

MAKING THE TRANSITION

Offense-minded Whitlock uses his defense to score points

By Rob Shannon
The Orange County Register

Defense is a funny thing to be talking about with Tes Whitlock. After all, this is Orange County's new king of scoring, having poured in a boys high school single-game record 68 points Saturday against Saddleback.

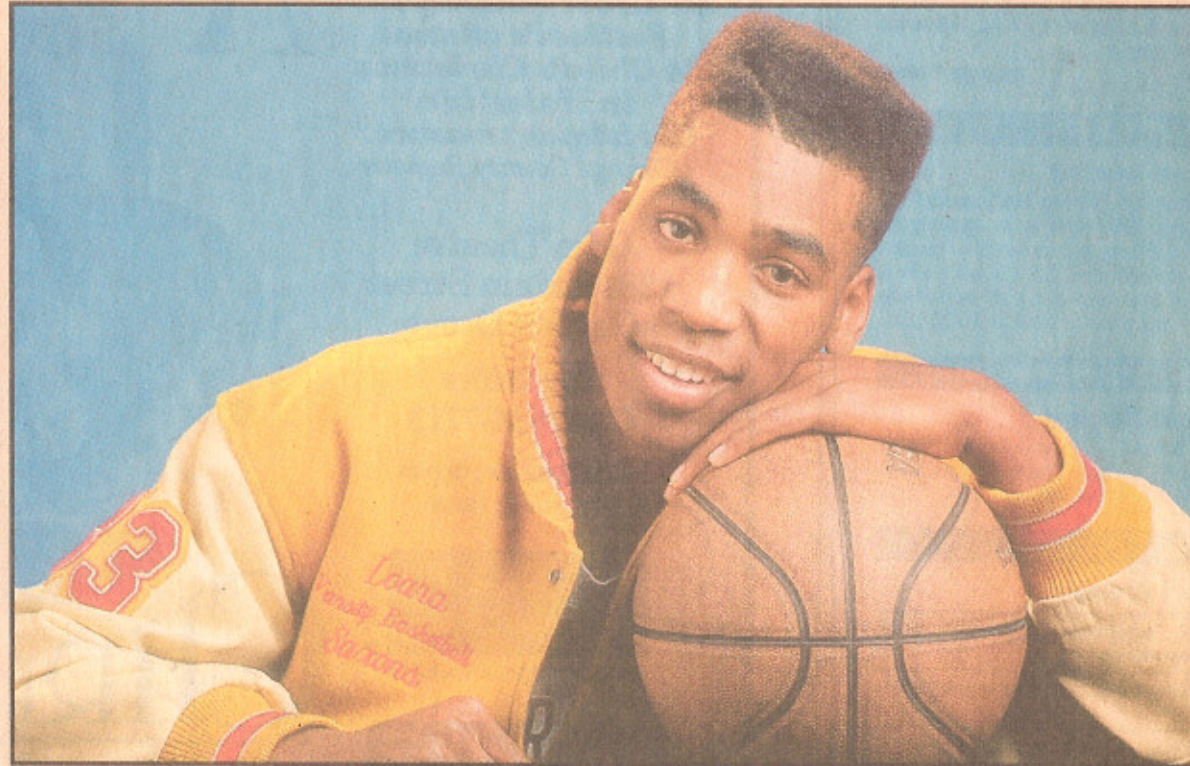
Three-point shots and acrobatic dunks are usually associated with Loara's 6-1 senior guard, not steals and clogged passing lanes.

So what has impressed his coach this year? What has Whitlock really been working on? And most importantly, what has been creating more scoring opportunities for the guy who averaged just less than 30 points per game as a junior?

"The defense has been opening up a lot," Whitlock said Sunday, the day after he broke Art Worthy's 80-year-old record of 58 points in Loara's 112-102 victory in the third-place game of the Irvine Tournament.

"I'm playing way better defense than I did last year. It's more organized this year. I know how to move, how to shut the lanes."

When Ed Prange took the Loara coaching job in September, he said he watched videotapes from the 1989-90 season and noticed Whitlock's defense, or lack of it.



Ed Carreon/The Orange County Register

With 68 points against Saddleback, Tes Whitlock established himself as Orange County's premier scorer.

"He was lacking on defense," Prange said. "And that's what we've really worked on. The reason he got so many points (Saturday) was because of all the easy shots he got off steals."

Prange checked the videotape Sunday and said Whitlock had 21 points off steals — and the first quarter was not taped.

Saddleback coach Pat Quinn noticed the defensive Whitlock as well.

"He was in the right spot at the right time," Quinn said. "He takes a lot of chances and he's quick enough to do that. He stole three or four in a row at one point. He was all over the court."

Whitlock had been slumping of late — if someone who is averaging 37.7 points can be slumping. When Loara was in the Tournament of Champions earlier this month, Whitlock said he tried to assume too much of the scoring load.

Please see WHITLOCK/15

ORANGE COUNTY Register, December 24, 1990

WHITLOCK: Stars on both ends of court

FROM 1

Loara is 4-6 and when his team matched up against some of the best in Southern California, Whitlock forced his game.

"The first couple of weeks of the season I was just fine," he said. "And then in the Tournament of Champions we were outclassed. I forced a lot of shots because I was trying to carry a team that wasn't as good as the others."

Things were different in the Irvine Tournament. The many favorable conditions made it ripe for a record performance.

"We were back in Orange County and we weren't playing the Loyolas or the Mater Deis," Whitlock said. "When I came on the floor, it was big (the game was at Christ College Irvine) and warm in there. And I have some friends on Saddleback, so I kind of challenged myself to have a big game. Everything was in my favor. After I hit my first couple of shots, I just knew."

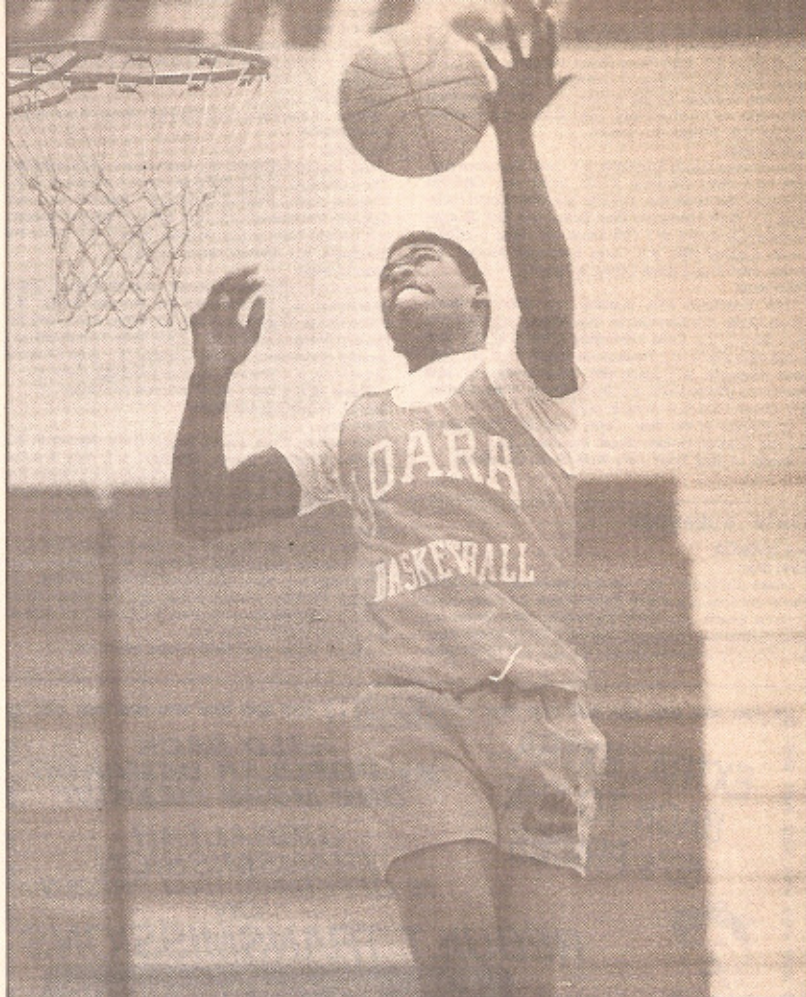
He scored 16 in the first quarter, 24 in the second and 14 in the third and fourth quarters. He tied the Worthy's mark with a dunk and put in No. 59 on a free throw with 6:48 to play in the fourth.

Quinn said he tried a 1-3-1 zone at the start of the game, then went to a man-to-man, rotating his defenders against Whitlock.

"Afterward, they were all trying to decide who guarded him the most and who gave up the most points," Quinn said.

Saddleback forward Jason Register plays on a Slam-N-Jam summer team with Whitlock. He said he has never seen Whitlock make so many three-pointers.

"I tried to help guard him but he was shooting a lot of NBA three-pointers," Register said of Whit-



The Orange County Register
The ever-improving defense of Loara's Tes Whitlock allowed the senior guard to score several of his 68 points Saturday on uncontested layups.

lock, who finished with five three-pointers. "Nobody could guard him out there."

Inside and outside, Whitlock was next to unstoppable. He connected on 20 of 31 field-goal attempts and 23 of 25 free throws.

He now has the best and fourth-best games in county history and the fourth-best single-game total in CIF Southern Section history.

Can he go any higher?

"I don't think so," Whitlock said.

"I remember talking with a reporter after I scored 54 against Los Alamitos (last season) and I didn't think I could do any better than that. So who knows?"

TES' BEST

Tes Whitlock's top 10 scoring games:

Pts.	Date	Opponent
68	12/22/90	Saddleback
54	1/12/90	Los Alamitos
49	11/30/90	Pacifica
42	12/6/89	Western
41	12/12/90	Inglewood
39	12/15/89	Fullerton
37	12/15/90	Loyola
37	1/19/90	El Dorado
36	12/7/90	Compton
36	1/6/90	Cajon