



The girls at the clinic practice a dribbling drill to help them control the soccer ball more effectively.



The young women pay attention as they are being shown a new drill during the clinic last Saturday, Aug. 6.

Soccer

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early part of the millennium that catapulted women's soccer to heights it had never been before. With World Cup titles and Olympic Golds, the three legends are happy to see women's soccer increasing in popularity with each passing year.

"We have been a part of the team since the beginning and each year the game has grown," said Lilly. "Every time we win it generates a snowball effect of people following us and bringing more attention to women's soccer. With their win last year in the World Cup, it just catapulted the attention even more for women's soccer. I just think it continues to grow and have an impact

and give these girls an opportunity."

There were many parents on hand that were more excited to meet the soccer greats than their children were. Joanne Nall and Maria Colamarino came all the way down from Hendersonville to bring their daughters Laurin and Sophia to the camp. Nall said she remembers when Hamm, Lilly and Venturini-Hoch all played soccer at UNC-Chapel Hill and has followed their careers over the years. She said she was actually a little "star struck" to meet them and happy her daughter had the chance to do the same.

"I think with this time of the year, with the Olympics going on and everything that is happening in the world, this is an extremely impressionable

event for these girls and hopefully it will motivate them and inspire them so they can see what their potential is," said Nall. "The whole idea of live fearless and not being scared of trying new things, putting everything you have into it and to inspire those around you are great principles for the girls to learn."

With the Olympics in full swing, the Women's National Team is looking to take home another gold medal. The hopes are very high with them winning the World Cup last summer.

When asked about the expectations of the women's team, Lilly added, "Well, obviously we hope they win. They won last year's World Cup, so winning back-to-back tournaments is difficult, so they have a task in front of



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

From left to right, Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Tisha Venturini-Hoch who played on the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team held a camp on Saturday, Aug. 6, to teach young players skills and to make health a priority both on and off the field.

them. If they play well, I think they can do it."

Hamm, Lilly and Venturini-Hoch signed

hundreds of autographs for parents and children. This is the second year they have held the camp in coordination with BCBSNC.

They said they are excited to promote the Live Fearless campaign.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Derek Griffin (3, in blue) prepares to pass the ball while being guarded by Nash Carter.

(Left) Team Unknown poses with championship trophy after defeating Finesse Game in the 14th Street summer league basketball championship.

Rec Center

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because the gym is bigger, which allowed more fans to attend.

From the tip off, Finesse Game took control of the game quickly, taking a double digit lead early in the first half. Olajuwon Felton and Derek Griffin were hitting shots at will while Team Unknown could not buy a basket. Finesse Game was able to stretch the lead out to as much as 20 points during the first half of play. Team Unknown started to get into rhythm late in the first half. After the intermission, Will Griffin of Team Unknown began to put his

stamp on the game.

"I kept telling the guys that it's a lifetime left on the clock. Yeah, it looks bad now, but basketball is a game of runs, and one thing that's guaranteed is that everybody gets their run," said Will Griffin. "I told the guys as long as we get it under 10, with eight minutes left we have a fighting chance to win the game."

Coming out of half time, Will Griffin put Team Unknown on his back and started to make shots, which ignited his teammates to ramp up the intensity on the defensive end. They also started to hit the easy shots that were missed in the first half of play.

During a 10 minute stretch of the sec-

ond half, Team Unknown was able to chip away at the double digit lead and come to within four points of Finesse Game with less than 5 minutes on the clock. Team Unknown kept their foot on the pedal and Will Griffin hit a couple buckets late that brought Team Unknown all the way back to take the lead.

"All year long if it wasn't Nash taking over it was me," Griffin added. "Tonight if someone was gonna get us going, it was going to be me. If I'm driving and kicking or driving and scoring, I just knew I had to do something."

According to Lowery, Team Unknown was one of the lowest seeds ever to take home the championship trophy during the

summer league. He said they had been a scrappy team all tournament and seemed to relish having to overcome a deficit in the second half.

Another Team Unknown player added that even though his team was down big and the crowd had become restless, his team has a "never say die attitude." He said he is very happy that they were able to take home the championship.

Lowery stated this was one of the most competitive and memorable games in summer league history. He said he was very proud of the young men for coming back from such a large deficit.

Camp

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pikes and toe touches to name a few.

The girls will also learn choreography and dance routines but will not learn tumbling or stunting, as that is a little too advanced for the girls at their skill level, Crowell said. Everything she is teaching the girls will all be on display at the showcase she is holding at the end of the three-week camp. She will teach each group of girls a routine, which they will perform in front of the other campers, staff and parents.

The girls participating in the camp really enjoy learning something new along with enjoying each other's company.

"What I like about the camp is that we can all have fun and work together," said A' yana Butts.

Talia Edmond added, "I like the personalities we have. We work together, we try hard and we give 100 percent to do our best. We all like to work together as a team."

Crowell stated that she would love to



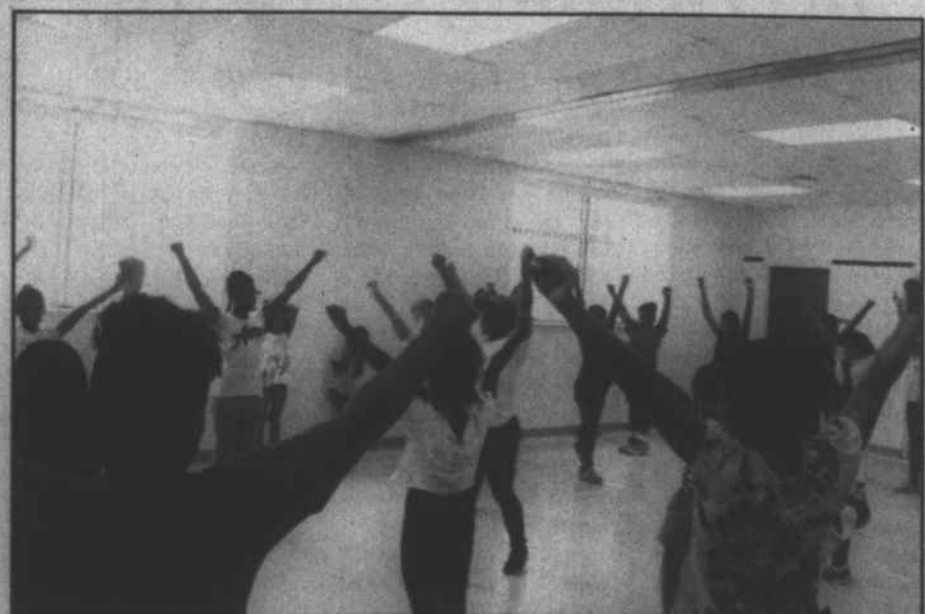
(Left) DeNea Crowell gives one camper a lift as she explains the proper way to perform a certain jump.

hold a camp every year going forward. Because she is seeing the girls become more disciplined and able to work together as a team, it has been more rewarding than she ever thought.

"The overall point of me doing this camp is so that they can feel inspired, inspired to step outside of their shell and perform in front of other people and inspired to be leaders on their team in whatever sport they play," she said.

Crowell said next year she wants to include more recreation centers in her camp and bring in a few more individuals to help her coach.

The camp will run until Aug. 20. For information about the camp, contact DeNea Crowell at denealcnc@gmail.com.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

DeNea Crowell has been a cheerleader most of her life. She says she wants to impart some of her wisdom upon the girls at local rec centers.