

# Rebels knocked out by WAP

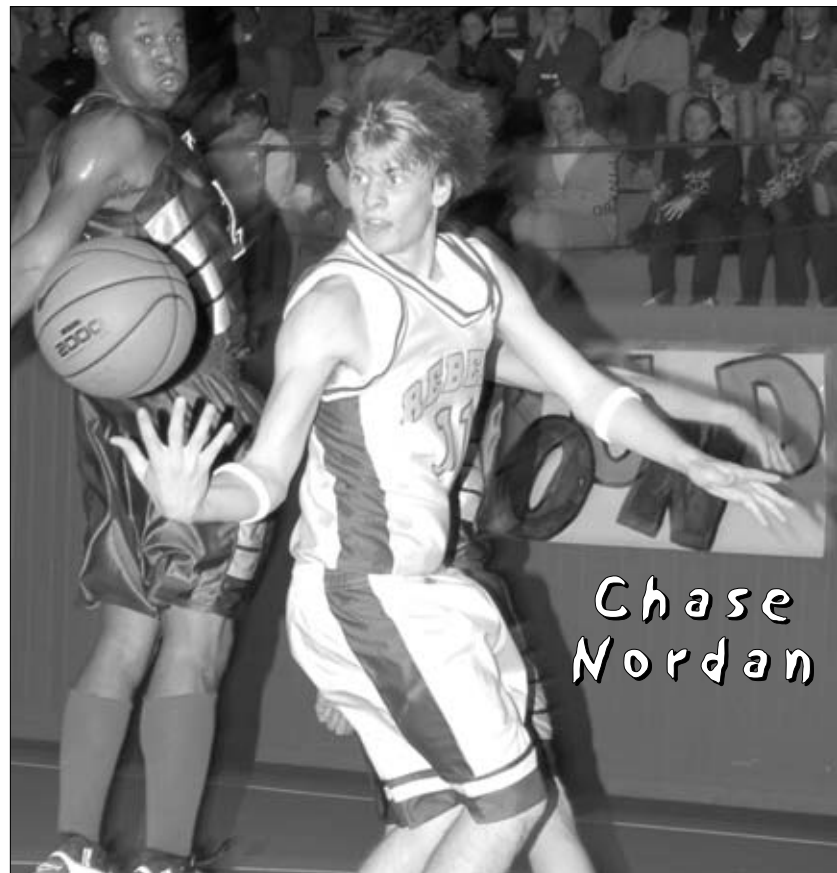
■ South Choctaw's boys' season comes to a close with loss to West Alabama Prep in area tournament

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — They say it's tough to beat a team three times. Well, that notion held true on Thursday night at the AISA Class 1A West Area tournament as South Choctaw fell 63-60 in a thrilling first-round game to West Alabama Prep, a team they had already topped twice in the regular season. The Rebels (10-15) fell behind 19-10 after the first period and trailed 34-28 at halftime. Out of the break, however, the Rebels would come alive, outscoring

WAP 23-13 in the third thanks to a barrage of 3-pointers from Trent 'Popcorn' Gibson. The junior, who hit five shots from behind the arc and finished with 17 points, hit seven straight points to start the third as the Rebels went on a 16-5 run that saw them lead 44-39 in the closing minutes of the period. However, West Alabama Prep would begin the game's final period on a run of their own, outscoring South Choctaw 19-9 to regain the lead. Now trailing 61-57 with under twenty seconds to play, South Choctaw's Tyler Fulcher would hit a 3-point basket from the top of the circle to pull the Rebels to within one. But two ensuing free throws by West Alabama and a last second Rebel 3-pointer that missed the mark ended the exciting contest with the Rebels on the short-end of a 63-60 score. After the loss, Rebel Head

Coach Terry Sikes had this to say about his team and the season. "We had a really good second half of the year," commented Sikes of the Rebels' 9-6 finish after a 1-8 start. "I'm already looking forward to next season, we should be one of the teams to beat in Class 1A. I want to thank my three seniors - Derek Conner, Matt Etheridge, Trey Waddell - they played hard and gave me everything they could all season long." In the loss, 'Popcorn' Gibson led the Rebels with 17 points and Chase Nordan finished with 16. Tyler Fulcher added seven and Derek Conner hit six for South Choctaw. West Alabama got 23 points from Terrence Irby and 18 each from Kris Kimbrough and Steven Cochran. The loss ended South Choctaw's season with a 10-15 record.



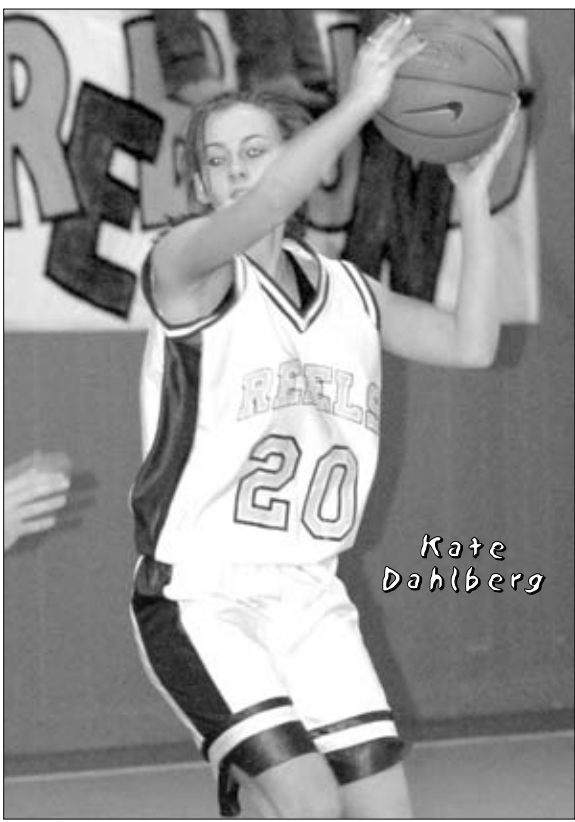
Chase Nordan



Randi Arrington



Trystan Mosley



Kate Dahlberg



Bridget Kwasniak



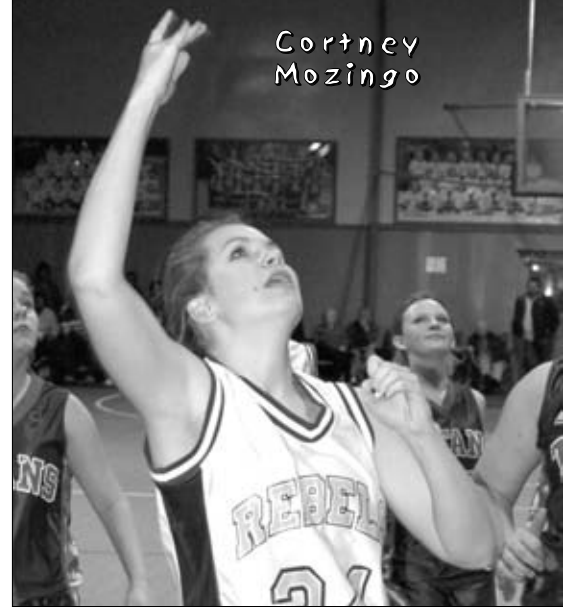
Lauren Jackson



Arielle Campbell



Koen Lindsey



Cortney Mazingo

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