

Top Seeds Bump North Buncombe Squads From Tourney In Semifinals

North Buncombe's varsity basketball teams advanced to the semifinals of the Western Athletic Conference 3-A tournament in Enka before being knocked off by the top seeds in action Monday.

The fourth-seeded Black Hawks, looking for revenge against the Warhorses of Owen, dropped a 58-47 decision in semi-final action. The varsity girls, also seeded fourth, lost 54-38 to top-seeded Roberson.

In the boys' game, senior Owen standout Brad Johnson led all scorers, pouring in 23 points for the Warhorses.

Robin Roberts of North Buncombe hit 13 points, including eight in the second half, to lead the Black Hawk scoring attack.

North Buncombe jumped out to a slim, two-point lead at the end of the first quarter, but could not contain the powerful Warhorses, as Owen outscored the Black Hawks in each of the remaining three quarters.

Phil Lytle added 10 points for Owen, while Steve Kohler dropped in 10 for North Buncombe.

In the varsity girls' game, a strong Roberson squad jumped out to an ear-

ly lead and never looked back enroute to its 54-38 win.

Allison Hubbard dumped in 19 points for Roberson, while Robin Corn contributed 17.

For North Buncombe, Keitha Tinsley scored 19 points, including 11 in the second half, to finish as the only double-figure scorer.

In opening round action of the tournament, the Black Hawks defeated fifth-ranked Roberson 67-64 in a tight contest.

Roberts of North Buncombe led the Black Hawk scoring attack, hitting

for 20 points. Kevin Hall added 14 for the Black Hawks, Randy McKinney contributed 12 and Kohler 10.

Roberts got 14 of his 20 points in the second half.

Roberson's Jim Combest also scored 20 points, and yanked down 16 rebounds. Shannon Dewese hit for 16 points, Joe Ward for 11 and Pat Haney for 10 as four Roberson players scored in double figures.

The game came down a battle of free-throw shooting, as North Buncombe was 7 of 8 from the line in the fourth quarter. Roberson hit only one of five free-throw attempts in the final period.

In the first round of the varsity girls' tournament, North Buncombe outdistanced fifth-ranked West Henderson 65-51.

North Buncombe had to overcome a four-point deficit in the final period to claim the victory. Tinsley, who finished with a team-high 22 points, scored 10 of them in the all-important fourth quarter.

Kim Coates scored 16 points for North Buncombe and pulled down 11 rebounds. Christi Maney added 12.

West Henderson's Karen Gruca led all scorers, drilling in 27 points to finish as the only player on her team to hit for double figures.

Gruca scored 16 of her points in the second half.

The finals of the conference tournament were held after presstime Wednesday night.

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Pictured left to right: Glen Martin, Kile Honeycutt, Homer Cooper, Sue Banner, and Carrol Huffman.

Glen Martin and Carrol Huffman are shown above congratulating the winners of the 3 color TVs given away at the conclusion of the tobacco season at Big Burley Tobacco Warehouse, Johnson City, TN.

Sue Banner, Route 8, Jonesboro, Tennessee
 Kile Honeycutt, Mars Hills, North Carolina
 Homer Cooper, Unicoi, Tennessee

Madison To Begin Tournament Action At Mitchell Tonight

Madison High School's basketball teams have spent the last week preparing for the upcoming Highlands 2-A Conference Tournament.

They won't have much longer to wait - tournament action is scheduled to begin tonight at Mitchell High School in Spruce Pine.

The Patriots will take on Sylva-Webster in the opening round game tonight, while the Lady Patriots will battle Avery.

The varsity Patriots have completed a successful season. Picked in the preseason to finish dead last, the

Patriots wound up the regular season ranked fifth in Western North Carolina.

Madison ended the season with a 15-7 overall record and a 4-4 record in Highlands 2-A Conference play.

The Lady Patriots finished as co-champions of the Highlands 2-A Conference, sharing those honors with the Lady Cougars of Mountain Heritage High School in Burnsville.

They were picked in the preseason to finish in fourth place. Madison had lost three starters and four seniors from last year's 25-3 squad, which accounted for the lower preseason prediction.

At the end of the regular season, the Lady Patriots had run up a 15-7 overall record, and a 6-2 record in conference play. Madison was ranked third in girls' basketball play in all of Western North Carolina.

Ricky McDevitte, head coach of the Lady Patriots, was selected the varsity girls' coach of the year in the conference for the second straight year.

Following the conference tournament this week at Mitchell, Madison will host state 2-A tournament games beginning Monday.

Mars Hill Ends Season With 4 Straight Losses

Mars Hill College gave NCAA Division 1 opponent South Carolina a run for their money Monday night as the Gamecocks struggled to a 77-69 over the Lions.

The game wrapped up an unsuccessful week for the Lions, who lost all four games they played. The game, the first ever with South Carolina, also brought the Lions' season to a close.

In Monday's game at Columbia, S.C., the NAIA-member Lions were able to keep it close most of the game, but could not overcome the larger Gamecocks.

Micheal Foster and Terry Dozier combined for 41 points for South Carolina.

The Gamecocks, behind a 72-percent shooting performance from the floor in the first half, took a 37-29 lead into the lockerroom.

Mars Hill cut the lead to five points on Tony Davison's basket at about the midpoint of the second half, but could pull no closer.

South Carolina outscored Mars Hill 16-3 to put the game out of reach at 60-42 with about eight minutes remaining.

The Lions used outside shooting to keep it close for most of Monday's contest. Jon Hancock scored a game-high 22 points to lead Mars Hill, including an 8-of-13 shooting performance from the field.

Mars Hill hit on five of its 10 three-point attempts in the game. Foster of South Carolina hit three of five three-point attempts, representing all of the Gamecocks' three-pointers.

Dozier hit for 20 points for South Carolina, while Darryl Martin added 17 and Tony Shaw 11 for the Gamecocks.

Paul Davis hit 12 points for Mars Hill, while Davison and Darrel Crocker each added 10.

The loss left Mars Hill with a record of 11-20.

Mars Hill didn't fare much better against NAIA foe High Point at High

Point Saturday night, dropping a 67-55 loss.

Roy Smith scored 14 points in the second half to help the Panthers break open a tight game.

Mars Hill and High Point finished the first half in a 26-26 tie, but the Panthers poured in the next eight points to open the second half.

The Lions were able to pull within six at 34-28, but could come no closer to High Point.

Hancock keyed the Lions with 18 points. Shelwyn Klutz added 12 and Davis contributed 10.

Mike Miller and Jeff Johnson both added 11 points for High Point.

In last Thursday's game, Knoxville's Mark Thomas dropped in his only two-pointer of the night with just four seconds remaining to lift the Bulldogs to a 82-81 win over Mars Hill.

The field goal gave Knoxville its first - and only - lead of the non-conference game.

The Lions called a pair of timeouts to come with a last-second shot, but Knoxville's Don Williams stole the inbounds pass at midcourt to pound the last nail in Mars Hill's coffin.

Mars Hill had led 81-77 with 50 seconds left in the game, but could not score. Knoxville's come-from-behind victory was aided by three consecutive Mars Hill turnovers.

Ron Wooten scored on a three-point play with 13 seconds left to pull Knoxville within one point, 81-80. Williams then stole the ball with 11 seconds, setting up Thomas' winning shot.

Bulldog Michael Clear led all scorers, hitting for 26 points. Williams and Wooten each contributed 18.

Klutz was the Lions' leading scorer, dropping in 21 points. Hancock scored 15, Crocker 13, Davis 12 and Tom Beeker 10.

Mars Hill's week of bad luck began last Wednesday with a 83-73 loss to NAIA District 26 foe Belmont Abbey at Chambers Gym.

Lady Lions Lose

The Lady Lions of Mars Hill College used a strong performance by Andrea German to outdistance Tusculum in a non-conference game last Thursday.

German scored a game-high 28 points and pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds to lead Mars Hill to a 65-77 win.

Mars Hill went into the lockerroom with a 35-35 tie before the Lady Lions were able to pull away in the second

half.

German, a forward, shot 9 of 15 from the field and 10 of 13 from the free-throw line. Lee Ann Enix added 22 points for the Lady Lions.

Five players scored in double figures for Tusculum. Renee Devoti scored 16 points. Renee Rozier and Cindy Parton both added an even dozen. Michelle Wedding poured in 11 and Annette Venerable contributed 10.

Wrestlers To Compete

Two North Buncombe High School wrestlers will advance to the state wrestling tournament at Carolina Auditorium in Chapel Hill this weekend.

The state tournament comes after last week's Western 3-A regional tournament held at French High School in Frenchville.

At the regional tournament, the school

18th in the 16-team field, two Black Hawk wrestlers advanced to the semi-finals.

Mike Ballard, a heavyweight, pinned Enka's Pustus Walker to win his division. In the consolation finals, Darrell Burnette of North Buncombe lost a decision to East Henderson's Jeff Eaton in the 115-pound weight class.

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