Players, fans, coaches, points, wins, trophies make for a memorable undefeated, championship season

A relentless defense and two smooth-shooting brothers carried Lancaster through its first perfect season in school history and the Red Devils capped it with an exclamation point—claiming the Virginia High School League’s Class 1 boys basketball championship, 62-40, over George Wythe-Wytheville!

The March 9 final at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond drew thousands of Red Devil fans from the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula and beyond as they came from near and far to cheer LHS on to its third state basketball title in 11 years.

Lancaster came close last year, losing to Wiommander in the state semifinals after beating the Eagles three times prior. That loss only made the Devils more determined.

“Everything we wanted was accomplished,” said senior point Tyson Henderson, who scored 15 points and grabbed three rebounds in the final. “The goal was to win the state and we did it. Us losing last year really motivated us.”

Winning states was like our revenge tour.”

Coach Dwayne Pinn holds up the VHSL Class 1 trophy as the Lancaster High School varsity basketball players, coaches and supporters gather around for a picture following the Red Devils win in the state championship.

As it should be in the state final, “Those games are what prepared us,” said LHS coach Dwayne Pinn. “Our schedule was based upon getting us.”

Our season with its three-point game, was successful winter sports season for the Rappahannock Record for 34 years.

All stories and photos by veteran sports reporter Lisa Hinton-Valdrioghi, unless otherwise indicated. She has been covering Red Devils sports for the Rappahannock Record for 34 years.

Lancaster defeats George Wythe, 62-40, for state trophy

A salute to Lancaster High School’s successful winter sports season

George Wythe-Wytheville!

GWS, which fell victim to a 15-4 Red Devils run that lifted Lancaster to a 32-22 lead at the half. GWS’s biggest lead was by two at the 7:54 mark in the first quarter.

“After that first quarter we knew we had to stay focused, keep going hard and we had to play our game,” said LHS senior guard Gerrion Owens, who scored seven in the final. “The coaches told us to focus on the backcourt cuts and rebounding the ball.”

Lancaster, which wowed fans all season with its three-point game, was struggling to drill the long shots in the first half.

“Half did his best to keep the Maroons in the game with 15 points as the only GW player in double digits but he was no match for Lancaster sophomore Troy Henderson, who finished with 30 points, six rebounds and was a momentum shifter every time George Wythe made a run.

In a game with four ties and seven lead changes, the Maroons actually led 18-17 with 5:30 remaining in the second quarter after a Huff three-pointer. But that was the last lead for

Troy Henderson scores above defenders for a lay-in during the state final.

X’Zavion Owens (15) goes one-on-one against Brayden Rainey (3) of George Wythe.

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George Wythe is a very well-coached team and they run a good backdoor offense,” said Pinn. “So we knew going into our defense had to be fundamentally sound.”

Lancaster and George Wythe were locked at 11-11 at the end of the first quarter, even happening for the Devils.

“After that first quarter we knew we had to stay focused, keep going hard and we had to play our game,” said LHS senior forward X’Zavion Owens, “I told my guys, ‘lock in mentally. It’s time to focus.’” Their guys were very skilled so we had to lock on defense to win. Number two [Shane Huff] was very skilled, very shifty. I loved how he played the game.”

Huff did his best to keep the Maroons in the game with 15 points as the only GW player in double digits but he was no match for Lancaster sophomore Troy Henderson, who finished with 30 points, six rebounds and was a momentum shifter every time George Wythe made a run.

In a game with four ties and seven lead changes, the Maroons actually led 18-17 with 5:30 remaining in the second quarter after a Huff three-pointer. But that was the last lead for
effect our three-pointers, but we stayed confident and drove to the basket.

Troy Henderson drew two fouls early and had four by the end of the third, which forced Pinn to sit him longer than he’d liked. “Tyson getting in foul trouble, I admit, troubled my mind,” said Pinn. “I wasn’t really worried about the offense [when they got close] cause Troy’s on fire,” said Smith. “I was doing my best on defense to let the offense flow.”

As the season progressed and the Devils continued to rack up wins, it became evident to Pinn and staff they could pull off a perfect run. “You know at some point I realized we’re not just a good team, we’re better than what I thought they were thinking they were. This team really grew.”

The Devils dominated, beating opponents by an average of 32.6 points. Lancaster amassed 2,065 points and gave up 1,021. During his two-year reign, Pinn’s team has scored a total of 3,511 points and held opponents to 1,901.

Coach Dwayne Pinn, who was named both the Northern Neck and Region 1A coach of the year this year, led a group of underclassmen—there were only two seniors on the team—to the state semifinals in his first season in 2022. This year, with that near-miss on their minds, the Devils dominated, beating opponents by an average of 32.6 points. Lancaster amassed 2,065 points and gave up 1,021. During his two-year reign, Pinn’s team has scored a total of 3,511 points and held opponents to 1,901.

Lancaster’s perfect 29-0 mark in 2023 brings Pinn’s overall record to 49-1 as head coach. "We want to thank everybody for everything, all the support. We have the best fans in the Northern Neck, in the state," said Pinn. "We have had some faithful fans and it made for a really memorable season.”

Way to Go
State Champs!

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The Devils, who shot 53% from the floor, got 25 points including 12 beyond the arc, from Ty. Henderson. Ty. Henderson finished with 21 and sank five three-pointers, including four in the first half. X. Owens had nine points and Darius Smith sank four each.

The Devils held a 45-19 lead at halftime and came out of the locker room to stifle the Colonels, 13-1, to put the ball inside. Franklin brought a much taller team that struggled against a quick-handed Lancaster defense. The Devils found their groove, including 12 beyond the arc, from Ty. Henderson. Ty. Henderson finished with 21 and sank five three-pointers, including four in the first half. X. Owens had nine points and Darius Smith sank four each.

Lancaster completed the first perfect season in school history March 9, capping a 29-0 campaign by beating George Washington in the Class 1 state championship.

On the way, the Red Devils picked up the Northern Neck District tournament championship and their second straight Region 1A tournament trophy. The big stat, however, is how dominant the Devils were — beating every opponent this season by double digits.

Lancaster scored a total of 2,065 points in its 29 games, averaging 71.2 points per outing. The Devils held opponents to a cumulative 1,021 points to win the Class 1A tournament trophy. The big stat, however, is how dominant the Devils were — beating every opponent this season by double digits.

Lancaster's depth was — beating every opponent this season by double digits.

Congrats to all LHS sports teams! Way to take care of business!

Great Job LHS Winter Sports! Way to Go Red!

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Meet the starters

Center in Richmond.

... championship wins have come in the Group 1 tournament final. caster defeated Coeburn, 52-49, Devils won a second state crown championship. when LHS beat George Mason, school history on March 9, 2012, boys basketball championship in George Wythe in the Class 1... 

...of LHS who went on to play Henderson, a 1997 graduate basketball legacy. Dad Donte he’s [on the court], you can see... 

...defends, he’s a great team-... 

...he’s gotta be. It’s gotta... 

...this team together. Tyson and Troy have a family... 

...times this year. 

...of the defense... 

...he’s played... 

...no man’s land this season and... 

...he’s got a wide skillset to the floor. Each brought a different... 

...for the championship back to my community, other ‘bigs’ really well,” said Owens. “And he’s a... 

...upperclassman... 

...two. He reached the milestone in the Region 1A mark in two years. He reached... 

...in the record-breaking season for the state.” 

...for me cause I’ve been playing... 

...he’s got a big bucket. He’s gotta be... 

...this year, said Pinn. “Tyson’s play makes really... 

...team really mean a lot to us after... 

...and we got it.” 

...Lancaster Red Devils! CONGRATULATIONS... 

...CONGRATULATIONS LHS SPORTS TEAMS... 

...LHS girls basketball coach Kim Crockett chosen on the boys team in the state final.

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**March’s a lucky day for the Red Devils.**

Lancaster has won all three of its state boys basketball championships on March 9, including last year’s 62-40 victory over George Wythe in the Class 1 final.

The Devils claimed their first boys basketball title since March 9, 2009, when Lancaster defeated Clandorf, 52-49, and University of Radcliff.

All three of the Red Devils coaches have been on the court at the VCU Siegel Center in Richmond.

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