



Members of the championship-winning X1 team.

Club teams mix football and fun

BY CHAD ROBERTS
THE CHRONICLE

If one day there is a hall of fame for flag football, Nathan Geipel and his teammates could be enshrined.

As the dominant force in the Winston-Salem Sports & Social Club, Geipel and his team — known as X1 — recently capped their 7-1 season off with their third-straight flag football championship.

With Geipel at the helm as the coach and primary playcaller, X1 has gone 24-3 during the past three seasons of play, which is the best record of all the five teams in the WSSSC's flag football league.

Rob Tuttle, the point-man for the 0-6 Mean Machine team (which included a 41-13 loss to Geipel's squad on April 19) is quick to point out that X1's dominance doesn't extend to other co-ed sports that the club does.

"In softball league, it's the opposite," Tuttle said.

But despite their on-field flag football dominance, Geipel and his X1 teammates aren't resting on their laurels for now.

"We haven't made it through an undefeated season yet," he pointed out.

Geipel also was less than enthusiastic when he said that his team actually missed a few weeks of practice during the season.

But X1 — a team that includes a hair stylist, computer programmer, fireman and doctor in their 20s and 30s — has ruled the Sunday morning games, beating their opponents by an average score of 34-10 during the latest season.

The cornerstone of X1's budding flag football dynasty, Geipel said, is consistency. While other teams in the league may have experienced changes in personnel, X1 has kept its team intact. No turnovers, on the field or among the players.

"We've had the same team for the entire three-peat," Geipel explained.

In addition to maintaining a core group of weekend warriors, Geipel said X1 — which takes its name from wireless internet service provider X1 Communications, where Geipel is employed — rises above the other teams in the Winston-Salem Sports & Social Club due to skill and work ethic.

"We're definitely the most talented, and we work the hardest," Geipel said.

In Tuttle's opinion, the differences were easier to quantify.

"Some of the teams were a lot more athletic than others," Tuttle said.

Following their only loss of the season, a 40-39 defeat at the hands of Leonard Mitchell III's Signal 30 squad, X1 turned it up a notch. In the next three games, X1 outscored its opponents 116-6, including back-to-back shutout wins over Signal 30 in the double-elimination playoffs.

Attempts to reach Mitchell on Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Founded as a way for area newcomers and locals to combine networking with fun and exercise, the Winston-Salem Sports & Social Club offers year-round sporting activities, such as flag football, volleyball, softball and kickball. After the games are over, it's not uncommon for the teams to gather later in the evening for a night out in the city.

For Geipel, who has masterminded a string of championships comparable to the Dallas Cowboys of the 1990s or the more-recent dominance of the Bill Belichick-led New England Patriots, the club's activities are a way to keep occupied and get exercise.

"It's something to do; burn some time and be active," he said.

JCSU's is new Kentucky State athletics director

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

FRANKFORT, Ky. — President Mary Evan Sias has named Denisha L. Hendricks as the Director of Athletics at Kentucky State University, effective July 1.

Dr. Hendricks served as the Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) and Assistant Director of Athletics for Internal Operations at Johnson C. Smith University. She has been on the senior management team, assisting with the administration and governance of the Department of Athletics at JCSU.

Dr. Hendricks will lead an athletic department with 13 varsity sports programs at KSU. Kentucky State University's intercollegiate athletic teams compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Men's varsity teams include baseball, basketball, cross-country, football, golf, tennis and track. Women's teams include basketball, cross-country, softball, tennis, track and volleyball.

"This is an extremely exciting opportunity and challenge that I am looking for-

ward to at Kentucky State," said Hendricks. "Johnson C. Smith will always feel like another home to me and the experiences and knowledge gained here has been essential to my development as an effective athletic administrator."



Hendricks

In addition to serving as the SWA and Assistant AD, Hendricks has been an instructor and coordinator in the Health and Human Performance Program. Hendricks is the youngest Director of Athletics in the history of Kentucky State University at the age of 30.

She brings to the university a wealth of knowledge in intercollegiate athletics, having also served at Livingstone College as the SWA and Dean of the Academic Village.

"Dr. Hendricks leaves with high admiration from her colleagues and student-athletes," JCSU AD Stephen Joynet said.

Hendricks holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education/Athletic Training from the University of South Carolina. She earned a Master's and Doctoral in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University in 2001 and 2004, respectively.



Members and coaches of the Carolina Tide AAU squad.

Golf tourney to raise funds for team

BY CHAD ROBERTS
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Mason Kellum doesn't get out on the golf course too much anymore. As a teacher and a father of three, he doesn't have the leisure time necessary to play 18 holes.

"I don't have that kind of time anymore," Kellum said. "All my free time, I'm shuffling my boys around."

But as a second-year member of Carolina Tide's golf committee, Kellum is helping to organize a golf tournament fundraiser for the team.

The funds from the tournament will benefit Carolina Tide, a 10-and-under AAU basketball team that one of his sons plays on.

The team is preparing to play in the AAU national tournament in mid-July in Lexington, Ky. As a 9-and-under team in 2008, the Tide came in 10th place in the national tournament in Orlando, Fla.

The Tide are ranked third in the state this year.

Kellum said some of the other committee members had participated in and helped host golf tournaments in the past, and the committee thought it would be a good way to bring attention to the team. Kellum said the team changed names, from Lakers to Tide, two years ago.

"We felt this was a way to get our team's

name out there," Kellum said.

Tee time is set for 8 a.m. Saturday at the course at Reynolds Park. The tournament is captain's choice, meaning team captains, if they so choose, can assign team members to specific tasks, such as putting or driving, to capitalize on a player's strength.

Kellum said individuals from several area companies, such as RJ Reynolds, John Deere and UPS, have already signed up, though the tournament is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

"It's open to individuals also. We'll get them on a team," Kellum said.

The charity tournament also seeks to cross gender lines, he said.

"We'd like to see a turnout of more women golfers," Kellum said.

Turnout is important to the team and especially to Kellum, who says he would play in the tournament only, if another person is needed to round out a team and no one else is available. And if that happens, he said he isn't excited about reviving his golf game.

"I'm the last resort," Kellum said with a laugh.

To drive his point home, he repeated the fact that the tournament was open to all, even younger golfers.

"It's open to everybody. Even teenagers," he said.

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