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Upchurch Teams Win

The Upchurch Eagles avenged a home loss to Anson Junior High by beating Anson on their court 44-32. The Eagles were led by M. McDouglad with 10 points, C. Johnson with nine, B. Posey with eight and G. McNeill with seven.

The Eagles also defeated Hamlet (to avenge another loss) by a score of 36-32 at the home gym. The boys were behind until the last three minutes of the game.

Scoring was led by B. Posey, M. McDouglad and A. Brown, each with seven points, C. Johnson with six, G. McNeill with five and E. Love with four.

The boys' record is now 4-2. Next home game is today (Thursday) against Wicker of Sanford.

The Lady Eagles defeated Anson 30-18 last week after a cold start.

The girls were two points ahead at halftime, 11-9. It wasn't until the fourth quarter that the Eagles surged ahead to a decisive victory, outscoring their opponents 13 to three. They scored 50 per cent of their five throws to aid the team's defensive effort.

C. Love led the Eagles with 17 points and C. Black and A. Thomas scored five and four points respectively.

C. Harrington led Anson's scoring with 10 and K. Richardson had eight for the team's total 18 points.

In Wednesday's home game against Hamlet the Eagles did a fine offensive job to defeat the Red Rams 41-17.

C. Love led the scoring with 18 points followed by D. Love and C. Black with nine and eight points respectively.

The win upped the Lady Eagles' record to 5-1 with four games left on the schedule.

Community Calendar

A community calendar to list upcoming meetings and special events is now posted in the lobby of the Hoke County Public Library.

Churches, clubs and civic organizations should call the library ten days to two weeks in advance of activities so the notice can be listed on the calendar.

A weekly listing of events will be published in *The News-Journal* under the regular Library News column.

69-68, 61-60 Losses

Clock Runs Out Twice For Bucks

The Bucks lost both of their games last week by one point to mark the third such loss by that margin in two weeks.

Lumberton defeated Hoke 69-68 on the Pirate's home court Tuesday night in a conference match which produced a hard fought effort from both clubs before the clock ran out.

At the end of the first quarter it was 16-14 in Lumberton's favor. By the half, it was 36-32 with Lumberton still leading. During the third quarter, the Pirates had a 10-point lead at one point but the Bucks redoubled their efforts and brought the score to 54-52 at the end of the quarter, giving the Pirates only a two-point margin.

The Pirates stuck with their 2-1-2 zone throughout the game and hurt the Bucks offensively with some key layups. Turnovers also cost Hoke. Lumberton played only five players for the whole game but fatigue didn't seem to affect the scoring.

Hoke outscored the Pirates from the floor with 30 field goals to their 24, but fouls tipped the balance. Lumberton got 21 out of 27 free throws while Hoke went to the free throw line for only four out of five.

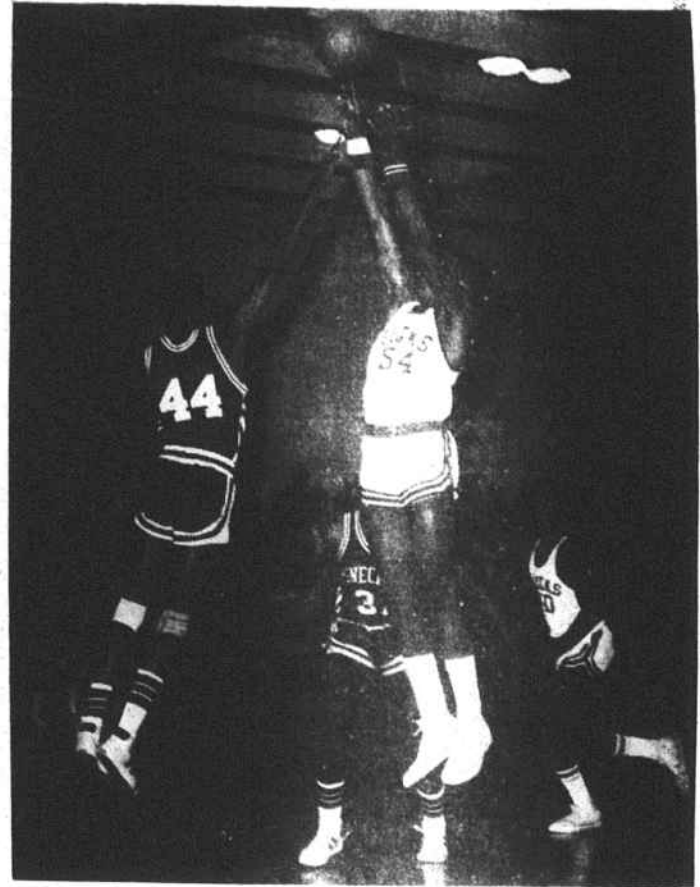
Forward Marcus Brown led the scoring for the Bucks with 26 points and six rebounds. Vernon Morrison added 16 points, Allen Black and freshman Harold Thompson each had eight points, Dennis Purcell had six points and Larry Miller and Leonard Everette each had two points.

The six feet, four inch Thompson led the rebounding with 13 catches.

The clock ran out on the Bucks Friday night when they hosted Pinecrest. Final score was 61-60.

By the end of the first quarter Hoke led 14-13 and brought it up to 28-24 at the half. During the third quarter the Bucks saw an eight-point lead evaporate and at the end of the period, Pinecrest streaked to a 42-37 lead.

In the fourth quarter the Bucks clawed their way up from the 59-51 score in Pinecrest's favor with about two minutes on the clock. With nine seconds left, Hoke used their last time out but Brown was unable to set up a shot before the buzzer sounded with 61-60 showing.



JUMP SHOT -- Harold Thompson [54] leaps out of the reach of a Pinecrest guard for a jump shot during the Friday night action. The six feet, four inch freshman has become a key factor for the Bucks, averaging 8.6 points per game and 9.5 rebounds. [Photo by Hoke High Photographer]

The six feet, two inch Brown led the scoring for the Bucks with 16 points and handled eight rebounds. Freshman Thompson had 15 points and 11 rebounds. Black had 11 points, Morrison had 10, Everette had four points and Kenny Carpenter had three points.

Coach Rodney Johnson, commenting on the close scores of the last three games, joked "I hope we don't have a patent on that", and then became serious.

"I feel like in the last three games that have been so close we have not made our breaks. You've got to make your own breaks and then turn them into points to win. We made things happen in our first three games (of the season) and we came out on top," he said.

"I feel we've gotten real fine play from our bench in Allen Black, Leonard Everette, Charlie Chandler, and Kenny Carpenter. You know, it's important our fellows not get down on themselves and that they realize they can win close ball games if they just start doing the

things we did at the beginning of the season," he continued.

"It's very trying for these young people to lose three in a row so close and if they get down about it, it could be a long season. But if they get out and play the kind of ball they can do, I have the utmost confidence we can win", he said.

"Our support Friday night was tremendous. The place was packed and the team and the coaching staff really appreciate the tremendous support we received", he said.

Currently, Brown is leading the Bucks scoring, averaging 18.4 points a game and 6.6 rebounds.

Thompson, a freshman who has proved to be a big spark for the Bucks, is averaging 8.6 points a game and 9.5 rebounds.

Morrison, a senior, is averaging 8.9 points a game. Miller is averaging 8.0 points.

The Bucks were scheduled to meet Wadesboro - Bowman this Tuesday night and then host the conference leader Scotland County on Friday night.



AIM -- Dennis Purcell [50] aims his shot perfectly for a Bucks basket but the luck just wasn't running for Hoke Friday night. The visiting Pinecrest team kept up a vigorous offense and the clock ran out at 61-60 after a hard-fought battle. [Photo by Hoke High Photographer]

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Library Trustees Meet Jan. 26

The Board of Trustees of the Sandhill Regional Library System will meet Wednesday, Jan. 26 in the Hoke County Library at 1:30 P.M.

Members of the system include

Wadesboro, Scotland County, Moore and Richmond County Libraries. James Frowbridge of Wadesboro is chairman of the board and William G. Bridgman is system director of libraries. The public is always invited to attend board meetings.