

# Soccer facility provides a kick for Rock Hill

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major soccer tournaments to Rock Hill and generate an estimated \$2.4 million of revenue for the area.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony featured Rock Hill Mayor

Doug Echols, U.S. Rep. John Spratt, and state Senator Wes Hayes Jr.

Approximately 2,000 people attended the celebration. Exhibition soccer matches were held, live music was

provided in one of the picnic areas, door prizes were awarded, and complimentary drinks and popcorn were given away.

For more information, visit [www.rockhillrocks.com](http://www.rockhillrocks.com).



PHOTO/HAROLD TYSON

Joel Watson, 10, a fifth-grader at Ebenezer Avenue Elementary in Rock Hill, dribbles upfield in an exhibition at the grand opening of Manchester Meadows soccer complex June 11. The 70-acre, \$12.7 million facility is expected to attract tournaments to Rock Hill in the manner Cherry Park has done for softball.

# Len Bias' 1986 death provoked changes, questions, memories

By David Ginsburg  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — When he completed his extraordinary basketball career at Maryland, the only question surrounding Len Bias was whether he would dominate the NBA in the same fashion he ruled the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Twenty years later, many still wonder.

Bias appeared destined for greatness when the Boston Celtics selected the 6-foot-8 forward with the No. 2 pick in the 1986 NBA draft. The plan was for Bias to team with future Hall of Famer Larry Bird for a few years, then take over as leader of pro basketball's most storied franchise.

"It's a dream within a dream," Bias said that night. "My first dream was just to play in the NBA. To get drafted by the world champions is an extra one."

Two nights later, on June 19, 1986, Bias died of cocaine intoxication. He was 22.

"The news of his death was tragic, as he would have been an amazing professional player after his college career," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said recently. "It was a sad day for the entire sport of basketball. We lost one of the best players of that era."

Bias averaged 16.4 points per game at Maryland and won the ACC player of the year award in 1985 and 1986.

"I have said many times that the two most difficult opposing players to prepare for in my time in the ACC were Michael Jordan and Len Bias," Krzyzewski said. "Len was a gifted player. He was special, and our league has had a lot of great players."

Bias led Maryland to the ACC title in 1984, the only one the Terrapins won under coach Lefty Driesell.

"I've coached a lot of great players, and if Leonard wasn't the best, he was right up there," Driesell said in a telephone interview from his home in Virginia Beach, Va. "I know this much: No one improved as much from his freshman to his senior year."

The Terrapins' current coach, Maryland alum Gary Williams, was coaching at Ohio State in 1986. But he saw enough of Bias to know he would have been a star in the NBA.

"By the time Bias was a senior, he was one of those players that could do anything on the court. That's one of the sad things, that no one got the chance to see how good a pro he could have become," Williams said. "He would have really helped the Celtics. At the time, Larry Bird, Robert Parrish and Kevin McHale were pretty old; I think Bias could have kept that

dynasty going."

Bias' death affected everyone around him, including Driesell, who was forced to resign. It also altered the way America perceived - and policed - recreational drugs.

"The attitude in the country was that doing cocaine was exciting fun," said John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Len Bias' death changed the nation's attitude about drug use. People said, 'This is wrong, this is bad.' It energized parents to do something about it."

The government acted, too. Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, which provided leadership in establishing drug abuse prevention programs. The legislation, introduced by President Reagan, also created the Office for Substance Abuse Prevention.

In addition, stiffer sentences were enacted for those convicted of trafficking drugs.

Twenty years have passed since her son died, and Lonise Bias remains unrelenting in her quest to teach the nation about the danger of using drugs. She heads workshops and seminars on the subject, eager to ensure others learn from her son's fatal mistake.

"When Len first died, someone said take lemons and make lemonade. That disturbed me, because it was one of the most painful things that I had ever experienced. It was very difficult for me," Lonise Bias said. "But 20 years later, I have lemonade. That's been the hardest thing - sweetening this thing that was so bitter by helping other people and learning through life's experiences."

Walters said drug use by teens in the United States is down 20 percent since 2001, and a portion of the credit belongs to Lonise Bias.

"Bias speaks with the power of a parent who lost a child," Walters said. "Obviously, she has had to endure some pain, but she makes that sacrifice for the betterment of others."

Len Bias died after inhaling a large amount of cocaine during a late-night gathering with a few friends in a Maryland dorm room. A year later, during a trial in which Brian Tribble was acquitted of charges he provided Bias with the cocaine that killed him, two Maryland players said Bias had used the drug several times before.

Driesell still refuses to believe it.

"He was one of the nicest young men I ever met. He went to church every Sunday and always worked hard in practice," Driesell said. "We had drug tests, and he never tested positive. He didn't even drink beer. I would almost bet my life he never tried it before that night."

# S.C. State extends Pough's deal

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Norfolk State removed the interim tag from baseball coach Claudell Clark and men's track and field coach Kenneth Giles this week.

Clark had served as interim coach since February 2005, fashioning a 37-60 record over two seasons, including a 23-28 mark in 2006, the best since the 2000 Spartans went 23-23. Norfolk State won a school-record 11 league games this year and finished second in the regular season standings.

Giles, NSU's cross country coach, had been interim track and field coach since 2003 when Floyd Conley died. Giles led the Spartans to the MEAC indoor and outdoor championships in 2005-06, the fourth time any program man-

aged the sweep in league history.

• South Carolina State has extended the contracts of head football coach Buddy Pough and Athletics Director Charlene Johnson.

Pough, who is in his fifth year leading the Bulldogs, earned a two-year extension that will go to 2011. His package is worth \$200,000 a year, including a \$175,000 base salary and \$25,000 from a weekly highlights show.

"It's great to have a couple more years," Pough said. "I'm really grateful for the confidence the administration has demonstrated in me. But, I'm only a small part of the equation and give credit to the players, the staff and overall operations for what we have achieved the last few seasons."

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9th Annual Titus L. Ivory, Sr.  
Memorial Golf Tournament

August 4, 2006

Birkdale Golf Course, Huntersville, NC



H.L. McCrorey  
Family YMCA

#### Tournament Information

- Registration: 8:00 a.m.
- Shotgun Start: 9:00 a.m.
- Format: Captain's Choice
- Register as an individual or as a team
- Captains are responsible for registering teams and submitting fees and applications
- Teams consist of (1) Captain and (3) other players
- Mulligans available for \$5 each

#### Registration Includes:

- 18 holes of golf
- Range balls
- Golf Cart rental for the team
- Signature event golf shirt
- Continental breakfast
- Lunch delivered to you during the tournament
- Awards dinner in air conditioned Pavilion following the tournament
- Contests

- Hole in one
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Goodie Bag
- Program Booklet
- Door Prizes and Giveaways

#### Location:

Birkdale Golf Club  
16500 Birkdale Commons Parkway  
Huntersville, NC 28078  
[www.birkdale.com](http://www.birkdale.com)



#### In Memory of Titus L. Ivory, Sr.

Titus L. Ivory, Sr. demonstrated the principles of character development promoted by the H.L. McCrorey Family YMCA. His illustration of caring, responsibility, faith, honesty, and respect was manifested in the life he led and the legacy that remains. Titus' commitment to God, family, career, community, brotherhood and the uplifting of his fellow man, is a true testimony of his character.

Thank you for taking the time to join us in fellowship and remembrance of our dear friend and staunch supporter.

#### Mission

To put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

#### Contact Information:

Please mail registration form and check payable to:  
H.L. McCrorey Family YMCA  
1601 Beatties Ford Road,  
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Attn: Daniel Stafford

#### Or contact Daniel Stafford at:

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