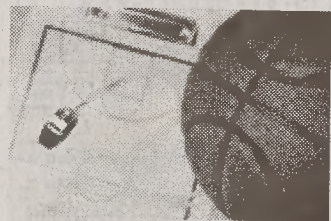


Coming this Week

- High School Basketball
- DCCC hoops action

SPORTS

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NJCAA BASKETBALL

DCCC barely hangs on

BY ZACH KEPLEY
Sports Editor

LEXINGTON — When the clock read zero's on Saturday at Brinkley Gym, the stat sheet for Davidson County Community College did not look all that impressive. Fortunately for the Storm, they had the advantage in the category that matters most.

Three days after an emotional conference win, the Storm stepped out of league play, slugishly defeating Tidewater Community College 82-78.

Rico Geter and Justin Glover filled up the scor-

ing column with 26 and 23 points, respectively, but it was the other statistical categories that caught the attention of third-year head coach Matt Ridge.

"For the vast majority of the game we threw the ball all over the gym and had just a total lack of focus," Ridge said. "I am sitting here looking at the stat sheet and most of our players are in the negative. We have a player with one assist and eight turnovers and we had 16 assists and 27 turnovers as a team. It is

hard to win games like that."

Davidson was in good shape late in the first half, leading 29-17 after six points from Geter and 34-19 after five more from



Glover with 4:26 remaining.

Tidewater used a 15-6 run to narrow the gap down to four at the half, using Jared Whittington effectively on the outside and Bryon Carpenter in the paint.

Two Storm baskets on their first two possessions of the second half provided a 10-point ad-

vantage for DCCC at 44-34, and the turnover woes seemed to be solved.

They weren't.

Tidewater happily took advantage of a poor, three-minute stretch of basketball by DCCC, rattling off 11 unanswered points to gain a 45-44 edge.

Neither team allowed the other to get too far ahead from there, as the outcome would be decided in the final minute.

Geter came around a Zack Williams screen for a bucket in the lane that tied the game for the final time at 78-78.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



TIMES PHOTO/FRANK RAUCCIO
Ledford point guard Nathan Parks sets up the Panther offense against SWR on Friday.

LHS builds big lead then holds on for win

BY ZACH KEPLEY
Sports Editor

WALLBURG — After cruising through three quarters, the Ledford Panthers nearly tossed it all away with a shaky start to the fourth, but regrouped to beat Southwestern Randolph 55-43 on Friday.

Ledford improved to 11-4 on the year, 2-1 in the Mid-Piedmont Conference with the victory.

"Teams are going to make runs, but I have got to do a better job of preparing my guys to play with a lead and finish games," said LHS coach Scott Dalton. "That being said, they need to do a better job on their end and make good decisions. We forced a lot there in the fourth quarter when we didn't need to."

The game had the makings for a blowout at half-time with the Panthers up 30-16. Defensive pressure and constant attacks at the basket aided in an even bigger lead, as Ledford blazed ahead to lead 47-28 with a quarter to go.

"Third quarter we came out and tried to put it away, and it is a good thing we did," Dalton said. Offensively, we were aggressive. We were attacking on the baseline and we found Dylan Smith on the block. We turned up the heat on defense and were able to get some separation."

Southwestern Randolph caught Ledford letting up a bit to start the fourth quarter, but at the same time, were able to finally make some shots.

Taylor Ray banked in a shot for LHS that began the quarter, but a 7-0 run for the Cougars ensued, causing Dalton to have a stern chat with his team in the huddle. The speech did not land, as the Panthers continued to play sloppy ball and Southwestern closed the gap down to 49-41.

Dalton tried another timeout, and this time the message was finally sent.

Nathan Parks put an

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CALENDAR

TODAY

BASKETBALL
Thomasville
@ Trinity
6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

BASKETBALL
Sandhills CC
@ DCCC
7 p.m.

FRIDAY

BASKETBALL
Lexington
@ Thomasville
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL
Salisbury
@ E. Davidson
6 p.m.

BASKETBALL
Ledford
@ Asheboro
6 p.m.

SATURDAY

BASKETBALL
Central Carolina
@ DCCC
3 p.m.

MONDAY

BASKETBALL
DCCC
@ Piedmont
7 p.m.

WRESTLING
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ASU déjà vu for Freeman

BY ELIOT DUKE
Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — Anna Freeman's last trip to UNC-Greensboro's Fleming Gymnasium didn't go quite as well as Saturday's visit. Freeman returned to the floor where her East Davidson High School career ended as a freshman at Appalachian State University. Unlike last year's regional final loss, Freeman and ASU walked away with a 72-57 victory over the UNC-G Spartans, evening the Mountaineers Southern Conference record at 4-4.

"I walked into [Fleming Gymnasium] for practice and was like 'not OK'," Freeman said. "I'm glad to fix that from last year. I don't want to walk in here and think of that."

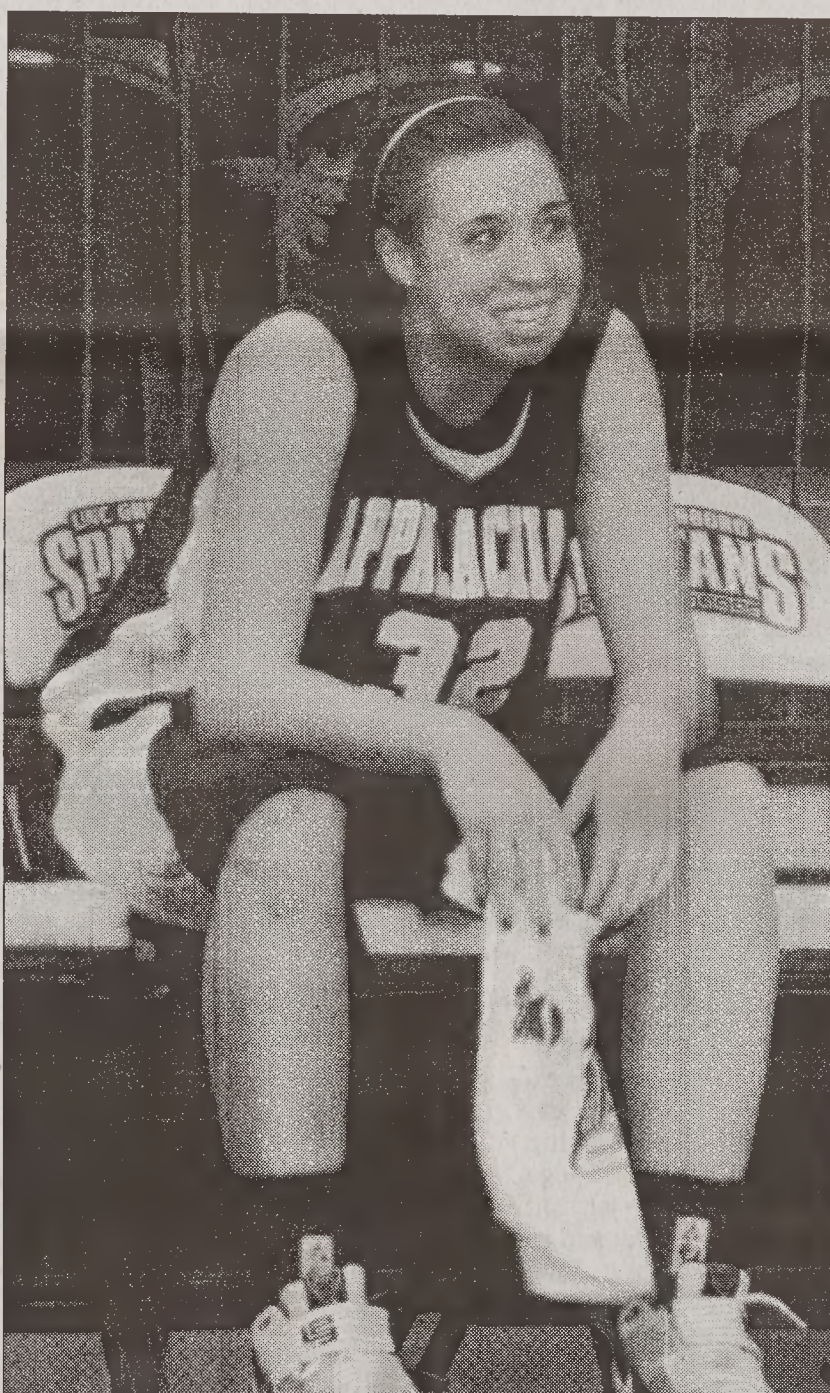
Making the transition from superstar to one of a talented group of freshmen, Freeman is right where she wants to be midway through her first college season.

"It's definitely a bigger, faster, stronger situation," said Freeman. "I looked huge on a high school court and I'm definitely not the biggest one on a college court."

Freeman picked Appalachian State last spring because she wanted to be part of a building process, much like her career at East Davidson. The Mountaineers are a very young team with a combined 10 freshmen and sophomores, and their 8-9 record reflects it. Freeman said ASU has had its ups and downs, but is building something that could be very special.

"It's a lot like my freshman year in high school," Freeman said. "We kind of struggled through the conference, then we just kind of took off. Hopefully, college will be a repeat of what happened in high school. I like being the underdog. In high school, that's what made it fun. East Davidson wasn't exactly known for its winning program, and now look at what they've become. Hopefully, that's what will Appa-

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TIMES PHOTO/ELIOT DUKE
East Davidson alum Anna Freeman shares a smile with a teammate during Appalachian State's 72-57 win over UNCG on Saturday.

ACC BASKETBALL

Blue Devils put away Wake in 2nd half

BY BRYAN STRICKLAND
Durham Herald Sun

DURHAM — For a moment, it felt like a football game had broken out Sunday night at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

With Duke trying to protect a hard-earned lead down the stretch of their 90-70 victory over Wake Forest, Kyle Singler drove toward the basket but got caught in mid-air by big man Tony Woods, the force of the foul flinging Singler off-

balance and sending him hard to the floor.

Singler, however, bounced up like nothing had happened and circled toward the Duke students, his screams of "Let's go!" inaudible over the chaotic crowd.

Singler tried to gather himself, then let go of a free throw that fell well short of the rim.

"I was worried and I was laughing at the same time," teammate Nolan Smith said. "I just said, 'What was that?' as if I

didn't see what just happened.

"And he was like, 'I've got this one, I've got this one,' and he was able to knock it in."

Singler made the second free throw to extend the Blue Devils' lead to 14, just one example of a physical and emotionally charged night where the adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," never rang more true.

"That was one of the truly great moments,"

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of Singler's second free throw. "That was the hardest game we've played this year. That was a hard-fought game.

"Certain games are just played at a higher level, and tonight was one of them."

Now the eighth-ranked Blue Devils (15-2, 3-1 ACC), who got career highs of 19 points and 14 rebounds from sopho-

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