

76ers, Celtics Win Boys Club Titles

The 76ers and the Celtics won the championships in the Kings Mountain Boys Club Basketball Tournament which ended Saturday.

The 76ers edged the Lakers 56-54 to win the 10-13 year old division title and the Celtics nipped the Bucks 59-58 to win the 14-16 year old division title.

Greg Young scored 30 points, Tony Williams 20 and Aaron Anderson 10 to lead the 76ers to victory. Jamie Surratte scored 20 points, Shawn Smith 12 and Thomas Feemster 10 for the losers.

Ronnie Frazier scored 12 points and Teddy Wilson and Don Adams added 10 each to lead the Celtics over the Bucks. Jerry Jordan scored 18 and Sam Smith 16 for the Bucks.

In the consolation game of the 10-13 year old tourney, the Hawks edged the Rockets 60-59. Robbie Edgerton scored 21 points, Jeff Ross 12 and Mike Jenkins and Darius Ross 10 each for the Hawks. Bernard Thompson and James Roberts scored 18 each and John Hill added 10 for

the Rockets.

In other action last week, the Kings Mountain team scored a 56-54 victory over the Gaston Boys Club on Wednesday, a 43-31 win over the Erwin Center on Thursday and a 61-53 win over Shelby Friday at Shelby.

John Hill scored 25 points, Darius Ross 12 and Jeff Ross 12 to lead the win over Gaston Boys Club. Al Moore scored 15, Darius Ross 13 and Spencer Brown 10 against Erwin Center, and Lenny Rayford and Aubrey Hollifield had 12 points each and Jerry Jordan added 10 against Shelby.

Kings Mountain's 10-12 year old and 13-15 year old teams will play in the Charlotte Invitational Tournament Friday and Saturday. The 13-15 year old team play in a tournament at Erwin Center on March 30-31.

Next week, team and individual pictures will be taken at the club. The photos will be 5 by 7. Players need to sign up at the club.

Any persons needing more information about Boys Club ac-

tivities may call the club at 739-7161.



INSIDE STUFF

By DICK DEVENZIO

When Johnny Goes Shooting On....

My father was a colorful, outstanding high school coach for 30-plus years (he retired with 551 career victories), and he used to make a comment during games that few people understood.

When a player on the other team would take a bad shot, my father would blurt out instinctively, without a thought, "GO IN."

He didn't want HIS players to confuse luck with success, but he always thought it was good if the other team did.

What he knew and said often was, "When a lucky shot (a bad opportunity) goes in, the kid who takes it will almost always feel like he can make those, so you can count on him to take at least two more like it - and those two almost invariably will miss when it really matters."

My father believed in this so much, he actually hoped early in a game that the other team would hit their bad shots. It's the basketball version of sword-perishing; he who lives the the bad shot dies by the bad shot.

I have written several times this year about my respect for the Duke team, but each time, as I praised the Blue Devils, I always added that they had one problem yet to be ironed out - the problem of bad shots - especially those of Johnny Dawkins.

If you saw the ACC final game, you saw Dawkins, in the second half, charge, turn the ball over on a forced penetration and shoot four straight bad shots, one of which was so poorly selected that Jeff Adkins caught the ball in the air.

Coach K did (uncharacteristically) take Dawkins out for a minute or so, but he re-inserted him (after saying very little) with about 9 minutes left, and Dawkins promptly put up two more bad shots, one an air ball, as Maryland took advantage of this poor playing and turned a three point halftime deficit into a nine point lead.

The ACC final was no place to learn a lesson that should have been learned long ago. Dawkins had done the same thing in the Carolina game on March 3.

It apparently was not pointed out in the UNC game films after. Dawkins' post-tournament comments showed that he still doesn't realize the devastating effect of bad shots on a basketball team.

"I forced it a little," he said, "we all did."

In Dawkins' defense, it is more difficult for him to understand good-versus-bad shots because he is so talented that he makes some bad shots at times - just often enough I suppose that the poor percentage of bad shots is not obvious to him.

That's the learning advantage, you might say, of having little talent. If a less talented player goes into a game and takes just a semi-good shot, the coach can yank him from the game and accuse him of "going crazy."

But an exceptional player like Dawkins is a lot tougher to work with.

(1) Dawkins usually comes fairly close on whatever kind of shot he throws up, and (2), Dawkins is Coach K's boy. He's Coach K's big recruiting coup. In other words, Coach K is undoubtedly grateful to Johnny for choosing Duke a couple of years ago, and it is not easy for him to criticize Johnny directly.

Though Coach K learned his basketball under Bobby Knight, he is not the bullying type of coach. It's simply not his style to directly criticize his stars.

So when Dawkins goes occasionally crazy - as he does in every game - Coach K gulps a little and he hopes Johnny will learn, and he hopes Johnny will make up for the mistakes with more good plays, but he doesn't tell him bluntly, "Johnny, you're shooting bad shots."

It will be interesting to see in the games and years to come, if Dawkins learns to let his shots result from the offense rather than going 1-on-1 or just throwing up quick long shots on momentary whims of confidence.

If Dawkins learns what is a high percentage chance, he will be one of the greatest players in ACC history. If he doesn't, Duke fans will feel more ACC final-type disappointments - winnable games that get away because one talented and (yes) tough competitor wasn't taught the percentages of winning basketball.

My father was never quite the star player that Dawkins is, nor did he rise to the coaching heights of Krzyzewski, but his players hardly ever took bad shots, and when they did, he rooted against them, took them out, and told them clearly...bad shots lose games.

This Column Sponsored By Wade Ford

GREENHOUSE AUCTION

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: Dr. Karl Jordan at (704)434-2551 or the Auctioneer

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