



Submitted Photo

BACK TOGETHER — Members of the 1977 and 1978 Clinton High football team gathered for a reunion last week at the House of Pizza in Clinton. The 1977 Red Devils finished undefeated en route to the state title and the No. 1-ranked team in the state across all classes.

LDHS boys dealt tough loss; girls win

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

The Laurens Raiders boys' basketball team showed a lot of grit and fight during Tuesday night's contest against Wade Hampton, the kind that can be a big plus in critical late-season and potential state tournament contests next month.

Despite their fight, and their resolve, the Raiders could not pick up a victory against the Generals, losing 67-59. The loss sent the Raiders to 10-13 overall and 5-6 in Region 1-5A with three games left - Friday at Woodmont, Tuesday versus T.L. Hanna, and next Friday at Greenwood.

Laurens' offense was powered mostly by its 3-point shooting. The Raiders hit 12 of 29 attempts from 3-point range, getting five made shots from Christian Anderson and four from Dee Foster. Anderson wrapped the game with a team-high 20 points, while Foster had 16 points.

"We're a capable shooting team," Laurens Head Coach Ryan Walker said. "When we get inside-out looks, we're pretty good when we get the right ones. When we shoot the bad ones that's when we get into trouble."

The 3-point shooting helped spark a Laurens team that scored one more point in the third quarter (25) than it did in the entire first half, and helped the Raiders

almost overcome a 10-point halftime deficit.

"We got down 10 at halftime. We can't dig ourselves a hole against an evenly matched team," Walker said.

What helped Wade Hampton eventually shake off the Raiders' best hopes was its ability to get to the foul line. The Generals made 7 of 12 foul shots in the fourth quarter, and 20 of 29 attempts in the game, to help avoid the loss.

Jack Edwards led the Generals with 22 points. Nick Brenegan followed with 17 points, and each player hit three 3-pointers. Edwards hit seven free throws, while Brenegan made eight.

The Raiders and Generals got out to a slow start on offense through the first quarter before the Generals picked up their offense in the second quarter as they ran off 18 of 25 points to end the half. That helped turn around what was, to that point, a one-point deficit.

Laurens Girls 54, Wade Hampton 44: The Raiders broke through for their second region victory of the season, rallying from down as many as 10 points in the second half. The victory moved Laurens to 6-15 overall, 2-9 in Region 1-5A.

"It feels good to get that win, especially against a team when you know you should win," Laurens Head Coach Yoneko

Allen said. "We cut down our turnovers, we were disciplined, and that's the way to win - doing it the way we know we can do it."

Laurens turned the ball over 17 times in the game, but only gave it up six times in the second half. Those extra possessions helped turn the game around against the Generals, who were held to seven points in the fourth quarter as they lost the lead.

Qua Fortson worked through foul trouble in the first half before taking full command of the game in the fourth quarter. Fortson scored the first 11 points of the quarter, and finished it with 16 of her 23 points overall. She added a banked shot to boost a lead to 46-41 past the halfway mark of the quarter, and later added two free throws with 1:19 to go as part of a game-ending 17-5 run that grabbed the lead for keeps.

Fortson was not the only player to help lead the victory. Raniya Jackson had two 3-pointers and scored eight points, Nadia Anderson added a 3-pointer and scored seven points as well, M.K. Moore did well on the glass, and both Anderson and Aija Davis did well on defense.

The Raiders' defense did its best with the press, keying in on the ball-handlers and making them have to make decisions that routinely did not work. Wade Hampton, as a result, turned the ball over 36 times.

LA girls net 20th victory with blowout

By Nick Herman
Sports Editor

Laurens Academy's girls basketball team reached the 20-win plateau for the season with yet another blowout victory, rolling 52-14 over Cambridge Academy in Laurens on Tuesday.

The game was a make-up from Dec. 11, when the original game was called due to weather.

Ruthie Moore led the Crusaders with 18 points in the first three quarters, while Jennifer Wu added 11 points and Blair Quarles scored 10 points, also in three quarters.

The victory moved LA to 20-3 on the season as it prepared to face Newberry Academy Friday night.

Clinton sweeps: The Clinton Red Devils picked up a pair of victories over Newberry Tuesday night at home.

The Clinton girls rallied back from 10 points down in the fourth quarter to grab a 59-56 victory and move to 16-4 overall and 4-4 in Region 3-3A play.

Tinique Austin scored 16 points to lead the Red Devils, Savanna Campbell had 13 points, and De'Shanti Watts picked up 11 points to aid the winning cause.

Clinton's boys picked up a big victory as well, rallying in the second half to get a 71-54 decision that moved the Red Devils to 7-12 overall and 4-4 in the region.

The Clinton boys are playing what head coach Eddie Romines said is its best basketball of the season at the right time, helping to spark an upset of the No. 7-ranked Bulldogs.

J.D. Payne scored 24 points to

lead the Red Devils, Amari Bates added 19, and P.J. Bluford chipped in with 11 points in the victory, one where Clinton held a 10-point lead at the half.

Clinton played at Emerald Friday night.

COLLEGE

Men's basketball
Charleston Southern 85, Presbyterian 84 (Wednesday): Christian Keeling hit a 3-point shot with 12 seconds left in regulation, and PC's Davon Bell missed a 3-pointer as time ran out, as the Buccaneers pulled a surprise against the Blue Hose in Charleston.

Keeling's basket capped an 8-for-9 shooting performance and left him with 21 points and five rebounds. Keeling led four players who scored in double figures for the Bucs, who moved to 9-11 overall and 3-4 in the Big South.

Francois Lewis led four PC players in double figures with 25 points and six boards. Adam Flagler had 15 points, Cory Hightower had 10 points, and Bell recorded a double-double with 11 points, 12 assists, and added eight rebounds.

PC (13-11 overall, 5-4 Big South) returns to the court Thursday against UNC Asheville.

Women's basketball
UNC Asheville 52, Presbyterian 43 (Tuesday): Salina Virola registered her fifth double-double on the season for the Blue Hose, but the Bulldogs rallied from a seven-point deficit early in the second quarter and sent PC to 4-15 overall and 2-6 in the Big South.

Virola had 11 points on 4-for-9 shooting, and added 11

rebounds for PC, which was held to 32 percent shooting - including 2-for-16 shooting from 3-point range. The Blue Hose also were 7-of-13 at the foul line.

Virola was one of three players to score in double figures for PC, Trinity Johnson added 11 points off the bench, along with four rebounds, while Kacie Hall added a game-best 12 points.

Jessica Wall scored 11 points to lead the Bulldogs. PC hosts Charleston Southern today (Saturday) at 2 p.m.

Men's tennis
PC sweeps honors: Presbyterian's Daniel Stenger was named Big South Player of the Week Wednesday, while teammate Nicholas McKinney was selected as Freshman of the Week.

Stenger went 3-0 last week, winning one singles match and a pair of doubles matches. McKinney went 4-0 last week, winning two singles and two doubles matches.

PC hosted Belmont Abbey Friday and visits Davidson today (Saturday).

Football
PC nabs recruit: Irmo High School football defensive back Oka Emmanwori announced on Twitter Thursday that he has committed to Presbyterian College's Class of 2023.

In the post Emmanwori is shown in one photo wearing a Presbyterian jersey, while announcing he is officially committed to the Blue Hose program.

"Without God, my family, close friends, and all my coaches, I wouldn't be in this position today," Emmanwori said in the post.

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