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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Pirates No. 2 in state



Pirates coach Donald Stepney accepts the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A state runner-up plaque after a disappointing 75-61 loss to Thomasville in Reynold Coliseum at N.C. State University Saturday. With Stepney are (left to right) J'Sean Wilkins, Jerrell Foreman and Titus Stepney, all seniors who dreamed of coming back to Perquimans with the state title.

PQ falls short in state title game at NCSU

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The winds that propelled the sails of the Pirate ship suddenly calmed midway through the fourth quarter of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association 1-A state championship game Saturday in Reynolds Coliseum at N.C. State University.

Although Perquimans never gave up and got looks at the basket, the net just seemed to stiffen and the Pirates' potent offense just wouldn't work.

An exciting game that could have gone either way turned toward Thomasville in the final stanza, and the Pirates took an enormously disappointing 75-61 loss.

The highlight of the game for Perquimans was the play of Jerrell Foreman, the Pirates' 6'6" senior. Foreman scored 22 points and grabbed 12 boards in the contest. The center was up against a tremendous player, but never lost his composure or focus during the contest.

Perquimans missed its first 10 shots and fell behind 10-0 before J'Sean Wilkins hit two free throws to jump-start the offense. Thomasville held a 15-2 lead before the Pirates went on a 10-2 run to close the gap to seven at the end of the first stanza. The Pirates used four steals to boost its offense.

The second quarter saw the Pirates settle down and chip away at the Bulldog lead. At the half, Thomasville lead by two.

In the third, the Pirates appeared poised to pull off the upset against a team that has made four appearances in the state title game over the last six years. Perquimans outscored the



Perquimans senior Titus Stepney is congratulated by PCHS faculty member Betty Byrum at a courthouse lawn celebration welcoming the East Region Champions and state runners-up home Saturday night.

Dogs 14-7 to open the quarter and take the team's only lead of the game, 42-35.

But over the next minute, Thomasville scored 10 points to go back on top.

Wilkins' jumper at the buzzer made it 50-46 in Thomasville's favor.

And then the shots stopped falling. Perquimans scored 15 points in the fourth frame, but also missed 15 shots as they began to scramble to regain the lead.

The Pirates never stopped trying to find their footing, but the win was not to be.

They had dreamed of a celebration at the end of the big game, but on Saturday, red-rimmed eyes and dropped heads left the gym.

By Tuesday, head coach Donald Stepney said he thought that perhaps the players were beginning to heal from the loss and appreciate what they had accomplished.

"From Saturday until yesterday (Monday), it was beginning to be like 'Okay, we're still champions. We're just the eastern champions,'" Stepney said. "For the seniors, it was bitter because they don't get another shot."

Still, Stepney said that one loss cannot overshadow an outstanding season. The Pirates were The Daily Advance Holiday Basketball Classic champions, won the regular season title, came in second in the conference tournament where they played without starting point guard Titus Stepney, won the sectional title, earned the east region title and got to play in a state championship game.

"It was one of the most exciting seasons I've ever had," said Stepney, himself a former Pirate basketball player. "Every game was just special because very rarely we played anybody from behind. We always controlled the tempo of the



Jerrell Foreman was named East Region MVP during the state championship game Saturday.

game. "It was just like a Cinderella ride."

PCHS Athletic Director Susan Cox enlisted support from school personnel and the community to organize a celebration on the courthouse lawn for the team Saturday night.

School supply drive underway

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Public education is free, but the rising cost of school supplies can make it difficult for some families to provide those supplies needed by their school-aged children.

In an effort to help those families who may have difficulty outfitting their children with school supplies, Communities in Schools, Perquimans County Social Services, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Frankie's Cafe and Courtesy Ford have joined forces to provide those supplies to county students.

The project will kick off on May 3 on the courthouse lawn from 11 a.m.-1p.m. Lunch will be avail-

able for purchase and entertainment will be provided by local musicians.

Donations of school supplies or money will be accepted during the event.

There will also be drop boxes and money jars in various businesses around the county during May and June.

Other events are also planned.

Applications for school supplies will be taken at social services during regular business hours throughout the month of April. Supplies will be distributed in July.

Contributions may be made through social services or Communities in Schools.

For information or to donate, call Carlyn Brown at 426-5478.

NO DOPE



A canine unit from the Currituck County Sheriff's Department assisted with a locker search at Perquimans County High School recently. No drugs were found during the search.

Please note:
Our email addresses
have changed.
We may not be able
to retrieve your
message if it is sent
to our former
addresses. We can be
emailed at:

Susan Harris
pwpublisher@
earthlink.net
Bev Alexander
perquimansads@
earthlink.net
Tina Ennis
perquimansweekly@
earthlink.net

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 70
LOW: 54
SHOWERS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 74
LOW: 48
SCATTERED T'STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 68
LOW: 43
PARTLY CLOUDY