

# SPORTS WEEK

## Bobcats will square off against Roberson in championship series

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

The cards dealt to Glenn High School's baseball team by the N.C. High School Athletic Association aren't exactly the ones the Bobcats were looking to receive. However, the team plans to make the best this weekend when it plays Asheville's T.C. Roberson High for the state 3-A baseball championship.

The Bobcats will play Roberson in a best-of-three series at N.C. State in Raleigh beginning with the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday afternoon. The teams will play again about 30 minutes after that game's conclusion.

That is quite different from the format the Bobcats expect-



Johnson



Kivett

Sunday."

Instead, the teams will play

ed according to coach Dale Ijames.

"We really thought we would play one game each day," Ijames said. "We really thought the games would be played Friday, Saturday and



Chris Lane



Marion

for each game. Yet, Ijames said his team remains confident.

the doubleheader on Saturday and a third game on Sunday - if necessary. Under this format, the Bobcats will be hard-pressed to have their closer (Ryan Marion) available



Ijames



Corey Lane

said. "We've got to get used to that, but I think we will be able

Glenn advanced to the championship series by dominating C.B. Aycock in a 10-0 victory Friday.

"We thought the format would be a little different," Ijames

to adjust."

The Bobcats will take on an opponent that has six college scholarship signees on this year's team.

"This is going to be a big test for us," Ijames said. "They're one of the best teams in the state, and I think both of us have been ranked either first, second or third in the state this year."

Like Glenn, Roberson has compiled a 26-2 record this season.

"One of the things we did this year was go out and play a little stronger teams during the season," Ijames said. "I think that has helped us."

It should also help that the Bobcats head into the state championship series with a

healthy roster for the first time in a long while.

"We've really been decimated by injuries in the playoffs since the '92 season," Ijames said. "We played a great game last Friday at Pikeville with those 14 hits. We really needed that."

Nolan Johnson, who has compiled an 8-0 record, will get the start on the mound for the Bobcats in the first game on Saturday. Lee Barnhill will likely start the second game. However, Adam Richardson could get the nod. Barnhill has a 2-0 record but hasn't gotten many starts. Richardson has a 5-0 record but hasn't been as sharp as has Richardson in recent weeks. Johnson,

See Bobcats on B3

## Twin City reunion is an idea whose time is overdue



FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

The regular season of Twin City Little League is steadily winding down. Teams will be deciding championships in all of the league's divisions this week and then the top coaches will begin the task of putting together their all-star teams, which will compete against other Little League programs in the district tournament.

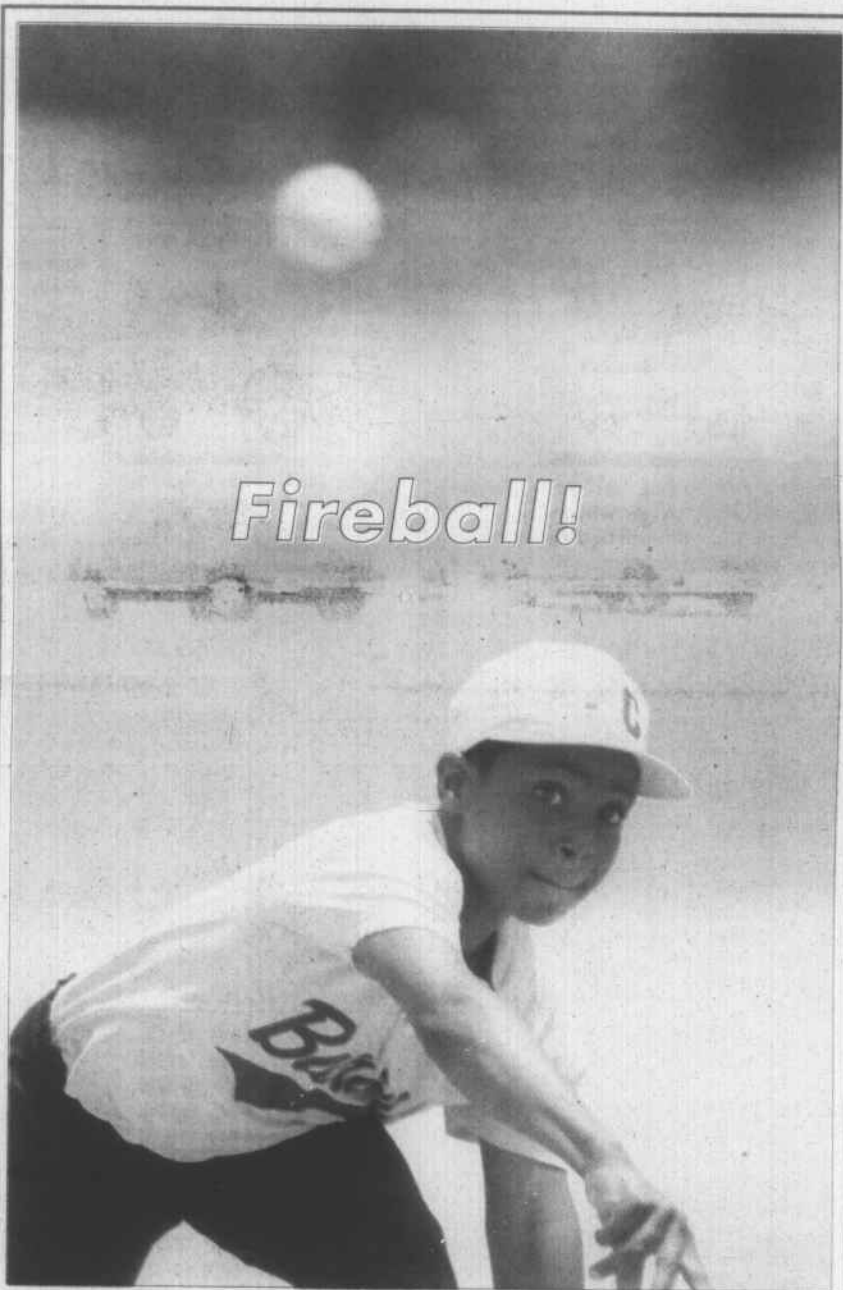
It sounds like the same kinds of things that have been going on for the league since it became a sanctioned organization through Little League Baseball Inc. in Williamsport, Pa. But it isn't.

Twin City is trying to make sure that its niche is reserved in local baseball. The sport is slowly dying out in the African-American community and people who have been around the league for years are trying to figure out a way to make the game as fun and exciting as it has been for the nearly 40 years that it has been around the East Winston community.

Two of those people are Marlin Wilkins and his father, Pastor Melvin "Rip" Wilkins. They are spearheading a movement afoot to bring back some of the league's past glory. Marlin Wilkins is pushing for a Twin City Little League Reunion Day to draw on the program's rich past and bring new life to the organization. It is being organized to raise money for the teams that will begin play in all-star competition and help renew some of the acquaintances that have been made down through the years that the program has been in operation.

"I'm trying to be proactive in ensuring that our all-star needs will be met," said Marlin Wilkins, who is the coach of the Blue Jays in the Pony Division. "We're asking for all former coaches, managers, players, sponsors and everyone who has ever been associated with the

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The regular season has come to a close at Twin City Little League and now the league's four divisions will prepare for all-star competition in the district tournament.

Photo by Bruce Chapman

## Richardson to head Rams' defensive unit

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Although his contract doesn't officially begin until the end of this month, Greg Richardson has come aboard to fill a major vacancy in the Winston-Salem State football program. Richardson, the former head coach at Livingstone, has accepted a contract to become the Rams' defensive coordinator.

Richardson, 50, replaces Andrew Faison, who left WSSU to become the head coach at Virginia State. A native of Charlotte, Richardson is a 1974 graduate of N.C. Central. He has been around the CIAA for many years and has long been considered one of the top defensive coordinators in the conference.



Richardson

"I'm very excited to be here at Winston-Salem State," Richardson said. "This is the first time I've had the opportunity to join a program that wasn't in the process of rebuilding. Winston-Salem State is a proven winner and one of the elite programs in the conference. I'm just looking forward to working with coach (Kermit) Blount and the staff so that we may return to the championship game."

Richardson will have big shoes to fill at WSSU. Faison, who also served as the Rams' defensive secondary coach and recruiting coordinator, was well-liked and respected by the players, coaches, administration and faculty at WSSU. He took over a defensive unit that ranked near the bottom of the conference when he arrived and molded it into one of the top units in the conference during his stay.

The Rams were 5-5 in his first season at WSSU before climbing to the top of the league's hierarchy. WSSU captured back-to-back championships in 1999 and 2000 and lost in the CIAA championship game last fall.

Richardson served as head coach at Livingstone from 1999-2001. His teams compiled a 7-23 mark. Before coming to Living-

See Rams on B4

## GCACC Family Life Center up and running

New facility plays host to AAU Tournament, plans basketball camp

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Xavia McCarter sees himself as a minister of sorts. He's not the type that operates out of a pulpit. Neither does he envision himself as the kind that evangelizes on the streets. But when it comes to touching the lives of the masses, McCarter does manage to get the job done.

McCarter is the director of the S.M. McCarter Family Life Center, which is part of Greater Cleveland Avenue Christian



The North Carolina Bulls captured first place in the first annual GCACC Roundball Classic.

Church. In that capacity he works with people every day to enrich their lives through sports, recreation and other physical activities.

The facility, on Lansing

Drive in Winston-Salem, opened in January. It is equipped with a 94-foot, regulation-size basketball court; a weight training facility; game room with 11 arcade games along with air hockey and

basketball games; meeting room; aerobics room and office space. In all, the family life center spans some 30,000 square feet and was

See GCACC on B2

## West Forsyth ready for 4-A title series

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

West Forsyth's run through the 4-A state baseball playoffs has been a team effort, according to coach Randy Pope. The Titans will be trying to bring home the school's first state championship in the sport when they begin a best-of-three championship series in Zebulon on Saturday afternoon.

The Titans, who captured the Central Piedmont 4-A championship, have gotten good pitching and clutch hitting throughout the playoffs to make it this far. Although they are on uncharted ground, Pope said his team is taking everything in stride.

"They've been on an even keel," said Pope, who is his

fourth season heading the Titans' program. "They've been like that all year. They've not really gotten excited or hyped up. They've just been taking care of business."

The key has been pitching. West's pitchers have mowed down opponents throughout the season. Cody Crofts put together perhaps the finest outing of the season in the Titans' semifinal victory over Charlotte Providence last Friday. Crofts, sporting green-colored hair, pitched a complete game, allowing only five hits and one run in a 5-1 victory, West's 13th in a row.

Crofts or Erik Walker will get the start in Game One on Saturday, with the other set as the starter in Game Two, which will begin at 8 p.m. Walker is

See Titans on B7