Scholastic Sports Scene

Bogues steady, paces Dunbar

The doctors of Dunbar High paid a house call at Mervo Wednesday afternoon, and by the time they were finished administering the patient was ready to go home. The Poets ran off with a lopsided 97-34 victory that saw Dunbar coach Bob Wade clear the bench.

With everyone getting into the act four players reached double figures, and Poet newcomer Mike Brown streaked to a game high 22 points.

Run and gun garbage time basketball must have arrived sometime in the first quarter for the Poets, right?

Wrong. The Dunbar coach said he insists the team plays with consistency regardless of the score, and said his players are never permitted to run wild.

"No, our team just doesn't play that way. We don't believe in tht kind of basketball," Wade said shortly before assembling his team for Thursday afternoon practice.

Ballplayers are tempted to go all out and try for the exceptional play just about every time they leave the bench, Wade said.

But he insisted the explosiveness of the Dunbar team is explained not so much by their desire to attain the exceptionl as by their willingsness to master and exploit the basics, and to turn that mastery into an advantage.

The Poets are undefeated so far this year, extending a streak that includes all of last year's schedule.

And ball control is a big part of the Poet's success. Wade attributed much of the credit of controlling the tempo of the game to Dunbar point guards Tyrone Bogues, Darryl Wood and Bryan Williams.

"All of our point guards do a good job of controlling our offense," Wade said.

To be sure all three of the Poet pointmen would likely start on any team in the city.

But one of the three has attained legendary status among cage observers and fans across the city.

In fact at least one national basketball magazine rates 5'3" Tyrone Bogues as one of the top 33 players in the country. That includes New York, Washington, D.C., California, the Mid-West and every hollow and hamlet across the land.

And it includes all the point guards who have as much as a foot in height advantage over him.

Bogues is principally known for his uncanny ability to keep the ball out of enemy hands while delivering assists, just as miraculously, into the hands of his teammates.

And Wade relies on the pint size Poet to control the game whenever things threaten to get out of hand.

"That is his forte," Wade said. "He keeps his head."

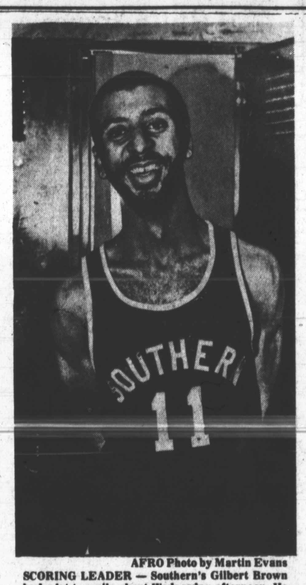
But Bogues demonstrated in the late December Johnstown Tournament that his skills do not end there. He can put points on the board also.

And with several of the Poets, big scorers on the bench in foul trouble in the tournament final against Martin Luther King of New York, Bogues turned on the juice, and finished the night with 17 points.

And his penetrating drives opened up feed-off opportunities for his teammates inside.

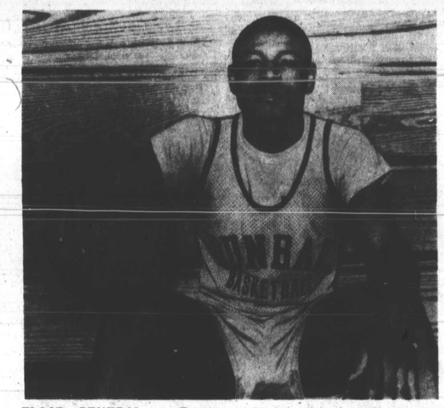
"He drove inside a lot, made some good passes and got fouled a lot," Wade said.

"That's a high score for him. (17 points) He is capable of scoring 14 or 15 points a game. But he doesn't take it upon himself to do so," Wade said. "He's got Russ and the others for that."



AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

SCORING LEADER — Southern's Gilbert Brown had a lot to smile about Wednesday afternoon. He led the Bulldogs to a victory over rival Southwestern with a team high 18 points.



FLOOR GENERAL — Tyrone Bogues, Dunbar's point guard, provides ball handling ability, defensive quickness and can score points. He is the Poets' leader on the floor.

AFRO Photos By Martin Evans

Southside victory buoys Bulldogs

By Martin Evans
AFRO Staff Writer

Buoyed by guard Gilbert Brown's seven point spurt Southern High parried a late challenge by host Southwestern and pulled away to win the Wednesday afternoon contest, 76-64.

The win apparently was a heady one, and it ignited the team. After the contest the victors' locker room was alive with a tumult of bantering chatter and cackling laughter.

And the triumph, which pushed the Bulldogs' record to 2-3, 3-1 in their division, and which was their second in a row, got several of the athletes pumped up and ready to take on the world.

In fact one leather-lunged player's voice could be heard above the din, calling for the biggest and baddest in the high school basketball world.

"We want Dunbar!" he screamed.

Amid the post-game euphoria the challenge was immediately echoed by a chorus of fellow Bulldogs, who growled out the virtues of Southwestern's court game.

Basketball people who know both schools might be expected to scoff at the idea of such a match being taken seriously however. The Poets are ranked as the number one team in the nation, while Southern does not appear anywhere near the top.

And the Bulldogs have already been gored by Dunbar in an early season meeting at the Poet - Laker Tipoff.

But the jubilation of winning frequently sends rationality on a coffee break, as apparently it did for Southern Wednesday afternoon.

And as the Bulldogs basked in the warmth of sweet victory they were on top of the world, their heads in the clouds and their feet hardly touching the floor.

Their victory had been a gritty one. With about six minutes to play in the third period and the score deadlocked at 41 the Bulldogs began to pull away.

Several layups off of steals put them up by a six point margin near the five minute mark.

And long, downcourt passes broke Saber traps and were frequently converted for easy buckets.

To make matters more trying for their hosts the Bulldogs were hot from the foul line when it counted. They made good on several one-and-one opportunities, foiling the Sabers' fouling tactics late in the game.

Brown, who played point guard, canned three of four attempts from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter, and the team shot 19-29 from the charity stripe for the afternoon.

Although Brown's steady ball handling and fourth quarter scoring heroics helped his team hold off the Sabers, the bearded backcourt ace refused to credit himself with making the difference in the ball game.

It was a team effort that paved the way to victory, particularly as the game got tight, Brown said.

"We have a good team and we just play together," Brown said reflectively.

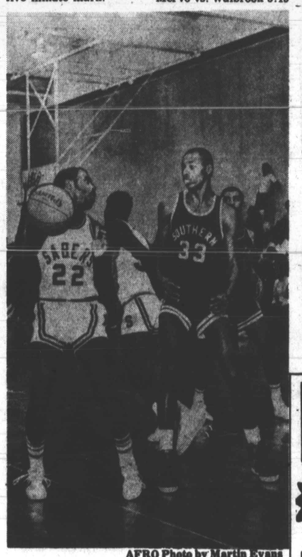
"The coach told us to play our game and run our offense, and we would be in the game," Brown continued.

Then, playing to the boisterous chorus that bubbled around him Brown added "We can beat anyone if we run our offense well."

They do say that on any given day...

Next week's schedule

MONDAY
Girls Basketball:
Poly vs. Forest Park 3:30
Tuesday
Boys Basketball:
Southern vs. Edmondson 3:15
Northwestern vs. Douglass 3:30
Mervo vs. Walbrook 3:15
Southwestern vs. Lake Clifton 3:30
Dunbar vs. Patterson 4:45
Carver vs. Northern 3:15
Wrestling:
Gibbons vs. Patterson 3:45
Forest Park vs. Friends 3:45
Swimming
Lake Clifton vs. Northwestern 3:30
Severn vs. Edmondson 3:30
Northern vs. Poly 3:30
Patterson vs. City 3:30
Forest Park vs. Southern 3:30
Mervo vs. Dunbar 3:30
Walbrook vs. Douglass 3:30
Carver vs. Southwestern 3:30
Girls' Basketball
Lake Clifton vs. Douglass 3:15
Northern vs. Carver 3:30
Eastern vs. Southwestern 3:30
Patterson vs. Northwestern 3:30
Western vs. Mervo 3:30
Walbrook vs. Southern 3:30



AFRO Photo by Martin Evans

BULLDOGS RATTLE SABERS — Southern's Reginald Jefferson eyes the ball which, for the moment at least, is in the hands of Southwestern's Stephone Johns. The Bulldogs got the ball often enough to fashion a 76 - 64 victory Wednesday afternoon.

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Saber wrestlers battle for city recognition

Mervo is the reigning wrestling champion in the city right now, but if Southwestern has its way a new champ will be crowned at season's end.

"We've been second in the league for the last 2 years," Saber wrestling coach Fred Bullock said. Bullock would like to change all of that.

Bullock and the Sabers will travel to Mervo's Eastside campus for a January 19 contest, and the bouts will be interesting to wrestling fans across the city.

The meet will represent the first time Southwestern gets a chance to avenge an important loss to the Mustangs last year, when Mervo edged the Sabers by three points to win the city championship.

The closeness of the match has haunted Bullock since last year. "It was very close," Bullock said with a ruefull grin. "Extremely close."

But the muscular coach said he will take pains to prevent his wrestlers from looking beyond the meets they have before the Mervo rematch.

"We are looking that way," Bullock acknowledged, referring to the upcoming meet with Mervo. But we have Southern tomorrow and Lake Clifton, which has a very good team."

"You can get into trouble by looking past a team," Bullock added.

If the Sabers are to do well against the Mustangs they will have to get healthy. Several of their wrestlers were sick or injured, and unable to compete in the Curley tournament which took place late in December.

Although the team managed to finish in a tie for fourth, with Pikesville beside them and Curley, Patapsco and Kenwood leading the way Bullock said he was not pleased with the result.

"I think we could have done better," Bullock said. "But the experience factor was good."

One of the Saber wrestlers, Rickey Westmoreland, said the absence of several of his better teammates, including undefeated Sanford Isaac, made him push even harder for a win.

"I figured I had to win," Westmoreland said, recounting his thoughts during the moments before the Curley bouts began.

"Mine was one of the first bouts, but I knew a loss would mean we would finish in fifth or sixth place," Westmoreland added. "I wanted to make sure we did better than that."

Westmoreland won the 107 lb championship.

WRESTLERS THREE — Rickey Westmoreland helped the Sabers by finishing first in the 107 lb. weight class at the Curley Tournament over the Christmas holiday. Southwestern teammates, Sanford Isaac and Melvin Fields, who were kept from the mat by injuries, hope to join the action soon.

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