

## PALS in the News

PAL Terry Futrell

Xenia Daily Gazette

February 5, 2013 p. 6A

# Wilberforce basketball teams playing independent this year

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**WILBERFORCE** — The Wilberforce men's and women's basketball teams are competing as NAIA independents this year. Their previous league, the American Midwest Conference disbanded as of last year.

"We compete in the Association of Independent Institutions Conference of the NAIA ([www.aiisports.com](http://www.aiisports.com)). Presently there are 16 NAIA Division II independent men's and 16 independent women's teams across the country," said Wilberforce Athletic Director and head men's basketball coach, Terry Futrell. "The top six teams qualify for the Independent Conference Tournament (held February 22-24 at Jamestown College located in Jamestown, North Dakota)." Teams head to the conference tournament with the hope of reaching the NAIA National

### COLLEGE ROUNDUP

Tournament held in Branson, Missouri.

"Our men's team is presently ranked seventh among the Independent teams in the NAIA, although our overall record is not good (8-16), we have played very well against the ranked teams on our schedule and have beaten the Independent teams we have faced," Futrell said. "Tuesday we travel to Indiana University Kokomo (who we defeated at home on a last second out of bounds play) to try and go undefeated against the Independent teams that were on our schedule this year. I am very proud of how these young men have overcome adversity this year to put themselves in position for a pos-

sible playoff berth."

Recently, Wilberforce defeated Indiana University Northwest by a final score of 94-67. The Bulldogs raced out to a 43-26 half-time lead and never looked back. Leading scorers for Wilberforce: Sean Cassidy (Dayton Meadowdale), 28; Yann Sani, 19; Levert Bristol, 13; Rachaun Thompson, 10. Sani added 11 boards and Thompson, 9, with 9 assists.

"I told the team this game would be a good barometer of how far we have progressed as a team. We beat this team earlier in the year by one leading by as much as 15 points before holding on at the end," Futrell said. "I challenged the team to be more efficient in finishing games and they responded well tonight."

## PALS in the News

*Wilberforce Men and Women Have Solid Hoops Season (Terry Futrell)*

*Xenia Daily Gazette February 23, 2013, p. 15A*

# Wilberforce men and women have solid hoops season

*Xenia Daily Gazette - 2/23/2013 - p. 15A*

**WILBERFORCE** — The 2012-13 Wilberforce men's basketball season began filled with a lot of promise. Although they lost seven seniors from the playoff team from the prior year, the momentum built from last year's playoff run seemed to have carried over into the incoming freshmen class.

During pre-season workouts their was much optimism based on the performance of these new recruits. But due to several recruits being unable to meet the initial NAIA academic requirements the team make-up and chemistry changed dramatically.

"We started with a full varsity and junior varsity team and ended up with eight and nine players who played the entire varsity and junior varsity schedules. Out of those eight to nine players, six were projected to be on the JV team," Head coach Terry Futrell. "I had one starter back from last year's team (Darius Foster) who had one semester of eligibility left. Darius played the first semester and pretty much carried the team on his back averaging 23 points and 6 rebounds a game. When I lost Darius at the break in December, I wondered what the effect would be to the team. I must say this very young and undermanned team showed a lot of grit in how they came together and played as a team."

The WU season record ended at 10-18 (with eight of those losses coming against NAIA ranked opponents and NCAA D-II competition. "We fell one game short of qualifying for the NAIA Independent Conference playoffs," Futrell said. "Our conference record was a perfect 4-0 and our season highlight was upsetting NCAA Division II California University of Pennsylvania on the road 90-88."

Team highlights: Darius Foster, 23 ppg, 6 rpg, (Richmond High School-Richmond, Calif.). Freshman Sean Cassidy, 16 ppg, 6 rpg, (Dayton Meadowdale High School). Sophomore Rachaun Thompson 12 ppg, 6 rpg, (Columbus Marian Franklin High School). Head coach Terry Futrell received Community Service Award from Bible Missionary Baptist Church in Wilmington.

The team participated in several community service events with the women's team that were instrumental in the Wilberforce Athletic Department being awarded the NAIA Champions of Character Award for the past two seasons.



Above: Kyree Marshall of Wilberforce plays defense in early season action. Below: Darius Foster averaged 23 points per game and six rebounds for Wilberforce this year. Right: Members of the Wilberforce women's team participated in a Trunk or Treat event with local youth. Submitted photos

## PALS in the News

**PAL Harry G. Johns**

**Xenia Daily Gazette**

*April 25, 2013, p. 16A*

*Xenia Daily Gazette - 4/25/2013 - p. 16A*



Chamber members Bessie Johns, Harry Johns and Jim Preston enjoy the refreshments at Business After Hours on April 11 at McKinley Elementary School. The Xenia Community Schools hosted the event, which showcased the new facility. Jim Froehlich of Scaparotti Construction read his picture book, and Better Images Studio took "school pictures." Trivia contests and school tours were also featured. Next month's Business after Hours will be co-hosted by Stephan & Stephan Law Group, Wichman, Newell & Stephan and Home Site Title Agency. Home Site will also be the location for the event at 1755 West Second Street from 4:30 to 6:30 on May 9.

Photo courtesy of Better Images Studio

## PALS in the News

### Local Man Meets the President

(Charles Feaster)

*Xenia Daily Gazette*

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# Local man meets the President

By DEBRA GASKILL  
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COLUMBUS — A local man, known for his service as a Tuskegee airman in World War II had the opportunity to meet President Barack Obama last Sunday.

Charles Feaster, who served from 1940-1945 as a Tuskegee Airman, met president Obama on Sunday, May 5, at Rickenbacker Air Base in Columbus, following Obama's speech at the Ohio State University graduation.

"It was quite exciting," said Feaster, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor from President George H.W. Bush in 2007.



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World War II Veteran Charles Feaster and his wife May got to meet President Barack Obama recently in Columbus. Submitted photo

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