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“A History of Struggle and Triumph”

The Tiny Indians Football League is presently signing up for its fall season at 14th Street Community Center for football players and cheerleaders ages 5-15.

According to the 1992 Tiny Indians program book the history of this organization is as follows:

This program began in 1955 at the Salvation Army Boys' Club. A charter member of the Northwest Midget Football League, which was formed by Pop Warner, the Red Shield Boys' Club Football Team began playing as a member of an all-white league. It used the name Red Shield because of the emblem the Salvation Army uses. During the early years, the team struggled to attract youngsters from the south side of W.S. to participate on its three teams - Junior Pee Wees, Pee Wees and Midgets. Every now and then Red Shield was able to attract a standout such as Brew Buie, who went on to become a professional player with the Oakland Raiders. Most seasons, the program was hard-pressed to field competitive teams.

In 1966, the name changed to the Tiny Indians Football Club. The program began a slow climb toward respectability and pushed toward a new direction. Black children from Happy Hills Gardens Housing Project found out about the program and asked to try out for the team. It took a period of adjustment for the program to rise above conflict, as most of the other teams in the league frowned upon having blacks in their programs, but the Red Shield team decided to give it a try. In the beginning, the coaches in the program were reluctant to use black players in starting position where they could take advantage of their athletic skills, but with losing records staring them in the face, they soon gave in.

By 1967, the second season that blacks participated in the program, the coaches realized that despite racial intolerance by other teams, the Tiny Indians could only field competitive teams by prominently using black players. Among the first blacks to succeed in the program were Earnest Brown, Walt Larry, Phillip Jeffries and Frank Draper.

The 1969 season marked a milestone in the program. The Midget team finished the season with an undefeated record and advanced to the playoffs for the first time in the program's history. And, ironically, the team included the first group of black players who had gone through the program from the Junior Pee Wees to the Midgets. The blacks on that team included Marvin Bonner, Reginald Little, Verlie Fields, Vincent Pledger, Tim Davis, Curtis Speas and Karl Gary.

Although no one really noticed, that 1969 team set the standard for the Indians programs for years to come, not only in athletics, but also in other fields of endeavor. Many of the aforementioned players were not only exceptional athletes, but many were also exceptional individuals. Most not only excelled in athletics, but also in academics and in life. Today Reginald Little is a business executive living in Tulsa, Oklahoma; the Rev. Curtis Speas is an ordained minister and holds a master's degree from Abilene Christian University; Vincent Pledger became a fireman in the City of Winston-Salem; the Rev. Verlie Fields became a minister; and Karl Gary holds a master's degree and juris doctorate.

Following the success of the 1969 team, blacks throughout W.S. began to join the organization. They included Kenny Duckett, New Orleans Saints and Dallas Cowboys; Leonard Horn, W.S. State University; Darryl Nicholson, University of NC and played professionally in Canada; Edward

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Byers, WS State University; Kennard Martin, University of NC; Julius Reese, high school stand out at Mount Tabor; David Pearson WS State University; Willie Mac, East Carolina standout, and our own Coaches Thomas Eaton and Charlie Imes, Jr.

Imes' father, Charles Imes, Sr. and wife, Yvonne, were, perhaps, two of the first black volunteers to work actively with the program. According to Don Moore, Executive Director of the Salvation Army Boy's Club, "Charles was very instrumental in building the progress of the football program through the years, and a very positive influence to the organization".

Joe Adams became the program's first black head coach in 1975. He was followed by other head coaches and assistants. The first group of black coaches included Robert Wynn, Arthur "Boss Hog" Rapley, Ulysses Hunter, Ike Howard, Doug Joiner and Tom Brown. It was during this period that the program's Junior Pee Wees began their era of domination. The team won Sertoma Championships in '74 '75 and '76. The program also fielded championship teams in '77, '78, '79 and '80.

Despite the programs' success in athletics and in molding the lives of black youth, the future of the organization hung in limbo in 1981. The

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Betty Fowler is shown with president of the Boosters Club, Wayne Rousseau as she receives the Color TV she won in drawing at the 14th Street Community Center from Tiny Indian fund raiser.



Kids Thoughts.

"Look Boys, I can do that and never break a nail or muss my hair . . ."

Stowe, Central YMCA's Sports Director

By DEBY JO FERGUSON
 Chronicle Sports Writer

Adrian Stowe, the son of Anna M. Young and Allen C. Stowe, of Belmont, N.C. is a graduate of Winston-Salem State University with a B.A. degree in Political Science and has earned the position as Central YMCA's new Youth Sports Director.

According to Stowe, "I have been involved with youth for the past six years. I am also a football coach at R. J. Reynolds High School. I coach quarterback and linebackers.

"As Youth Sports Director, I look forward to serving the youth of Winston-Salem and all of the surrounding areas. I invite the public to come and take a good look at the great things happening at the YMCA.

"Presently, we are gearing up for our annual Indoor Soccer League. If you have children ages four to six year-old we welcome you to come and register at the Central YMCA. Practice begins March 29. So don't delay. For more information call 721-2080," Stowe said.

"We are also offering a brand new sports camp this summer which I am very excited about. We have never offered this before. The camp will run June 7 through August 13 with five two-week sessions.

"The camp is for boys and girls 8-12 years-old. Each two-week session will feature such activities as: Basketball, soccer, t-ball, softball, frisbee, volleyball, racquetball, golf and tennis," Stowe added.

"Campers will go swimming several times each week and we plan to have guest speakers and sports figures.

"We have a no turn down policy. Even if you can't afford to join the YMCA, scholarships are available. Most of all I want to let everyone know I am happy to be here and I am here to serve the kids," Stowe concluded.



Adrian Stowe is not only excited about his new position at the YMCA, but he expresses his desire to serve the kids.

Community Agencies Sponsor Trip To Atlanta

By DEBY JO FERGUSON
 Chronicle Sports Writer

William C. Sims Recreation Center, Happy Hill Boy's Club, Winston-Salem Housing Authority and Post 453 recently sponsored a trip to Atlanta for 24 kids from the Happy Hill Garden Community and 11 volunteers who loaded up on Saturday, March 27, and journeyed to the beautiful city of Atlanta, Georgia.

A special thanks to Mike Epps who help make the trip possible. Epps was a player of the year at Phiffer College in 1979 and a high school graduate of East Forsyth. He is presently working with the Atlanta Hawks Franchise.

After a long drive down Hwy 85, spotting the big Peach as they entered the State of Georgia and enduring the boredom of setting in traffic at road construction sites, they finally arrived.

"How much longer before we get there, turned into I can't believe we're here," was the cry of the youth.

During the four hour tour the kids got to see some of the major black scenes of Atlanta. The students ooh and aah over the sights as their eyes lighted up with amazement at each attraction.

According to Ben Piggott, "One highlight of the tour was the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. in which they were also able to see the crypt that M.L. King Jr. was entombed."

"I think the most amazing part of visiting the MLK Center for the kids was the fact that there were white people there also," Piggott said.

"I explained to the kids that MLK Jr. was a man who stood for all races. The children were also amazed that everyone talked to everyone at the center. There was no black and white, just people sharing a special moment in time and history," Piggott continued.

"This is something I've tried to teach them, that people should be judged by character not by color, and this is what they got to see at the center. People uniting for one cause, that cause being peace, not color.

"We visited the 70 flags of Foreign Governments in Freedom Hall at the MLK Jr. Center. These flags represent official visits by heads of state from one of these governments to the King Center. "We also visited Ebenezer Baptist Church where Dr. King's spiritual roots were nurtured and he later co-pastored Ebenezer

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Entombment. One of the many sites viewed by the Boys Club.