even sweeter.

2017 was the year of the greatest press tour in history. I am speaking of course about Floyd Mayweather and Connor McGregor. Their boxing match was as disappointing as any logical person expected, but the large and unfiltered mouths of both imbeciles provided a plethora of entertaining press highlights in the months leading up to the fight.

2017 was the year of the 2016 Oklahoma City Thunder. The 2016 version of the Thunder featured Kevin Durant, who went on to win his first NBA title with the Golden State Warriors this past year. It also featured Russell Westbrook who, without Durant to share the ball with, won the league MVP award and became the only player other than Oscar Robertson to average a triple-double for an entire season.

Houston was on everybody's minds in 2017. The city and its people took major damage when Hurricane Harvey came through in late August and flooded the city, forcing nearly 40,000 people from their homes.

While sports can be useful in times of tragedy as it can offer a temporary mental escape, sports became practically helpful as well when Texans star J.J. Watt used his platform to help raise 37 million dollars in aid. The Houston Astros provided the perfect mental escape a few months later when they won their first World Series in seven games against the Dodgers.

I'm not certain what 2018 has in store for us, but I appreciate you spending a few minutes of it with me already. I hope you and yours have an amazing year!

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



Bertie's Jaqwan Baylor (white jersey) fires against Rocky Mount Prep in the News-Herald Holiday Classic last week.

## Bertie boys split

**AHOSKIE** - Bertie High School's varsity boys basketball team emerged with a split in the Roanoke-Chowan News Herald Holiday Classic last week.

The Falcons (4-6 overall) suffered a 76-66 loss to Rocky Mount Prep in their first game Dec. 27, then came back to defeat rival Hertford County 71-67 on Dec. 28 at Hertford County High School.

In the game against Hertford County, Bertie trailed 38-30 at halftime but outscored the Bears 41-29 in the second half to earn the victory.

Quatravis Riddick recorded a triple-double for Bertie, amassing 19 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists.

The contest saw the emergence of Jaqwan Baylor, who poured in a season-high 21 points and grabbed 14 rebounds.

Joshua Burden added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Falcons, who shot 52 percent (27 of 52) from the field. Riddick made three of Bertie's seven three-pointers against Hertford County. Alden Cottle and Marquise Overton each had two.

Burden added 17 points and 11 rebounds, Jamarii White chipped in 12 points and 11 rebounds, and Baylor had nine points and 11 rebounds.

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