

AAU Basketball

Torrence considers JuCo option

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

How well Reggie Torrence has learned the lesson that one must be seen to be appreciated.

Last summer, Torrence went to the prestigious Five Star basketball camp in Radford, Va. He impressed recruiters at the camp so much that NCAA Division I schools began to take interest in him. It was a giant leap forward for the East Forsyth guard, who had only been a part-time starter as a junior.

"Exposure is a big thing," said Torrence, a *Blue Ribbon College Yearbook* honorable mention all-American. "If nobody knows about you, then you won't get too many calls or letters."

While Torrence has received plenty of recruiting attention, he has waited until this month to make a choice. Under Proposition 48, Torrence doesn't stand a chance to play Division I basketball next year. Instead, he must play Division II or III, NAIA or for a junior college. Torrence has decided the latter is the best option.

"I'm going to junior college because I want to get my academics straight," Torrence said. "Then I can transfer to a Division I school in two years. I'm not worried about basketball. It will take care of itself."

As of last Saturday, Torrence was close to a decision.

"I verbally committed to Lees-



McRae a few weeks ago," said Torrence, who plays point guard for the state AAU champion Twice As Nice All-Stars. "But I got to thinking that I might want to take a little more time with my decision because the next signing date is not until June 15. ... I don't want to be hurried, but will make the best choice based on academics."

Torrence has made a small list, which includes Lees-McRae, Anderson and New Mexico Military Institute. He will visit

the latter sometime in the next few weeks.

Three Division I schools will watch Torrence closely if he goes to Anderson, including North Carolina State, Clemson and South Carolina.

"It's been a lifelong ambition to play basketball in the ACC," he said. "Clemson would like me to play one year at Anderson and work on my ballhandling. State and South Carolina want me to get there two years."

Twice As Nice Coach Ron



Reggie Torrence, at left, likes the up-tempo game; the Twice As Nice All-Stars, who will compete in the AAU Zone Tournament in Ocala, Fla., include (front row, left to right) Dwayne Morgan, Corey Belton, Kevin Besecker, Tim Douthit, Rodney Scott. Back row, Coach Ron Hollingsworth, Reggie Torrence, Ben Miller, Johnny McNeill, Brian Howard, Zeb Sheff, Jeff Denny, Assistant Coach Luther Burden (photos by James Parker).

Hollingsworth agreed that waiting a while on a decision was a good idea for Torrence.

"Most guys of Reggie's talent signed back in November," said Hollingsworth, who played collegiately at Howard and North Carolina Central. "If they're still chasing you at this late date, they really want you. I want him to get exposed to schools like Vincennes and San Jacinto."

In the meantime, Torrence is gearing up for the AAU Zone Tournament at Central Florida Junior College next weekend. Hollingsworth has moved Torrence to the point after he played No. 2 guard in the state tournament.

"Coach Hollingsworth wants

to give me the opportunity to work on my ballhandling skills," said the 6-foot-2 Torrence, who played the point for East. "But it doesn't make any difference which guard position I play in AAU because they use international rules. In fact, it might be to our advantage for me to play point because I like an up-tempo game. I'm not as good at setting up the offense."

While Torrence is an outstanding penetrator and assist man, his biggest contributions to the team probably will come on defense. With the body of a National Football League defensive back, Torrence can put the clamps on anybody.

He was largely responsible for

Twice As Nice's second-half comeback in the state tournament semifinals, when he was sent into the game to cover the Charlotte Hornets' Rodney Farrington. The Charlotte point guard had been penetrating at will, helping his team build an eight-point lead with nine minutes to play. But Torrence shut him down the rest of the way and Twice As Nice won by seven.

Torrence will be competing in his second out-of-state tournament after competing in the 17-and-under nationals at Knoxville two years ago. He says that tournament proved a valuable experience for him.

"I didn't expect to play Please see page B9

Big Apple League

Summer cage league opens at Hanes Hosiery

By KENNETH RAYMOND
Chronicle Sports Writer

Last summer the Big Apple League featured some of the best former high school and college basketball players in the city.

Players like European pro Terry Strickland, former New York Knick Luther "Ticky" Burden, former Washington Bullet Nate Davis, former Carver standout Louis "Choc" Lowery and former Parkland Mike "Pop Bottle" Thomas were among the league's standouts.

This summer promises more of the same.

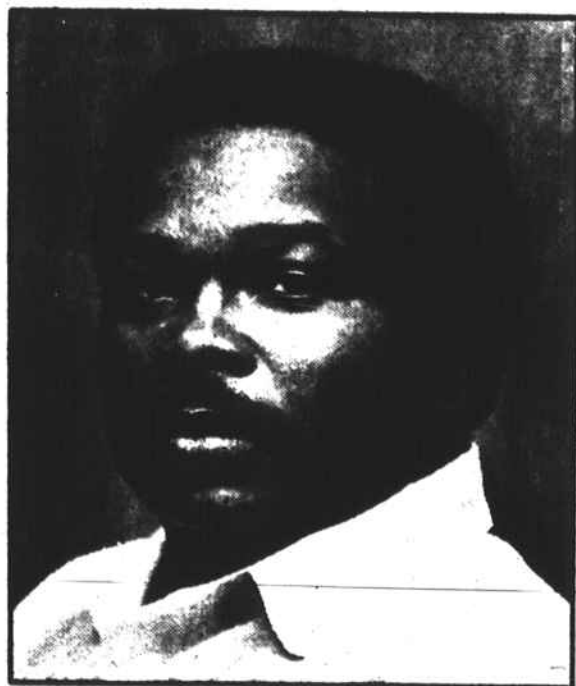
The league, which opens play Saturday, has been moved from 14th Street to the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center.

"Last summer the league turned out to be better than anyone had expected," League Commissioner Walter L. Funderburk said. "It would have been tremendous if we could have gotten it sanctioned (by the NCAA), but it will still be one of the greatest summer activities in the city."

The sanctioning of a summer league is a requisite for college players who attend NCAA schools.

"The main thing that I want to do is carry the ball real well this summer," Funderburk added. "Once we get past that, we will go from there to get sanctioned."

The league has been moved because the facilities at the new location meet the requirements of the NCAA better than the previous location.



Walter Funderburk

"There shouldn't be any problem as far as meeting their standards, but if any changes do have to be made, they should only be minor ones," the commissioner said.

The games will also be played according to high school rules.

"Since we don't have any current college players participating, we decided to go by high school rules since most, if not all, of them played high school ball," Funderburk said.

Most of the teams playing this summer were in the league last year. The returning teams are the defending champion Rockets, the Players, the Bucks, the Bulls, Winston-Salem's Finest and the C.J. Jocks. The Rockets and Jocks have new names this season. The Rockets were the Lakers and the

Jocks were AT&T last summer.

There are two new teams in Domino's Pizza and Hanes.

"Response to the league was overwhelming," Funderburk said. "We were looking at 10 teams, but eight are easier to schedule."

The Rockets will enter the season without forward Larry Linney, who is pursuing a law career in New York.

Linney will be the only player not to return to the team. Rocket Coach Clyde Reynolds believes it is too soon to know if his team will defend its championship.

"It's too early to speculate on the outcome of the season," said Reynolds, a former Atkins standout who serves as an assistant coach at North Forsyth in the winter. "I don't know exactly what the other teams will come up with, but I'm sure they'll come back stronger than they were last year."

The Rockets have added forwards Ben Piggott, former Parkland star Terry Gunter and Carl Redd to their roster. They also have picked up former Parkland standout Reggie Doster at guard. Coach Reynolds says the newcomers will strengthen his team where it needs help.

"Ben will be able to provide some help for us under the boards and I believe that Reggie and Louis Lowery will compliment each other in the backcourt," he said.

Hansel Hentz, a forward for the Rockets, is confident that his team will win the championship again.

"Our depth is tremendous," said Hentz, an Anderson alumnus. "With the addition of Ben, Reggie, Redd and Gunter, we should have a great season."

The season's opener will feature the Bucks against Hanes beginning at 10:30 a.m. The rest of the schedule Saturday finds the Rockets taking on the Bulls at noon, the Players meeting the C.J. Jocks at 1:30 p.m. and Winston-Salem's Finest against Domino's at 3.

The Big Apple is unique in that it brings together former high school and college players in a structured league.

"This league fills a void," said Thomas Gavin, deputy director of the

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Sports Profile

Hairston finds that golf is just aces for rest, relaxation

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

For many people, golf is probably the most demanding and frustrating sport. For others, it is an ideal outlet for life in the fast lane.

Dr. O.G. Hairston sees it that second way. He took up golf 18 years ago, hoping to find a release from the stress of life as a general surgeon.

"I was working hard then and I didn't have any outlet to relieve the stress and tension," Hairston said last Saturday before a round at Winston Lake Golf Course. "Back then there were no specialists and things were still segregated. We pretty much had to do all of the surgery in the black community -- neurosurgery, orthopedics, urology, gynecology. I've even delivered a few babies in my day."

Hairston's first round of golf came at Winston Lake. Although he doesn't remember the details, he's positive it wasn't one of his better rounds.

"I'm sure it was horrible," he said. "I've never had a lesson, so you can imagine what it's like. But I did manage to keep the ball in play."

For the last 18 years, Hairston has been a successful flight golfer, playing in tournaments throughout the Southeast. In recent years, his personal tour has taken him to such stops as Orlando, Fla., Atlanta, Fayetteville, Southern Pines and Asheville. He also played in Cape Cod, Mass., last year.

Hairston plays to win, but he knows his weaknesses.

"I'm a horrible putter," said Hairston, who has a 17 handicap. "I fairly much keep the ball in play. I don't hit as long as I used to -- I suppose age has something to do with that. I can get on the green. After that, you pay your money and take your choice."

"I don't have too much of a problem reading putts, but I don't seem to hit the ball squarely. I've tried practicing, but that makes it worse."

Hairston said he doesn't get the blues over his putting woes.

"I feel golf is the most relaxing game



Dr. O.G. Hairston lines up a putt before a recent round at Winston Lake Golf Course (photo by James Parker).

around," he said. "I like it because it's a challenge each round. If I have a bad round, I just forget about it and look forward to the next one."

Hairston hopes to play some good rounds this summer in tournaments like the Forsyth County Seniors next weekend at Winston Lake and Reynolds Park and the Charles B. Armstrong NNPA Memorial June 21 at Winston Lake. He also plans to play in Asheville and Atlanta later in the summer and at Disney World at Thanksgiving.

"I like the camaraderie of playing in tournaments," he said. "I don't like that scoring system (Calloway) they're going to use in the NNPA. A person can shoot a high score and still win it."

The Calloway System uses a golfer's worst holes as a basis for his handicap.

The Winston-Salem golfer said his favorite tournament was a short-lived seniors event in Richmond, Va., a few years back. Hairston won his flight one

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Big Apple League Rosters

Bucks - Rod Cummings, Kevin McCannings, Third McCannings, David Edwards, Terry Edwards, Calvin Edwards, Leon Williams, Johnnie Cox, Mike Lomas, Elsworth Taylor.

Bulls - Hansel Hentz, Robert Little, Clyde Reynolds, Ben Piggott, Sam Porter, Mike Lomas, Carl Redd, Terry Gunter, Reggie Doster, Louis Lowery, Mike Thomas, Charles Doster.

Bears - Richard Daniels, Eddie Eastland, Bobby Henson, Fernando Hart, Henry Kennedy, Brian Leake, Ben Miller, Jeff Mizelle, Paul Moore, Donald Phillips, Robert Roane.

C.J. Jocks - Charles Paul, Trivette Reid, Jeff Jones, Charles Eldridge, Wade Hanes, Ricky Hart, James Roach, Kenny Martin,

Orinell Rucker, Willis McCoy, Baron Samuels, Anderson Noble.

Players - Terry Strickland, Alvin Rogers, Sidney Wilkins, Tracy Moore, Derrick White, Sam Campbell, Leon Woodbury, Jimmy Woodbury, Jimmy Norman, Reggie Payne, Melvin Massey, Wayne Smith, Eddie Jordan, Archie Moore.

Domino's Finest - Tracy Meredith, Darren Clarke, Roger Mason, Elton Keene, Keith Holland, Edward Byers, James Singletary, Harrison Flakley, Eugene Carson, Marty Davis, Reggie Porter.

Hanes - Lorenzo Wolf, Emory Brown, Jerry Springs, Gary Brown, Michael Smith, Michael Mabry, Edward Collins.