



SPORTS WEEK



Also More Stories, Religion and Classifieds

MARCH 24, 2016

TRACK: ATKINS CAMELS

Runner looking to make his mark at 800 meters

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

For middle-distance runner Jeremy Kankula of Atkins, the recollections of last year's Class 1-A state track meet are memorable for all the wrong reasons. At that time, he was a freshman who had made an immediate impact as a legitimate contender in the 800-meter run.

Kankula had a forgettable outing in his specialty event on that day. Prior to the state, he had posted the state's fourth-fastest time. At the championships, however, he bombed out in major-league fashion and finished 13th — which was easily his worst performance of the season.

Fast forward one year and it's a different story. Kankula, now a sophomore, is causing folks to sit up and take notice. He's No. 3 in the 1-A state rankings for the 800 on the NCRunners web site. Given how early it is in the outdoor season, there's no doubt that Kankula will continue to lower his times.

"Jeremy has what it takes to win the 800 at the (1-A) state meet," said coach Rufus Crouch. "Aside from being very self-disciplined, he's smart and he works harder than anybody else."

"I give him a separate workout from the other runners because he's always leaving people behind. You have to give him extra or double what everybody else has."

Looking back on his freshman season, Kankula

See Runner on B2



Sophomore Jeremy Kankula of Atkins is ranked No. 3 in the state in the Class 1-A boys' 800 meter-run by the NCRunners web site.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Pharaohs to make serious run at GS nationals

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

Getting the opportunity to play for a national championship has been the driving force behind Quality Education Academy's basketball team all season long. Now that the opportunity has presented itself, the Pharaohs are not satisfied with being part of the elite 12-team field.

They believe they have the wherewithal to win it all.

The regular season provides ample evidence to support their assertion. QEA went 7-3 against teams who participated in the Grind Session tour that featured stops in 17 cities across the U.S. and Canada. The national championships, which will be played in Lawrence, Kan., tips-off today and ends Sunday.

Since QEA is very familiar with everyone else's personnel, there is no "awe factor" involved. The talent level in this tournament is said to be the best of high school hoops in America. College scouts agree. Each team has at least one prime-time, major-college prospect who's rated as a four-star or five-star recruit.

For QEA, Deshawn Corprew is the key factor. Corprew, a 6-5 shooting guard, is rated among the nation's Top 100 players. In recent months, he's attracted intense interest from Kansas, Louisville, Texas A&M, UCLA and a growing list of other

top-tier programs.

Aside from Corprew, here's a sampling of the talent pool that will play at the GS nationals:

*Josh Jackson (Prolific Prep): The 6-7 shooting guard is rated No. 1 by college scouts for Class of 2016. He's narrowed his choice of schools to Kansas, Arizona and Michigan State.

*Rawle Alkins (Word of God): Former New York City Player of the Year has committed to Arizona. The 6-5 shooting guard ranks among the nation's Top 20 and is heavily recruited by Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, N.C. State and Louisville, among others.

*Thon Maker (Athlete Institute): Scouts continue to drool over the 7-foot power forward, who is originally from South Sudan. Maker possesses the complete offensive skill set (shoot, dribble, drive and pass). Kansas, Arizona State, St. John's and a host of others are keenly interested in adding him to their respective folds.

*DeAndre Ayton (Hillcrest Academy): Widely acknowledged as the top player in the Class of 2017. The 6-10 junior post player has offers from most of the powerhouse programs. According to reports, Kansas, Duke and Kentucky are in hot pursuit to sign him.

See Pharaohs on B2



The Pharaohs get a boost for the Grind Session Nationals with the return of starting point guard Renathan Ona Embo who was sidelined for a little over three weeks with an ankle injury.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Tametris Morrison led the way for Winston-Salem State in last week's Wake Forest Open. Morrison won the 400 hurdles and ran a leg on the Lady Rams 4x400 relay team that finished in first place.

Hurdler envisions breakthrough season

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

As a freshman a year ago, Tametris Morrison provided a tantalizing glimpse of what promises to be a highly-productive college track career. A native of Raleigh, Morrison took huge strides in her first year competing in the 400-meter hurdles

for Winston-Salem State.

Morrison earned All-America honors last spring by placing fifth in her specialty at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championships. The then-newcomer posted the highest individual finish among the Lady Rams at the nationals. Additionally, she ran a leg on the WSSU's All-America 4x400 relay



the Lady Rams at the nationals. Additionally, she ran a leg on the WSSU's All-America 4x400 relay

See Hurdler on B2



ATHLETIC CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE
MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2016 ■ 6pm
K.R. Williams | Semi-formal/Formal attire
\$10.00 | WSSU Students with Valid Identification are FREE