

Swarm earn their first victory of the season



The teams' big men reach for a jump ball during the second quarter of last Friday's game.

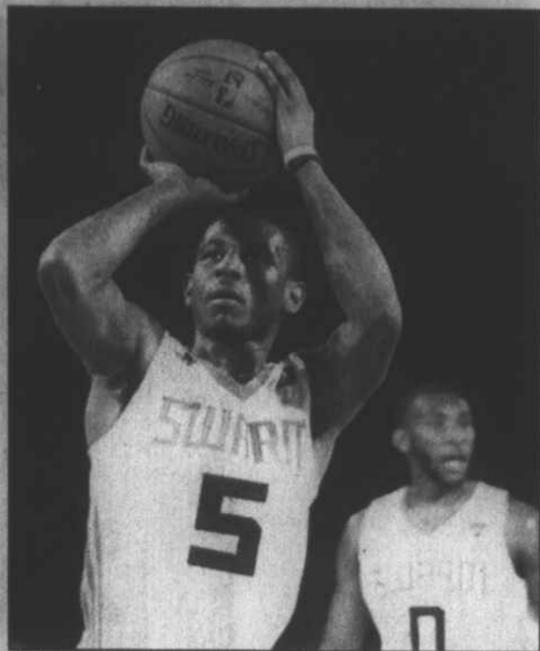


Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Swarm guard Xavier Munford hits a free throw for one of his 26 points in the game

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

In this inaugural season in the NBA development league (D-league) for the Greensboro Swarm, the team has found that wins are rather hard to come by.

The Swarm has started the season with an 0-5 record but righted the ship by earning their first victory of the year by defeating the Erie BayHawks 109-88 Friday night.

With Charlotte Hornets affiliated player Aaron Harrison back in the fold and in the starting lineup, the Swarm got off to a great start shooting the ball. Harrison, along with point guard and leading scorer Xavier Munford, were on target shooting the ball from the start.

Munford scored 26 and Harrison had a game high 31 points on the evening. Veteran Damien Wilkins chipped in with 14 points and Perry Ellis contributed with 12 points off the bench. The defense for the Swarm in the first half set the tone for

the game as they held the lead from wire to wire.

Swarm head coach Noel Gillespie says he gives all credit to his players for their first win.

"It's great, and I know this sounds like a coaching cliché, but obviously the players score every bucket and it was due to them focusing in," said Gillespie. "They came in focused this morning before the game and they're buying into the game plan and executing. Hopefully we can do it again tomorrow."

The first quarter was tightly contested early on. The BayHawks were led by Lewis Jackson, who hit a couple of pull up jumpers in the lane. Munford answered back with a jump shot off the dribble and hitting two from the free throw line. Erie center Cliff Alexander used his large frame to clean up the boards for easy put backs. The BayHawks, however, were unable to stop the prolific outside shooting from Harrison, and the Swarm led 27-22 after one quarter.

The Swarm ratcheted up the defensive intensity in the second quarter, forcing Erie to shoot long jump shots and corraling the rebound. On the offensive end, the Swarm continued to lean on Harrison and Munford, who hit clutch shot after shot. They were able to stretch the lead to 18 by the end of the half and held Erie to only 38 points, their lowest point total given up all season.

Gillespie said coming into the game, he wanted Harrison and Munford to be aggressive coming off screens and to look to attack the rim.

"They are so good at drawing defenders and the other teams' big guys then kicking out to open shooters," said Gillespie. "With Rasheed and Aaron in the starting lineup with Xavier and with Damien at the four spot, you have four guys who can make plays and have high basketball IQs. The mindset for those two [Harrison and Munford] to attack and be selfish from the beginning is huge."

The BayHawks made a bit of a run in

the third quarter after falling behind by more than 20 points. T.J. Price and Jackson hit a few big shots and made some terrific passes in the lane for easy layups for their big men. The Swarm kept their composure and held on to a 81-71 lead after three quarters.

During the fourth quarter, veteran forward Damien Wilkins became more aggressive by posting up smaller defenders in the post and seemingly scoring at will. The defensive intensity from the first half returned for the Swarm and they held on for a 109-88 victory.

Wilkins said his team came out with intensity in the first half but relaxed once they had a big lead. He said they had a similar problem in their last game against the Delaware 87ers but learned their lesson and hung on for the victory this time out.

"It was great, but we can't take this for granted," Wilkins said of his team's first win. "We have to get hungry, we have to get greedy for another win."

Hanes Hosiery begins Winter Basketball Registration

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The Hanes Hosiery recreation center is now taking sign ups for its winter basketball league. The center will have two leagues: a 6-10-year-old league and an 11-15-year-old league. The cost for each child is \$25 and it includes a jersey and trophy.

This will make the 38th year Hanes Hosiery director and coach Art Blevins will run youth basketball leagues in the city. "We teach them fundamentals and make sure the kids are having fun and learning the game also," Blevins said.

Blevins said he wants to keep the three "P's" out of what they do. No Pressure, no Politics and no Parent coaching. He says he wants to make sure each kid has an opportunity to play. He thinks this is the recipe for a successful program.

Blevins went on to say, "Here at the Hosiery, it's all about the kids. I have been blessed over the years working with thousands of kids who have come through our program. We take pride in the trying to make sure our



Submitted photo

Hanes Hosiery director and coach Art Blevins, left, is shown with his staff: Patrice Johnson and Jeremiah Hawks

programs are top notch."

Wake Forest University Law students will serve as coaches for the teams. Blevins says they do a great job with the kids and make sure each kid plays. He says the priority is for the kids to enjoy the game.

The \$25 cost covers the jerseys and trophies, which

Blevins purchases each year. The price to register for the Winter League has remained the same for the last 14 years. Blevins also says he enjoys helping those kids who cannot pay.

Blevins closed by saying, "Every kid will play regardless. This is what its all about, the kids."

CIAA hires Davidson College official for external operations

SPECIAL TO
THE CHRONICLE

CHARLOTTE — The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) has announced the addition of Suzette McQueen as the senior associate commissioner of external operations & strategic marketing.

"We are excited about the wealth of knowledge, leadership and oversight in athletics administration that Suzette will bring to compliment and grow the CIAA," say Commissioner Jacque McWilliams. "Her experience in both Divisions I and DII will help maximize our platforms and strengthen our partnerships, while continuing her passion of engaging and supporting student

athletes."

The senior associate commissioner of external operations and strategic marketing will be responsible for the management of sponsorship, media rights, promotions, media relations and marketing for the CIAA's 15 championships. McQueen will provide strategies that drive revenue streams while increasing brand management and awareness to support the mission and vision of the CIAA.

"The CIAA has distinguished itself as a premier conference at the Division II level," says McQueen. "I am very excited for this opportunity to join an already successful organization that prides itself on its tradition, leadership and community values. Commissioner Jacque McWilliams and her staff have been nothing but supportive in welcoming me to the team. I look forward to working with the CIAA and its member institutions

to continue to advance its mission to positively impact the lives of its student-athletes."

McQueen will join the conference office after serving as the associate director of the Davidson College Athletic Fund (DAF). She once held the role of interim director of DAF, which closed out the 2015 fiscal year with a record breaking \$2.7 million raised in annual dollars for athletics.

Prior to Davidson, McQueen served as the Assistant Athletic Director, External Affairs and Media Relations and Senior Woman Administrator at Adelphi University. She was responsible for media relations for the University's 20 Division II teams. McQueen earned a B.A. in communications in 1992 from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in sports administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001.

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