

Lady Mustangs of Parkland take State Games title

Team defeats High Point Andrews for the crown

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Parkland girls head basketball coach Jon Weavil knew his team was simply a couple pieces away from winning a title of some sort. Last year, he felt like his squad let a conference championship slip away.

He wanted his squad to understand that they were good enough to beat any team in the state when they are clicking on all cylinders. The Parkland Mustangs seemed to click well over the weekend when they finished the State Games of North Carolina with a championship, after going 5-1 in the tournament.

"It feels good to win this championship," said Weavil. "I think this team is making strides in the right direction. I think we're seeing what type of team we can be. I really think this championship could springboard us to some good things next season. We needed to taste a championship. Now I think my girls believe that we can do some special



Parkland girls pose with head coach Jon Weavil after winning the State Games title.

things. It was also special to beat a conference rival for the title. We were one game away from winning a conference championship this year. I really think we're turning a corner now."

Parkland defeated High Point Andrews for the title at the Greensboro Coliseum on Sunday. The Mustangs also defeated WF Rolesville,

Carrboro, Middle Creek and South Caldwell. The Mustangs only lost to the 4-A State Champs, Westover.

"The game we lost was a little funny," Weavil said. "That was a game we played at 8 in the morning on Saturday. A lot of my girls weren't at their best. They were a good team too. They were the defending 4-A state

champs. But I'm glad with the effort we came with after that loss. I wasn't too discouraged because I still knew we could win it. I actually thought we had a good chance after the first day. We won our first game by 30 points. We ended up jumping on Carrboro 70-22. The JV girls played a lot in the second half of that game. We had quite a few double-

digit wins. I saw something in the team that I knew we had in us this weekend. We really took care of business."

Weavil also saw his squad at full strength for the first time. The Mustangs went most of the season without Alicia Penn. Parkland almost had to go this tournament without Sydney Surratt. She turned her ankle really bad during summer league play. Parkland also received a boost from North transfer Victoria Davis. Davis caused havoc for opponents the entire weekend. Other key players were the talented J'Mia Pollock, Jessica Morgan, Alicia Penn and Jazmin Cromartie. Shayanna Hicks and Jaci Bradley also provided good play for the Mustangs off the bench.

"We really took care of business this weekend," Weavil said. "It was a total team effort. We ran our fast-breaks well. We played great defense. We simply harassed High Point Andrews key player the whole game. She's supposed to be one of the top players in the state."

Parkland seemed to play more consistent basketball during the special tournament as well. Last season, the Mustangs defeated some very

good teams. Then, they dropped games to some squads they probably shouldn't have lost to.

"The key is definitely going to be consistency this upcoming season," Weavil said. "We made huge strides toward that this weekend. We learned something about ourselves. I told the girls that I've won championships. I know they can win championships. I really do. I think they realized that this weekend. I felt like we were very consistent during this tournament. I also really think this is what we needed to take another step."

Some of the other players on the squad are Shadawn Higgins, Bryana McCorkle, Shakira Bowman, Lena Elliott and Tameisha Reaves. Weavil was assisted by Roscoe Weavil, Daryl Evans and Harrison Davis.

Note: The 2008 State Games of North Carolina are North Carolina's largest multi-sport festival and one of the largest State Games programs in the United States. The State Games are hosted by North Carolina Amateur Sports, which is a 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable organization dedicated to creating a healthier North Carolina.

Ford-Kee named Lincoln director of athletics

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania, which will become a member of the CIAA, has named Dianthia Ford-Kee as its new Director of Athletics. Ford-Kee came to Lincoln from Shaw University where she served as the Associate Athletic Director/Senior Woman Administrator and taught courses in Public Administration.

In becoming the first female athletics director in Lincoln's distinguished 154-year history, Ford-Kee brings a wealth of teaching, coaching and administrative experience from her time working with the CIAA and NCAA to the Lincoln athletics department. Lincoln is in the process of transitioning from Division III to Division II.

A native of Lawrenceville, N.J., Ford-Kee was named the National

Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA) NCAA Division II Female Athletic Administrator of the Year in 2006. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Fayetteville State University in 1982 and a master's degree in Public Affairs from Northern Illinois University in 1984. Among



Ford-Kee

some of the courses she taught during a 10-year period at Shaw included Public Personnel Administration, Organized Theory & Behavior, Introduction to Public Administration and Human

Resources.

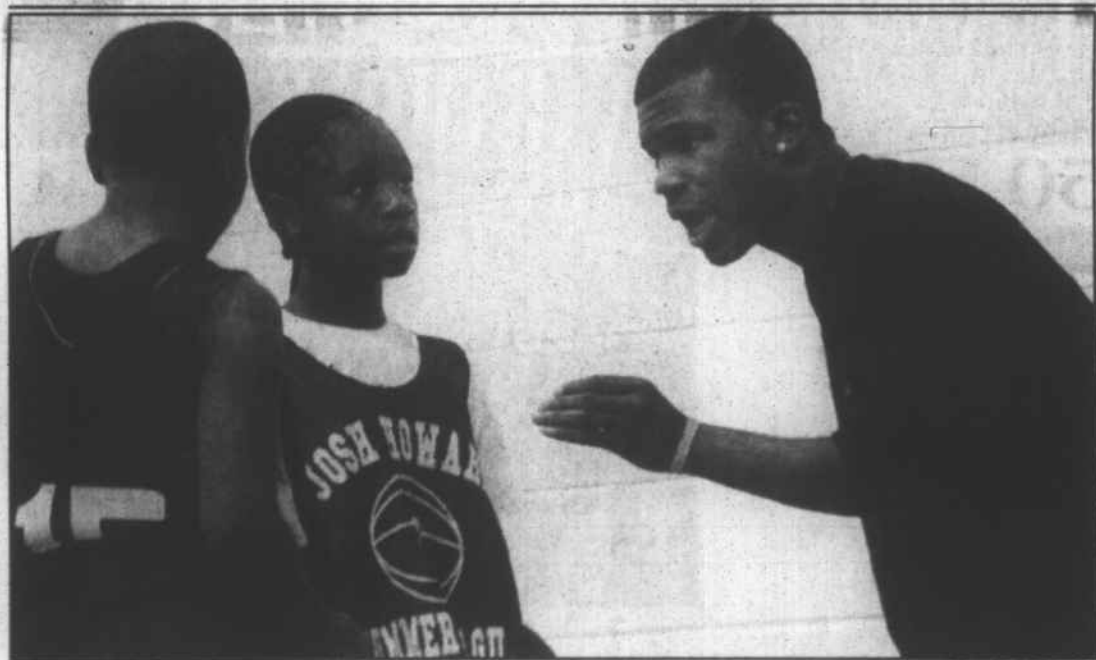
Ford-Kee served on the NCAA Division II Management Council as the CIAA Conference representative from 1999-2005. She was also a member on several national committees including the Committee on Women's Athletics, Division II Nominating Committee, and NCAA Woman of the Year. She currently serves on the NCAA Division II Diversity Project Team and the NCAA Division II Strategic Alliance Matching Grant Selection Committee.

Ford-Kee is no stranger to the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). The Fayetteville State University alumnae enjoyed a successful 14-year coaching career at Shaw in the sports of volleyball and softball where she won over 500 games combined.

"HEY DAD"



Roscoe Anderson Center (formerly Reynolds Park) director Bryant McCorkle jokes with his son, Juwon "Jay" McCorkle on Monday night.



Here, police officer Bennie Oates gives some tough love and advice to his players during a basketball game earlier this week. Oates coaches various youth sports during his off time.

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I personally know all of those people, and a few more who really dedicate themselves to helping kids become better people, athletes and citizens. And most of them have jobs that take up a lot of hours. Bennie Oates is a police officer that coaches numerous basketball teams each year at Reynolds Park. He also coaches Pop Warner. He doesn't even have any kids.

Dennis Timmons works numerous jobs, but uses his off time to still work with kids. Dennis has a number of kids of his own. But most of them are older. That doesn't stop him from coaching numerous other kids. Sam Davis is a reporter, coach, grandparent and businessman. Yet, he was spending his time volunteering at a football camp earlier this week. And, what can I say about Queen (Angela Lambson)? What a lady. I will leave it at that.

I know so many others who coach for the love of kids. They don't have to have kids on the team. We all see parents coaching teams that their child may play on. And, I'm not saying they are bad coaches.

I'm simply talking about the coaches with no added interest

in a team other than to help kids progress and get better. That's what it's all about. I admire coaches like that. I really do. I simply wanted those people, and others like them, to know that they are appreciated. We need more coaches like them. I mean, they give the kids tough love, valuable lessons and priceless pointers. Most importantly, they seem to help kids prepare for the world. They are not just coaching kids to win a game. It's about life. Please believe.

Also, shout out to the refs that spend their time volunteering at the Josh Howard basketball league. You all are doing a great service as well.

Tiny Vikings doing good things

I went out to the Tiny Vikings Field at Mineral Springs Middle School earlier this week to watch the third annual Crowell Football Camp.

I took the time to talk with Tiny Viking league rep Steve Stowe. He and the rest of that organization are really turning things around over there. I don't want to sound like everything has been awful, but things weren't that good. And I will leave it at that. But Stowe and the rest of the organization are really doing good things now. They have even partnered with

the school system.

The Viking coaches can go inside schools to check on their kids to make sure they are behaving and doing the right things in class. That's good stuff. And they are also stressing education and keeping grades up. Some people think I don't like Pop Warner. I simply don't like some of the rules. I like the opportunity it gives some kids. I like the exposure to new things that it brings as well. But I don't like the weight limit, crooked coaches and loud parents that Pop Warner, sometimes bring out. Pop Warner has really changed throughout the years too. It used to really be about the kids. Boy has that changed.

But it's not Pop Warner in general. I see some good things going on at every field each year. I also see some questionable things. I won't get into that right now. But I do want to say that it's good to see the Tiny Vikings coming back.

Most importantly, they are seemingly doing things the right way. And, that will help produce better high school student-athletes and citizens. That's what it's all about. Real talk.

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