

1C

SPORTS



PHOTO: WADE NASH

Barber-Scotia cornerback Darryl Smith tries to break up a pass to receiver Wayne Griffin at Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage.

For first time, football puts down roots at Barber-Scotia

By Herbert L. White
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CONCORD — There's never been anything like this at Barber-Scotia. The Sabers wrapped the first spring football sessions in school history Saturday, with a couple of hundred fans on hand for an intrasquad scrimmage at J.N. Fries Middle School. And there's a very real sense students and faculty like the idea of spending fall Saturdays embracing football.

"In bringing in a football team, it has absolutely given our kids more enthusiasm than they have had in a while," Athletics Director James Stinson said. "It's been really excited about this new venture of a football program and it's given us the pride back in Barber-Scotia."

Adding football and baseball is part of the school's long-range athletics overhaul. School leaders are looking to seek a move from NAIA to NCAA Division II and seek

Please see FOOTBALL/3C



Newman

C. JEMAL HORTON



Devils get more than due

Mike Krzyzewski has it half right: A lot of people DO cheer against his Duke men's basketball team.

However, contrary to what Krzyzewski alleges, the anti-Duke sentiment hasn't evolved simply because the Blue Devils have had so much success over the past few decades.

The cheering against Duke goes much deeper than that - and I'll get into the reasons in a moment.

But as the Blue Devils entered their 10th Final Four since 1986, it seems Krzyzewski's trying to convince us the world hates Duke simply because of its dominance.

Wrong. "I understand that when you win a lot, people are going to want to see you lose," Krzyzewski told The Washington Post recently. "I've got no problem with that. But this year, it really seems to have gone to a new level. People don't just want us to lose; they seem to want us to get hurt. They take their frustrations with our success out on the kids."

Whatever. In reality, here's what having Duke's kind of success does for you:

- Celebrities such as Donald Trump, with no visible ties to the program, sit courtside in your home arena.
- Every cynical basketball analyst in America gives you the benefit of the doubt when you or your players get out of line.
- Hardcore hip-hop artists - the Cash Money Millionaires, for starters - sport your paraphernalia in their videos. And whether Duke likes that or not, it's saying something when rappers openly embrace a team supposedly comprised of goody-goodies.

So this Krzyzewski notion that the world disdains Duke's success is ridiculous and careless.

Again, there are SOME people who cheer against Duke. But sometimes, I understand.

For some reason, Duke seems to have the patent on doing things "the right way." What exactly does doing things "the right way" mean? Graduating players? Producing men of character?

If that's the criteria, plenty of programs do things the right way. When the graduation rates of teams that reached the Sweet 16 came out last week, Duke wasn't in a class by itself. Kansas led the way, graduating 73 percent of its players. Duke tied Xavier for second (67 percent), while Vanderbilt was third (62 percent).

When it came to graduating African-American players, though, Xavier led the way (82 percent), followed by Kansas (75 percent), Duke (71 percent) and Vanderbilt (67 percent). I applaud all four schools.

What bothers me about the academic thing is this: Because Duke is a prestigious university, too many people assume the basketball program only signs a bunch of Rhodes Scholars.

But the Duke program

See DEVILS/2C



PHOTO: WADE NASH

Garinger High's Cory Farmer hopes to solidify his college basketball options at the Charlotte All-Star Classic.

All-star game offers second look

By James Hamlin
 FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

Saturday's Charlotte All-Star Basketball Classic offers the area's best high school players a chance to move closer to a Division I scholarship.

Organizer Bill Shelton says Saturday's games at Queens is an opportunity for athletes to grab the attention of recruiters, especially those from Division I programs. The girls game starts at 1 p.m.; the boys tip off at 3 p.m.

"Some of these kids are right on the bubble of being a Division I player," he said. "This is a big game. It's not the end of the world, but it's a big game."

It is a big game for Garinger High's Cory Farmer. The guard was a key player in the Wildcats' run to the N.C. 4A semifinals, and is still weighing his options. Farmer dreams of playing for a major school like Cincinnati or Connecticut, but he may have to make an academic pit stop before that becomes a reality.

"I want to go to prep school or junior college," he said.

Division I coaches have been invited to the classic to scout unsigned players who'll play alongside the likes of Georgia Tech signee Anthony Morrow of Charlotte Latin. But coaches from mid-major and Division II programs, many of them historically black colleges and universities, will be on hand hoping to land a diamond in the rough.

"They've always supported this game and I expect to see the same from them," Shelton said. "North Carolina A&T is looking at a lot of the kids here; Johnson C. Smith and Winston-Salem State are still looking at a lot of the kids here."

Two of Farmer's Garinger teammates, Marcus Robinson and Nick Ledbetter, will also play. They too have yet to commit to a school.

"We had a good season and I had some good games but people never came to see us play," he said.

Victoria Willis of Butler has a slightly different story. She ended her career as only the second player in school history with 1,000 points. She wants to major in education or pre-medicine.

"Right now I only have a couple of colleges talking to me and I really want to play basketball," she said.

Willis said talks with some schools have cooled for various reasons, with Newberry the only one to show solid interest. At 5-3, Willis will be one of the shortest players on the court. But size isn't everything, she counters.

"I'm good at getting people the ball, but it's hard to tell because if your post players aren't completing the play you don't get the assists," she said.

Now Willis is hoping a college gives her an assist so she can continue to play.

FASTEST COLLEGIAN IN 200 METERS



PHOTO: WAYNE JERNIGAN

Livingstone senior Jordan Vaden (left) owns the fastest time for collegians in the 200 meters with a clocking of 20.63 seconds. He's qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials this summer.

Livingstone's Vaden runs for Olympic berth

By Herbert L. White
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Jordan Vaden may be the best sprinter you never heard of.

The Livingstone senior has the top U.S. collegiate time in the 200 meters at 20.63 seconds and fifth in the 400 at 46.5. He's qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials in Indianapolis, and expects to do more than show up.

"My thought was to just qualify for the Olympic trials, to get that feeling of being there," he said. "Now I want to do a bit

more than that."

Vaden is the latest in a long line of top-line sprinter to come from the CIAA, which has produced Olympic champions from Lee Calhoun of N.C. Central (1956, '60) to Johnson C. Smith's Vince Matthews (1968, '72) and St. Augustine's Jerome Young (2000). Vaden wants to add his name - and Livingstone's - to that list.

"I guess you could say I'm the best-kept secret," he said. "We don't get a whole lot of publicity and stuff around here at Livingstone. I just try to make a good time for Livingstone."

Vaden, a Danville, Va., native, drew interest as a high school runner, but lacked the academic credentials or drive to qualify for a Division I program. But time in the working world after graduation convinced him to try college.

With some motivation from a high school coach, Vaden launched his search for a school. He expects to graduate in December with a degree in business management.

"I was searching the internet for the CIAA and I decided to call and give it a try," he said. "I

Please see VADEN/2C

Coach tries to revive Lions baseball



White

By Justin Crump
 FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

West Charlotte High doesn't have the baseball tradition that its football and basketball programs enjoy.

That what makes coaching the Lions the kind of challenge first-

year coach Henry White wants.

White, the former athletics director at Johnson C. Smith and baseball coach at St. Augustine's, has been at West Charlotte since February. White is the fourth coach in as many years.

Ten Lions are seniors so

having new different coaches is nothing something new. But White, who turned St. Aug's into a CIAA power, said "everyday is a learning process when we practice," said White, who adds he had to "restructure what I did on a college level to this level."