



The Celtics of the 11-14 Division.

Photo by Deanna S. Miller

Hosiery teams heating up gym

BY DEANNA S. MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The league action at Hanes Hosiery's Hot Hoops League is already on fire. Teams in two leagues kept the gym hot last week, as ballers in the 6-10 and 11-14 began play.

Tarheels 24, Wolpack 14 (6-14 Division): The Tarheels beat the Wolpacks by 10 points in a hard-fought battle.

Sherrard Wells and Josiah Goodman both drilled in 8 points each, while Haven Hairston and Fox Knox combined for 6 more points. Wolpack received good play from a number of players as well, despite the loss. Jay Rutherford and Dontral

Anderson both scored 5 points for the Wolpack.

In another exciting 6-10 Divisional game, the Blue Devils were able to slip by the Deacons, 11-9. The Blue Devils were led by Tyreke Hazel. Hazel was helped by Immanuel Moore during the win. Deante Petree was the leader for the Blue Devils, as he scored 4 points.

Hornets 40, Spurs 25 (11-14 Division): It was all about North Forsyth's Rakie Badger last week. Badger led his Hornets past the Spurs with 16 points.

Emannel Mauree added 10 points. Also, Rae Brown (6 points), Dede Johnson, Hasan Smith and Dre Sims all had

good games to help the Hornets to the win. Roosevelt Harrison led the Spurs with 8 points. Daquan Lee added 7 points and Gary Lash had 4 points. DeQuante Johnson and Dedrick Hawkins both connected with a 3-pointer for the Spurs.

Celtics 49, Lakers 32 (11-14 Division): The Celtics were clicking on all cylinders during the first week of action. They seemingly wanted to prove they were the best team in one night by running past the Lakers, 49-32.

Both teams battled hard, but it was the Celtics that proved to be too much at the end of the day. Daisean Rucker led the Celtics with 20 points. Corey Allen (13 points), Andrew

Patterson (10 points) and Brandon Johnson (6 points) helped lead the Celtic attack. Trae Brown played big for the Lakers, despite the loss. He finished with 10 points. Also, L.J. Strickland and Xavier Banks played well for the Lakers. Both finished with 8 points. Nick Horn also had a decent game for the Lakers.

Note: League games are played every Monday and Tuesday, from 1:30 until 2:30. Players in the 6-10 division play on Monday, while the 11-14 year olds play on Tuesday. Next week, the 11-14 year olds will play on Wednesday due to a special program going on next Tuesday (July 15).

Simmons

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"... but I've still always been a vocal person," Simmons said. "That has always come easy for me. I've always been very energetic. I've always been a person that gave it 110 percent at practice and games. So, I've kind of always coached from the floor."

While at North, Simmons earned numerous awards such as all-state, all-conference, team MVP, all-Northwest in both basketball and volleyball, and an East all-star of North Carolina. She went on to help Virginia Tech to two NCAA appearances.

"She's been a great addition to the staff at Reynolds," said Reynolds head girls coach Monty Gray, who was named conference coach of the year. "She serves as a role model for these girls. She's very knowledgeable about the game. She has a great attitude. She's simply a winner."

"Coach Simmons really makes things easier or smoother for coach Kee and I," Gray continued. "We knew we had a challenge in front of us, as far as building this program at Reynolds. Then I met coach Simmons through the Muse's. She helped coach at North. Once I met her I knew that she was the missing piece we needed. She's the role model in the equation the girls need. She's also the coach that can relay things to the girls when we can't get what we want. Plus, she's an area coach that has played Division I ball, and knows a lot about the game. That's very valuable."



Gray

ting out there and playing with the girls, especially during skill development," Gray said. "She shows girls how to do things the right way. She shows players how to rebound, play defense, run lanes and so much more. She's great. I wish I could put a suit on her sometimes."

Before joining the Reynolds staff last year, Simmons was an assistant boy's varsity coach at North Forsyth. She also coached the New River Valley AAU 15U squad. Simmons still teaches basketball when she's away from coaching. She's presently an instructor at the Gateway YWCA, where she gives lessons, instructions, and speed clinics.

"This is what I love to do," Simmons said. "I love to develop players. I also enjoy coaching with coach Gray. Coaching is great. And, I would like to be a head coach someday, but I am taking things one day at a time. We'll see where this takes me."

Gray added: "She's definitely going to be a great head coach someday. I'm going to hate to lose her. I know it's eventually going to happen. She's too good for it not to happen. Right now she wants to continue to get experience on the varsity level. She wants to get more under her belt. One of these days she's definitely going to be a good head coach."

Simmons also understands the pressure and time that goes with being a head coach. She's ready for the sacrifices, but also remains focused on balancing her family life and basketball.

"I am in a position to sacrifice a lot," concluded Simmons. "I'll be ready when the time comes. But a balance is important. We try to teach that to our girls. We understand that it can't be basketball all the time. There's spirituality, family, school and basketball. I live my life the same way. I'm always trying to maintain a healthy balance."

Hands on approach

Simmons is also the type of coach that doesn't mind showing players what to do, compared to always telling players what to do. It's not odd to see Simmons getting in with some of the players on the Reynolds basketball team during a practice.

"I can't stop her from get-

Charlotte Bobcats sign first round picks

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Charlotte Bobcats General Manager Rod Higgins announced on Tuesday that the team has signed its first-round draft picks, D.J. Augustin and Alexis Ajinca. Per team policy, terms of the respective deals were not disclosed.

The Bobcats selected Augustin and Ajinca with the ninth and 20th picks, respectively, in the 2008 NBA Draft, and both players will participate with the Bobcats entry in the NBA Summer League Presented by EA Sports from July 11-20 in Las Vegas.

An early-entry candidate in the 2008 NBA Draft, Augustin played two seasons at the University of Texas, where he averaged 16.9 points and 6.2 assists in 73 games. The Bob Cousy Award winner as the nation's top point guard in 2007-08, Augustin earned consensus First Team All-American honors and First Team All-Big 12 honors as a sophomore. He also led the Big 12 in assists (5.8 per game) and ranked second in scoring (19.2 points per game).



Former Texas star D.J. Augustin goes up strong during a game last season.

game).

A 7-0 center, Ajinca spent the last two seasons playing professionally in his native country of France. He made his professional debut in 2006-07 with Pau-Orthez of the French ProA League before moving to Hyeres-Toulon in 2007-08. He averaged 5.0 points and 3.1 rebounds in 10.8 minutes per

game in 24 games played for Hyeres-Toulon, while shooting .538 from the field and .825 from the free throw line. Ajinca was a member of the French National Teams that won the Bronze Medal at the 2007 Under-19 World Championship and the Gold Medal at the 2006 Under-18 European Championship.

Augustin finished his collegiate career ranked fifth in school history in assists (452), fourth in three-point field goal percentage (.402), ninth in free throw percentage (.808) and 18th in scoring (1,234 points). As a freshman in 2006-07, he was named Second Team All-Big 12 and a consensus Freshman All-American, after leading the Big 12 and ranking fourth nationally in assists (6.7 per

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