

# METRO SPORTS NEWS

By Scott Wallace

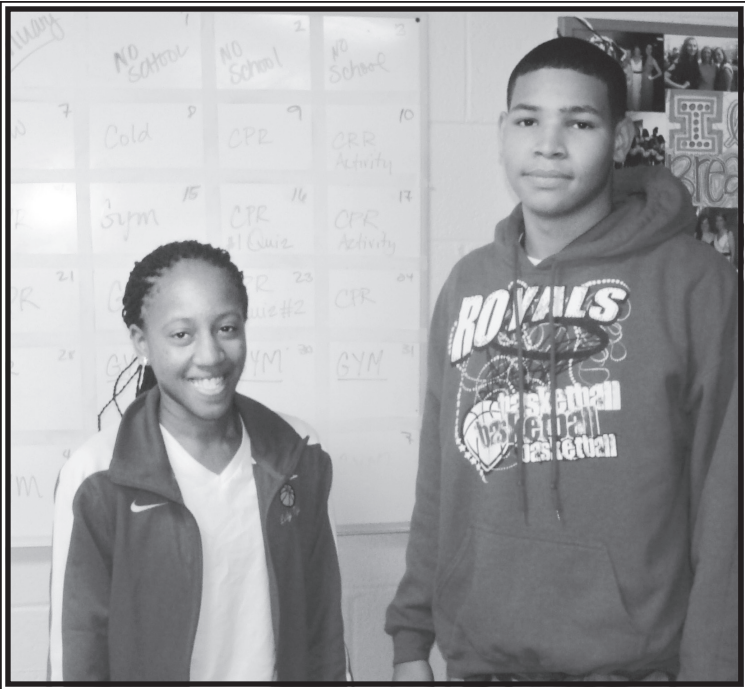


## MLK Basketball Players are Metro’s Royalty

By Michael Curtis

The Martin Luther King Magnet High School Royals, known for ranking top in the nation academically, is quickly growing a reputation for scoring big on the basketball court.

Royal basketball players Jalen Duke and Briana Smith are leading the Metro Davidson County Schools in scoring. Duke is a 6’5” senior that averages 25.8 points a game.



I-r, Briana Smith and Jalen Duke are leading Metro in scoring

Duke says it’s important for MLK to be known for more than just academics. He wants people to know that MLK students perform well in all areas, including sports. No doubt, the Royals’ record is making a name for the team. Their record is 6-5, 4-3 10AA this season and currently are fourth in the conference. The Lady Royals on the other hand are leading the 10-AA with a record of 15-2, 7-0 10AA.

“When you’re a scorer, you get the most attention and I have to learn how to handle it and keep my head and my team in the game,” said Smith, the point guard for the Lady Royals. “It is very important that I keep up my play because I have to lead my team and when I play at a high level, my team will too.”

The two MLK ballers say time management and doing your schoolwork ahead of time are key to keeping a balance with work and play.

“I think it is a very good opportunity for Jalen,” said boys’ basketball coach James “Doc” Shelton. “It’s good that young people get recognition, however we focus more on what we’re doing as a team.”

Shelton is set to retire after this season to conclude his 25 year coaching career.

The players don’t go it alone. The coaches direct the players off and on the court. Lindy King, the girls’ basketball coach, says she checks in on their grades and checks with their teachers.

“For so long MLK’s girls team has been unnoticed and now that we have been working really hard and created a program that strives for the best, it is important that the girls get noticed for all the hard work that they’ve done,” said King.

The girls’ and boys’ teams did not play on Monday, which was Martin Luther King Jr. Day, however they did play at home against East Nashville Magnet School Tuesday. Tonight, the teams will face Whites Creek High School.

## WTNTribune Radio Game of the Week

### Lady Cobras Take a Bite Out Of the Lady Panther to Get Huge Win

By McKinley Young Jr.

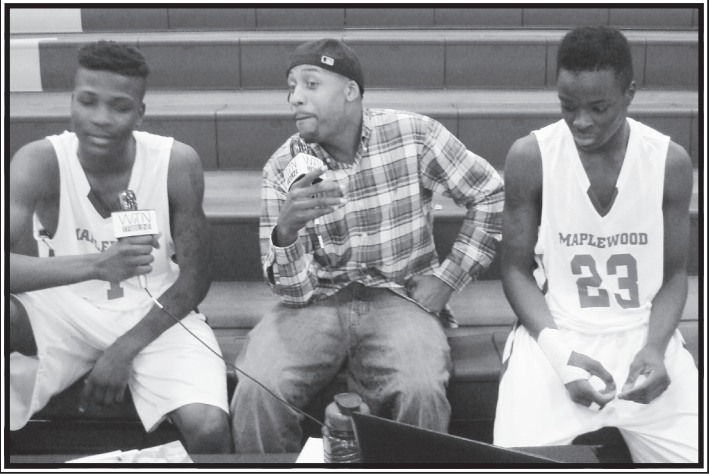
Tuesday night was one of the best women’s high school basketball games I have seen from the Lady Cobras of Whites Creek who traveled to rival Maplewood and got all it could handle, as they fought to pull out a 70-60 victory in overtime over the Lady Panthers.

The Lady Cobras got a big boost from their back-up point guard Zoe Johnson, who with 40 seconds left in the 4th quarter, stole the ball and took it all the way to tie the game at 55. Destiny Hayes of the Lady Panthers drove to the basket and passed it out to Terra Lexus Roberts who took a 3pointer to try and win the game for the Lady Panthers, but it fell. Aishyla Stansberry of the Lady Cobras grabbed the rebound and got fouled with 7.6 seconds to play in the game with a chance to win it for the Lady Cobras. Stansberry missed both free throws, and then Hayes got the rebound, drove to the basket and came up short on a 16 foot jumper.

The Lady Panthers had control of the game for most of the night, pushing their lead to nine 49-41 at the end of the third quarter. Then in the fourth quarter, led by Denisha Bowman and Kalia Guthrie, the Lady Cobras went on a 14-6 run to send the game into overtime. DaJoura “Dizzy” Poole, the Lady Panthers leading scorer fouled out early in the fourth quarter, and then Hayes did everything she could to try and will her team to victory.

Early in the overtime, Lady Cobras guard Guthrie fouled out, and that’s when Johnson’s defense took over the game. She scored 6 of her 12 points in the overtime by recording two steals, and made four critical free throws, to help the Lady Cobras take a 66-58 lead with 1:30 left in the overtime period. Hayes came down and hit a basket to cut the lead to six, but the Lady Cobras hit four more free throws to help seal the 70-60 victory.

The Lady Cobras were led by TSU commit Denisha Bowman who scored 18 points and had 12 rebounds. While the Lady Panthers was led by Hayes who had a game high 22 points.



WTNTribune Radio High School Basketball Broadcaster McKinley Young (center) interviewing Kevon Green and Tarrion Jordan

## Where Are They Now?

### Former Whites Creek Star Brian “Penny” Collins Thoughts From This Coach Worth A Lot More Than A Penny

By Scott Wallace

I recently talked with former Whites Creek star and current Columbia State Community College Head Coach Brian “Penny” Collins. His team is currently ranked 19th in the country and first in their conference. Collins is an extremely polished young man that has used basketball to take him around the world. He has played for former UCLA coach Jim Harrick, Belmont Head Coach Rick Byrd and coached under former Tennessee State University Head Coach Cy Alexander. Those gentlemen are known as some of the best coaches in the country. Collins has someone else in mind as the best coaching example in his life:

**SW- How did it feel growing up with your coach being your father?**

BC- It was great. I was able to play at a young age against stiff competition. My dad taught me the fundamentals of playing basketball. It was great living in that household. No one else has taught me more. He is my favorite example on and off the court.

**SW- You are a basketball lifer. Tell us about your travels?**

BC- After graduating from Whites Creek I went to Belmont University on a basketball scholarship. I am proud to say that I was the captain of the first team to go to the NCAA Tournament. I played overseas in Finland for the Kouvo Bears and in the D-League with the Baskerville Jams.

**SW- You have played for an impressive list of coaches. How important are they to you now coaching?**

BC- Extremely important. My father Ricky Collins set the tone for me. Coach (Rick) Byrd taught me that you don’t necessarily have to have the best players. He recruited players that fit his system. Jim Harrick taught me the importance of having organized practices. He worked us hard.

**SW- How many local players do you have on your current roster?**

BC- Three, Ikeem Bergeron from Hillsboro, Ivan Alsop of Overton and Matt Brown of Cane Ridge.

**SW- What is the most rewarding thing for you about coaching?**

BC- It is not about the game itself it is about the lives that you mold. For instance, we participated in the Columbia Martin Luther King Parade this week. As I was walking I noticed that I recruited a team that has a guy from Czech Republic, a guy from Latvia, a guy from Atlanta, a guy from Memphis and other places. To me that solidifies the dream that MLK talked about. Guys from different walks of life coming together for one goal. It humbles me to think



Former Whites Creek Star Brian “Penny” Collins

that these are my guys.

**SW- Who would you say is your biggest inspiration.**

BC- That is easy, my parents Andrea and Ricky Collins. My dad because he taught me all of the nuisances of basketball. I was at his practices at a young age so I played against and looked up to some great guys. My mother kept me humble. She stressed me staying discipline, how to keep a good image and the importance of being a good teammate.

Collins will be a guest on the WTNTribune Radio signature sports talk show Bench Press this Monday. Tune in to WTST The Blaze to hear it live from 4-6 p.m. The re-broadcast will be on Tuesday from 3-5 p.m. on WTNTribune Radio.

## Metro Scoring Leaders Boys

PLAYER	SCHOOL	PPG
Jalen Duke	MLK	25.8
Terry Holt	East	19.6
Ty’Quez Itiat	Stratford	19.0
Joey Skibbie	HF	16.9
Michael Battle	PC	16.3
I Anyaebunam	Antioch	15.3
Derrick Woods	Stratford	14.9
Leon Howard	Overton	14.5

## Metro Scoring Leaders Girls

PLAYER	SCHOOL	PPG
Jordan Majors	MLK	16.6
Briana Smith	MLK	16.6
D’Toria Fowler	Antioch	16.3
Le’Jzae Davidson	East	15.2
Deanne Whitlow	McGavock	14.6
Chelsea Nelson	Overton	14.5
Capria Holmes	Hillsboro	13.9
Ant’reasia Patton	Overton	13.2
Asia Gladney	HF	13.1
Erica Haynes-Overton	East	13.0

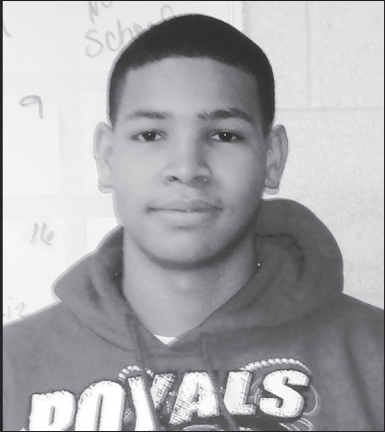
## WTNTRibune Radio Sports Metro Players of the Week

### Royal Pair Flushes MPOW Honors

WTN Tribune Radio Sports would like to congratulate Jordan Majors of Martin Luther King Magnet and Jalen Duke also of MLK for winning the Metro Player of the Week Honors (MPOW). Majors scored 14 points on versus Stratford and 21 on Friday



Jordan Majors



Jalen Duke

at Whites Creek which resulted in helping her team winning both games. Our male player of the week is Jalen Duke of MLK who scored 19 on Tuesday in a lost against Stratford and put up 37 points Friday at Whites Creek for a win.