

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 | neweraprogress.com | SECTION B

1,000 and counting: Amherst native surpasses scoring milestone for UL Hornets

LEE LUTHER JR.
For the New Era-Progress

It's a good thing when something positive comes out of the COVID-19 era with all the cancellations and disruptions in the world of sports.

Such was the case for former Amherst Lancer basketball standout T.C. Thacker.

Because of the coronavirus last year's college seniors were given the opportunity to play a fifth year and Thacker chose to stay at the University of Lynchburg.

Fast forward to Jan. 22 as Thacker needed a dozen points to eclipse the 1,000-point milestone for the Hornets.

Thacker hit the mark with under 14 minutes left in the second half on Alumni Day.

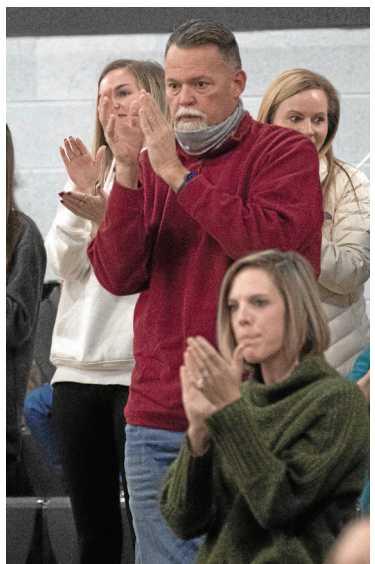
Thacker's up close shot cleared the net and the game never skipped a beat.

In the stands some fans on the Alumni side held up signs signaling the 1,000 points while the PA announcer informed the crowd of Thacker's feat while a standing ovation was given at this point.

Thacker's sisters, dad and grandma was also at the game.

For a player with the talent and experience of Thacker, 12 points should be an easy accomplishment for the fifth year player. The Eastern Mennonite defense slapped a highly physical defense on Thacker with multiple hand checks, slaps, a couple of knock-downs and even a hit to the nose just before halftime.

Thacker came out in the second half setting up his teammates with on time passes but when the moment opened upon Thacker connected on a short jumper for the 1,000 point.



LEE LUTHER JR. PHOTOS,
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Above: Tommy Thacker, father of T.C. Thacker, claps after his son hit the 1,000th point mark for the Hornets. At front is Thacker's sister, Amanda. **Right:** Former Amherst Lancer standout T.C. Thacker hit a major milestone for the University of Lynchburg on Jan 22 when he connects on this basket for his 1,000th point as a Hornet.



University of Lynchburg fans show their support for Thacker with their 1,000 point signs.



T.C. Thacker heads back down court with no celebration as his 1,000th point for the Hornets clears the net.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2022 | neweraprogess.com | SECTION B



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Nadia West, left, and teammate Kendra Smith react to the action on the court against Hollins University on Jan. 26.

Duo stays on top of game



Nadia West is greeted by teammate Kendra Smith.

Randolph College in Lynchburg has a pair of former Lady Lancer standouts at Amherst County High School playing in their first season for the Wildcats.

Nadia West and Kendra Smith have taken their talents across the James River and both are seeing playing time. West has played in nine games for the Wildcats while scoring 13 points and recording four steals and three blocks.

Smith has seen action in five games and has scored 14 points along with posting a pair of steals while going 4 for 12 at the free throw line. She is majoring in Sports and Exercise Studies.

— Lee Luther Jr.

■ **More:** For more photos, see Page B3



Kendra Smith, a former Lady Lancer standout, warms up at halftime at Hollins University.

Former Amherst County High School basketball player Nadia West, now playing for the Randolph College team, controls a rebound over a Hollins University player on Jan. 26.



West clears out a Hollins University defender that invaded her space under the basket.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 | neweraprogress.com | SECTION B



PHOTO BY LEE LUTHER JR., FOR THE NEW ERA-PROGRESS

Jazmyne Smith connects on a hit. At left in the crowd wearing a pink cap is Smith's mother, Dawn Smith, who captures the hit on her phone while dad, Dewayne Smith, dark jacket behind the bat, gets an up close view of the action. Also at the game were Smith's uncle, aunt, niece and grandparents.

Former Lancer standout fielding more softball success at Bridgewater College

Former Lady Lancer and three sport standout athlete Jazmyne Smith, now in her second year at Bridgewater College, is enjoying a good softball season.

While at Amherst County High School, Smith played softball, volleyball and basketball and has settled into playing softball for the Eagles. In late March the team played a double-header at the University of Lynchburg, which gave Smith's family and friends a chance to watch the local talent in action.

Smith wasted no time

with a base hit in her first at bat as the Bridgewater College squad would roll over the Hornets by a score of 13-4.

Smith came to the plate five times and posted three hits while scoring three runs. Smith anchored the first base duties in both games.

For this season as of press time Smith has seen action in 34 games, had 110 at-bats and banded out 38 hits while scoring 29 runs.

For more photos see B2.

- Lee Luther Jr.



Smith takes a high throw to the bag.



Smith follows a teammate's foul ball while waiting on deck for her turn to bat against the University of Lynchburg.



Smith directs her outfielder to send the Hornets base hit back to her.



Smith hustles to third base against the University of Lynchburg. In her first at bat against the Hornets, Smith connected on a base hit and would later score a run.



Jazmyne Smith was quick to get into position to grab a line drive shot off of a Hornets player's bat.