

Season winding down for late-night hoopers

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Some great hoop action has taken place at both Martin Luther King and 14th Street recreation centers. The ballers at MLK claim to be the more physical, while 14th Street hoopers respond by asking, "Which center won it all last year?"

And the team that won it all a season ago looked even better this season as it took down the last unbeaten squad in either of the leagues Monday night. The defending champions, Hot Boyz, came out like the UNLV Runnin' Rebels of the early 1990s en route to a 49-40 victory over Somethin' New at 14th Street. The win put the Hot Boyz in first place heading into tonight's playoff action.

"I came in here feeling like we could win," said Danny Gathings, the Hot Boyz' star guard. "I mean, we're the defending champs, ya know. We're still the team to beat."

Gathings and the Hot Boyz began the game on fire as they raced to an early eight-point lead. Gathings made the play of the opening half. He jumped over two Somethin' New players to throw down a jam with 12:40 remaining in the first half. Not only did he slam on two players, but he just hung on the rim with one arm inside the rim for about 10 seconds afterward.

"This is what type of ball people expect from us," Gathings said. "We're definitely the best team. We've been the best for the last few years. We're the team to beat, and we're looking forward to winning it again."

Josh Pittman had something to say about that, though. He refused to let his team get smashed in front of a packed house in the 14th Street gym. Pittman, Tim Wells and Jamil Pope did what they could to keep the perfect season alive during the final game of the regular season. The Hot Boyz went into the half with a 23-17 lead.

Both teams continued to battle back and forth in the second half. Somethin' New was even able to get to within two points, but constant 3-pointers from Travis Holcomb-Faye smashed any chances of a comeback. The most devastating of his 3-point bombs occurred when he hit a three as the buzzer sounded.

"I did that to rub in the win," Holcomb-Faye said. "They were talking junk the whole game. I don't really talk junk out there when I'm playing. We don't have to talk



Somethin' New's Tim Wells prepares for free throw.

Photo by Anthony Hill

junk. We feel like we're the best team. We don't listen to what everyone else says."

Pittman added: "I'm upset about this. You know how much I hate to lose, but I'll take the blame for it. We should've made them play man-to-man defense, instead of zone. They can't play man-to-man. All they do is reach. But I'm not going to make any excuses. They played a good game. We'll get them next time."

The game of the week over at MLK was between OOO-WEE and Jump-Off. Jump-Off used its awesome guard play to get past OOO-WEE 46-41 last week. Show Tyme is steadily climbing up the rankings as well. Show Tyme beat Jump-Off, the Eagles and the Hood Trollers last week.

"I'm trying to tell you, man — they're the hottest team right now," said MLK representative Ike Howard. "They've got a lot of depth on that team. They are the team to watch right now."

The leading scorer for the 14th Street league is Josh Pittman, with 21.8 points a game, while Jump-Off's Nardo Davis continues to hold down the MLK league hoop-

ers. "I'm the best player in Winston-Salem," Pittman concluded. "If anyone wants to try me out, I'm working at Carl Russell Center and they can come test me. I can close the gym down and everything. If I'm wrong, come and prove me wrong."

Winston-Salem Department of Parks and Recreation standings:

Martin Luther King's week five standings

Jump-Off	13-3
OOO-WEE	13-3
Show Tyme	10-5
Hood Trollers	9-6
Free Agents	6-9
Eagles	4-9
Rackafellas	2-11
T-Life	1-9

14th Street standings (as of Monday)

Hot Boyz	8-1
Somethin' New	8-1
Strictly Da Realist	7-2
City View	6-3
Young Guns	5-4
Syndicates	5-4
Late Show	3-6
City Heat	2-7
25th Street	1-8

this." Well, it's been going on for years. Pick up a newspaper; watch the news. Women crying wolf on athletes for money is nothing new.

And now there's news of people in the Bryant camp being worried about not getting a fair trial in Colorado because of the closeness of the Cordillera community. Well, if they're looking

for the best venue for the Bryant trial, they might want to check the open dates for the Staples Center from August through October. Hey, it's a thought.

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To buy game tickets, visit www.unlvtickets.com. The tickets start at \$13. For a schedule of events or to reserve hotels for the weekend, go to www.vegas-footballclassic.com or call (702) 804-5529.

Footnote:

The 2003 Las Vegas Football Classic has guaranteed \$375,000 to each school, including expenses, making it one of the highest classic payouts in black college sports. Clark County high school seniors also will receive \$10,000 in minority scholarships from the classic, and the estimated economic impact for the Las Vegas area is \$20 million.

Urban Sports & Entertainment Group (USEG), which for

10 years has been one of the largest HBCU sports marketing firms in the country, has teamed with two African-American-owned marketing firms, New Creation Productions (NCP) of Las Vegas and CMC Enterprises of Atlanta, to host the event. USEG clients include the Bayou Classic, the CIAA basketball tournament, the Ford Black College Football Road Trip and the Honda Battle of the Bands (HBOB). USEG has raised more than \$13 million on behalf of HBCUs and their programs.

"Not only will the Las Vegas Football Classic expose young people to a black culture mostly foreign to them, but there will also be tremendous opportunity for black businesses and entrepreneurs," NCP CEO Jonathan Simon said. "An HBCU classic

agree with the crowd or Sales after the match.

"I don't know," Sales said in disgust after the match. "I don't have any excuses. He fought a good fight. I just have to get in the gym and work harder. But I'll tell you what, for people to come up to me and say that I should've won the fight is great. It hurts a little more too. But I can't do nothing but get in the gym and work harder. That's all."

Fight promoter Sterling Barber concluded: "I think the fighters did well tonight. If everyone continues to come out and support it, we could make Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point and Kernersville places where kids can learn about boxing. This is a hotbed for fighting. We're going to Ohio to fight next. In September we'll have another fight in the Sportsplex. We also plan to be in the Coliseum soon."

Tri-City tears up tracks at competition

Hunter Furr leads club's charge

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Tri-City sprinters and field event specialists had a great showing in Durham last weekend. The club was able to win a few races and gold medals at the Russell E. Blunt East Coast Invitational track meet on the campus of Hillside High School.

"I was very happy with the meet," Tri-City head coach Buddy Hayes said. "We got a couple golds and broke a few records."

J. Hunter Furr led the charge for the club. He collected two gold medals and one silver medal during the three-day event. The Midget Boys 4x100-meter relay, which consisted of Furr, Jashawn Gary, Lamont Arrington, and Danny Boden, set a new meet record in that race. Other multi-medal winners were Stacey Gamble, the talented Michael Rucker, Ceren Buchanan and Jason Jowers.

More than 1,500 athletes from throughout the United States and four other countries competed in the meet. The



Michael Rucker takes a walk.

Russell E. Blunt East Coast Invitational is an age-group competition limited to athletes who meet rigid qualifying standards.

Results of the Tri-City Relays Track Club at Blunt Meet

Bantam Boys: second place, 4x100 relay in 58.02 seconds. Members: Maurice Love, Jake Gainey, Jimon Crawford, Matthew Ramseur

Midget Boys: first 4x100 relay in 49.4 (meet record) seconds. Members: Jashawn Gary, Lamont Arrington, Danny Boden, J. Hunter Furr

Others finishes:

J. Hunter Furr, first, 100 meters dash in 16.65 seconds

See Tri-City on B4

Bulldogs to hold sign-ups

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Are you ready for some football?

Well, the Winston-Salem Bulldogs will host sign-ups for football and cheerleading for three days, starting on Saturday. The other two days for sign-ups will be July 30 and 31 at Hill Middle School. The coordinators will be at Hill Middle school at 4 p.m. on Saturday,

and 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday of next week.

The team will begin practicing on Aug. 1. The cost to participate in football and cheerleading is \$125. Flag football costs \$90.

For more information on football sign-ups, call Jerry or Marcus Thornton at 761-8497. For cheerleading information call Sabrina Pinson at 995-3861.

Tiny Indians to hold final sign-ups

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

If you were planning on joining the Tiny Indians this season, time is running out.

Final registration for the Winston-Salem Tiny Indians football and cheerleading squads will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Ray Agnew Field, on Waterworks Road. The fees are \$110 for Flag and \$130 for Mitey-Mite through Midget. (The Flag, Mitey Mite and Jr. Pee Wee teams are full for football.)

CIAA

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Eagles, we also welcome the challenge of working hard during the regular season so that we can have home-field advantage on November 15."

Last season, CIAA champion Fayetteville State became the first conference team invited to the NCAA Division II playoffs since 1993, riding the momentum of its championship game victory. The Broncos knocked off Bowie State 17-14 to end the CIAA's nine-year absence from NCAA postseason play. In 2000, Winston-Salem State brought home its second consecutive conference title when it won a 31-28 thriller against Virginia Union. In 2001, the Panthers avenged its championship game loss to Winston-Salem State the previous season with a 31-24 victory.

Since the eastern/western divisional format was put in place in 2000, CIAA regular season attendance has moved to fourth among Division II conferences. Also, the CIAA has undergone expansion by adding two football members from its current league membership (St. Augustine's in 2002 and Shaw in 2003). In 2005, St. Paul's will become a football member,

bringing the conference's football membership to 12, and two six-member divisions.

The CIAA originally began the divisional championship game format in 1970. At that time, the northern and southern division champions squared off and played a championship game, and the format continued until 1990. The conference realigned into eastern and western divisions in 1997 and, before 2000, determined the champion

report card with all four quarters showing promotion to next grade. (Anyone who has signed up previously but has not turned in all paperwork, needs to bring this information. A child cannot practice Aug. 1 if all paperwork is not in.) All cheerleaders who have not paid need to turn all money in at this last sign-up.

For more information, contact a league representative. Contact Sarah Jackson at 407-3298 or Leonard Green at 765-7515.

by overall conference winning percentage.

The interdivisional conference championship game, a format pioneered by the CIAA, has become a staple in Division I football with the Southeastern, Big 12, and Mid-American conferences utilizing the format. All began their championships in the 1990s. The Atlantic Coast Conference recently petitioned the NCAA to add a championship game.



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Hill

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handle. And please stop letting her friends get all kinds of media attention simply because they know her. I'm sick of hearing, "She's got to be telling the truth. I don't know how anyone could lie about something like

Las Vegas

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historically black colleges and universities. The games are played in Las Vegas in an effort to attract more African-Americans to visit the city.

The classic is said to have activities for everyone. The weekend will include an official after-party, featuring the Neville Brothers at the Stardust Hotel; a fashion show; a battle of the bands between Southern's Human Jukebox and A&T's Marching Machine. There will be a step show at the Thomas & Mack Center (Sept. 12). There will be a vendor marketplace at Sam Boyd Stadium with jewelry, clothes and African art.

Boxing

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out strong in the first round, but I also knew that he would wear down in the last round," Sales said.

Green did tire out in the final round as Sales connected with a body shot, then right hook — almost in that order every time. The crowd went crazy as Sales made his final attack in the last round. But the scorecards didn't