

ADAMS PUBLISHING GROUP HOLIDAY INVITATIONAL



JIM GREEN / Bertie Ledger-Advance

Bertie High School's Dawaunti Combs battles Riverside's Demetria Bland for a loose ball during the first day of the Adams Publishing Group Holiday Invitational at Bertie High School.

Bertie girls advance to finals, boys lose on last-second shot

JIM GREEN
Bertie Ledger-Advance

WINDSOR - One defending champion returned to the finals, while the other was relegated to playing for third place after the first day of the Adams Publishing Group Holiday Invitational Monday at Bertie High School.

The Bertie High School girls defeated Riverside 60-45 to advance to Tuesday's championship game against John A. Holmes (Edenton), who defeated South Creek in a first-round game.

The Bertie boys, however, did not have the opportunity to defend their tournament title, as a last-second shot by Riverside sealed the Knights' 78-77 triumph in Monday's nightcap.

Bertie's boys played South Creek for third place on Tuesday.

In the girls game, Bertie built a 12-point lead in the first quarter and weathered a Riverside comeback to return to the tournament championship game.

Dawaunti Combs scored 13 of her 22 points in the first quarter as the Falcons led 20-8 after eight minutes.

Bertie led 13-2 five minutes into the game before the Knights made a small run at the end of the quarter.

A triple from Combs gave the Falcons a 23-8 lead early in the second quarter, and Bertie kept its double-digit advantage (38-18) at halftime after Yasmonasia Boone hit for 12 points - a trio of three-pointers, a basket and a free throw in the stanza.

Akyia King recorded the other triple in the



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See **TOURNEY, A9** Joshua Burden of the Falcons (No. 10) puts up the shot between RHS defenders Nakwon Buyns (left) and Manny Belcher (No. 30).

Columnist grateful for readers of newspaper

Fourth and Long



David Friedman

I need to begin today by thanking Mr. Rhodes, a subscriber and regular reader of the column, for taking the time to make me aware of an error I made a few weeks ago.

I mistakenly referred to the new ECU football Head Coach by the incorrect name. It is in fact North Carolina native Mike Houston who

has taken over the program.

Sam Houston, the name I provided, was (according to Mr. Rhodes) a leader in the Mexican-American war who passed away in 1863. I expect that makes him an unlikely candidate for the now filled position.

Based on the fact that

the Pirates received a commitment this weekend from a three star athlete with offers from a Big Ten school, I'd say Mike Houston is the better man for the job.

Mr. Rhodes isn't the only person to reach out to me via the email provided at the end of my column each week. I am lucky enough

to get responses from readers eager to tell me how right...or wrong, I was on any given week. Whether they agree with me or not, I appreciate and love them all.

That includes folks like Jackie White, who helps keep me up to date on some of our (meaning, Bertie County) more successful local alumni.

There's also Chris Elliot, who recently missed my regular Tar Heel bias when discussing the need for UNC and Larry Fedora to part ways.

Carolyn Long made an impression when she reached out from Alabama to remind me that Bo Jackson wasn't

See **FOURTH, A9**

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



Bertie Ledger-Advance

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Athlete of the week

BACA
Basketball
Kyle Cullipher

