

# W-S Mavericks suffer heartbreaker

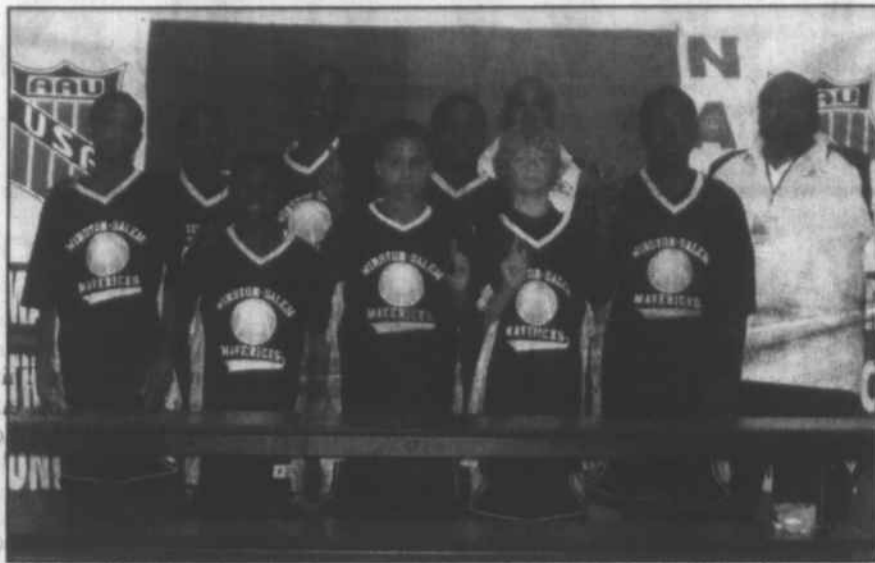
CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Maverick players endured a stern heartbreak when they recently traveled to Cocoa Beach, Fla., to play in the 11U National AAU Basketball tournament. The heart break didn't necessarily come by the hands of another team.

The Mavericks had a chance to finish seventh place in the tournament, but had to forfeit the game due to not being able to make it to the arena in time for the contest. The Mavericks charter bus got lost on the way to the game. The team finished 14th out of a total of 93 teams. "I'm still very proud of our young men," said head coach B.B. Patrick. "I love the way they bonded together and remained focused as a team even after the challenges. I want to warn all team business managers and coaches to put a clause in your contract for the price of the tournament so they don't throw away their money without letting their players prove themselves."

The Winston-Salem Mavericks 11U AAU Basketball team faced many challenges in the tournament, according to Patrick. The team began the tourney with a loss to the Speed City Chargers (63-41). That squad sent on to in the national championship. The Mavericks bounced back nicely to pick up wins over the New York Westchester Hawks (54-53) and the Boston Warriors to finish 2-1 in Pool Play.

The Mavericks dropped their first game in the championship bracket to



Winston-Salem Mavericks 11U squad.

the Vegas Elite squad, losing 54-48.

"I still would like to thank the community of Winston-Salem, businesses, local churches, individuals who donated money," said Patrick. "... and to the parents for their fundraising efforts to make this trip possible. The team would like to send out a special thank you to Sharon Mosley Johnson of Top Priority Care Services, LLC for being the top donor and also to Josh Howard for his support. I would also like to thank Bryant McCorkle at Reynolds Park."

Patrick would like to warn all team business managers and coaches if you charter a bus, put a clause in the con-

tract for the price of the tournament so they do not throw away your money without letting your players prove themselves.

"Many lessons were learned on this trip, which has brought the team and the parents closer together and looking forward to next year when they get to go back to the Nationals to reclaim their winning seat," concluded Patrick.

The members of the team were Mike Hughes, Ryan Henderson, Keeshon Patrick, Mitch Cain, Dequan Cunningham, Cam Mack, Jamel Deshields and James Antoine. The Mavericks are coached by B.B. Patrick and Taft Mack.

# South Carolina State is selected as MEAC favorite

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

South Carolina State's Will Ford and Endor Cooper of Howard earned the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's (MEAC) top football preseason awards, as announced by the league last week at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

Ford was selected as the preseason Offensive Player of the Year and Cooper was named the Defensive Player of the Year by the MEAC head football coaches and sports information directors.

For the second year in a row the South Carolina State Bulldogs were the consensus pick to win the MEAC title in 2008. The defending MEAC Champion Delaware State Hornets finished second in the preseason poll.

Ford led the Bulldogs in total rushing yards with 1,389 yards on 210 attempts and four touchdowns. He finished second in the MEAC in rushing yards per game with an average of 126.3. Ford earned the MEAC's Rookie of the Year honor his freshman season and was selected to the All-MEAC First Team as a sophomore.

Cooper earned the defensive player of the year honor after leading the Bison with 50 solo and 87 total tackles in 2007. He finished fifth in the league in tackles and tallied three forced fumbles, fourth best in the MEAC.

Hampton led all teams with six players on the preseason All-MEAC first team. The Pirates also had three second team selections for a total of 11. South Carolina State had 12 total selections on both teams; five were recognized on the first team. Delaware State, Morgan State and Norfolk State had six total selections each.

The 2008 Preseason Predictions and All-Conference teams are listed as follows: South Carolina State, Delaware State, Norfolk State, Hampton, Morgan State, Florida A&M, Bethune-Cookman, Howard and North Carolina A&T.



SCSU's Will Ford finished with 1,389 yards last season.

## Hill

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### J-Ho is more than a baller

I tell you what. It gets no better than NBA star Josh Howard. I am not saying that because he's my man. I truly mean that. I am a fixture at Reynolds Park. I mean, Roscoe Anderson Center. That's where Josh Howard host his youth summer basketball league each summer.

The championship games were played this past Monday, and they were as entertaining as advertised or expected. First, shout out to the champions of each class. The Mavericks won the 11 and under division. The Predators won the 13 and under division. And, J-Ho TICKS won the 17 and under division after defeating a team full of varsity guys. The TICKS were basically a 15U, which made the win even more impressive. That game was truly exciting.

The best part about the games and the league was the fact that Howard was there to witness the action.

I mean, it would've been easy for Josh to simply put up some money and simply let the league go on without him. But that didn't happen. Josh was at games almost every night. He wasn't just in the gym. J-Ho was talking to the crowd, breaking bread with old friends, giving kids advice and simply sharing his time with the communi-

ty. You have to love that about Josh. He's not a guy that's going to hide behind his NBA status. He's a guy that's going to get in the midst of the community. He's a guy that's going to help kids every chance he gets. J-Ho is also a guy that's true to his old recreation center. And, he doesn't do things for media attention or pats on the backs. He does things for the love of his community.

What makes me mad sometimes is how some people try to compare Josh and my man Chris Paul. Please get off of that. They are two different people. And, what really gets me mad is when people try to make Chris out to be THE GUY of the community, and Josh out to be the villain. Josh is far from a villain. Just because you don't see what number five is doing on the TV every night, or read about it in every paper doesn't mean that he's not doing great things. He's definitely doing great things. Just know that.

### What about the camp?

Since we're talking about number five, I've got to mention his youth basketball camp that also took place at Reynolds Park.

He and I talked a little about his camp in our one-on-one interview, but I wanted to say a little more real quick.

J-Ho's camp, which has been going on all week and will conclude tomorrow, had almost 200 kids enrolled this year. The best part about that is the fact

the camp was free. That's right. Josh gives a free basketball clinic every summer, and this might've been the best year.

The kids get a chance to meet and learn from other basketball stars and former players. The kids also get a chance to meet different celebrities, eat free lunches, get cool Jordan gear and a few other things. Where was Josh when I was a kid? Oh yeah. He wasn't born yet.

I just had to take a moment to give credit where it's due. Keep doing what you do for us J-Ho. We love you brother. And, we're kicking it this weekend. (I'm laughing as I type this).

Anthony Hill is the sports editor for The Chronicle. He can be reached at 722-8624 (ext. 111) or ahill@wschronicle.com.



Josh Howard (right, rear) takes a picture with the Predators after they won the 13U title.

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