

Prep, Atkins expect to be factors in outdoor track

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FOR THE CHRONICLE

Based on what transpired at the recently-held Class 1-A/2-A state indoor track and field championships, Winston-Salem Prep and Atkins should be in fine shape for the outdoor season.

There were no first-place finishers among the Phoenix and Camels. But when you look at the results and take into account the format of the state indoor track for the smaller schools, the outlook for spring is positive.

That's because the two classifications have a combined state championship meet for indoor track. For the spring outdoor season, though, the 1-A and 2-A schools have their own state championships. In several instances, Prep and Atkins had athletes who didn't win, but their performances give strong indications of what's to come during the outdoor season.

At the state indoor meet, 1-A athletes compete against a higher level of competition (2-A) than they do at the outdoor state, when they compete against a field comprised only of 1-A schools.

Case in point: Winston-Salem Prep's girls.

For example, Ashya Smith (8.93 seconds) won a medal and finished fourth in the 55-meter hurdles. The three athletes who finished ahead of Smith are from Burlington Cummings, which competes in Class 2-A. As a result, Smith was highest 1-A finisher in the finals. Headed into outdoors, Smith rates as a solid favorite to win the hurdles.

The same holds true for De'ja Reid who ended up fifth (7.50) in the 55-meter dash. Reid posted the fastest clocking of all the 1-A sprinters.

In the 4x200 relay, the Phoenix (Llyric Mack,

Daziah Brooks, Reid and Smith), finished as the state indoor runner-up (1 minute, 49.95 seconds). The only quartet that proved to be faster was state champ Cummings (1:47.19).

The results of the long jump were equally revealing. Mack (15-feet, 6 inches) and Reid (15-5 1/2) placed eighth and ninth respectively, so they were not in the running for a medal. Even so, they were the top two 1-A finishers, which bodes well for the outdoor season.

Mack, by the way, added more points for Prep in the team standings with an eighth-place finish in the triple jump (33-1). As a junior at Atkins last year, Mack finished second at the 1-A state outdoor championships.

In the boys' competition, Prep's Joseph Littlejohn had a coming-out party. In his first indoor championship, the sophomore won his first medal by placing fourth in the 55-meter dash. Littlejohn ran 6.64, which was only .01 behind third-place finisher Josh Polk of Newton Grove Hobbton.

The outcome for Littlejohn was even better in the 300-meter dash. Littlejohn ended up in third (37.08) to barely beat out Tony Davis of Atkins, who clocked 37.11. Littlejohn and Davis could be headed for a Northwest Conference showdown in the 200.

Keep an eye on the Atkins boys in the 4x400 relay. The foursome of Davis, Haywood Peebles, Maiz Lawson and Jeremy Kankula placed seventh at the state (3:43.97) and they were 3.49 seconds shy of placing among the top three (Claremont Bunker Hill was third at 3:40.48).

Winston-Salem Prep's Jacob Cobbs figures to be a factor in the long jump. At the state, Cobbs missed out

on making the medal stand by less than an inch. He placed fifth with a leap of 20-1 1/4. J.C. Smith of North Brunswick (20-2 1/2) edged Cobbs by the narrowest of margins - 1/4 of an inch.

SyKonza Evans of 2-A Carver had a productive outing at the state meet. Evans posted a surprise third-place finish at 55 meters (7.47 seconds), which was .03 shy of second place. Entering state, Evans ranked in lower half of state's top 10 fastest times in the 55.

Evans tied for fourth place in the long jump (16-4 1/4) with Zacora McKnight of High Point Andrews.



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Not only is Ashya Smith a key member of the Phoenix's sprint relay teams (4x100 and 4x200), but she's a strong favorite to win state outdoor titles in the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles this spring.



Photos by Craig T. Greenlee
Winston-Salem Prep's Llyric Mack is a proven commodity as one of the state's best in the long jump and triple jump.



Tony Davis of Atkins (left) is coming off a strong indoor season in which he placed fourth in the 300-meter dash at this year's Class 1-A/2-A state indoor track and field championships.

HANES HOSIERY

Hanes Hosiery teams provide exciting games

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In Hanes Hosiery recreation competition ages 6-10 basketball, another exciting game between the Wolfpack and the Blue Devils was held in Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center. The night's game had the crowd out of their seats for most of the game.

D. J. Timmons was a strong factor in the game with his big 12 points, which caused the win for the Wolfpack with his

last 4 made free throws at the end of the game. Following were Ahmad Hickman and Kejo Southerland with their 6 points combined.

The Blue Devils held in there for the entire game, but not enough to pull away with the win. Dominique Foreman with 6 points and behind him with 5 points was Darell Paige. The game was played on Monday, Feb. 1. The final score was Wolfpack 20, Blue Devils 18.

Submitted photos



The Celtics are shown.



Heels are shown.

Lakers 37, Heat 34

In Hanes Hosiery recreation competition ages 11-15-year-old boys, the Lakers vs. Heat matched up. It turned out to be a very close game, but the Lakers pulled away with the win.



The Blue Devils are shown.

Hawks 34, Celtics 32

The Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center was packed to watch Hanes Hosiery recreation competition ages 11-15-year-old boys game pitting the Hawks and the Celtics.

The comeback for the Celtics wasn't enough to defeat the Hawks, but they kept the game close to the end.

Aaron Potter put on a show with his 14 points and 3 assists along with 6 rebounds. Following behind him with 10 points and 8 rebounds was Timar Jackson. These two play great with each other on and off the court.

The Celtics' big player was Josiah Banks with 15 points and 2 assists, which helped the team stay in the game. Timothy Horton had 8 points as well. The game was played Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Demon Deacons 26, Tar Heels 24

In Hanes Hosiery recreation competition ages 6-10 basketball, Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center was again packed with family and friends for boys and girls basketball. The big matchup between the Demon Deacons and the Tar Heels led to a lot of back and forth scoring between Evan Dunlap for the Deacons and Kegin Sutherland for the Tar Heels.

Dunlap put on a big show for the fans with his 19 points and 10 rebounds. He was unstoppable around the rim. His teammate Mitrend Curry was a big help, adding 6 points.

The Tar Heels were leading the Deacons most of the game thanks to Kegin Sutherland and the two Mitchell twins with their scoring and great hustle throughout the game. It just wasn't enough to defeat the Deacons because of the show Dunlap put on. He was a beast the last two minutes of the game with 6 straight back-to-back points each time down the court. The game was played Monday, Feb. 1.

Marc Nicholson had 17 points with 3 assists and Nyseen had 13 points with 4 rebounds. The Heat held it there most of the game, but toward the end they started trapping Isiah Conrad and Quinton Hairston, limiting them with only 2-3 shot attempts.

Although the heat lost, Conrad still finished with 13 points and Hairston with 6. The game was played Tuesday, Feb. 2 in Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center.