

Blevins; Coach, Big Brother & Father Figure

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Chronicle Sports Writer

Art Blevins, Hanes Hosiery Center Director has touched the lives of many people in the last three decades.

While growing up in the Waughtown-Southside Community, Blevins did various "odd-jobs" and yard work for many senior citizens.

After graduation from Parkland High School in 1976, Blevins continued his work with the elderly and then turned his attention to the children of the area.

In the winter of 1978, Blevins started a program to get kids off the streets and into more constructive activities. On primarily out-of-pocket funds and those raised from yard and bake sales he bought uniforms and equipment to set up youth football, baseball, and basketball programs.

In 1979 there were over 100 children participating in these programs. Another main goal he set out to accomplish were those of good sportsmanship, teamwork, character and morale, which were all quickly attained.

In the summer of 1979 Blevins was hired by the Winston-Salem Recreation Department/His first assignment was the summer program at Forest Park Recreation Center, where he put together a very successful program with children as participants and adults as volunteers.

He also enlisted community businesses to sponsor all three age groups in the centers baseball teams.

The next move was to Skyland Recreation Center where Blevins set out to accomplish the same goals. This time Blevins became involved with senior citizens as participants in recreation programs as well.

In the fall of 1979 Skyland also fielded flag football teams and basketball teams to provide enjoyment for even more children, working with Director Denise Scott.

In 1983 it was time to move once again. This time Blevins was transferred to Rupert Bell Recreation Center, working with Director Mary Britt. Even more children and adults participated in the new center's programs.

It was in 1985 that Blevins was moved to South Fork Recreation Center where the numbers continue to grow. All age groups were represented with different types of inter center and intramural programs.

Most recently, in 1992, Blevins had planted his feet at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center where he became Center Director. He has improved all the programs that he's been involved in and at the same time, has maintained success, not only by keeping these standards, but also by winning teams.

Although the emphasis is not on who wins or loses, the various teams at each center Blevins has worked with have compiled impressive records by winning 26 championships in baseball, 12 in



Director Art Blevins

football and 20 in basketball tournaments throughout the Triad. Blevins has been nominated for the Jefferson Award for his outstanding contributions to these communities. Many of the former participants in Blevins recreation programs have gone on the success in high school sports and some to excellent college careers including: Sean Gipson, basketball at LSU; Brad Pryce, baseball at Wake Forest; Dee Moye, football at North A&T; David Russell, football at North Carolina A&T; Ken Tsuruta, Football at Cawtaba Col-



Hanes Hosiery Deacons pictured front row, 1 to r: Jordan Lash, Charlie Haynes, Derek Chisholm and Mike Moore. Second row: Director Art Blevins, Tim Penn, Jeff Owen, Payton Triplett, Joel Potter and Coach Lash.

lege and Carlos Mumford, basketball at Winston Salem State.

Presently playing high school ball now are basketball standouts who participated in Blevins youth programs including: Linwood Skinner, Aaron James, Jerry Hanes, Jamal Hanes, Chris McCoy, and Johnny Joe in the Reynolds High School Basketball Program; Jimmy Hunt at Mount Tabor; Derek Spencer and Ameer Ashley at West Forsyth.

Blevins is now working with the Winston-Salem Recreation Department and coaching youth 6-18 years-old for 14 years now.

According to Blevins, he loves his job and loves all the kids the same. "I teach the kids to be the best they can be in whatever they do, whether it be school, which he stresses to them is most important,

athletics, or life.

"I always encourage them to keep their grades up, keep a good attitude, (always) and treat people the way they would want to be treated. Not to let anything or no one ever get them down and most of all keep the faith in God!"

"I praise them daily and always encourage them to be their own person, not to get around the wrong crowd and let peer pressure get to them by doing drugs or getting into trouble.

"I grew up in Southside and have seen what can happen when you get with the wrong crowd. Some of my child-hood buddies are now dead or have been in jail by running with the wrong crowd in their teen years.

"I thank the Good Lord, my parents and my youth coaches, the late Joe Booe who coached me at the Boy's Club and Tom Gaetje who worked with me while playing at Sprague Street Recreation Center when I was 12 year-old, and for helping keep me out of serious trouble while growing up in Southside.

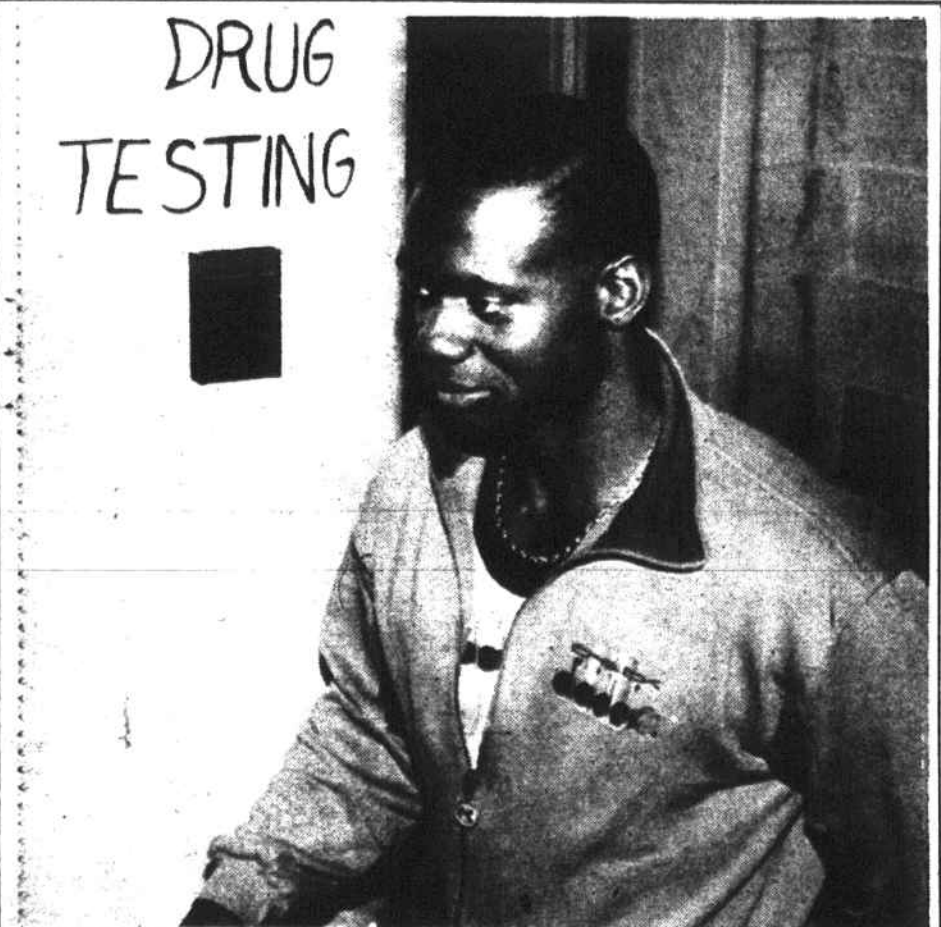
"I care about all my kids like they were my own and strive to be a father figure to many who come from a 1-parent home," Blevins said.

Blevins takes many of the kids

out to eat, has bought them clothes and tennis shoes when they needed it, and gives gifts to kids at Christmas when he knew they would not get anything else.

"I would like to thank many of my recreation department co-workers and special volunteers who over the years have helped me in a very successful career, also my brothers, Kenny and Joel; my parents, Ken and Ann Ferris and my wife Ruth Anne Blevins.

"I would also like to thank my childhood hero, Charlie Davis, the former Wake Forest All-American who I admire and keep in touch with. "If everyone would just show kids love, respect, manners and discipline, which begins at home, the world would be a better place for every one," Blevins concluded.



DRUG TESTING

"I wish to announce my retirement from competitive running. I had hoped not to end my career in this way. I have had a long career in track. I experienced success and failure. I said after the Seoul Olympics that I would come back and compete clean. I know that I did"

- Ben Johnson

Piedmont Conference

The 4-A Metro and Central Piedmont Conference will experience changes next fall beginning with football. The reconstruction will be as follows:

4-A Metro Conference	East Forsyth
Greensboro Dudley	Greensboro Page
Greensboro Grimsley	North Forsyth
	Greensboro Smith
	Morehead
	4-A Central Piedmont Conference
	Reynolds

West Forsyth	3-A North Piedmont Conference
Mount Tabor Davie County	Carver
South Rowan	Parkland
North Davidson	Glenn
South Stokes	High Point Andrews

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<p>NORTH EAST</p> <p>BP (N. Liberty) Bell Brothers Betsy's Foods Bojangles (Patterson Ave) Circle J (30th St) Ervin's Beauty Salon Expressions Hair Salon Food Lion (Northside) Great American Foods Jack's One-Stop Mack's Grocery Mama Chris' Soul Food Merita Bread Box Minit Market (27th & Liberty) Minit Market (13th & Liberty) Ogburn Station Meats Paragon Foods Ray's Bone Fish Salem Seafood Shear Illusions Hair Salon Silver Front Cleaners Star & Crescent Boutique Westbrooks Wilco (Akron Dr) Winn-Dixie (Germantown Rd)</p>	<p>Camel City Cleaners (Reynolda Manor) Camel City Cleaners (Stratford Rd) Crown Drugs (Hanes Mall) Days Inn (Silas Creek Pkwy) Eckerd Drugs (Loeman's Plaza) Eckerd Drugs (Robinhood Rd) Etna (Country Club) Etna (Stratford) Food Fair (Sherwood) Food Lion (Jonestown Rd) Forsyth Hospital (Emer. Entrance) Forsyth Hospital (Visitors Ent.) K&S News (Hanes Mall) K&S News (Pavilion) K&S News (Thruway) K&S News (Sherwood) Reynolda Road Barber Parkway Curb Market Kroger (Cloverdale) Kroger (Silas Creek Pkwy) S&W News (Jonestown Rd) Wilco (Reynolda Rd) Wilco (Silas Creek)</p>	<p>Camel City Cleaners (3rd St) Camel City Cleaners (W. 4th St) Chronicle Office (Liberty St) Discount Records First Union National Bank (4th St) Gallins Vending (RJR Plaza) Jimmy's Sandwichteria Jolly House Liberty Street News Lincoln Barber Shop Marque Hotel Mother & Daughter Mr. Omelet NationsBank/NCNB (3rd & Liberty) Rainbow News & Cafe Reading Station (Marque Hotel) Sanitary Barber Shop W.H. Smith Vending (Stouffer Hotel) Old U.S. Post Office (5th & Trade)</p>
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South

4-Brothers Amoco (Waughtown)
Ann's Hair Design (Waughtown)
Belview House Barbers
Business And Technology Center (Marshall St)
CCG Foods (S. Main St)