

Youth rec league heats up for summertime

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The Carl H. Russell Community Center has kicked off its summer basketball league. The goal is to complement the skills-and-drills camp which runs simultaneously with the basketball league.

The campers are split up into age groups and the younger kids play on Tuesdays. The older kids play on Thursdays. The campers are put onto four different teams on each level and play a round robin style tournament with a championship later on in the summer. This league is another avenue to keep the kids occupied for the entire summer while enhancing their skills on the court.

"We are just out here wanting to give the kids some fundamentals so they

can have a good time playing basketball," said Ben Piggott, director of Carl H. Russell Community Center. "We want the kids to come to the center and have fun, but we also want to put an educational twist on it by bringing in speakers every week. It's a great league because every kid gets a chance to play."

The games are very competitive but the campers show a high level of sportsmanship toward one another. Game one on Thursday afternoon had the makings of an old-fashioned blow out. Team Spurs took the lead early and maintained control through most of the first and second half.

During the final minutes of the game, Team Lakers implemented a full court press turning Team Spurs over multiple times

and sending them to the line to shoot free throws. Team Spurs was unable to convert crucial free throws and took some bad shots. Team Lakers had the ball on the final possession and with just seconds to go on the clock, Kelvin Jones drove to the basket and converted a layup and was fouled with no time left. He stepped to the line and knocked down the free throw, propelling his team to the victory by one.

"I come up here every day and everyone here is like family," Jones said. "Well, that's how it is when you are playing ball. You have to get the ball to the right person in the right situation." Jones is a recent Carver High School grad and says he loves playing in the summer league.

Game two of the day looked to be a mismatch as



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

A player for Team Lakers dribbles the ball upcourt and attempts to look for a teammate to pass the ball to.

the Bulls played the Cavaliers. Team Bulls were rather shorthanded playing with only seven players. With timely shots from Quinton Campbell and steady the Bulls kept a comfortable lead throughout. Team Cavaliers were not able to get into a rhythm shooting. They missed shots from all over the court and could not close the gap during the game.

"I love basketball and

even though I am a little upset we lost, I still enjoy coming here," said Cruz Rivaz.

Many of the coaches for the summer league teams have come up through the program when they were younger. Bebe Lindsay, Justen Stafford Sr. and Fareed Rahman all played when they were younger. They now coach as a way to give back to the young men, community and the rec center.

The camp will last until the return of the school year. Mr. Piggott wants all of the children to be respectful and learn to give back. He stated that Jerry Thornton donated all of the jerseys for the camp. He also stated that his staff is giving their all in order to ensure the campers are having a great experience. Without people like Ron Couthen, Keith Perry and Brian Leak, Piggott noted, he wouldn't be able to put

Games show off skills of Hanes Hosiery Summer League players

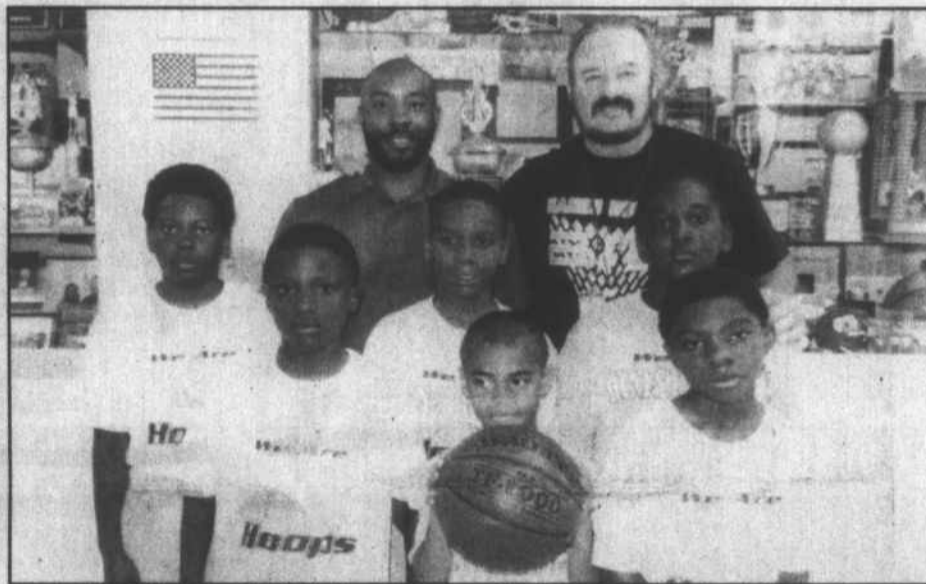
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Hanes Hosiery Summer League basketball was where the action was earlier this summer.

Hanes Hosiery Director Coach Art Blevins and his staff - Patrice Johnson, Avery Faucett, Jeremiah Hawkins, Aaron Richardson and Wayne Patterson - said they were all very proud of this summer turnout, featuring 10 teams and with 121 kids participating. Blevins said it is two good leagues with a lot of talented kids.



In the ages 6-10 basketball league, Yazir Wilson poured in 13 points while Isaiiah Rogers scored 9 points to lead the Wolf Pack over the Deacons in the season opener. Ian Coleman added 4 points for the Wolf Pack. **Wolf Pack 26 Deacons 15**



The Tar Hills, led by Christone Young with 10 points, dominated the game and defeated the Blue Devils 18-6. Other Tar Heel standouts included Jordan McIntyre with 4 points and Cameron Kelly with 4 points. **Tar Heels 18 Blue Devils 6**



In the ages 11-15 basketball league, the Lakers with a well-balanced team nipped the Cavaliers 59-55 in front of a packed house at the Hosiery in the Summer League Season opener. Akiem Spaugh, "Nas" Moore, Isiah Conrad, Mekhi Hague, Kylan James and Corey Simons were the Lakers standouts.

The Cavaliers were led by one of the top 13 and under players in the state, Jordan Timmons, who poured in 34 points. Josh Sugat, Nygel Young, Trevonte Glenn, and Nyquan Young had good games for the Cavs. **Lakers 59 Cavaliers 55**



Rashad Hague and Aaron Potter, the Hosiery's "Splash Brothers," combined for 32 points on mostly "treys" to lead the Warriors to a big 59-51 win over the Celtics. Other standouts for the Warriors included Justin Green, Izayah Carpenter and Zach Gibson. Gibson had 12 points and 4 steals. The Celtics were led by Michael Conrad and Danselo Lavalais, both with 14 points. Others were Emma Munger, Audrey Munger, Tamaurri Miller, Adryan Dubose, Ahmad Byrd and Quinton Harriston. **Warriors 59 Celtics 51**



The Bulls led by sharp shooting guards Shaylen Woodberry, Aaron Muse, Andrew Muse and Sierra Samuels whipped the Nuggets 81-36 in the only blowout game of the day. Every Bull player scored, with Woodberry and the "Muse brothers" leading the way. Other Bull stars were Immanuel Moore, Gahques Ligons, Shavez Samuels, and Kevon Wilson. Wilson also led in rebounding.

The Nuggets were led by Jeremiah Hill with 11 points and Timothy Horton 15 points. Chase and Chance Cloud led in rebounding. **Bulls 81 Nuggets 36**




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