



Paris Alston, who played at South Carolina State served as an intimidating defensive presence for the Lady Warcats this season.



Head coach Chris Geter and assistant coach Syncere Spivey get ready to break from the team huddle during a time-out.

Warcats

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strong sense of togetherness that we can build on. Since we had a lot of young players right out of college, it was a matter of how quickly they would mature as a unit. As they get in more practice time and game time playing with each other, it will only get better."

Vontisha Woods, who has been with the Lady Warcats for three seasons, led the team in scoring (14.7 points) and rebounds (5.4). Chevena Pickard averaged 14.1 points per game and proved herself as one of the league's most lethal long-distance shooters (70.8 percent from 3-point range). Woods and Pickard got ample offensive support from Alisha Mosely and Cierra York, who both averaged 9.9 points per game.

"We didn't play up to our capability this year," said Woods. "Sometimes we let our personal goals get in the way. There's no doubt that the season should've turned out better than it did. So, for next season, that gives everybody a lot of motivation to turn it

up another level."

The blue chip league, now in its 10th season, provides an opportunity for former college players to continue playing after they've graduated. While the players do not get a paycheck for playing, they do play in a league that attracts interest from scouts representing the WNBA and a number of women's pro leagues overseas.

The WBCBL is widely viewed as the premier pro developmental league for women's basketball. A year ago, the league had 22 players - including Catrina Green of the Lady Warcats - to sign contracts with pro teams overseas (Europe, Mexico, Australia and the Middle East).

Woods, who finished her college career at Winston-Salem State, is hoping to make a return trip overseas. She played in the women's league in Malta (southern Europe) three years ago.

"That's one of the reasons why we play in this league," she said. "It gives you that opportunity to play professionally if that's what you want to do. I'm hoping to get another chance to play overseas."



Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center will host the 25th and final Hang the Net Celebrity Shootout on Thursday July, 23.

Photos by Terin Stinson

Blevins

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"We have really grown over the years," Blevins said. "Last year, the event had over 600 people to attend. Considering this is the last one, I believe we will have over 600 this year."

The list of local celebrities and college basketball stars has grown as well with names such as Wake Forest University (WFU) and NBA star Josh Howard, former UNC Lady Tar Heel Camille Little and former WFU star C.J. Harris, who are all from Winston-Salem.

Last season, Harris really showed his shooting ability, hanging the net multiple times in route to winning the col-

lege shootout.

"It's a great event to get kids out and have some fun," Harris said. "This is all about the kids."

Blevins also uses the event to recognize area icons with a Living Legends Award. The award is given annually to those in the area who have made a major impact in the community. Past winners include the late Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines and the late Mary Garber.

The best part of the event is that it's free to public and Blevins makes sure that no child leaves the gym empty handed.

"Our sponsors have been great over the years," Blevins said. "I try to make sure every kid leaves the gym with something: a T-shirt, a poster or even a snack. We

make sure every child is taken care of."

Blevins said although this will be the last year for the Hang The Net event, he will continue to work in the community and support the youth.

"It's something I've been doing a long time. I started when I was 19. I know I'll be lost next year," laughed Blevins. "But it will give me time to focus on my basketball league, and I know I will do something else for the youth before I retire."

The Hang the Net Celebrity Shootout will begin at 2 p.m. at Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center, 501 Reynolds Blvd. For more information on the event, contact the center at 336-727-2428.



Photo by Terin Stinson

Fancy footwork

Members of the Winston-Salem Tiny Vikings, Senior Midget division work on their footwork during a recent workout at Mineral Springs Middle School. The Vikings are the longest running Pop Warner organization in Winston-Salem, and the defending 2014 Mid-South Division I Champions in the Senior Midget division.