

SPORTS WEEK

FEBRUARY 20, 2014

History-making win for Parkland girls

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

It's been nearly two weeks since the Parkland girls' track team made school history by winning the Class 4-A state indoor championship. It marked the first time that the school's girls' squad had won a state title in any sport. The afterglow of victory is still very evident.

"I'm still taking it all in," said Coach Antwan Hughes. "I'm so proud of the ladies and their accomplishment. They've worked so hard since training started in September and they deserved to win. All along, I've been telling them that they are the best team in the state. Maybe now they'll believe me, and hopefully this will carry over in every competition we're in from now until the end of the outdoor season. We want to keep riding that momentum."



Hughes

Even though the Mustangs failed to win an individual title, their group effort proved to be too much to handle for powerhouse Raleigh Wakefield, this year's runner-up. On a championship Saturday, Parkland got the maximum out of its eight athletes. In nine events, six Mustangs either matched or surpassed their previous personal bests.

In the track events, Ebony Williams led the way with second place finishes in the 55 hurdles (8.13) and 300 (39.77). Katlin Sherman was third in the 300 (39.83) and Erin Morrison placed fourth in the 500 (1:16.89).

Strong performances in the jumping events gave Parkland a decisive advantage in the chase for the championship trophy. Ila Mumford finished second in the triple jump (36-10 1/2) and fourth in the long jump (17-10 3/4) while teammates Nateja Hale (35-10 1/2 in the triple jump) and Sherman (5-2 in the high jump) both posted fifth-place finishes.

Hughes was not surprised with the Mustangs' showing in the jumps.

"For those on the outside looking in, it



(Front row, from left) Nateja Hale, Miaaysha Bryant and Myshale Spigner with (back row) Erin Morrison, Ila Mumford, Katlin Sherman, Taniya Rhyne and Ebony Williams.

probably came as a shock," said Hughes. "But that was part of the master plan. Tyrone Holman (an assistant who coaches hurdles and jumps) and I have talked about that all season. We felt that if we could do well in the jumps, it would be the key for us to win the state. We knew they could do it and they delivered."

The final tally of points at the state meet had Parkland edging Wakefield 51-49 for the top spot. However, had it not been for a controversial call involving the Mustangs in the 4x400 relay, the margin of victory would've been greater than two points. Parkland fin-

ished second in that race behind Wakefield, but was disqualified.

According to Hughes, officials ruled that after crossing the finish line, anchor runner Morrison showed poor sportsmanship when she threw the baton to the track, supposedly in anger because Parkland didn't win. Hughes acknowledged that Morrison did lose control of the baton, but it was not intentional.

"The baton just slipped out of her hand," said Hughes. "Erin doesn't carry herself in that manner. She works hard, she's a dedicated athlete and she respects the sport."



Salem's Taylor helps Spirits dominate

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The four seniors on the Salem College Basketball Team were honored Feb. 5 during halftime of the team's home game against Bennett College.

The Spirits won the game — the last home game of the season, — easily, topping the Belles 111-34. LaSashia Connolly, Jasmine Shabazz, Satavia Taylor and Tiffany Wildgoose have had distinguished careers at Salem and helped the team to a 19-4 record this season.

Taylor was on fire during the game, scoring 29 points with eight rebounds, two blocks, three steals and an assist. Her performance helped her claim Great South Athletic Conference Women's Basketball Player of the Week honors Feb. 3-9.

During Salem's Feb. 8 85-45 win over Agnes Scott, the Chicago native went 11-23 from the field and ended up tallying up 31 points, 11 rebounds, four blocks and two assists. Taylor continued her superb play in the Spirits' 84-35 win over Wesleyan College on Feb. 9. She scored 30 points just in the first half. She had 12 rebounds, three blocks, three steals and an assist in 24 minutes of competition.



Taylor

Aggie bowlers ranked 17th in the nation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The North Carolina A&T bowling team moved up three spots in the National Ten Pin Coaches Association poll. The Aggies are ranked 17th in the nation after going 18-10 between the recent poll and the last poll released in December.

"Moving up in the rankings is a great feeling," head coach James Williams said. "But again it is just a byproduct of the hard work the ladies have been putting in and their understanding of what it is going to take to maintain their goals."

The Aggies (47-20 overall) were previously ranked 20th in the last poll but they've

been on the move in their last few tournaments, taking down some top-ranked teams.

At the Wildcat Invitational in DeLand, Fla. last weekend, A&T defeated No. 1 Arkansas State 952-902. The Aggies also captured a 984-932 win over No. 15 McKendree. A&T posted the best record at the tournament by going 10-3 and finished in third.

In their first tournament of 2014, A&T competed at the Kutztown Invitational, where they claimed victories over then-ranked No. 9 Kutztown (1014-966), No. 18 Monmouth (937-931) and No. 13 Adelphi (803-762).

A&T will host the Aggie Master's Challenge on Feb. 21-23.



The women of the nationally-ranked North Carolina A&T Bowling team.

Kids turn in solid performances at rec center

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The first two weeks of action in Hanes Hosiery Community Center youth basketball action was action-packed.

In the first week of 11-15-year-olds play, the Heat beat the Nuggets 33-30. Caleb Burgess led the Heat with 19 points. Russell Bradley, BJ Mars, Malaci Stowe, Brendan Adams and Jordan Timmons also scored. The Nuggets were greatly aided by Tywan Brown's 15 points. Harry Capizzi, Dequan Miller, Bryson Reynolds and Darius Williams also scored for the Nuggets.

The Magic beat the Bulls 34-28. Magic standouts Will Simons dropped 9 points and Dimaggio Wilson had 8 points. Elijah Banks, Denaja Fraser, Kendrick Harrison, Josiah Banks, Aaron Potter and Janea Penn also scored for the Magic. The Bulls' contributors were Shamod Samuels, Dre



The Heat

Leonard, Darion Johnson and Andrew Gordon.

The Celtics beat the Spurs 42-34. Peyton Bennett, Tzion Jones, Shaun Blakeney, Chase Walters, Ben Clasy, Zach Gibson and Dorian Stone all scored for the Celtics. Jon Deathridge contributed 15 points to the Spurs' effort. Quan Gatewood,



The Magic

Ryan Davenport and Tyra Merritt also scored for the Spurs.

In Week 2, the Nuggets beat the Celtics 43-41, the Magic beat the Heat 45-43 and the Spurs beat the Bulls 37-31.

In Week 3 of 6-10-year-olds play, the Wolfpack fell to the Deacons 20-27. The Deacons' advantage was a strong defense

from Cameron McMillan, Ryan Johnson, Jaden Jackson, Christian Reynolds and Kemar Hinson and points scored by Jerelle Cohen, Laytion Davis, Darren Pegues, Clalum Davis and Dennis Timmons. Wolfpack contributors include Jahvaree Ritzie-Pouncey, Marcus Barossr-Johnson, Isaiah Crowell, Judah Crowell, Zion Fant, Jeremiah Torian, Montnell Austin, Jahnaul Ritzie-Pouncey and Noah Bethea.

In the second game, the Blue Devils beat the Tarheels 28-25. Christian Sutton, Jerome Wilson, Steven Harrison, Tyler Lyles, Christian Green, Adrian Taylor, Dominique Foreman, Lekendro Pollard, Corey Simons and Jalen Williams scored for the Blue Devils. The Tarheels benefitted from tough pay by Josiah Banks, Mattheah Banks, Tariq Havscr, Yu'Neke Payne, Ethan Gravelly, Jordan Mack-Perry, Tristian Blaking, Bobby Shackeeford, Taniyah Walker and Jeremiah Philps.

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