

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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JULY 3, 2008

Don't forget the local role models

FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill



I was talking with one of my friends, who happens to play professional football for living last week, and we were talking about the differences between coaches we grew up with and the ones that coach nowadays.

My boy, who I will not name (because he asked me not to), said that coaches aren't as hard on kids as our youth coaches were. I quickly responded by saying that parents these days won't allow coaches to be tough on their kids, especially not the way my old ball coaches used to do. I mean, there wasn't a n y a b use going on. But there was definitely some direct orders given out. And, I had no problem listening. And, I grew up listening to a lot of white coaches. So, it wasn't about me seeing someone that looked like my dad. Nor, was it about me listening to a coach because I knew he could relate to me.

It was about me learning discipline and working to make sure I wouldn't get yelled at again. My boy said that youth coaches nowadays really don't care about the kids. They seem to be all about themselves, running around bragging on their records from year to year. And some youth coaches even talk about Pop Warner championships they coached. Come on now. I thought it was about the kids. I had to kind of agree with him because I see that type of mess all the time. But I still had to stick up for some coaches that I do see doing a good job.

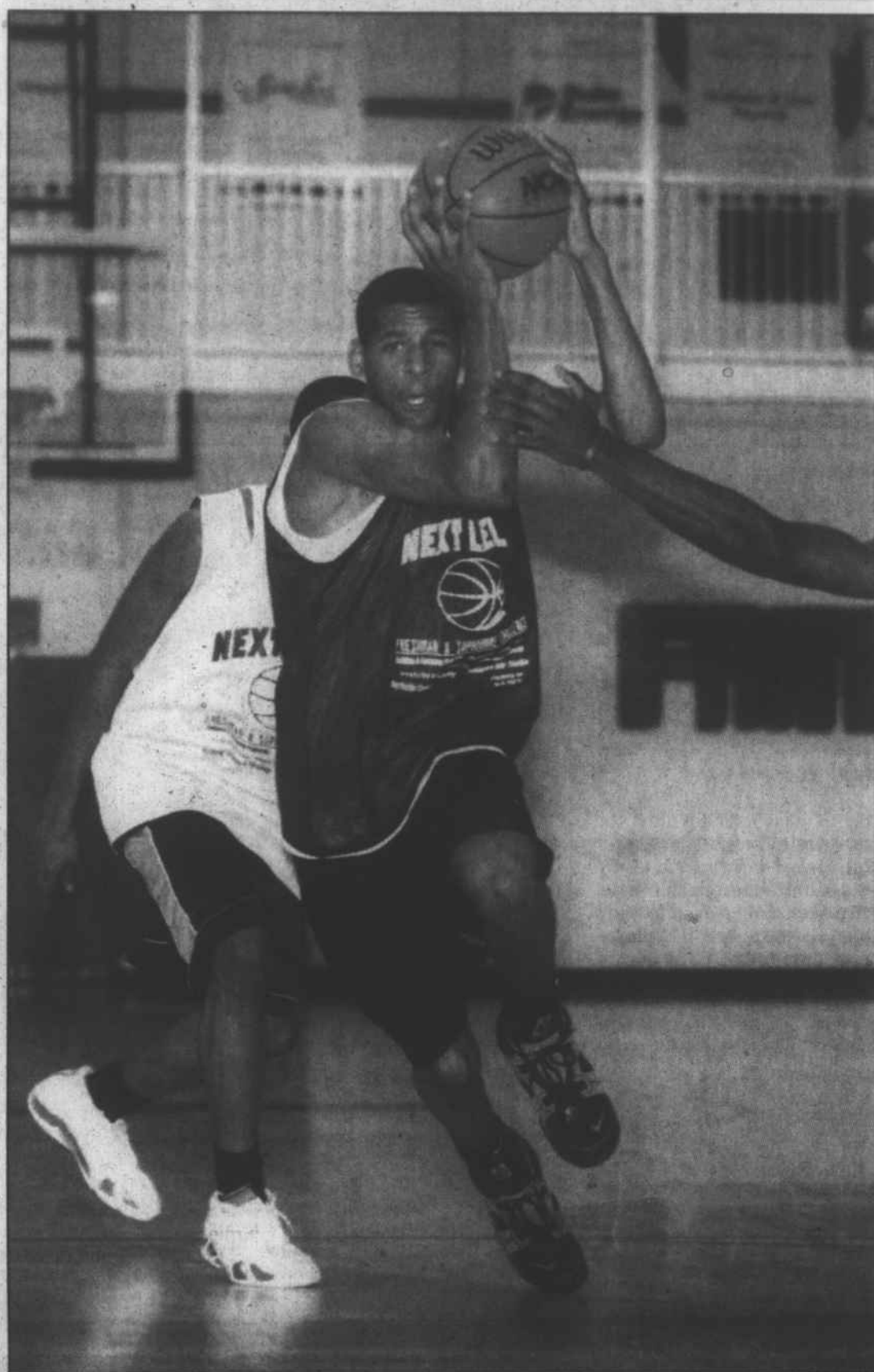
I mean, guys like coach Wayne Rousseau, Dennis Timmons, John Timmons, Norris Gullick, Scoop Wallace, Sam Davis, Officer Bennie Oates, Alvin Robinson, P.K., Richard Daniels, Angela "Queen" Lambson and a number of others are very good coaches. They are also good people who spend countless hours coaching kids, and helping them become better people.

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See Hill on B4



Mt. Tabor's dangerous rising senior guard C.J. Harris chose Wake Forest over several schools.

Mt. Tabor's Harris commits to Wake Forest

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

If you were to ask Mt. Tabor star basketball player C.J. Harris which college he wanted to attend years ago he would've probably said Wake Forest. He's seemingly always been a fan of the Deacs, and dreamed of playing on the same floor that local NBA stars Josh Howard and Chris Paul once played on.

Harris took a step toward making that dream a reality when the rising senior committed to play for the Deacs earlier this week. He's going to be the fourth Winston-Salem native on the Deac roster in the last five years, joining Howard, Paul and Mike Drum. He will sign a national letter of intent in November.

"I'm very excited about getting an excellent college education over the next four years at Wake Forest University and playing basketball in the ACC," said Harris. "I've wanted to play for Wake for quite some time now. And, the relationships I've developed with the Wake staff and players were key in my recruitment. I really connected with coach Jeff Battle, coach Mike Muse during the recruiting process, as well as Ish, L.D. (Williams) and James (Johnson). I feel the Wake Forest basketball program is headed in the right

direction. Hopefully I can help maintain the tradition that past players have set."

Harris chose Wake over Virginia Tech, Clemson, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, Stanford, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Charlotte, Winthrop, Davidson College, George Mason and East Carolina.



Muse

"I would like to thank the other schools for their time and attention they gave me and my family during the recruiting process," said Harris. "The process came down to three schools: Wake Forest, Clemson and Virginia Tech. All three schools are different in their own way. I decided to stay home to attend college. After looking at all aspects of academics, college life, climate, coaching styles, player personnel and relationships with all involved, I know that Wake Forest is the best school for me."

Harris had a very impressive junior season at Mount Tabor High this past year, averaging 19.1 points per game, 6.2 rebounds, 5.4 assist per game and 4.5 steals per game. He helped lead the Spartans to the Elite Eight finish in the North Carolina 4-A state playoffs and a 26-4 overall record. Mount Tabor also won the Central Piedmont Conference, the Central Piedmont Conference

See Harris on B2

Crowells and Tiny Vikings team for camp

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Buffalo Bills star linebacker Angelo Crowell and his brothers, Germane and Juwon, began playing football for the Tiny Vikings during their Pop Warner days years ago.

The trio, along with Boyz Are Back (non profit organization), thought it was only right to team up with the Pop Warner organization for the third annual Crowell Education and Sports Clinic this week.

"We are very pleased to be able to get with the Crowells to do this camp," said W-S Tiny Viking president Barbara Stowe. "We reached out to Angelo to do this camp. They were a little skeptical at first. But they looked at this as another way to give back. Everything has gone well. The kids are really enjoying learning from them, as well as other NFL players.



Photo by Anthony Hill

Two young participants execute a drill during the third annual Crowell Camp on Tuesday.

This camp didn't simply offer football instruction. We also had guest speakers come in and talk about drug awareness and gang awareness. It was a complete camp. And, you can't beat

the fact that it was free. We had great sponsors in Chick-Fil-A, K&W and McDonald's. I

thought everything worked out well."

The camp was geared toward kids ages 5-16. More than 150 kids participated in the special camp.

"I am extremely pleased with the turnout," said Germane Crowell, who's a former receiver for the Detroit Lions. "We're happy to be able to give back. Angelo was also very excited about the way things went with the camp. I've always wanted to find ways to give back. I wasn't as visible in my community when I played. I'm trying to do that now."

"Plus, it all started for us out here with the Tiny Vikings," Crowell continued. "That brings everything home. We wanted to not only teach football. This is our root. We wanted to touch on mental health and bring awareness to a lot of

See Crowells on B5

Optimist offering fun camps for local young people

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

For many years Optimist Soccer has been teaming up with national and local soccer camp instructors to keep soccer fun and affordable in the Winston-Salem community. This summer is no exception.

Recently, Optimist hosted the British Challenger Soccer Camp run by coaches from England. It seemed to be a fun and exciting environment for every child that enrolled in the program. Each camp participant had the opportunity to be a host family that provided housing for the coaches and really get a taste of European Futbol (soccer).

The British Challenger Soccer Camp is more than a week of drills and skills. In addition to taking part in a daily regimen of foot skill development, technical and tactical practices and daily tournament style plays, each child will also be treated to a rich cultural experience and lessons on teamwork, sportsmanship, self discipline, health and nutrition.

"It's really a great program," said Optimist Program director Dan Levstek. "Our camps are for all kids that would like to come. We have kids from other soccer clubs come to our camps."

The most popular part of each camp is the Camp World



Submitted photo

Here, several Optimist campers and soccer players dress up with various uniforms.

See Optimist on B2