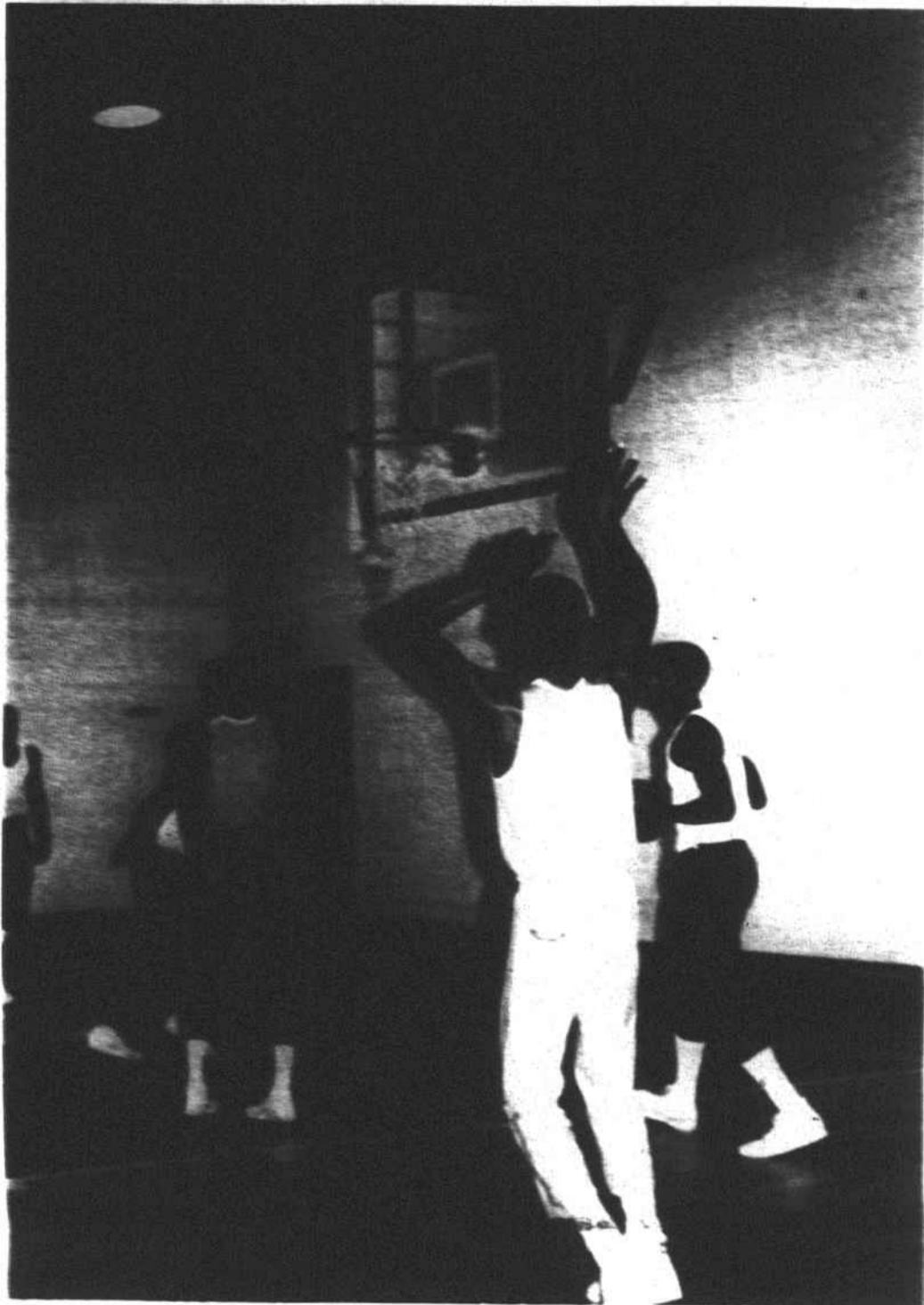


Sports



CHAMPS IN PRACTICE: The Hoke High Bucks, conference champs, get in a little practice before starting the tournament.

Buck Cagers Take Conference Title

The Hoke High Bucks captured the Southeastern 4-A Conference boys basketball championship Friday night with a 86-71 win over Lumberton.

This is the second 4-A championship the Bucks have won in the last four years.

The Bucks, who qualified for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association state playoffs with a victory over E.E. Smith last Tuesday, will draw a first-round bye in this week's conference tournament.

"I feel pretty good about this team. If we continue to play like we have been playing, I think our chances of winning it all are real

good," Coach Charles Parsons said.

As far as the Lumberton game, Parsons was also very pleased.

"I thought we played real well. It was overall a good team effort," Parsons said.

"The team put forth an extremely good effort offensively, and I was very pleased with our passing game," Parsons added.

The Bucks, who last won the championship in 1979, were led in their win over Lumberton by Freddie McLenn, who had a career-high 26 points.

Greg Hollingsworth was second in game scoring with 25 points.

The Bucks will play again Thursday March 3.

In the girl's basketball action, Dela Pridgen scored 27 points to lead Hoke County to a 61-56 upset victory over Lumberton.

Sabrina Barnes, Hoke's center, scored 10 points.

The Junior Varsity fell to Lumberton 76-71.

Basketball scorers:
Hoke High Boys: Hollingsworth 25, McLenn 26, Easterling 13, McDuffie 2, Thomas 2, Gilbert, Morgan, Pickett.

Hoke High Girls: Barnes 10, McCormick 4, Rheames 8, Johnson 4, Pridgen 27, McNeil 4, Southerland 4, Morrison.

Basketball Team Named Top Athletes

The Buck's Varsity Boy's Basketball team has been named Male Co-Athletes of the Week for the week of February 21-25 by the Hoke High Coaching Staff.

The team was tapped for the honor for winning the Southeastern 4A Conference Championship. The Buck's sewed up the Championship

by defeating E.E. Smith last Tuesday night and Lumberton on Friday night.

The Team ended the season with an outstanding 18-4 overall mark which included a 10-2 conference mark.

The team participates in the conference tournament this week

and then advances to the state playoffs based on its regular season conference championship.

With this championship, Hoke coach Ron Parsons brings home his second conference championship this year as he is also the coach of the Buck's Conference Championship cross-country team.

Dunk Proof

'Gorilla Goal' Is Dawkins Proof

Over the years, the equipment used to play basketball has grown with the game.

Today, a heat-treated, 18-inch metal rim bolted to a thick, shatter-resistant glass backboard stands where Dr. James Naismith's peach basket once hung.

So why are slam dunkers still shattering backboards and bending rims?

That's the problem Sorensen-Christian Industries, the nation's number one supplier of roll-in competition basketball backstops, took to Dr. Frank Hart, a North Carolina State University mechanical engineer.

Hart's extensive research on the backboard and rim produced some unprecedented knowledge about dunk stress and how to prevent it from breaking glass boards.

The research also led to the development of a new beefed-up basket called the "Gorilla Goal," a rim so resistant to stress that it may prove to be the basket of the future.

Breakaway baskets being used by many National Collegiate Athletic Association teams and the National Basketball Association are the current panacea for stress-related damage to backboards. But even these spring-loaded, hinged, collapsible rims, designed to give when hit with 230 pounds of force from a slam dunk, haven't ended all the devastation.

Most breakaways are constructed of the same metal as traditional baskets, so if players hang from them after the basket collapses, there's no guarantee against bending or breaking.

According to Hart, who is also NCSU's associate dean of engineering, the problems of bending and glass breakage aren't just affecting teams who play competition basketball. The country's public schools, playgrounds and

recreation centers spend hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to replace standard metal baskets which have been dunked to death.

It is here that the research which resulted in the "Gorilla Goal" might best apply. Hart said that when high-strength goals are installed, a whole team of kids can hang from the hoops and never bend them.

The research at NCSU was done in two phases. In phase one, Hart and his associates studied the metal rim. They tested it for weakness and found its stress level. Using what they learned, they were able to develop a high-strength goal which would perform in the same way as a traditional competition basket.

A computer model developed by NCSU engineers enabled them to simulate the metal rim and observe its reaction to the dynamic force of a slam dunk on a video screen.

"We gathered our data by loading calibrated weights at various positions around an actual competition basket rim.

"After removing each load, we measured the rim's ability to snap back to its original position," Hart said. "When a rim can no longer recoil, it is bent and permanently damaged."

When the test results were programmed, the researchers observed the video simulation of the rim, slowing the tape down, running it frame by frame until they discovered the breaking point.

A typical competition rim (breakaways included) will support only 280 pounds of force.

The new high-strength "Gorilla Goal" supports more than 800 pounds of dunkage, and without the hinges and extra hardware found on the breakaways, it looks and reacts like the baskets players have been shooting at for the past 40 years.

"The high-carbon, medium-phosphorous, low-magnesium mixture of metal combined by a special heat treatment gives the "Gorilla all the right stuff," says Ronald Sorensen, president of Sorensen-Christian Enterprises, the Angier-based company

marketing the new goal.

"Three Dawkins could chin themselves simultaneously and the rim wouldn't bend."

In a second phase of the research, Hart and the NCSU engineers again employed the computer program and video simulations to confirm their suspicions about glass boards and the role misalignment has been playing in their breakage.

"We programmed the video model to display a simulated board by sections, then watched different levels of force from dunk shots as they moved through the glass," Hart said. "When the force became so great that it reached the board's stress level, the glass shattered."

The model was then programmed to test the board while tipped at different angles. "Our suspicions were confirmed. If a glass board is misaligned (one corner tipped slightly in or out), it is in a pre-stress condition and more likely to break when hit by dunk force," Hart said.

According to Sorensen, misaligned glass boards have even been known to shatter during the night, hours after a game has been played. The crowd leaves the gym, the heat goes down, the building freezes, and the board, still in a pre-stress condition, shatters to smithereens.

Results from the second phase of Hart's research allow him to offer some advice on maintaining glass backboards, regardless of gym temperatures or the type of rim.

"When adjusting the bolts on your boards, tight isn't always right," he said. "All you need to do is use a level and make sure the board is perfectly perpendicular."

If it is, even slam dunkers like Dawkins are going to have a tough time breaking your board.

AN OLD TRADITION: The first college student in America to work his way through college was Zachariah Bridgen, age 14, who graduated from Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass., in 1657. He earned money by "ringing the bell and wayting."

Merchants Bowling League

TOP BOWLERS		Results	
James Nixon	177	Auto Parts 0	Strikers 4
Alexander Kelly	176	Shoe Chest 0	Towne Barber Shop 4
Sylvester McAllister	173	Michael's 3	Hollingsworth Florist 1
Luther Taylor	170		
Larry Black	169	Hollingsworth Bus Co.	1 Four-some 3
Mike Nieves	167		
James Singletary	164		
Lee Dixon	162		
Howard Hendrix	161		
George McCoy	161		
Mamie Hollingsworth	161		

200 - and High Series
Willie Morrison 537 series

This weeks schedule
Hollingsworth Florist vs. Hollingsworth Bus Co.
Michael's vs. Foursome
Towne Barber Shop vs. Auto Parts
Strikers vs. Shoe Chest

All Stars Take Scurlock Tigers

The Men's Basketball League opened the week's schedule with the All Stars defeating the Scurlock Tigers 108-59.

G. Maynor picked up 32 points, R. Maynor 13, C. Wright 12, T. Covington 12 and B. Leslie had 12 points for the All Stars. For the Scurlock Tigers K. Jones had 16 points, C. Ray 13, and J. Melvin pumped in 13.

In the second game, the 76ers downed the Suns 83-72. T. Frantz, with 22 points, K. McDonald 18 and C. Black with 18 points were high scorers for the 76ers. J. Carthens with 18 points, N. McNeill 17 and W. Love threw in 12 points for the Suns.

In Wednesday night action, the Suns defeated the Scurlock Tigers 82-73.

The last game of the week matched the All Stars against the Wrecking Crew with the All Stars gathering the win 95-86.

Standings	W	L
1. Silver Hill Gang	11	3
2. All Stars	10	4
3. 76ers	4	6
4. Suns	4	6
5. Wrecking Crew	4	11
6. Scurlock Tigers	0	14

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