



SPORTS WEEK



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QEA basketball seniors headed to the next level

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Three more basketball seniors at Quality Education Academy recently announced where they will continue their careers.

Deshawn Corprew, Marsellis Purvis and Keith Stagg all played major roles in the Pharaohs' impressive run at a national title. The Pharaohs advanced to the finals of the Grind Session Nationals before bowing out to Victory Rock Prep (Fla.).

A week ago, Corprew verbally committed to play for Texas A&M. Purvis and Stagg are both headed to Jones County Junior College (Miss.). In 2014, Jones County won the NJCAA Division I national championship.

With this latest development on the recruiting front, all four of QEA's seniors are now good to go for college. Pape Ndiaye, a 6-9 power forward, signed with

Fordham University (N.Y.) a few weeks ago.

Corprew, a 6-5 shooting guard, closed out his QEA career as one of the best to ever play in the program. As a senior, he averaged 32 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists and 2 steals per game. He made his announcement about choice of schools the day before the end of the late signing period, which was May 18.

Over the final two months of the season, his stock as a blue-chip recruit continued to rise in the eyes of the college scouts. The highly-regarded Corprew attracted intense interest from at least a dozen major-college programs such as Missouri, UCLA, Cincinnati, Florida State and Texas. Before choosing Texas A&M, Corprew reportedly gave serious consideration to Kansas and LSU.

With Corprew added to the Texas A&M roster, there's no question that

See Seniors on B2



Keith Stagg is a gifted long-distance shooter who excels as a perimeter defender.



Deshawn Corprew is expected to challenge for playing time in the Texas A&M rotation next season.



Marsellis Purvis provided reliable inside scoring and defense for QEA this past season.

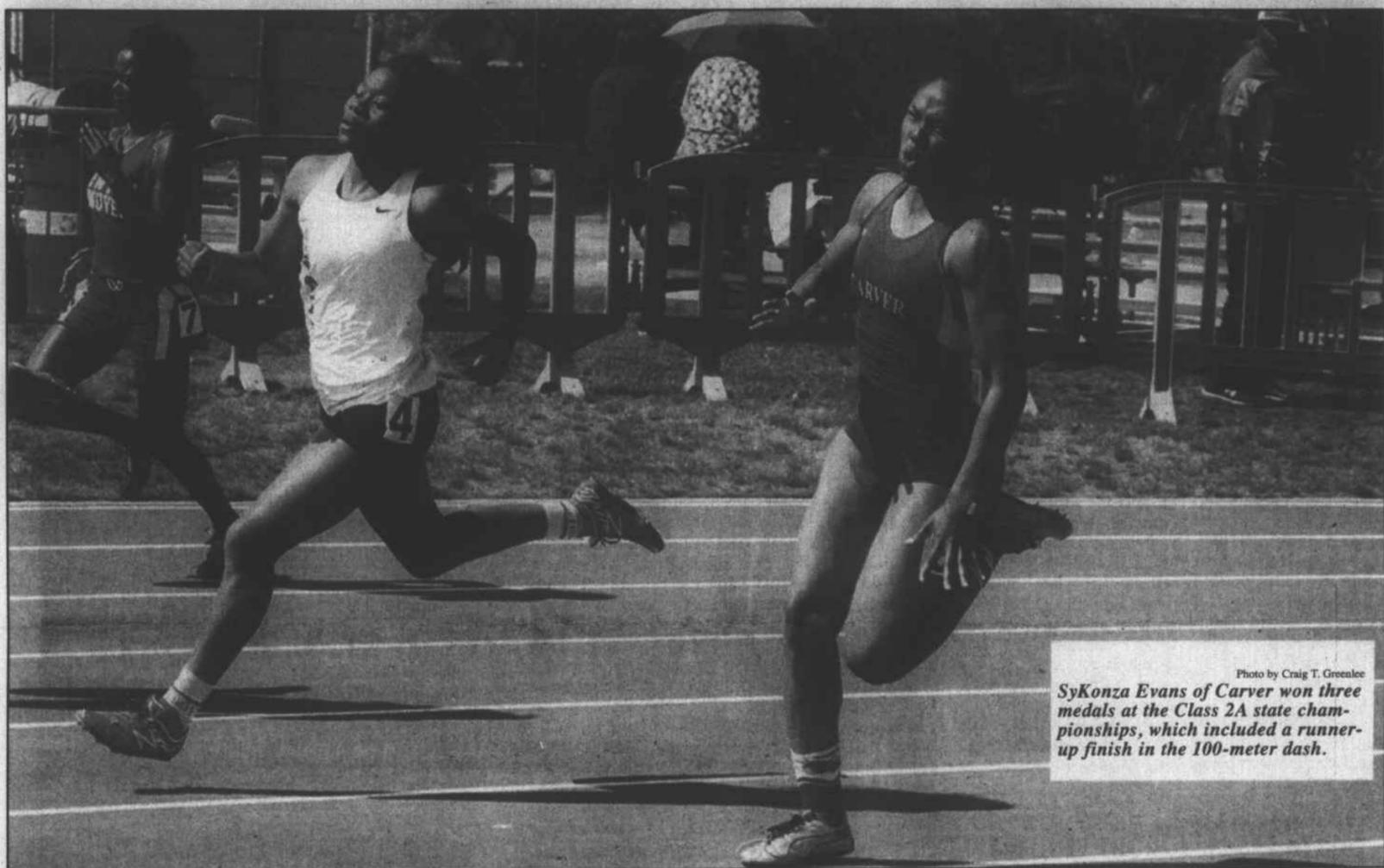


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
SyKonza Evans of Carver won three medals at the Class 2A state championships, which included a runner-up finish in the 100-meter dash.

Track athletes cap season with title-winning performances

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Prevailing in a winner-take-all situation creates a blissful state of mind for the victor. That was certainly the case for four track athletes who bagged individual titles at the state track and field championships held last weekend in Greensboro.

For seniors McKinley McNeill of Parkland (Class 4-A) and Tony Davis of Atkins (Class 1-A), winning titles in the 400-meter dash was a grand way to close out their high school careers as the undisputed No. 1.

For sophomore Jeremy Kankula of Atkins and junior Ashya Smith of Winston-Salem Prep, winning could serve as added incentive to do the necessary work that will enable both to further establish their dominance. Kankula won the 800-meter run with a decisive finishing kick in the late stages of the race. Smith, in the meantime, proved to be no match for the opposition in winning both of her Class 1-A hurdles races (100 and 300 meters).

The end result was especially sweet for McNeill, who will attend North Carolina on a track scholarship next fall. With the win, she's now a two-time state outdoor champion in the 400. But equally impressive is that her winning time of 53.50 seconds set a new state-meet record that had

been on the books since 2009.

"My time at Parkland has been a journey," said McNeill. "When I came in I was surrounded by champions and that really helped. When you run and practice against your equals or people who are better, your times will drop."

McNeill, who won the 500-meter run at the state indoor meet in February, developed a strategy for Greensboro that was designed to produce an expected outcome. For most of the season, she hadn't been seriously challenged by opposing runners. But that changed to some

See Track on B2

Rams softball team looking to build on championship season

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
FOR THE CHRONICLE



Just because Winston-Salem State's softball team has no departing seniors, it doesn't mean recruiting is at a standstill. On the contrary, coach LaTaya Hilliard-Gray will continue to add new people to the fold, and for good reason.

The Rams, who have won two CIAA tournament titles over the last three years, will suffer heavy losses at the end of the 2017 season. The college careers of five seniors — which include a couple of All-CIAA players — will come to a close at that time.

"We're always in recruiting mode," said Gray. "And we're looking to strengthen ourselves at all positions. We'll bring in players to get them acclimated to our system. They will get some seasoning and benefit from what they learn from the seniors we have on board."

See Season on B2

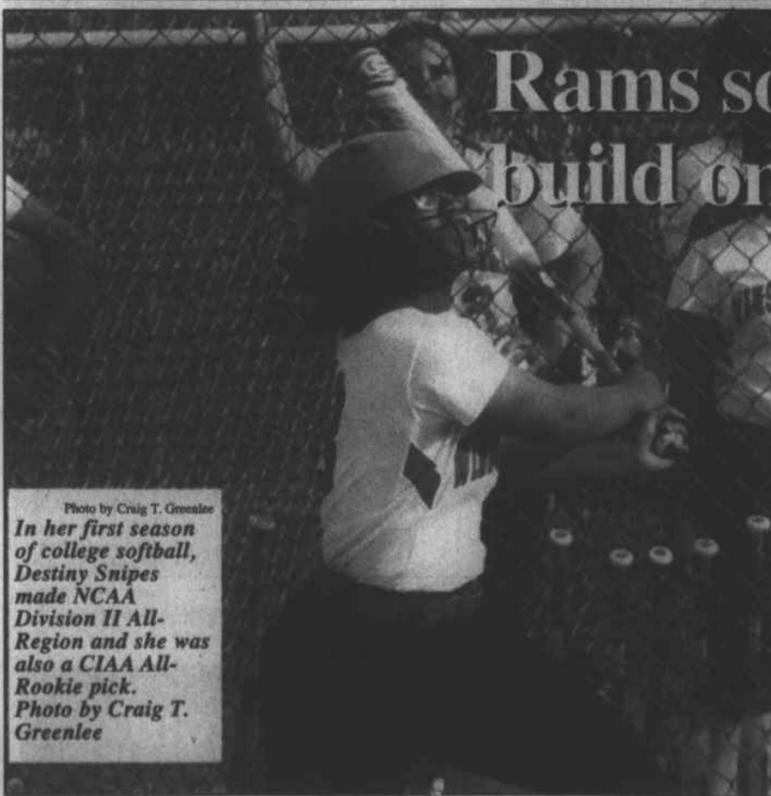


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
In her first season of college softball, Destiny Snipes made NCAA Division II All-Region and she was also a CIAA All-Rookie pick.
Photo by Craig T. Greenlee