

East Duplin Bows To N. Edgecombe In Finals

Panthers Jerry Simpson Voted Tournament Most Outstanding Player . . . Presented Award

East Duplin defeated Township of Cleveland County, 65-55 to win the Ramblers 29-game winning streak in the first game in last Tuesday night's action in the State Class AA tournament, behind the shooting of cousin Jerry and Ricky Simpson.

Jerry Simpson, the tournament's most outstanding player, collected 10 points to pace the Panthers in their first game. Ricky came close with 22.

The fast moving machine of Coach Billy Bostic jumped off to a 10-point lead and went on into the second round riding a 17-game winning streak and on overall 23-3 record.

While Jerry and Ricky were tremendous throughout, the Panthers' standout sophomore Charlie Lanier was great in the "clutch". Charlie hurt in the early part of the game, came back after missing about a quarter and got four straight free throws and some key rebounds in the fourth period.

As the State Playoffs reached the semifinals, the formula for winning was a mixture of inspired play and a "break" in the critical moments.

In the second round East Duplin took an 8-0 lead over Angier, but Bulldogs closed the gap 14-13

at the quarter. The Bulldogs moved on out front by 19 points at the half, 34-25. With 2:47 left in the third period Charlie Lanier brought East Duplin out front 42-41. The Bulldogs came back to lead at the end of the third 45-44.

In the fourth, Jerry put East Duplin out front 46-45 with 7:41 left. Then the Panthers moved out to a 60-53 lead with three minutes to go on the shooting of Jerry and Ricky Simpson and Charlie Lanier. With 33 seconds left the Bulldogs moved to within one point 66-65. Nine seconds later Rex Matthews hit to put the Angier cub out front 67-66. Another jump ball with 17 seconds gave Angier the ball. But they they lost the ball and with 8 seconds left on the clock the Panthers Jerry Simpson pushed a long shot right into the finals to give ED a 68-67 victory, in the tournament's best game.

While the Panthers were in the process of eliminating Township and Angier a strong team with plenty of height from near Rocky Mount was in the same process of getting to the Duplin club by passing Newland, strong Allen Jay. The Red Devils of North Edgecombe High, with an overall 28-1 record eliminated Newland of Avery

County 49-45, erring a ring to take on Allen Jay in the semifinals.

North Edgecombe's well-balanced Red Devils warded off Allen Jay's rally and advanced into the finals with a 49-44 victory.

East Duplin and North Edgecombe were hoping to regain earlier peak from in their clash for the State Class A championship, but neither coach expressed much satisfaction over his team's play.

Coach Bill Bostic pointed out his team averaged eight errors a game in the District Two tourney, but made 15 in its opening round game and had committed 13 by the halftime in the semifinals against Angier in the 68-67 thriller.

Bostic also pointed out that he was real proud of his club's showing at times in the tournament, but all we need is just one more. He new that his club would run with the best and they did, but height will tell the true story here.

Well anyway you look at it East Duplin really represented the Duplin in real championship fashion and the team, coaching staff, students, and fans in this area should feel real proud. They are still our champs . . . and I believe they could lick most teams in and around on a given night and that includes North Edgecombe.

E. E. Smith Basketball Champs

The E. E. Smith Wildcats made their way to the championship by defeating the Charly Yellowjackets in the tournament. In the final game of the season played at Kenan Memorial Auditorium Friday night, March 22, the victory was apparent in the opening minutes of the game. Both the girls and boys' teams took an early lead and maintained it throughout the game. L. McGowan and C. Graham scored 10 points each, W.

Moore - 8 pts. and G. Carr - 1 pt. The final score was Wildcats 29 Yellowjackets 12. This marked the 15th victory for the girls with only one loss.

High scorers for the boys were as follows: J. Graham - 16 pts., J. Smith - 10 pts., and P. Burnette 8 pts. The final score was E. E. Smith 38 and Charly 32. The boys ended the season with 15 victories and 5 losses.

Rebels Undefeated In Conference Play

Coach Richard Kaleel's North Duplin Rebels will open the 1963

baseball still undefeated in the conference. The Rebels have never lost a conference game in seven years under Kaleel. During the 7-year stint North Duplin has compiled an overall 89-14 record. The games they were defeated in were to AAA (Clinton, one game AA (Wallace), 7 games. The Rebs won a 9-1 series with Clinton. They have also defeated Goldsboro 4-A two times. Wallace is the only club to hold an edge over ND.

"Our prospects look pretty good this year with a very good crop of freshmen", Kaleel stated. "The best I have ever had in that class," he went on. "Our pitching won't be as strong as in recent years, but I'll have one of the best defensive teams ever, with fair hitting and improved pitching".

The Rebels will lineup something like this with Joe Dixon, a sophomore, or freshman Leslie Jernigan at first. Second base is another sophomore Tinker Tilton or Bobby Holland a freshman. At shortstop the veteran Tommy Tucker, and Bennie Grady at third. Others that are working out at the hot corner are freshmen Gerald Sutton and Stoney Waters.

Only one man stands pat in the outfield and that is the Rebels power hitter Gerald King in center. King will be flanked in left by Charles Rouse or Jimmy Jordan both juniors. In right freshmen Charles King and Brad Brock will battle to start.

Behind the plate will be strong arm senior Doug Guy backed up by freshmen Tommy L. L. Spec Byrd, returns as the number one, on the pitching staff with a good fast ball and curve. Byrd had an overall 6-0 record last year. Stoney Waters, a freshman weighing 200 pounds looks very good. Sophomore Sammy Wilson looks good and has good control. Others backing up the Rebs are sophomore Keith Beaver and Larry Grady.

Other freshmen that make up the best looking prospects at the

East Duplin Seeks Baseball Games

Coach Jerry Thigpen expects a round 40 prospects at the East Duplin baseball camp this week as the Panthers begin practice. Since the school team will form for the first time Thigpen has no idea what to expect in the line of players.

Of course the Panthers coach can depend on do-everything-well Jerry

Simpson for all kinds of duty. Jerry is a pitcher and infielder and a few more things when it comes to athletics. Then there is cousin Ricky Simpson, another infielder, along with basketball Braxton Smith, Jackie Croach, and J. B. Brinkley.

Coach Thigpen stated earlier in the week, "we are ready to start practice and every position on the field is wide open". Thigpen declared, "I'm more concerned about games than about players." We only have about six games and would like to schedule some more."

North Duplin 1963 Baseball Schedule

- March 21 Union there
- March 26 Union home
- March 29 Wallace there
- April 2 Wallace home
- April 5 Mt. Olive Jr. College home
- April 9 East Duplin home
- April 19 James Kenan there
- April 23 Graham home
- April 26 East Duplin there
- April 30 Midway home
- May 3 James Kenan home
- May 7 Midway there
- May 10 Mt. Olive Jr. Col. there
- May 13 Grantnam

E-C Class AA Conference Meeting

The following schools: East Duplin, Wallace-Rose Hill, Jones Central-North Duplin, Richlands, Burgaw, and James Kenan will meet April 1st, in Kenansville Elementary School at 7:30 p. m.

The conference is to meet and work out schedules in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Since the last meeting, at which time there were nine members of the newly formed ECC, Charles B. Aycock, and Mt. Olive notified Coach Bill Taylor, secretary, that they are not interested in coming into the conference. With the withdrawal of these two teams, that will give a seven team conference.

BRIEFS

(Continued From Front)

In Wilmington on April 4, 5, 6, and 7, Wilmington has made great preparations for this annual event. Read the merchants ads in this paper. Many Duplin girls will be in the parade which will be held on Saturday.

DEBATE
The Negro Agricultural building will hold its dedication services on Sunday at 3:00 P. M. All full program has been planned for the ceremony. Dr. R. E. Jones State Agent North Carolina Extension leader, will be the speaker for the occasion.

PROJECT
A part of the 1963 Sesqui-Centennial celebration of the Synod of North Carolina will be observed by a program presented on Television. Project 150 - "Prologue" will be on WECT, Channel 6, Wilmington at 5:00 p. m. on Saturday, March 30. The April program, "Let Learning be Cherished" will be broadcast by WECT, Channel 6 on April 20 at 7:00 p. m.

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ASSETS OVER TWENTY-ONE MILLION DOLLARS



Tournament's Most Valuable Player: Jerry Simpson, who led the East Duplin Panthers into the State 1-A finals, was named the tournament's most valuable player by a vote of the participating coaches in the four-day event staged in the Durham High Gym, last week.

Simpson was named the top player on all but one of the ballots and garnered a total of 19 of a possible 26 votes. The only other player gaining a first place vote was the State champion North Edgecombe's Tommy Lawrence.

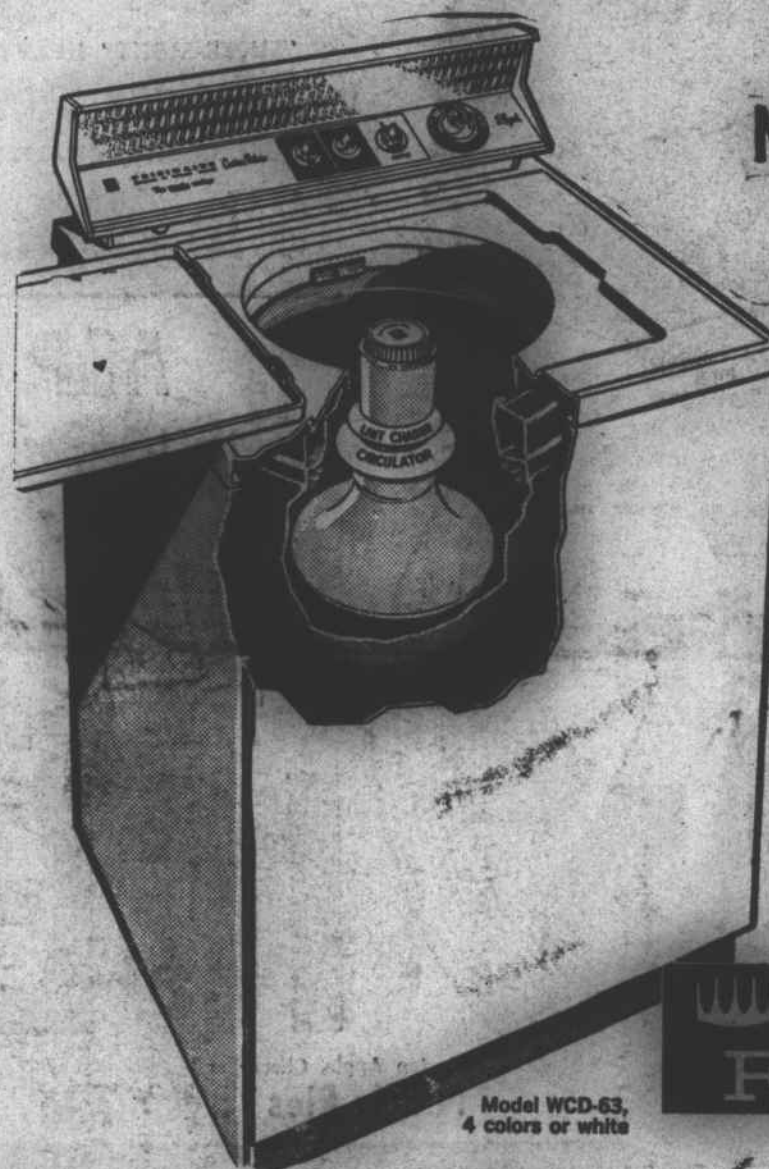
Named to the first all-tourney team, along with Simpson, were: Bucky Gammon, North Edgecombe. Don Fish and Rex Matthews, Angier and Fred Meredith.

Named to the second team with Lawrence were: Lawrence Guley, North Edgecombe; Randy Morrow, Allen Jay; Tex Everett, Bethel; and Marvin Smith, Angier.

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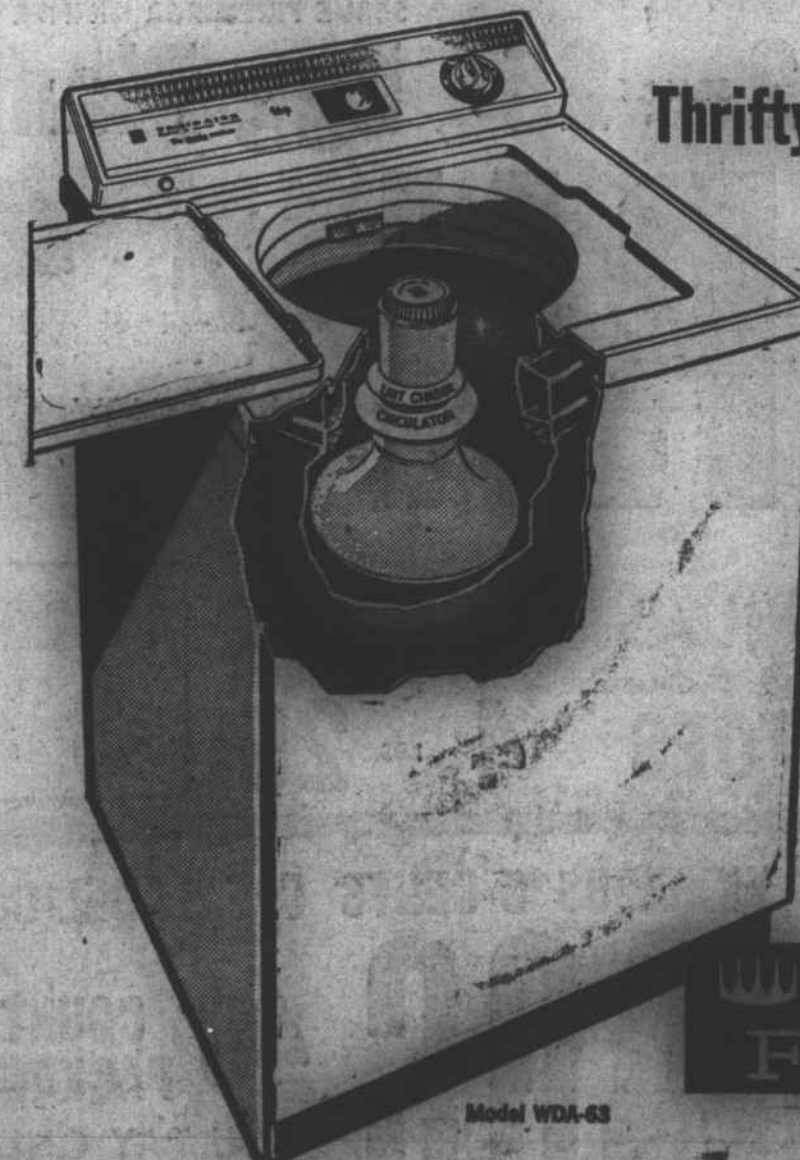
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