

Bucks Chances Killed, Defeated At Playoffs

By one point, the Bucks' chances for the district championship and a trip to the state tournament were crushed Thursday night in a heartbreaking loss to Wake Forest - Rolesville. Final score was 57-56.

The Bucks, who brought with them an enviable 19-1 record, met their final defeat in the District IV, 3-A semi-finals in Lumberton barely 24 hours after the flush of success enjoyed Wednesday night in taking a 79-75 victory over Jordan, the first step in the semi-finals competition.

Hoke got off to a decisive start against Jordan. Commanding points with consistent work on the backboard and some fast breaks, they quickly racked up seven points while Jordan remained scoreless.

Jordan picked up their cue and quickened the pace to make it 11-11

with about two minutes left in the quarter. The Bucks refused to be outscored, though, and pushed ahead to end the quarter at 21-15.

Led by George Maynor, who took top scoring honors for the night with 23. The Bucks connected again and again with some well executed outside shots to end the half with a 37-31 lead.

The Falcons pressed on doggedly, attempting to scatter the Hoke defenders, but with little success. The Bucks kept up their outscoring, building on their lead to leave Jordan trailing 53-37 with three minutes left in the third quarter.

Jordan seemed plagued with bad luck at the free throw line, while Hoke aims found their marks.

Frustrated, the fuming falcons launched an all out drive near the end of

the quarter which presented the Bucks with the biggest threat of the evening, as a determined Jordan trimmed the Hoke lead down to 55-49.

The Bucks redoubled their efforts in an attempt to turn back the vigorous Falcon offensive, but the Jordan players continued to close the gap until the score was tied 75-75 before a wildly excited crowd with half a minute showing on the clock.

James Rainey landed a basket to make it 77, and Ronald Black added another two points in the final seconds to snatch the Hoke victory.

In the Thursday night game, the death knell was not sounded until the final quarter, as the Bucks held their own and even built up comfortable leads.

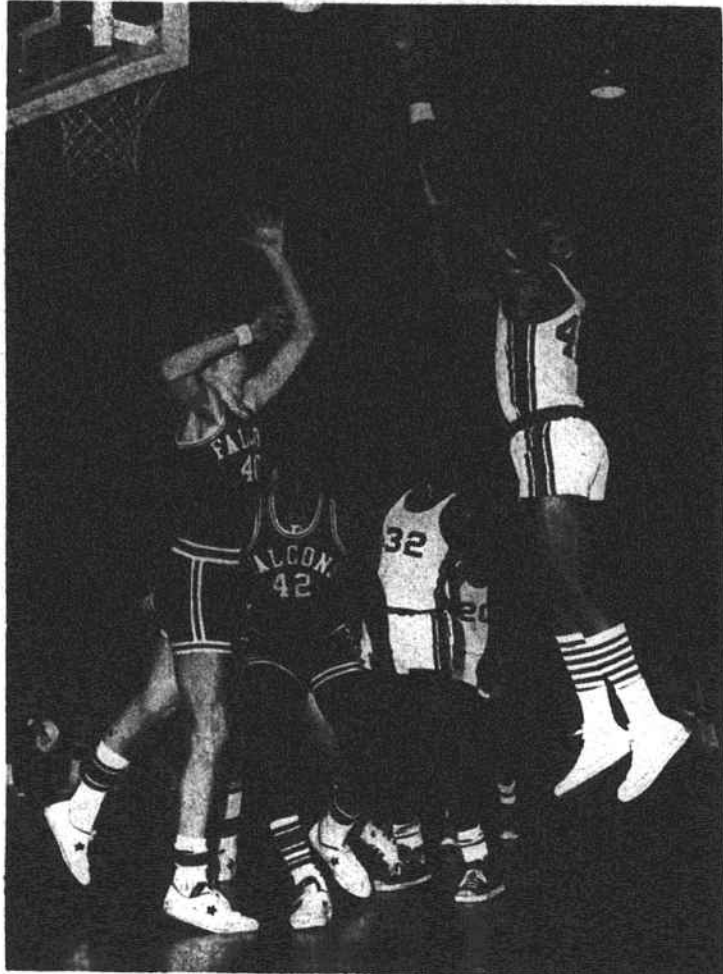
The Bucks grabbed a slim lead at the end of the first quarter, sparked by

some fast break baskets, to leave Wake trailing, 20-17.

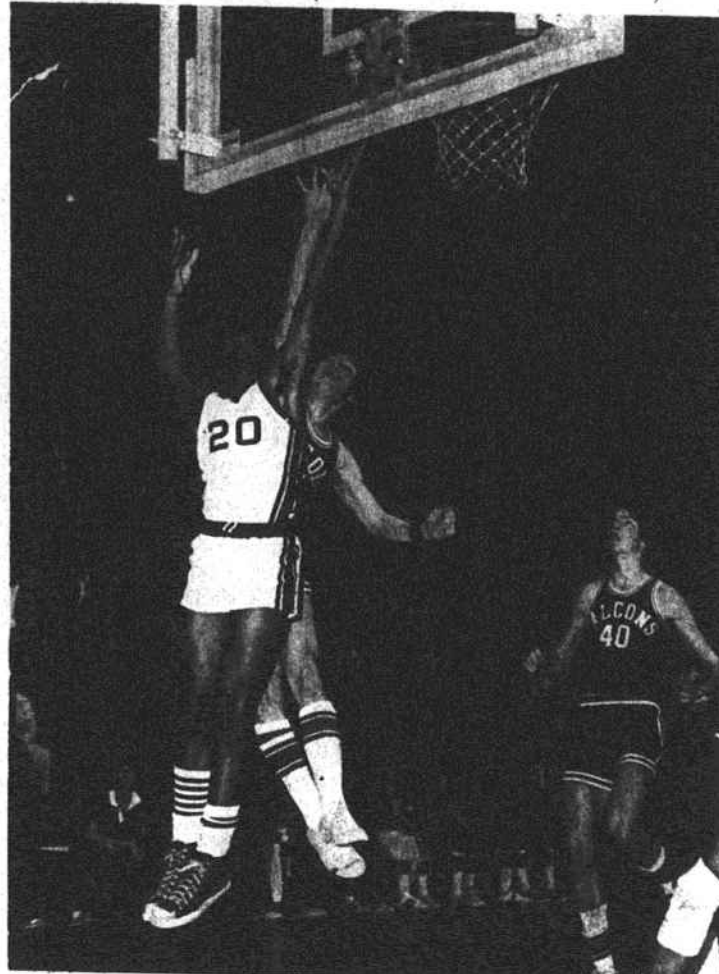
The score see sawed as both teams struggled for control. Alphonzo Haynes' jump shot edged the Bucks ahead 28-26, but persistent Wake Forest ended the half at 30-29.

The second half unfolded with no mistaking both teams were battling. Expert shooting from Haynes and George Maynor helped to stretch the Hoke lead to 41-34, and then it grew to 46-36, but the widening margin proved to be short lived as Wake turned on the power to outscore the Bucks. With the score at 57-56, Wake tried to hold the ball for the clock to run out, but lost it to Hoke. But couldn't make it happen and time ran out on them.

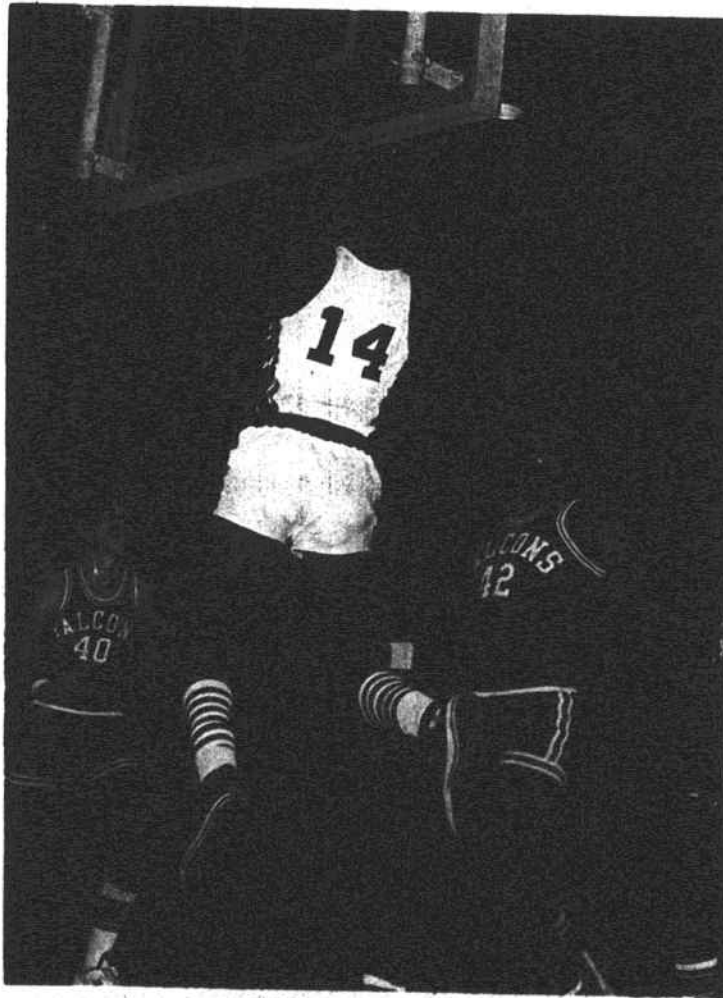
Repeated effort to contact coach Howard Smith for his comments were unsuccessful.



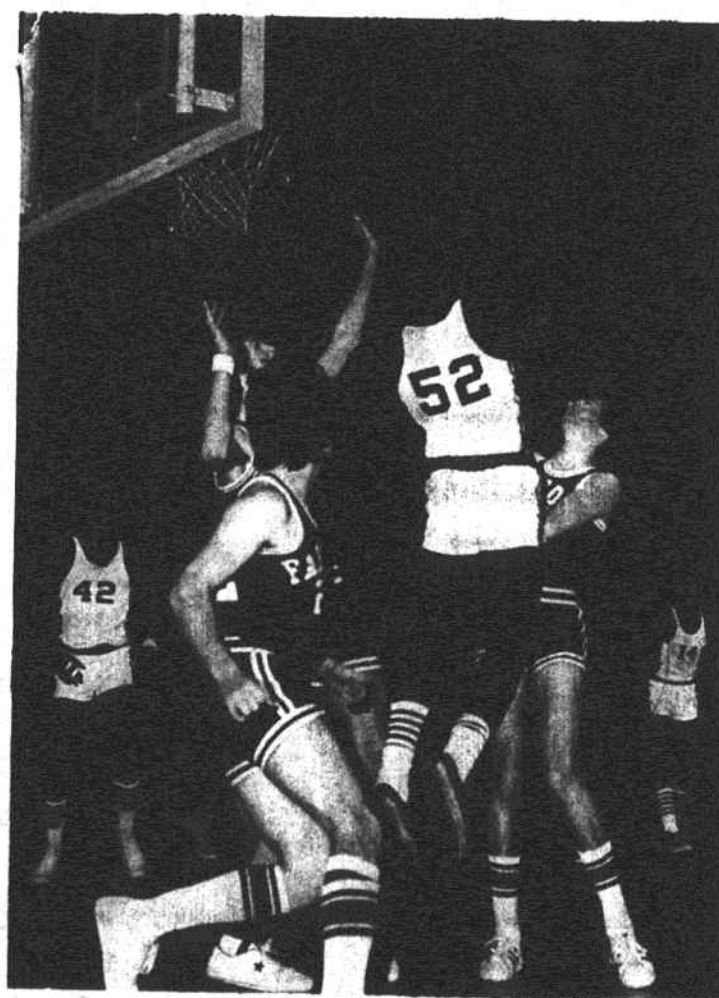
TIEBREAKER - The score was a heart stopping tie in the final half minute of the Hoke - Jordan playoff Feb. 19 when James Rainey connected here to put the Bucks ahead, 77-75. Alphonzo Haynes (32) studies the ball's path.



VICTORY - Ronald Black's aim is sure and Hoke defeated Jordan 79-75 in the District IV, 3-A semi-finals, but it was to be the Buck's last triumph, as they lost to Wake Forest-Rolesville the following night.



MAKING IT EASY - The camera angle plays tricks during action at the Hoke-Jordan playoff as George Maynor seems to be getting a boost up from two unidentified Falcons. Maynor demonstrated he needed no help, finishing top with 23 points.



HOOK SHOT - Allen Thomas towers above his opponents as he leaps in the air to complete a hook shot during the semi-finals with Jordan at Lumberton Feb. 19.

Lady Bucks End Season

By Tondea Jackson

The Hoke Lady Bucks ended their season with a loss to Pinecrest 68-43. Hoke closed the season 5-3 in conference play and also held second place in their conference behind Pinecrest.

Pinecrest led by Burke with 20 points opened up with a zone defense but soon came out partially man to man. Hoke

rallied the first quarter to have an 8-2 lead but Pinecrest pulled ahead 16-13 at the end of the first period.

As the second quarter was underway, Pinecrest continued their lead with high percentage outside shooting and sharp ball handling inside. At half-time, Pinecrest led 33-22.

During the last half of the game, Pinecrest really opened their lead, having three girls in double figures.

Hoke was led by T. Jackson with 17 and K. Little with 14. Hoke's remaining scorers were Bease, 3; McMillian, 2; Miller, 2; Davis, 2; McPhatter, 2 and McKenzie, 1.

Top rebounders were McMillian and Little.

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Shannon Man In Training

Lawrence E. Foster, Jr., of Shannon has enrolled at Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, Okla.

Foster is training as an aviation technician. He is scheduled for graduation in April 1977.

Foster served in the Air Force prior to returning to civilian life in January.

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