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GTCC COACH IS OPTIMISTIC AS TEAM HITS HOME STRETCH

JAMESTOWN – “This team has a lot of potential,” Coach Phil Gaffney said of his Guilford Technical Community College Titans as the team looks to have a strong run in February.

“Record wise, this is the worst team I’ve had in 15 years,” he said. Looking at an 11-7 overall record and a 3-4 Region X conference mark, Gaffney said that the “big difference is that the conference is much stronger than in past years.”

“Four of the lower teams in the league went to another league. That means all of the teams left in this conference make for a tougher schedule. It is a conference where any team can beat the other on a given night. Every game is a battle,” Gaffney said.

That was the case in the Titans last outing when they won by four points over top-ranked Aiken Technical College, the district’s No. 1 team for the past two years. Rashawn Polk had 30 points and Ryan Streater poured in 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead GTCC.

Polk, who is averaging 22.8 points per game, and Streater with a 22.1 point average along with 8 rebounds per game have been the stalwarts for the Titans.

“I feel very optimistic about this team, Gaffney said. This has been a rebuilding year for the Titans. “We lost a very talented guard, Travis Deshazor, to a knee injury but our guys keep on playing hard.” He said that nine players also are sitting out the season, some because of injuries and others trying to earn more academic credits so they can transfer to a four-year college.

After Saturday’s game with University of South Carolina/ Salkehatchie at 3 p.m. at Ragsdale YMCA, the Titans will play nine games in February before entering the conference tournament in early March. The Lady Titans will entertain Bennett College of Greensboro in a 1 p.m. game.

One of remaining games for Gaffney’s team will be will be a makeup game against the high-powered Davidson Community College team on Feb. 19 in Lexington.

“I think our record will improve and we will be a contender,” Gaffney said.

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