

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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JULY 31, 2008

Parkland hopes to catch fire

Mustangs want to be more consistent this upcoming season

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The following story is the first of a series on some of the high school football teams in Forsyth County. Fans will get an early look at what's going on with their favorite team this summer.

The Parkland Mustangs had one of the most potent offensive attacks of any team in the area last season, especially through the air. Rising senior quarterback D.J. Adams finished the season with well over 3,000 passing yards and almost 30 passing touchdowns to go along with 14 rushing touchdowns.

The Mustangs also had arguably the most dangerous wide out around in Nick James, who's also a rising senior. But not even those two weapons could overcome the tragic losing streak at the end of the season that led to a 6-7 finish. But head coach Dee Bell insists that his troops are focused on making sure this season goes well.

"We're real focused," said Bell. "We've been focused since ending the season with a 6-7 record last year. That isn't Parkland standards. We're ready to turn things around. We're really expecting big things from our guys this year, especially the seniors. I always look for my seniors to lead because they're trying to go

See Parkland on B4

Brent Pridgen wins Gillespie Invitational

BY LARRY BARBER
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Local golfer Brent Pridgen won the 2008 Gillespie Golf Invitational championship on Sunday, finishing strong with a birdie on the last hole to shoot an even-par 72 after scoring a tidy 69 last Saturday.

His 141 squeezed out a one-shot win over Greensboro's Charles "Smitty" Smith, who closed on Sunday with a 68.

"I felt I would need a birdie at the last to win it and I was lucky enough to place the tee shot on the left fairway for a clean shot at reaching that par 5 in two," said Pridgen. "I also had a good par three, sand save

See Hill on B2

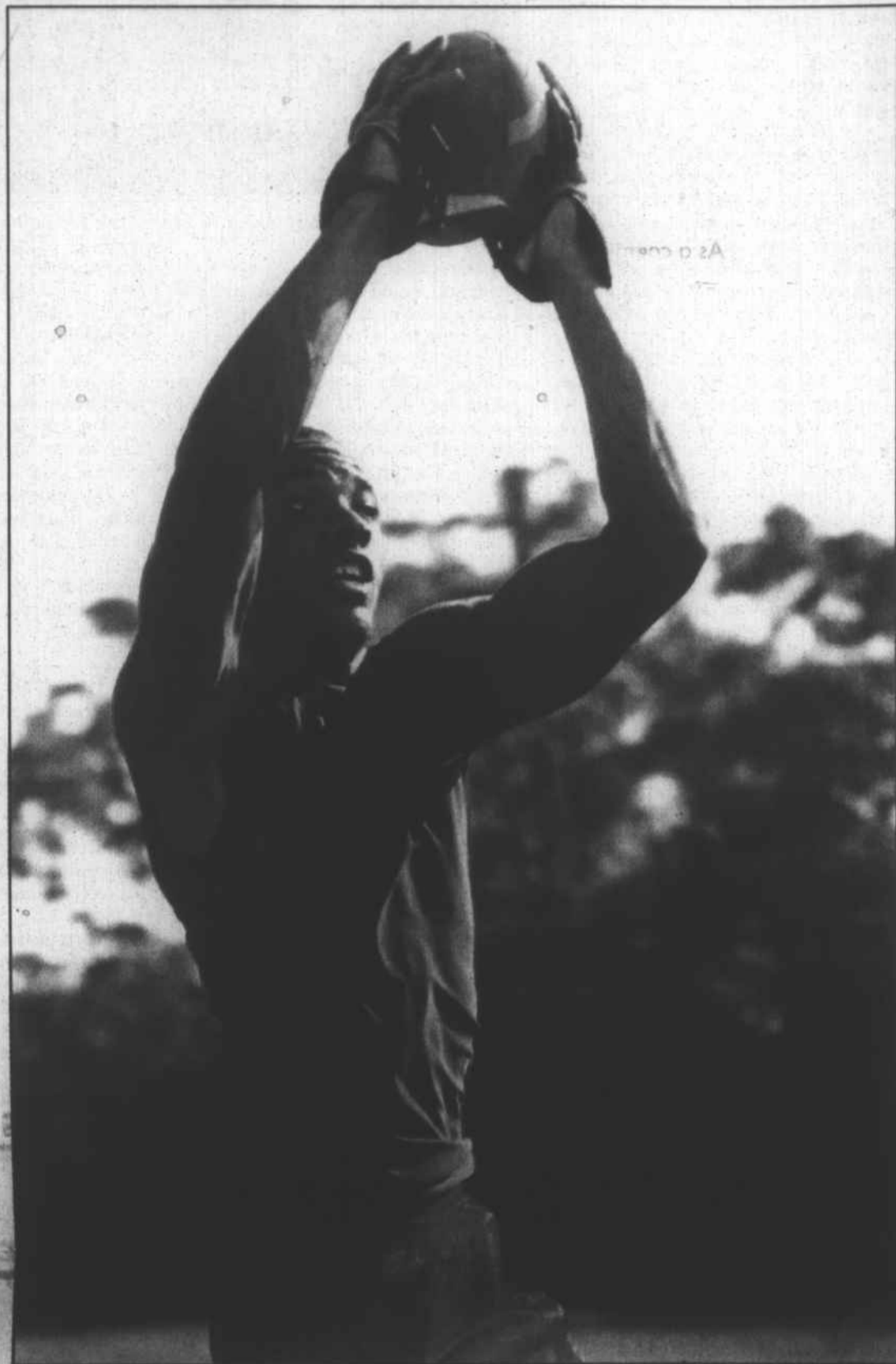


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Parkland's dangerous wide out Nick James hauls in a pass during a voluntary workout.

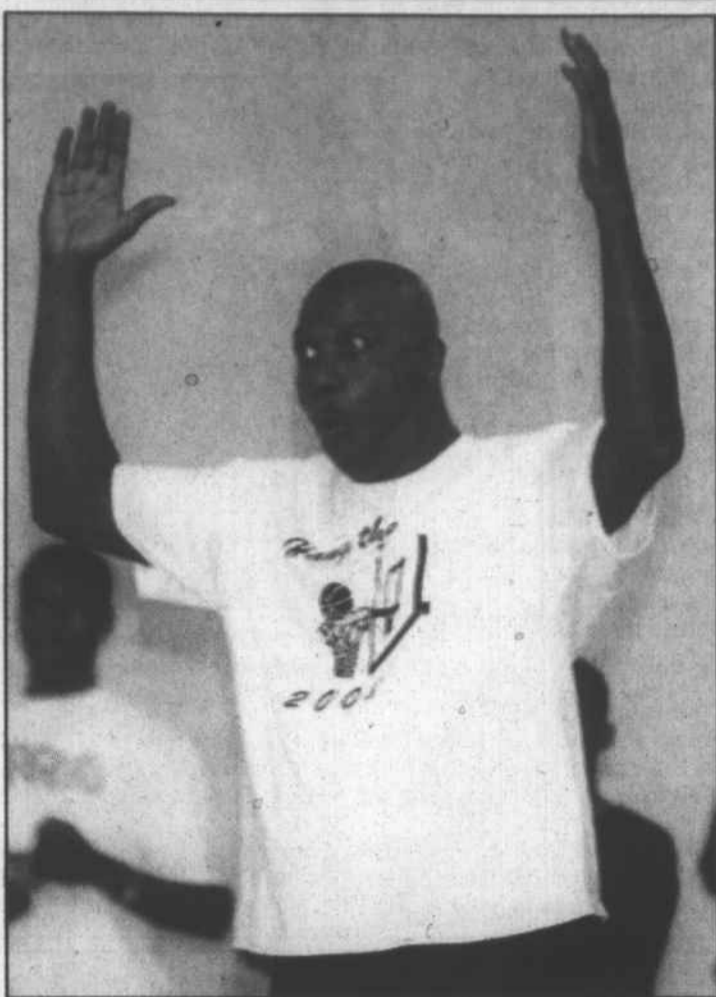


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Rob Little celebrates after connecting with one of many 3-point baskets during last week's Hang the Net.

Gotta love Hang the Net

One of my favorite events to attend is the Hang the Net Celebrity Shootout at the Hanes Hosiery each summer. The event took place last Thursday.

Hanes Hosiery director Art Blevins and his staff really do a great job with that event. For those of you that aren't too familiar with the special event, it's basically a competition where different classes compete against each other in a shootout to see who can hit the most 3-point baskets.

The real goal of the event is to see which participants can hang the net the most times after connecting from long range. For the third-straight year I competed in the media class. I won my class the first year I participated in the special event. There's a media class, college/professional ballers class, legends class and female star class. Shout out to all the other competitors. I thought everyone did a great job, and I know we all had a good time. I couldn't stop laughing.

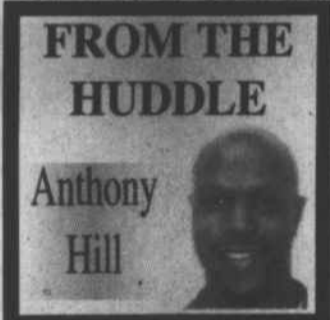
Some shooters really put it down. I actually finished second to WXII's Cameron Kent. Hey, C-Kent was locked in and focused on winning. He deserved it. My favorite per-

former was 14th Street director Rob Little. Little is a former NCCU baller and Globetrotter. Most of you know that. Little took the Legends title for the second-straight year.

I'm not kidding when I tell you that Rob put on a clinic. He still has it. I must admit that I was shaking my head when I saw him shoot from the corner to make the net hang about five times. Really. I was like, "Why didn't I shoot from the corner?"

I will admit that I don't feel comfortable calling myself a local celebrity. I feel like everyone else. My picture just happens to be in *The Chronicle* every Thursday. The people that I interview and write about are the real stars. But I really felt like a celeb last week. I mean, kids were asking ya boy (Me) for my autograph and everything. Former Wake Forest star Porsche Jones got a kick out of watching me sign a couple autographs. I thought it was funny too. It was still cool.

Thanks for inviting me every year, Art. I appreciate it buddy.



FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill

Monte Purvis becomes assistant coach

Former QB returns to his alma mater

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Former Winston-Salem State and Parkland quarterback Monte Purvis has always wanted to be a high school football coach.

Even when he was performing in front of packed stadiums for the Rams he envisioned giving up calling plays in the huddle for a shot to call the shots on the sidelines. His former high school coach Dee Bell knew that, and told Purvis that if things didn't work out on the field he would have a place on his staff.

"It's good to have my money man back," said Bell. "He led Parkland to our first state championship in school history. Now he's coming back to coach. That's a big



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Former WSSU quarterback Monte Purvis talks with PHA quarterback D.J. Adams.

deal. He's going to be a good one. I made a good hire. He will help us out a lot."

Purvis added: Things are going pretty good so far. I like being out here with the players. They're easy to get along

with. Plus, they're willing to work to get better. They understand that it takes a lot of work to win a state championship. And, they understand that I know how much work it takes. Hard work took my

team to a state championship."

Purvis led Parkland (15-1) to a 2001 state championship before heading to Winston-Salem State two years later. He went to Winston-Salem State as one of the most highly touted recruits in history in 2003. He redshirted that season before starting the next four years. He finished the 2006 season with 865 total passing yards.

Last year Purvis finished with arguably his best season of his career, with 1033 total passing yards and eight touchdowns through the air. He also rushed for 985 yards last year. He still hopes to play some arena ball, and has some team tryouts lined up in the coming months. But that hasn't stopped him from getting started with his dream of coaching.

Purvis, who will primarily coach wide outs, said that he instantly got flashbacks when he walked into his old locker

See Purvis on B4

CAMEL LOVE

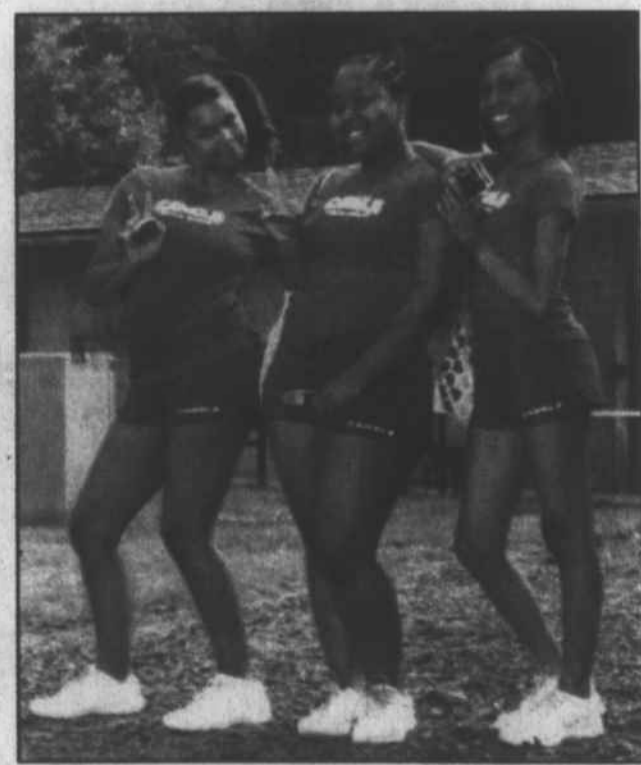


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Three Atkins High cheerleaders take time to pose for Charlie Pfaff over the weekend. The Camel cheerleaders were at the Ray Agnew Field to support the Winston-Salem Tiny Indian organization during their annual Family and Fun Day.