

Gems Shine Going Into AAU Nationals

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

The Charlotte Gems aren't the biggest team going to the AAU girls' basketball championships next month.

But size isn't what matters to them. The Gems are the first Charlotte team to make the nationals, which will be played July 29-Aug. 8 in Knoxville, Tenn. The Gems

have been nearly unbeatable in the 13-under age group, compiling a 17-1 record. From starters to the bench, the Gems have been brilliant all year.

"They've worked very hard. The bench has been real productive," said coach Reggie Wilson. "I've got kids who on most teams would start."

Defense has been the key, with Charlotte beating opponents by an average of 25 points per game. The Gems

"We play according to our defense. All man-to-man, no zone."

Charlotte Gems coach Reggie Wilson

know how to put the ball in the hoop with leading scorers Nikki Herron (Spaugh) and Tonya Phifer (Alexander Graham) at the forward and guard spots, respectively. The rest of the starting five

include point guard Rachel Lewis (Charlotte Latin), forward Janae Whiteside (Hawthorne) and 5-10 center Deidra McAfee (Kennedy), who has a basketball pedigree as the niece of former

NBA all-star Walter Davis. Ashley Smith is a three-point threat off the bench.

"We're very up-tempo. We don't have a lot of big people," Wilson said. "We have a lot of athletes. We play according to our defense. All man-to-man, no zone."

The nationals will be tougher, but the Gems are used to facing challenges. Knoxville will bring more of them.

"It'll be a different experi-

ence, because in North Carolina, a lot of teams will get big," Wilson said. "But in the nationals. We'll probably see teams more athletic than we are. But we don't fear any of them. We can't. We don't know any of them."

To help the Charlotte Gems pay for the cost of going to the nationals, donations can be sent in care of the Charlotte Gems, 5541 South Blvd. No. 144, Charlotte, N.C. 28217.

It's Time Well-Spent For Orioles' Reynolds

By Chuck Melvin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND - Harold Reynolds used his spare time wisely.

During the second of two rain delays Sunday, Reynolds talked hitting with coach Davey Lopes, then stroked a two-run double that put Baltimore ahead for good as the Orioles beat the Cleveland Indians 6-3.

It was the first of Reynolds' three hits in the game. Chris Hoiles also had three hits: a home run, double and single.

"During the rain delay, Davey Lopes was telling me that I've been feeling for the ball," said Reynolds, who had two hits in his last 15 at-bats at that point. "He said I should start swinging the bat and try to hit the ball out one time."

The Indians cooperated by sending in a familiar face, Dennis Cook.

"I faced him in Baltimore earlier," Reynolds said. "He beat us there. He pitched me hard inside there, and I figured he'd do the same thing here. So I looked for the same thing, and I hit him."

Jamie Moyer (3-3) won his third straight following a string of 16 starts without a victory. He went 5 1-3 innings, allowing three runs and five hits.

A parade of five relievers followed and held the Indians scoreless on three hits the rest of the way. Gregg Olson finished for his 19th save.

"I think we have the best bullpen in the league, top to bottom," manager Johnny Oates said. "All six guys are throwing the ball well."

The Orioles have won 15 of 19 games since May 31, and they went 7-3 on their 10-game road trip. They've won six consecutive series, their best such streak since they won seven series in a row in 1986.

Cleveland has lost six of its last eight.

Hoiles, who was hitless in his last 17 at bats, got Baltimore started with a home run in the second inning, his ninth, moments before the first rain delay. Cal Ripken then doubled home a run in the third, shortly before the second delay.

In the fourth, Matt Young - who had replaced Cleveland starter Paul Abbott following the second delay - walked two batters and left with two outs after aggravating a sprained left knee. Young (1-5) became the loser when Reynolds greeted Cook with his two-run double.

The Orioles blew a chance to break it open in the seventh, when they failed to score after loading the bases with no outs. But they added a run on Leo Gomez's single in the eighth, and two Cleveland errors set up David Segul's RBI single in the ninth.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



PHOTO/PAUL WILLIAMS III

Pete Moore, the Charlotte Knights' assistant general manager, gave up the world of high finance for baseball. He doesn't have regrets, either. "A lot of people don't see the advantages in this area as opposed to being a commercial lender or lawyer," he says.

Knights' Executive Pete Moore Learning About Baseball On Job

By Herbert L. White
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Pete Moore could easily be mistaken for an investment banker or a stock broker.

But instead of helping customers make a killing on Wall Street, he's taking care of business with the Charlotte Knights.

Moore, assistant general manager of the Class AAA baseball team is learning about the business of baseball, which is not unlike the business of finance, something he did as a stock broker before getting a master's degree in business administration at Duke University. But there are a lot of possibilities in sports.

"A lot of people don't see the advantages in this area as opposed to being a commercial lender or lawyer," Moore, 29, said. "It's unique. It's like running

your own business."

Moore's job is to work with the Knights' front-office staff in game-day preparations, such as travel and ticket sales. The job has opened Moore's eyes to a sport he admits was nearly foreign to him eight months ago.

"I've seen more baseball in these 4-5 months than I have in my entire life," he said.

A former high school All-America quarterback at Burlington Williams, Moore played defensive back at Duke. His parents, Richard Sr. and Rosa, didn't stress sports, opting to push academics instead. Moore got a football scholarship while his sister, Dr. Roslyn Crisp, a pediatric dentist in Burlington, went to college on academic scholarships. Sis wasn't much of an athlete (Moore calls her "totally uncoordinated"), but it didn't matter.

"My parents never forced me into sports," Moore said. "Sports was always

on the back burner. They were more interested in what we were learning in school."

After being a successful quarterback in high school, Moore found himself making a tough transition in learning to hit people at Duke. Ronnie Lott didn't have to fear for his job as it turned out.

"My nickname was Highway because I got run over so much," he said.

After hanging up the cleats in 1986, Moore landed a job with the Charlotte Hornets in ticket sales, where he caught the eye of the bosses, owner George Shinn and president Spencer Stolpen. After two more years in grad school, Moore was back working for Shinn Enterprises, this time for the Knights.

"I'm not new to the organization. I'm new to baseball," Moore said.

After being a player, Moore is finding himself adjusting to the front office. Instead of just keeping

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Despite Label, Michigan's Fab Five Still Winners

By Mark Gray
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

College sports is such a cruel and unforgiving world. Split-second decisions are the difference between legendary status and ongoing lamentation. However, what fans, alumni and the press lose sight of what is that the people who are under such an intense microscope are between the ages of 18 and 23.

These kids, because of an athletic scholarship and the praises of so-called experts, have to reach almost unforeseeable goals, and if they fall short, all the world comes crashing down around them. Former Michigan forward Chris Webber, despite a mental lapse, which could have cost the national championship, is still a great player and so is the team.

Webber, along with Jalen Rose, Jimmy King, Juwan Howard, and Ray Jackson were billed as the "Fab Five" coming out of high school. Some even went so far as to say that this was the finest collection of college basketball talent to ever lace up a pair of sneakers. Each member of this quintet did rank in the top 100, which only added to the galactic expectations of college sports enthusiasts. It was assumed that this team would waltz to a national championship, however, twice they have come close, but that only counts in horseshoes.

Bill Walton, suddenly anointed by the television world as the supreme pontificator of basketball talent, has branded this team as "underachievers." Walton's underachievers have merely won 55 games in two years. They have also won eight of 10 NCAA Tournament games and played in two straight national championship games.

Underachievers? Not really. In fact, Walton was an underachiever as a professional basketball player. True, he was on a couple of championship teams. However, he never played a full 82-game season and his career ended in 1988, much like it had always been spent - on the injured list.

No team in the history of college basketball has been scrutinized as much as this edition of the Michigan Wolverines, in spite of their success. Before Mike Krzyzewski's Duke Blue Devils won back to back titles they lost to UNLV and Louisville in the final game. Dean Smith, who traditionally, has the best talent money can buy at North Carolina, has been to the NCAA "Sweet 16" round 18 straight years, has only won two national championships, but nobody has ever branded any of those teams as underachievers.

Unfortunately, the reason this team has been chastised as heavily as they have is because they are five inner city black kids who are talented and have the audacity to let the world know it. Sure, their heads are bald, their shorts are baggy, and they talk a little trash on the court. However, in the '90s that's what the game is all about. A little chatter between players is common, but they never have physically assaulted any of their opponents. After this year's West Regional Final,

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Law Wins 100 Meters

FROM NEWS SERVICES

Jim Law has added another sprint championship to his trophy case.

The Charlotte resident won the 65-69 age group gold medal in the 100 meters at the U.S. National Senior Sports Classic IV in Baton Rouge, La. last week, adding it to his win in the 200. The event is the nation's premier biennial multi-sport athletic competition for athletes age 55 and older. More than 7,200 senior athletes are in Baton Rouge competing in 18 sports, including cycling, triathlon and basketball.



Law

This Cowboy Is Pitching Shoes In Ad

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS - Coming soon to a movie theater near you: Dallas Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith and his new line of Reebok footwear.

Smith, winner of the last two NFL rushing titles, is featured in a commercial for Reebok's Preseason collection. The spot will be seen on 4,200 movie screens in more than 120 markets, Reebok officials said.

The shoe company is spending \$7 million to promote Smith and Chicago White Sox first baseman Frank Thomas in two separate black-and-white ads meant to give viewers the feel of being part of the action in a professional game.

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