

Titletown Bound?

Saban decides today

On Tuesday afternoon Nick Saban was supposed to decide if he was going to accept the University of Alabama's \$4 million a year offer to become the next Crimson Tide head football coach. Instead, Saban decided he needed another day to make his decision, and informed the Miami Dolphins that he would announce his intentions on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m.

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950th Win

Friday's win over South Choctaw marked the 950th victory for **Patrician head coach Wendell Barr**. The achievement is tribute to a coaching career that has spanned over four decades and carried Barr from colleges and high schools throughout Alabama and Georgia. Barr started his illustrious career in 1968 at Hurtsboro High in Russell County and has since coached at Lakeside Academy, Lowndes, Woodland Christian, Russell County High, and Twiggs Academy in Georgia where he won a boys' state title. In 1994 Barr was named Southeast Coach of the year for leading the NCAA Division-II Chattahoochee Valley Lady Pirates to the national title game. Barr has been the Lady Saints' coach at Patrician for six years, winning six area titles and one state championship in that span.

•Congratulations Coach Barr!!!!

Doodle's Day

■ MVP Stephanie 'Doodle' Caudle dominates in Patrician's 49-38 win over Lady Rebels in SCA Holiday Tournament championship game

By Colin Merritt
 The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — The Patrician Academy Lady Saints (14-1) showed why they are the state's fourth-ranked team by handily beating Sparta and outlasting host South Choctaw on their way to winning the South Choctaw Holiday Tournament. Stephanie 'Doodle' Caudle picked up MVP honors thanks to a combined 26 points and 24 rebounds in the two Patrician wins.



Anna Lewis

The junior first dropped eight points with 12 boards in limited playing time on Sparta in the Saints' opening 58-41 win. Then Doodle scored 18 points while collecting 12 more rebounds in the 49-38 victory over South Choctaw in the title game. In the final, Doodle, along with senior Anna Lewis, was crucial down the stretch in a game that was close throughout.

With seven minutes left and the teams knotted at 35 apiece, Doodle and Lewis would lead the Saints on a 14-3 run that turned a nail-biter into Patrician's second win of the season over rival South Choctaw.

"Both teams had their runs, we just had the last one," said Patrician head coach Wendell Barr of the game's final five minutes. "I thought Anna Lewis was

big down the stretch going to the basket and getting to the free throw line. Nancy Dasis played really well too, and Kylie Lewis was once again great at the point." Nancy Dasis added nine, while Kylie Lewis finished with five for Patrician.

During the decisive run that started when South Choctaw standout Kate Dahlberg went to the bench having just picked up her fourth foul, Doodle scored six straight points and Anna Lewis added seven, five of which came off free throws in the closing minutes.

But, according to Barr who picked up his 950th career victory with the win, the key to the game was his team's defense, especially on Rebel guard Kate Dahlberg.

"One key was that we played tough defense on Kate," Barr said of his team's second win over the Rebels this year, the first a 41-40 squeaker in Butler in early December in which Dahlberg scored 21. "This time we did a great job containing (Kate) and not letting her drive on us." Dahlberg, who was still recovering from the flu, scored just one point in the first half on her way to a nine point game.

In the Saints' opening win over Sparta, Kylie Lewis played another exceptional game, scoring 12 points with five steals and three assist. Nancy Dasis scored 10 points for Patrician, while Codi Stafford added five and Shayna Jimerson, Savannah Smith, and Tiffany Lewis each scored four.

For their effort, Anna Lewis and Kylie Lewis were named to the all-tournament team, with Doodle being named tournament MVP. Also selected to the all-tournament team were Kate Dahlberg and Bridget Kwasniack from South Choctaw, Abbey Huckabee from Marengo and Erica Palmer from Sparta.

The fourth-ranked Lady Saints will be back in action this Thursday (1/4) when they travel to play Southern Academy. They return home on Friday (1/5) to host Escambia Academy and then hit the road again on Tuesday (1/9) to play Marengo Academy.



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

Patrician's Doodle Caudle goes up for a short jumper with South Choctaw's Arielle Campbell (#13) and Kate Dahlberg (#20) defending. Doodle was named tournament MVP thanks to a combined 26 points and 24 rebounds as she helped lead the 4th-ranked Lady Saints to the tournament title. Dahlberg and Campbell each finished with nine points in the loss. See more photos from the tournament on 4B!!

PA boys fall to South Choctaw, Marengo

The Patrician boys dropped to 1-11 on the year after loses to South Choctaw and Marengo in the SCA Holiday Tournament. The Saints lost 60-46 to the Rebels despite 14 points from Jake Lill and 13 from Neal Cook. In the 62-45 loss to Marengo, Will McBride paced the Saints with 11 points, while Lill and Cook each added 10.



Harold Williams goes to the hoop in the Tigers' 70-27 dismantling of Sweetwater

Home Cookin'

■ Clarke County gets all the calls to beat Choctaw County, 75-49, and claim their own tournament in Grove Hill

By Colin Merritt
 The Choctaw Sun

GROVE HILL — The Choctaw County boys rolled through the Clarke County Holiday Tournament and into the championship game with convincing double-digit wins over Linden and Sweetwater. However, the roll came to a screeching halt in the title game when the Tigers fell to host Clarke County in a surprisingly lopsided and sloppy contest.

"We really got some really bad calls in that game," fumed Tigers' head coach Clinton Thomas following the 75-49 loss that ended with a minor altercation between players. "They got all the calls all night long. We didn't even shoot a one-and-one, there was certainly some home cooking tonight, baby."

In the game, Choctaw County was called for 21 fouls while Clarke County was whistled just nine times. The post game scuffle was fueled by some hard fouls down the stretch, but no punches were thrown and no players ejected.

The Tigers, who played the tournament without seniors Chris 'Sweetpea' Carter and Marlon Thomas who were nursing injuries, never had much of a chance in Grove Hill against Clarke

County, falling behind 37-26 at the break and 56-38 heading into the fourth period.

Senior Bryan Winston continued his solid play, however, with 13 points and five rebounds in the loss, while Cordarius Smoot and Trent Ruffin each scored nine. Dondricus Pringle added six points and nine rebounds for Choctaw County.

In the Tigers opening win - a 74-61 victory over Linden - Pringle once again shined, scoring 15 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Trent Ruffin led the team, however, with 16 points while Charles Ruffin and Bryan Winston each hit for ten.

Thanks to the opening game victory, Choctaw County advanced in the tournament to meet Sweetwater in the second round. The Tigers made quick work of the Bulldogs, jumping out to a commanding 39-14 halftime lead on their way to the easy 70-27 win.

Cordarius Smoot paced Choctaw County with 14 points, while Jonathan Horn scored 10 points to go with 14 rebounds. Pringle and Harold Williams each scored 10 points, and Bryan Winston finished with five points and a game-high 11 rebounds.

Choctaw County (11-6) will travel to face Greensboro on Friday, January 5th before returning home to play Sumter on Saturday, January 6th.

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