

# Winston's AAU basketball team young but talented

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early competition and then romped through regional competition. In the process, the team earned a berth in the national championships.

"We were surprised at the success of the program," Brown said of his team's performance in '83, especially in view of the fact that we didn't get all of

our players together until about two weeks before the regional competition." Brown, a former collegiate athlete, said that, while everyone involved

was pleased at the success the team enjoyed, its members gained a wealth of experience outside the realm of athletics as well. "We wanted to give our players a multitude of experiences," said Brown. "It's not just enough to give them athletic experiences. We want them to learn things they can use later in life."

One experience the players and coaches would just as soon forget is their bus trip to Monroe, La., for the national championship last season. A trip that normally would have taken 17 hours took 37.

"We broke down in every state we went through," Dunlap said. "We rented a bus from a guy I knew mainly because we didn't have the funds to charter a bus. But I thought the kids really kept their minds on playing basketball until we got to the tournament."

Once the team arrived, it made the most of its opportunity to go up against the top teams in the country. "We had so much quickness that all the teams

at the tournament were talking about us," Dunlap recalled. "Although it was their first time seeing us, many coaches were saying we were the team to beat."

The team defeated two clubs from Arkansas, one from New Jersey and another from California before finally bowing to California. "California used a full-court press the entire game," said Dunlap. "They also had a big height advantage on us."

Dunlap, Brown, Joyner and new assistant Ron Hollingsworth all hope the success of last year's team will carry over into this year. Apparently it has so far. "We had 27 kids come out for try-outs," said Dunlap. "Among them, we think we had most of the top players in the city."

Among the players on this year's team are five who were on the team a year ago. "We think we have a pretty good nucleus returning from last season," said Joyner, the head coach. "I think we stack up pretty well with the

team of last year."

Returning to the squad are forwards Ronnie Christian, an all-conference player at Parkland this past season, and Scottie Johnson, who started at North. Kenny Mickens, a starter at Reynolds, returns at shooting guard.

Chris Christmas, a point guard from East Forsyth, will be counted on to handle the ball this year. Also, the team returns sophomore Bryan Howard, a two-year standout at Carver.

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One Of The Keys

Reynolds star Kenny Mickens dunks one during a recent AAU basketball team workout (photo by James Parker).

## New era at Prairie View?

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas -- As is frequently the case under a change in leadership, the hiring of a new athletic director and head football coach is expected to break a long drought at Prairie View.

President Percy Pierre has reshuffled the athletic department in a manner that could drastically alter declining football fortunes and upgrade the entire program.

Seeking a fresh approach and a change of attitudes, Dr. Pierre announced that Brutus Jackson has assumed

command as athletic director and Conway Hayman has been hired to reverse a long-losing trend in football.

Jackson, chairman of the Prairie View athletic council since last year, takes over a program smarting over losses in all sports except track.

Hayman, an ex-offensive tackle and guard -- a fine player who spent 14 seasons in the NFL with Los Angeles, New England, Washington and Houston -- is confident that he can continue in that vein as a college head coach.

## PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes Kent Smith of Reynolds Senior High School...He's The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Smith is off to a good start as the number one singles player on the Demons tennis team. He's won his first two matches as has the Reynolds squad.

In honor of Reynolds tennis player Kent Smith, The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem will make a cash contribution to the school's total athletic program. Again, congratulations to Kent Smith of Reynolds Senior High, He's The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

Listen each Wednesday at 8 p.m. on WSJS for Gene Overby TALKS SPORTS where he highlights Pepsi's Prep Athlete of the Week.

## Florida A&M names new head coach

By BARRY COOPER  
Syndicated Columnist

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Willie Booker, a highly successful junior college coach, has been named head basketball coach at Florida A&M. Although the names of other finalists for the job were not revealed, it is believed that Booker, who has more than 200 wins to his credit, got the nod over Florida State Assistant Coach Steve Williams and Florida International University Head Coach Rich Walker.

Booker replaces Josh Giles, who quit before the start of last season to become an assistant coach at the University of New Orleans. Tony Fields had served as interim coach.

### Chaney Receives Honor

PHILADELPHIA -- Former Cheyney (Pa.) State basketball Coach John Chaney has been named Coach of the Year in the Atlantic 10 basketball conference.

Chaney, who built a 228-58 record at Cheyney before moving to Temple last year, guided this new team to a 24-3 record this year.

Chaney thus becomes one of the few black coaches ever to win coach-of-the-year honors in a major Division I conference. He is also believed to be the first black coach to go from a predominantly black school directly to the head job at a mostly-white university.

### Del State Blue-chippers

DOVER, Del.

Delaware State thinks it may have a future all-America backfield after signing freshmen John Stone of Pennsylvania and Keith Peace of New Jersey.

Stone, a 5-10, 202-pounder, rushed for 1,160 yards last year while

Peace gained 2,722 yards in two seasons.

### A Big Honor For 'Bighouse'

HAMPTON, Va. -- Winston-Salem State basketball Coach Clarence

"Bighouse" Gaines has been named Southern Division Coach of the Year in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and Norfolk State's Charles Christian has been named Coach of the Year for the Northern Division.



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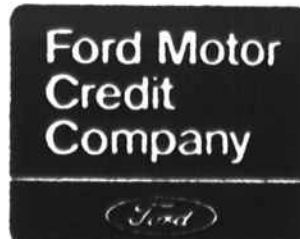
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