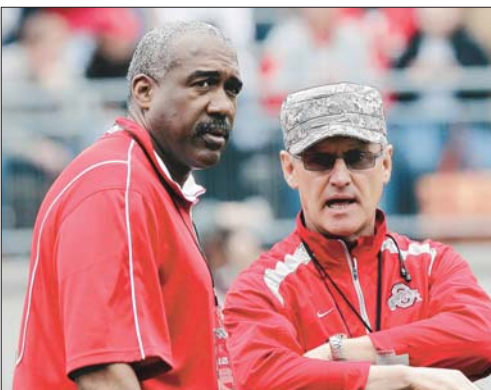


INSIDE TODAY



AP PHOTO

Ohio State gets bowl ban, other penalties from NCAA

• COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — The NCAA hit Ohio State with a one-year bowl ban and additional penalties Tuesday.

SEE SPORTS, 3B

FROM THE SIDELINES



AP PHOTO

LSU's Miles wins AP coach of the year for college football

• BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — LSU's Les Miles is The Associated Press college football coach of the year after guiding the top-ranked Tigers to a spot in the BCS championship game. Miles received 30 votes from AP poll voters to beat out Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, who got 16 votes.

Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy was third with six votes, Michigan's Brady Hoke received three votes and Southern California's Lane Kiffin got one.

Miles won the award, which has been given out since 1998, for the first time. He's the second LSU coach to win the award, joining Alabama coach Nick Saban, who won it with the Tigers in 2003.

Miles and LSU play Saban and the Crimson Tide on Jan. 9 in New Orleans for the BCS title.

AP Source: Chow to become next Hawaii head football coach

• SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A person with knowledge of the situation says Utah offensive coordinator Norm Chow has accepted the job as Hawaii's new head coach. The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because all the details of the move have not yet been formalized.

CHOW

Chow previously served as offensive coordinator at UCLA, for the Tennessee Titans, at Southern California, North Carolina State and Brigham Young, helping to develop four Heisman Trophy winners.

Chow was born and raised in the plantation town of Waiialua, located on Oahu's North Shore.



AP PHOTO

Marshall defeats FIU 20-10 in Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl

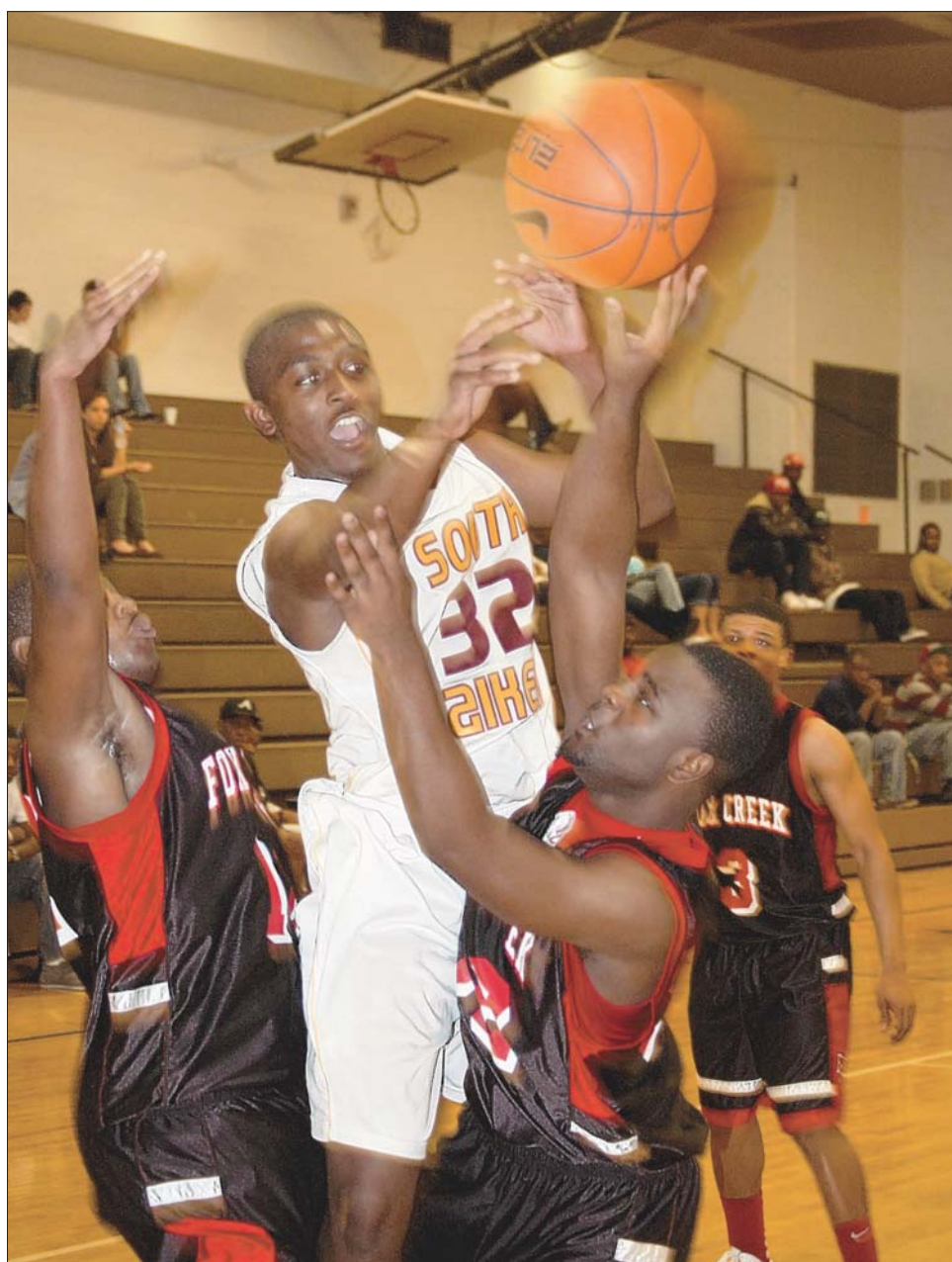
• ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Rakeem Cato threw for 224 yards and two touchdowns to help Marshall beat Florida International 20-10 in the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl on Tuesday night. Tyler Warner kicked a pair of field goals and Cato threw TD passes of 31 and 35 yards to Aaron Dobson, the latter putting the game away in the closing seconds. Warner's 39-yard field goal set up by a blocked punt snapped a 10-10 tie with 5:16 remaining. Marshall (7-6) overcame a slow start to win five of its last seven games.

TO REPORT A SPORTS SCORE OR STORY IDEA, CALL CAM HUFFMAN AT 644-2396 OR EMAIL CHUFFMAN@AIKENSTANDARD.COM.

Aiken Standard SPORTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011 AIKENSTANDARD.COM • B SECTION

SOUTH AIKEN 68, FOX CREEK 44



STAFF PHOTO BY NOAH FEIT

DISHING IT OUT: Surrounded by Fox Creek defenders, South Aiken's Derrick West (32) passes the ball during a 68-44 win at the Aiken County Christmas Challenge.

T-Breds top Fox Creek in Christmas Challenge

BY NOAH FEIT
nfeit@aikenstandard.com

GRANITEVILLE — The South Aiken High School boys' basketball team exploited its advantages in height and depth Tuesday, in a 68-44 win over Fox Creek in the first round of the Aiken County Christmas Challenge basketball tournament played at Midland Valley High School.

The Thoroughbreds (6-4) suited up 11 players to just eight for the Predators, and most of them were significantly taller. The disparity allowed South Aiken to open a double-digit lead 6 minutes into the game, but was most apparent in the third quarter. That was when it pulled away for good. "The third quarter ... that's our obstacle," Fox Creek coach Andre Baskett said, citing a pattern of poor play following halftime in each of the 0-4 Predators' losses this season. "It got away from us again."

Baskett said his players were fatigued as a direct result of their lack of depth. That was true, but the T-Breds' play also was a factor in wearing them out.

"We had more to work with. Fox Creek has a size issue," South Aiken coach Drew Jernigan said. "The gameplan was to use

TOURNAMENT GLANCE

Tuesday's Results

- Aiken 63, Batesburg-Leesville 41
- Olympic (N.C.) 61, Silver Bluff 46
- South Aiken 68, Fox Creek 44
- Midland Valley 49, Strom Thurmond 42

Today's Games

- Silver Bluff vs. Batesburg-Leesville, 1 p.m.
- Fox Creek vs. Strom Thurmond, 3 p.m.
- Aiken vs. Olympic (N.C.), 5 p.m.
- South Aiken vs. Midland Valley, 7 p.m.

our advantages."

It was most evident in the third quarter. The T-Breds' big men started having more success using their size advantage to create space. That led to good looks from point-blank range, as well as control of the boards which led to second and third chances to score. This forced Fox Creek's defenders to sag off the perimeter, resulting in more open lanes for South Aiken.

SEE T-BREDS, 4B

Hawks aim for conference finals with Smith

BY CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — For a team that looks so familiar on paper, the Hawks look much different on the court.

Point guard Jeff Teague will be the only new starter when the Hawks open their season on Tuesday at New Jersey, but some of the veterans have new looks.

Strong forward Josh Smith has lost about 25 pounds. He is down to about 225 pounds on his 6-foot-9 frame. He says he sought the quickness he had as a rookie seven years ago, in part because he was asked to alternate more between the two forward spots last season.

"If I'm going to be a more versatile player this year, to be able to get around those screens and be more mobile, I had to get back to the weight that I was accustomed to playing when I first got into the league," Smith said.

Several Atlanta players have said small forward Marvin Williams looks like he's an inch taller after offseason back surgery. "I went to a gym to work out with Josh and the first time I saw him I said 'Where is the rest of you?'" Teague said. "He just said 'I've been getting ready and back to my old self, jumping higher and playing faster.'"

"I was like 'Man, big ups to you!' Then I

saw Marvin and it looks like he grew an inch. I was like, man! But I was excited. It looks like these guys put in a lot of work and are ready to play."

Williams, entering his seventh season, looks more upright instead of slightly slouched. He has impressed teammates with his renewed athleticism in training camp.

"He's like a totally different player moving around out there," Teague said. "It's like the highlights I was watching when he was younger, flying around and dunking and things like that. It looks like he's in the best shape of his whole career."

Backup center Jason Collins has added more muscle in his shoulders and chest as he prepares for his battles with Orlando's Dwight Howard.

In his first year as coach, Larry Drew showed he was comfortable in moving Al Horford from center to power forward to clear a spot for the 7-foot Collins in a bigger lineup. That was enough to convince Smith he'd be spending more time at small forward this season.

Drew sought more movement and balance on offense. Orlando swept four straight from the Hawks in the 2010 conference semifinals, leading to the end of Mike Woodson's run as coach.

SEE HAWKS, 4B



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TRICKY GETS TREAT: It's Tricky will be honored as the Aiken Trained Horse of the Year on March 18.

It's Tricky honored as year's top Aiken horse

BY BEN BAUGH
Staff writer

A pair of Grade 1 wins were among the defining reasons for the selection of Godolphin Racing's It's Tricky as the 2011 Aiken Trained Horse of the Year.

It's Tricky will be honored on March 18 at 12:30 p.m. at the Aiken Thoroughbred Racing Hall of Fame and Museum. Memorabilia from It's Tricky's 2011 racing season will be on display, and the public is invited to attend the ceremony.

The bay filly is by the 2003 Horse of the Year Mineshaft and out of the Grade 3 winning mare Catboat. It's Tricky was bred by Stonerside Stable and was broken and trained in Aiken by Tim Jones. It's Tricky is trained at the racetrack by Kiaran McLaughlin.

A winner in her only start at age 2, It's Tricky made eight starts as a 3-year-old, scoring three stakes victories during a defining sophomore campaign and placing second in two Grade 1 races in 2011. It's Tricky won the Grade 1 TVG Acorn Stakes, Grade 1 Coaching Club American Oaks and Busher Stakes and placed second in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic, Grade 1 TVG Alabama Stakes and Grade 2 Cotillion Stakes.

It's Tricky's record speaks for itself in regard to class and consistency, said Jimmy Bell, Darley America president, Tuesday in an e-mail.

"Her record is especially remarkable when you consider the fact her 3-year-old campaign included races against the best fillies of her generation as well as her elders in the G1 Breeders' Cup Ladies Classic," said Bell. "It is not often that a name reflects the individual, but in this case it is truly perfect to her personality, and her antics make her a particular favorite with the staff and fans."

The strength of her sophomore campaign included victories in the first and third jewels of New York's Triple Tiara and demonstrated her versatility as she won the races over an off track, scoring in the 1-mile Grade 1 TVG Acorn at Belmont Park and over a fast track in capturing the 1 1/8-mile Grade 1 TVG Coaching Club American Oaks at Saratoga. It's Tricky's first stakes win in 2011 was in the 1-mile and 70 yards Busher Stakes at Aqueduct in February.

"She's well-named," said Kiaran McLaughlin, Tuesday afternoon in a phone interview. "She's a nice filly. It all started in Aiken. Tim Jones and his team did a great job."

A number of races are being considered for It's Tricky's four-year-old campaign including the Sabin at Gulfstream Park in late February as a prep race for the Grade 3 Rampart Handicap on March 31 at the Hallandale, Fla.-based track.

It's Tricky has five wins including three stakes victories from 9 lifetime starts and has placed second three times, en route to earnings \$1,046,500.



AP PHOTO

SLIM BIRD: Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith (5) has lost about 25 pounds and is hoping for a big season.