

Sports

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# Bertie

From B1 known best for all season long.

Getting their outside shot to start falling in the second quarter was a big help, which sent them on a run of their own, 9-0, led by Riddick getting scores in the lane as well as off various jumpers from the perimeter. The flurry brought the Falcons back in it as they went to the break trailing, but only by nine points, 38-29.

A bucket by Jamarri White in the third quarter made it 42-33 with 5:10 to go. After forcing Farmville Central into a few nonproductive possessions, Bertie closed the gap even further on an offensive board by White, that made the deficit just seven, 44-37. Two free throws at the stripe from Burden then

closed it to 46-40 at the 2:18 mark.

The Falcons continued to claw away, executing instruction from head coach Derrick Bond, and putting it to work on the court. After a 17-16 quarter they were down 55-45, but not out.

A crossover and score in the lane by Burden in the final stanza was the first score by the Falcons, cutting the deficit to nine (56-47).

The offense went cold for the Falcons at that point, which allowed Farmville Central to reel off six consecutive points on Bertie.

Maurice Hayes split a pair at the line to stop the run, but by then the Jaguars had extended their lead to 62-48. The playoff run came to a close as the Falcons could not make up the difference.



ZACHARY MORGAN II / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie High School boys basketball coach Derrick Bond instructs players during a timeout against Farmville Central.

Bertie finishes their season 9-16, 4-6 in the Northeastern Coastal Conference, and will

return a very talented team. Losing only two players - Riddick and Marcus Philyaw - they

will return an experienced bunch that could make a deeper run next season.

Zachary Morgan can be reached at [zmorgan@ncweeklies.com](mailto:zmorgan@ncweeklies.com).

## SIMMONS NETS 1,000 POINTS

Caleb Simmons (center), a senior basketball player at Bethel Assembly Christian Academy, recorded 1,000 career points during a game earlier this month against Calvary Baptist. He was presented the game ball by BACA Athletic Director Jennifer Askew (left) and Eagles head coach Ronald Cullipher.



## Fourth

From B1 letes or not) want the college experience. They want to go to parties, take a spring break trip, dress to impress their friends and snag the attention of that young lady or fella they have been eyeing for weeks.

The problem is, student athletes have a schedule that often makes it difficult for them to work and make the money required to do many of these things. Fortunately, a relatively small amount of money is all that is required.

Have you ever heard the term "hood rich"? It's a term that reminds us that everything is relative. LeBron James is rich, but you don't have to sign a 100 million dollar contract with Nike to

be rich in college. If you have a little spending money in your pocket, can buy the occasional dinner for two, can dress decent and can afford uber fare, you're "college rich".

That's why I think an NCAA stipend may be the best solution to their current crisis.

The money should come from the NCAA, not the schools. They currently have a 10.8 billion (yes, billion with a B) dollar agreement with CBS Sports and Turner Broadcasting, and that's just for one month of college basketball. That's only March Madness, it's not including the rest of the basketball season or college football. There are billions more being made of those.

As I mentioned above, this solution isn't perfect either. Do you provide a stipend to the

women's and men's water polo players? What about Division II and Division III athletes? I think the answers are yes and no respectively but these can be debated.

Either way, in the words of Sam Cooke, "A Change Is Gonna Come". This is a change that allows for some semblance of amateurism and equality. Will some players still take money, of course they will. Will less players risk their eligibility and reputation if they already have a little money in their pocket? I believe so.

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).

## Bethel

From B1 another quick start (11-0) by Bethel helped the Eagles ease past Victory Christian 29-8.

Bazemore led the way with 13 points while Haley Northcott added seven.

The Eagles grabbed 29 rebounds against VCS. Sheree Harrell had 10, followed by Northcott with nine and Bazemore

with seven. BACA sealed the win by holding Victory scoreless in the fourth quarter.

In the finals, Bethel and Ahoskie Christian both had difficulty putting points on the board through the first three quarters.

ACS led 11-10 after 24 minutes and then clinched the championship, 21-12, after a 10-2

advantage in the fourth quarter.

Northcott and Sarah Conner each managed four points for BACA, while Harrell and Hannah Price had one basket each.

Northcott grabbed 14 rebounds for the Eagles, while Harrell had seven, Bazemore added six and Conner pulled down five.

## Spring

From B1 meets are away.

- Bertie junior varsity baseball: The Falcons will play host to Riverside for a 4 p.m. game on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

- Lawrence Academy varsity baseball: The Warriors play at Wayne Christian at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 2, travel to Parrott Academy for a 1:30 p.m. tilt on Saturday, March 3 and will play host to Halifax Academy at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

- Lawrence Academy varsity softball: The Lady Warriors play Wayne Christian at 4 p.m. on Friday, March 2 and will entertain Halifax Academy at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

- Lawrence Academy junior varsity baseball: The Warriors play host to Halifax Academy at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6.

- Lawrence Academy junior varsity softball: The Warrior girls play at Ridge-



FILE PHOTO

Lawrence Academy softball opens its 2018 season Friday at Wayne Christian and will play at home March 6 against Halifax Academy.

croft School at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7.

- Lawrence Academy boys tennis: The Warriors open their season Thursday, March 1 at 4 p.m. at Faith Christian and will play at Riverside at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7.

- Bethel Assembly Christian girls soccer: The Eagles open their season March 15 at 4 p.m. against New Bern Christian Academy.

- Bethel Assembly Christian baseball: The Eagles open their season March 15 at 4 p.m. against New Bern Christian Academy.

- Bethel Assembly Christian softball: The Lady Eagles start their season at Trinity with a 4 p.m. game on March 20.

Jim Green can be reached at [jgreen@ncweeklies.com](mailto:jgreen@ncweeklies.com).

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