



SPORTS WEEK



Also More Stories, Religion and Classifieds

AUGUST 11, 2016



Triad girls learn soccer skills from Women's World Cup and Olympic champions

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The names Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Tisha Venturini-Hoch are synonymous with the sport of soccer around the world and more so here in the Tar Heel state. All three women were superstar soccer players for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during the mid-1990s.

The women partnered with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) to hold three soccer clinics this past weekend in Raleigh, Winston-Salem and Charlotte. The Live Fearless Soccer Clinics are a way for the soccer legends to teach the girls a few soccer skills but also to enlighten the girls on the importance

of healthy living for themselves and their families. The camp was hosted at the Twin City Soccer Club.

"With this campaign, we are going to talk about living fearlessly. Getting outside of your comfort zone is how you challenge yourself and grow as a person," said Hamm. "We want them to know that setbacks and mistakes are a part of life and how you respond to those tells you who you are and what you are made of. You just have to keep trying to improve as a player and a person."

The girls in the camp were very eager to show the legends their skills and learn a few tricks to add to their skills on the field. Even with the hot and humid temperatures Saturday afternoon everyone was happy to be

there. During the introduction of the Hamm, Lilly and Venturini-Hoch their stats and career achievements were read which many of the girls knew verbatim.

According to Hamm, the girls will be participating in some basic drills such as stop start and change of pace moves. They will then move to drills that will assist in passing, dribbling and shooting. She said in the short time frame they have with the girls they want to try and touch on as many skills as possible. Most importantly she said she wants the girls to have fun.

Hamm, Lilly, and Venturini-Hoch were a part of the USA Soccer Women's National Team during the

See Soccer on B2

Photo by Timothy Ramsey

The young girls at the clinic were shown a number of drills to enhance their play along with advice on healthy living.

Rec center's resurrected summer league holds championship

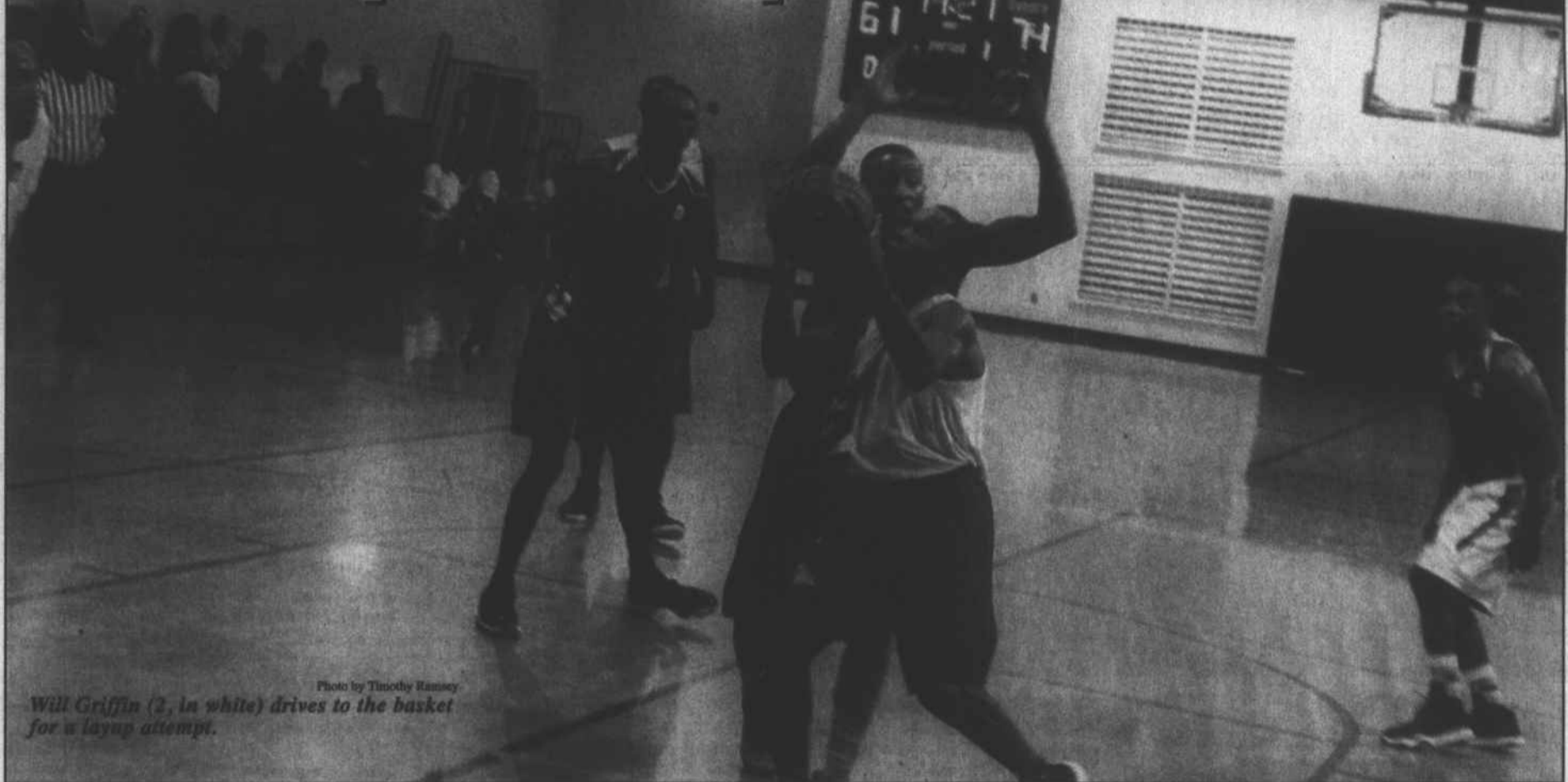


Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Will Griffin (2, in white) drives to the basket for a layup attempt.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The late night summer basketball league at the 14th Street Recreation Center was the place to be for nearly two decades. A few years ago, the league seemed to be in trouble with other leagues popping up left and right all across the city. Thanks to Louis Lowery Jr., director of 14th Street, the league has been resurrected.

The league held its championship

game Monday, Aug. 1, at the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center. Team Unknown faced off against Finesse Game.

According to Lowery, the league started off as the "Barn Burner" league, which was played outside at the Skyland basketball courts. Lowery stated that Robert Little, director of 14th Street at the time, was instrumental in the Barn Burner league's transition to the late night summer

league during the late '90s.

The league was created for African-American youth, 18 and up, to keep them off of the streets and doing something productive during the summer. Many of the teams throughout the years have been comprised of former and current collegiate players, professional players from overseas and local players.

"We play Monday through Thursday and we have a good solid crowd every night," said Lowery. "The gym is packed and we have people parking everywhere trying to get in. Some people come out every day to watch the games and get so hyped up they make the players play at another level."

Lowery stated that they decided to play the championship game at Hanes Hosiery

See Rec Center on B2

Cheerleading camp exposes young girls to the basics

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Cheerleaders are an important addition to many sports teams. They keep the home crowd energized and give a lift to the team when they're down.

DeNea Crowell, a former cheerleader at North Forsyth High School, is holding a camp at some of the area recreation centers to give girls a taste of what it's like to be a cheerleader.

Crowell was born and raised in Winston-Salem and has been cheering since age 6. She has cheered locally at the Winston Lake YMCA along with the Pop Warner

league with the Packers. She went on to be a cheerleader at North Carolina Central University.

She has been a counselor at various rec centers in Winston-Salem and Durham. She has done a camp previously in Durham but wanted to bring the camp here to give local young people a chance to learn what she knows.

"The reason why I wanted to teach cheerleading to the children is because I love and enjoy children and I feel like there is no point in perfecting a craft if you can't teach it to someone else," said Crowell. "I love see-

ing the growth of the girls. Some girls come to the camp and have never cheered before and some have, but watching each individual girl come out of their shell and perfect their technique just makes my day."

Crowell is currently holding camps at the 14th Street and W.R. Anderson rec centers. She stated initially she wants to go over techniques with the girls to give them a proper foundation. She then will transition over to motion, which is the base for every cheer or dance. Once the girls perfect the basics, they will learn jumps such as tucks,



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

DeNea Crowell ends the camp with a prayer, thanking the Lord for keeping everyone safe from injury during practice.

See Camp on B2