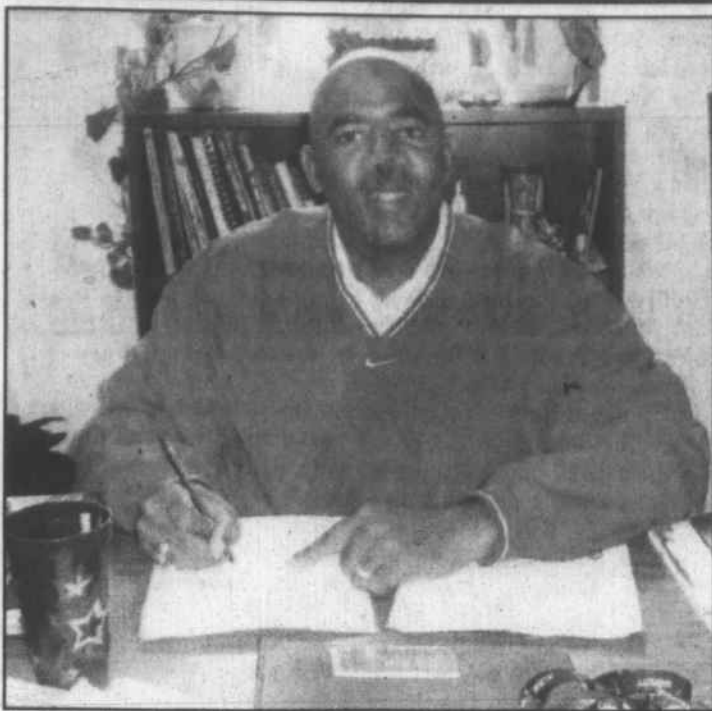


SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

Also Religion, Obituaries, Classifieds

APRIL 10, 2008



Local coach Isaac Pitts is the new AD and head boys coach at Quality Education Academy.

READY TO WORK

Coach Isaac Pitts doing double-duty at QEA

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Local coach Isaac Pitts always seems to be on the go. He has been in Georgia working on some things for his job as athletic director of the Boys and Girls Club most of this week. He spent most of last week with some of his AAU players at a showcase event. When he wasn't dealing with that, Pitts was looking over athletic schedules for the sports at Quality Education, where he also serves as athletic director and basketball coach.

Pitts was hired as QEA's head boy's basketball coach and athletic director during the first week of March. He's entering a new area in athletics. Pitts has never been an athletic director or a head varsity coach. He's hoping that his years of experience, knowledge of sports and willingness to learn more will guide him in his newest venture at the new high school.



Simon Johnson

QEA principal Simon Johnson added: "Coach Pitts was recommended by someone. He then sent in the proper information. We thought he would be a good fit for QEA. First of all, he cares about the growth and development of kids. He's also got a good understanding of basketball. He has a grasp of the talent in the community too. All of those things played a part in hiring coach Pitts. I'm very confident that he will fulfill the school's mission. I don't know if there's anything that can make me more confident."

According to the school's website, the mission of Quality Education Academy says that it's student-athletes learn to make independent decisions with critical thoughts in an environment which prepares them academically, socially, emotionally and physically to live out their faith as servant leaders in every area of society. The mission also states that athletics provide an opportunity to grow in the manifestation of Godly character, as the student-athlete faces situations within the team and within competition that are representative of situations to be faced in life.

"We are very excited about coach Pitts," Johnson said. "We expect to be very competitive within the next three years. We're

See Pitts on B4

Local ballers make All-District

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

It was a good year for a number of area ballers, individually. Nearly 10 local prep ballers graced the North Carolina Coaches Association All-District team. The special squad was released last week.

Mt. Tabor head boy's coach, Andy Muse, was honored as the District 7 Coach of the Year after guiding his Spartans to the Final 4 this past season. Mt. Tabor won 26 games, which was the most in school history. Mt. Tabor also won the Central Piedmont Conference, the Frank Spencer Tournament, the Central Piedmont Conference Tournament, the 4-A Western Sectional and Spartan guard C.J. Harris was named Player of the Year of all districts.

The area boys to grace the District 7 team were C.J. Harris (First Team, Mount Tabor), Kendall Smith (First team, Glenn), Allan Jones (First team, West), Mike Grace (Second team, Mount Tabor), Gabriel Lowder



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Mt. Tabor rising senior C.J. Harris fights off West Forsyth's Chrishawn Rhyne last season.

(Second team, North Forsyth), Kyle Boardman (Second team, West Forsyth), Jarvis Brayboy (Third team, Glenn). "Our team had an out-

standing year and C.J. Harris and Mike Grace were a big part of our success," Mt. Tabor head coach Andy Muse told *The Chronicle*. "CJ put

enough work in on the court to receive the MVP. He was also on the 4-A Western Regional all tournament team

See Ballers on B2



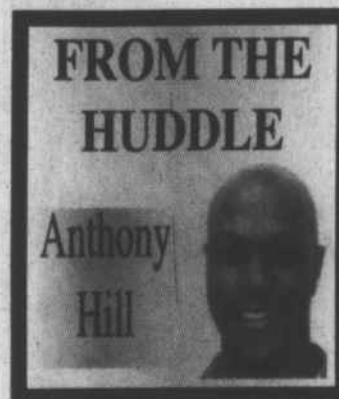
Photo by Jeff Sizer/Charlotte Observer/MCT

Kansas' Darrell Arthur hugs Mario Chalmers (15) after the Jayhawks 75-68 win over the Memphis in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship.

I picked the Jayhawks weeks ago

I'm not one to brag about much. But I must admit that I've been bragging like crazy about my extremely accurate March Madness bracket (the one that counted). Not only did I pick the Final Four, the championship game participants and champion. I also got the final score correct.

Now that's something right there. Yes, I predicted the Kansas Jayhawks would beat the Memphis Tigers 75-68



weeks ago. The funny thing is I even wrote a column stating this was going to be the year that I picked the champion correctly.

I am feeling very good right now. That was a great game too. It was a hard fought battle between two very talented teams. Kansas held a five point lead at halftime but the Memphis Tigers rallied back in the second half. It looked like the Tigers were

going to win, but the tables turned after Dorsey fouled out. I remember telling one of my homeboys to look at the Memphis bench after that. The Tigers were up by 7 or 9 points, but looking as if they were down. Yet, Kansas players still looked to believe. And, Mario Chalmers hit that three pointer with two seconds left in regulation to force

See Hill on B4

A&T Aggies cruise to a sweep over Lady Rams



Photo by Michael Simmons

WSSU couldn't seem to catch fire from the plate against N.C. A&T over the weekend.

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina A&T softball team used daunting combination of strong pitching and unrelenting offense to dominate arch-rival Winston-Salem State 19-1 at the Lady Aggies Softball complex on Monday afternoon. The Aggies also took advantage of some shaky Rams defense as the game ended five innings because of the 8-run mercy rule.

The win completed a three-game sweep of the Rams in which the Aggies only allowed them to score two runs on 11 hits. Aggies' freshman starter Jennifer Luper played a part in that. She improved to 11-3 on the season after pitching five innings, surrendering just three hits, striking out four while not surrendering an earned run. Luper has given up just one earned run over her last 21 innings pitched.

Luper got a lot of help from sophomore Bianca Alsbrook who went 3-for-4 with five RBIs and two runs scored. Sophomore Tangie Conover added two hits, four runs scored and

three RBIs. Sophomore Yahamma White also scored four times.

The win was the Aggies sixth straight. Over those six games, they've outscored their opponents 57-9 while holding their opponents to just 24 hits over the same span. On Monday, it took Luper just 45 pitches to finish off the Rams. Thirty-six of those pitches were strikes.

Before Luper even took the mound, however, the Aggies (18-11-1) had already grabbed control of the game. Aggie senior Chaola Simmons opened the game with a telling double in which two Ram fielders collided as the ball bounced between them. The Rams (15-15) fielding woes continued as White singled and moved to third on an errant throw from center field that allowed Simmons to score.

Conover continued to test the rattled Rams defense by hitting a routine fly ball to center that popped out of the fielder's glove for another Aggies run and a 2-0 lead. Rams starter Desiree Ramirez walked sophomore Jessie Larson, and Larson and Conover

See Softball on B2