## Grayhounds

highlight came of their season.

That was about as close to a perfect game we could play." Williford said. "We did everything right, everything we had to do to win. We were surprised to win the way we did, but this what we wanted to do, win and play for the tion to defend its title. national championship."

While one team will be playing next week, another Winstonthe regionals when its opponent -Salem team will not be joining failed to send in its registration them. The Pfafftown Packers Jr. materials. That should have enhanced his team's chances to Pee Wee team, which last year won the national championship in San play in the nationals, McDaniel Jose, Calif., did not get an invitasaid, but he realized that only 25 out of nearly 7,000 organizations actually receives a bid.

## Randy Jones

standout at Duke, for the team. And like most of his current teammates, he didn't know anything about the sport.

men selected after the tryouts in Lake Placid, N.Y. Jones became a near-instant smash when he placed first in the National Push Championships with only two days of practice. Jones owes his berth to an athletic background that he said prepared him for the sport.

"Bobsledding is about 80 percent football and 20 percent track." said Jones, who received a degree in mechanical engineering last year. "You have to use mostly your legs during the event. So leg strength is stressed through exercises and weight lifting.

But the difference in having good athletes and a good team is teamwork. Most of the European groups have spent years developing a chemistry, while the U.S. contingent — a motley crew of members coming from different parts of the country - are receiving onthe-job training at the highest

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level possible.

The inexperience shows itself in the results. The U.S. team finished tenth and seventeenth in its So imagine his surprise when most recent outings, and with one he was named as one of the five of its drivers hurt in the five-man event, that puts the onus on Jones, who also races in the two-man competition, to contribute even more to his team's success.

"Last year, we were winning everything in sight. But with the Olympics coming up. I guess more teams are serious about winning," Jones' said. "Plus, the Bodine sleds we have been using have not been performing as well as we expected. We've raced on them twice and we've been a little disappointed."

The group has also received a less than favorable response from their European hosts. Jones said he detects "a snotty attitude" when the U.S. team uses their facilities and an impatience from others, particularly towards the the black participants. Jones was in Germany when a racial incident involving the beating of a member of the U.S. luge team while his black teammate wits taunted. While he admitted the act

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The Packers received a bye in

infuriated him, Jones conceded he was not totally shocked.

"Those people that did that were Neo-Nazis. They are in America, so obviously they're over here." Jones said. "From what I know, they were at a place where they shouldn't have been. But it didn't shock me. I mean, if we're having problems over here (in the U.S.), why should I expect it to be different anywhere else?"

One thing Jones has thought about is his future after the Games. While he admits he is anxious to do other things outside of athletics. Jones said that he has not ruled out the next Winter Games. But for now, the Winston-Salem native is concentrating about bringing home a medal.

"We have to work on a lot of getting in sync, putting things together so we can be in a position to win in the medal rounds," Jones said. "Whenever I go home, I get asked 'What is bobsledding?' Well, if I can bring home a medal, hopefully it will open up some people's eyes about the sport."

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