

# SPORTS WEEK

JUNE 4, 2009



The legendary Clarence "Big House" Gaines died in 2005.

## Gaines golf tournament approaching

### Event benefits WSSU scholarship fund

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Reynolda Rotary Club will hold its fourth annual Big House Gaines Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament on Friday, June 12 at Salem Glen Golf & Country Club in Clemmons. There will be a 1 p.m. shotgun start.



Monroe

Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, the star of Coach Gaines' 1967 National Championship team, will be a special guest at the tournament.

"We began the tournament in 2004 and it just seemed a natural for Reynolda Rotary," said Mel Pearce, chairman of this year's tournament. "The late Clarence 'Big House' Gaines, beloved basketball coach and athletic director at WSSU, was a founding member of our club. We have a program that supports Cook Elementary School in the areas of literacy, mentoring and financial support, so, we felt strong that the best way to honor the commitment 'Big House' always demonstrated for helping young people and for our Rotary Club was to create a scholarship program that tied together Cook Elementary School, Winston-Salem State University and Reynolda Rotary."

The first former Cook Elementary students to be eligible to compete for the

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## Teens head for all-star showdown

BY CHAD ROBERTS  
THE CHRONICLE

The Twin City P.O.N.Y youth baseball league is winding down their season at Twin City field, but one of the teams still has a few ballgames left.

The Yankees, who play in the division for 13-15-year-olds, will soon compete in the Babe Ruth State All-Star Tournament. The winning team from the state tournament goes on to compete in the national tournament.

Since beginning the season in May, the Yankees have posted a record of 5-1, with one tie.

Marlin Wilkins, the Yankees' coach, said the team has a mix of league veterans and newcomers that has worked out well.

"We had a good core group, and we were fortunate to pick up some good players that came in and filled in the gaps and have done well," Wilkins said.

Wilkins said he has a 15-year history at the field as a player and a coach, though 2009 is his first year returning to coaching after taking time off.



Yankees players and team leaders.

Photo by Chad Roberts

"I played here as a youngster," Wilkins said.

Darryl Gregory III is one of the youths on the Yankees team who has played at the field for

several years. Gregory said he started playing T-ball at age 8 and credits his father, the late Darryl Gregory Jr., nicknamed "Pooh," with getting him and his

friends involved with baseball at an early age.

Gregory III said the T-ball team back then was called the

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## Wake sprinter poised for a title sweep

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Two members of the Wake Forest University track team have cleared their regional hurdles and will compete for national championships next week in Arkansas.

Senior sprinter Michael Bingham and junior hurdler/jumper Caroline Vaughn each set school-records and punched their tickets to the NCAA Championships on Saturday at North Carolina A&T's Irwin Belk Track on the final day of the 2009 NCAA East Regionals.

Bingham came into the final with the fourth-best qualifying time after cruising through his heat of the preliminaries Friday night. He got to the track Saturday and was battling a case of food poisoning but turned in a gutsy school-record time of 45.05.

Starting in lane three, he made up most of the stagger down the back stretch and grabbed the lead as the field made the final turn.

Bingham turned it up in the last 100-meters to win the race and not only broke his own school-record but also set a new facility and East Region record.

"The race was a mental challenge," said Bingham. "I knew if I could stay with the guys until the 200-mark I would be able to bring it home. That's what ended up happening. I was right there through 200 meters with people around me. I am a natural competitor and I just fought down the stretch."

"I think being pulled out of the blocks may have affected some people but it didn't get me too much," Bingham continued. "I am not a guy that has to get hyped-up for a race but I know some guys are and they were probably affected."

The Burlington, N.C., native now moves on to the



Vaughn

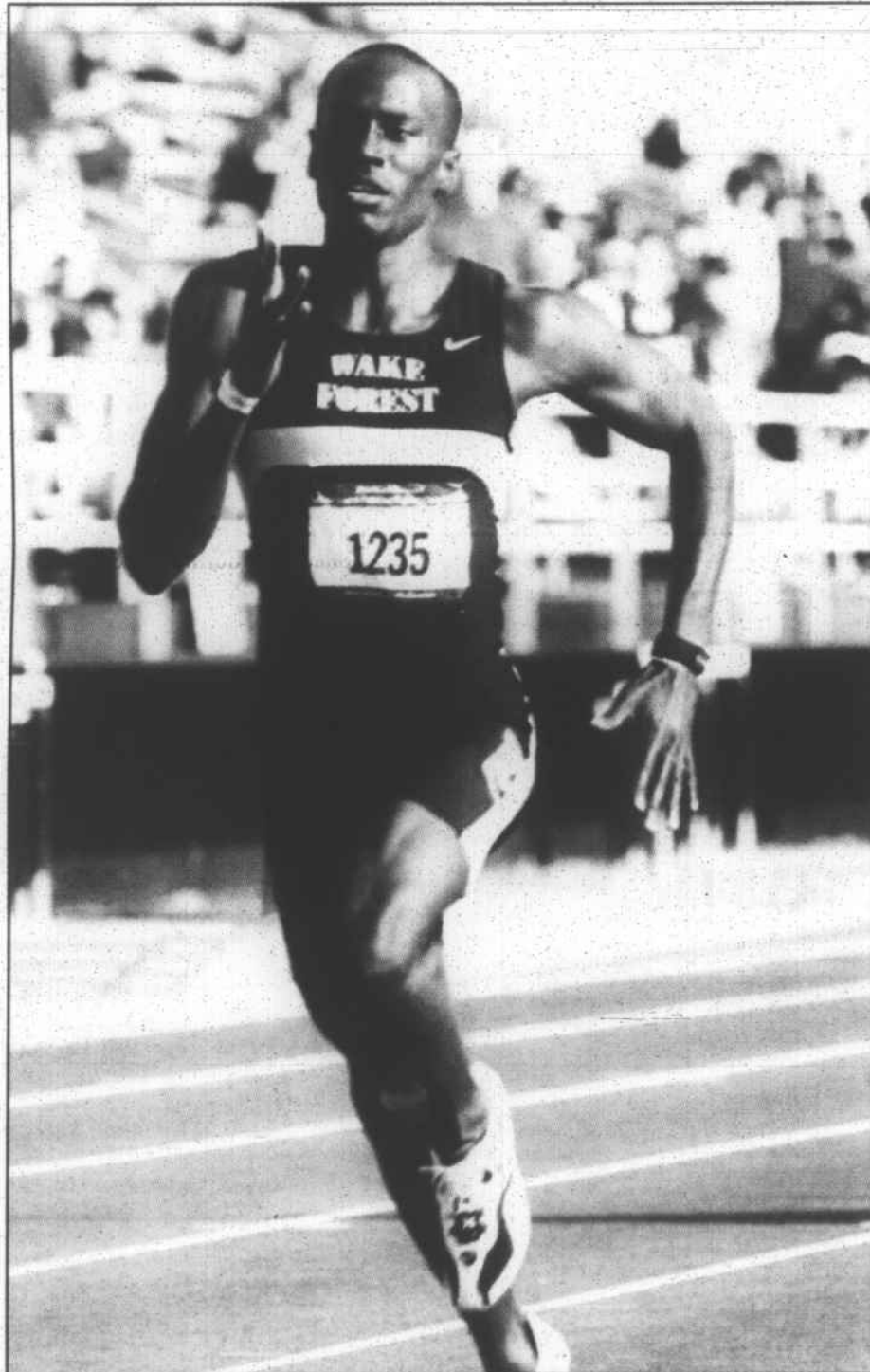


Photo by Jeff Sides

Michael Bingham races to the finish line Saturday in the 400-meters.

See Bingham on B8

## SUITING UP



U.S. Air Force Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jason Schaap

Staff Sgt. Myrick Bell helps Wake Forest Head Football Coach Jim Grobe get fitted with body armor at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas before Grobe heads around the world as part of the troop morale-boosting Coaches Tour 2009. Grobe and six other NCAA football coaches departed May 28 and will make stops in Germany, Turkey, Iraq, Kuwait and the African nation of Djibouti.

## MEAC Tournament eyeing 2010 strategy

BY CHAD ROBERTS  
THE CHRONICLE

Maybe it gets better the second time around.

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, back in Winston-Salem from 2009 until 2011 after a previous run from 1980-82, is hosting a survey on its Web site to get feedback from fans who attended the 2009 tournament in the Twin City.

"We use that information for our marketing efforts," MEAC Media Relations Director Patricia Porter said.

"We want to make it bigger and better for the next two years," Conference Corporate Sponsorships and Marketing Director Julius Small said.

With its 11 historically



File Photo

Bethune Cookman takes on Norfolk State during the 2009 Tournament at Joel Coliseum.

black institutions as members, the MEAC Tournament is often compared — fairly or unfairly — to the tournament held by the Central

Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), which is also composed of 11 HBCUs and Chowan University, a

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