

Sports

Chronicle All-Stars ready to run in Pro-Am

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

CHARLOTTE — The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* Allstars will make their debut this weekend, as the Charlotte NBA Pro-Am League kicks off its summer campaign this Saturday at Johnson C. Smith University.

The *Winston-Salem Chronicle* All-Stars will open their 7-week schedule against Charlotte's Phillip Morris squad at 2:30 p.m. on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University.

Walter L. Funderburk, the head coach of the *Chronicle* All-Stars, says that the team will be ready to run.

"We plan to play with an up-tempo style," Funderburk said. "It won't be sandlot ball by no means, but we will be running every chance we get."

The *Chronicle* All-Stars consist of a mixed bag of players, most of whom attended nearby colleges and were mainstays in the Big Apple League last summer. Funderburk will take his team of 11 and combine them with an NBA player to form Winston-Salem's *Chronicle*-sponsored representation in the eight-team Pro-Am league.

According to Funderburk, most of the

teams in the league won't know exactly what NBA pro they are going to get until game day.

"We pretty much don't know which pro we are going to pick up until we get down there," Funderburk said.

"Only three of the pros are pretty well set as to which teams they will play on. Xavier McDaniels will probably play for the Columbia S.C.-Jazz, Kenny Green with the Greensboro-Barnstormin' Across the ACC team and Michael Jordan with the Charlotte-Budweiser team.

"That will leave Thurl Bailey, Brad Daugherty, 'Spud' Webb, Tyrone Corbin, Eric 'Sleepy' Floyd and some other NBA players pretty much up for grabs," he said.

The Charlotte NBA Pro-Am League will play all of its games at Johnson C. Smith University, which is located just off Interstates 77 and 85 in Charlotte.

Five of the eight teams in the league are Charlotte-based, with the other three coming from Winston-Salem, Greensboro and Columbia South Carolina.

Funderburk says that from his observations thus far, the Columbia Jazz might be the league's early favorite. He is optimistic. Please see page B3



Terry Strickland nails the one-handed jam in some past summer league action. Strickland, a touring pro in Europe and the older brother of Duke's Kevin Strickland, will play for the Winston-Salem Chronicle All-Stars (photo by James Parker).

Three schools may drop to 3-A

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

According to information released by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association this week, Glenn, Carver and Parkland High Schools in jeopardy of losing their 4-A status by a new alignment proposal for the 1989-90 school year.

Under the current alignment, North Carolina's High Schools are evenly divided into four classifications, but a new proposal of uneven distribution would put three city schools well under the numbers required for 4-A classification.

Parkland, based on the Average Daily Membership (ADM) figures released by the NCHSAA, is the largest of the three city schools in question, and has an ADM of 1,012. Principal A.C. Larrimore Jr. thinks there is nothing to be worried about.

"I don't think that'll ever happen," Larrimore said of the proposed new alignment plan.

"And if it does, Parkland High School will continue to play at the 4-A level as long as I have anything to do with it."

"I believe the folks voting on this, (school principals and administrators from across the state), will elect to keep the equal distribution that we have now," said Larrimore, who is a strong believer in solid athletic programs.

Carl Clarke, the principal at Glenn High School where the ADM figure is only 930 students, agrees with Larrimore.

"Even if we are below the numbers for a 4-A school, Glenn will be a 4-A school as long as I'm here," he said.

"The easiest way to solve the problem locally, would be to alleviate the overcrowding at East Forsyth (an ADM of 1305) by giving us and Carver a couple of hundred kids each. But you get into politics when you start moving people around, so that won't happen," Clarke offered.

"I'm sure Parkland and Carver will elect to stay at the 4-A level as well."

The administrators at Carver, where the ADM is the smallest in the county at 859 aren't worried either.

"They're just looking at the situation with numbers," a source from the school said. "We'll continue to play at the 4-A level."

To the frustration of many coaches, the NCHSAA tinkers with the conferences and alignments about every five years.

Parkland basketball coach Tom Muse said his teams have played in a lot of different conferences in his 20 plus years at the school.

"As a coach, I quit worrying about this sort of stuff a long time ago," Muse said.

"Since I've been here, we've played Reidsville, Greensboro, Salisbury, Kannapolis, Charlotte, High Point and a bunch of others. I've sort of got used to them changing the conferences."

Muse noted that the annual adjustments do make conference rivalries hard to establish though.

Glenn's Clarke agreed on the point.

"When we play Greensboro Page and Smith they don't draw flies," he said of Glenn's sagging attendance for conference football and basketball games.

"From the standpoint of the kids, I'm for us getting into a conference with more of the city schools. They don't want to see us play Greensboro. They want to play each other."

The NCHSAA will review the findings of a statewide survey to determine whether drastic changes will be needed or not.

A number of coaches in the county feel some conference changes could result, but that all eight Forsyth County high schools should remain at the 4-A level.

Most feel that the current equal distribution policy of 25-25-25 will be kept, and that the 20 percent 4-A, 30 percent 3-A, 30 percent 2-A and 20 percent 1-A breakdowns will be rejected because of

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Daring to be different

Crazy Gattis takes the wheel: 'Look, Mom, I'm racing'

By RANDY PETTITT
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Buying something on an impulse is a habit we're all guilty of at one time or another -- some new shoes or a blouse perhaps. But Susan Gattis dared to be different.

She bought a race car.

Naturally, Keith and Faye Gattis were -- among other things -- skeptical when their daughter told them she was going to look at a race car.

They knew she loved to drive, but on the race track?

In her early teens, the 24 year old graduate of North Forsyth High School had always been fond of driving the family car along the back roads of rural Surry County.

She had the urge to see what she could do on the track.

It hadn't dawned on Gattis that she would become only the second female racer in the 39-year history of Bowman Gray Stadium though. She was not out to prove her superiority to men or anything like that. Quite simply, she was still a lady -- a lady that just wanted to race.

And a few hundred dollars later, she was ready to tackle a predominantly male sport where egos are often fragile, and the turf has been well established.

With most of her financial support coming from a job at Sears and her grandmother, a lot of the guys in the street stock pits figured her racing dream would be short-lived. But three years later, Gattis still arrives every Saturday afternoon in her old Ford pickup with a race car in tow.

Hangin' Tough

As the words painted on the rear deck of her Ford Granada indicate, Susan Gattis is "hangin'



Susan Gattis constantly spends her free time under the hood of her race car. Gattis has proved to the regulars at Bowman Gray Stadium that she's not afraid to get her hands dirty (photo by James Parker).

tough." She has endured two seasons of playing second fiddle to the Stadium regulars in the street stock division, and longs for a big sponsor that could pave her way to the front of the pack.

"I've tried to get a sponsor," said Gattis, who does most of the work on the car herself. "But it's just hard for me to go up to a total stranger and ask for money to spend on a race car.

Pat O'Brien, a fellow competitor in the street

stock division, says that Gattis does remarkably well considering her financial limitations.

"I'm sure that if Susan ever gets a really good sponsor, then she could run up front," O'Brien said.

"It takes a lot of courage just to give racing a try, and she's managed to stick around this long. I think that's pretty good myself. She's earned

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CHRONICLE SPORTS CAMERA

Sports and drugs: What can be done to slow the epidemic?

By RANDY PETTITT
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Drugs have become one of the most talked about topics in the world of sports in the 1980's.

With the recent drug-related arrest of UNC star Derrick Fenner and the upcoming anniversary of the tragic June 19 death of former Maryland basketball star Len Bias, the Chronicle Sports Camera addresses the problem.

It is a proven fact that drugs don't mix with anything. Drugs are a quick route to nowhere, especially where sports are concerned. Yet, countless numbers of athletes risk their careers and lives to abuse them.



The main thing is implementing more drug tests. I think it would be a good idea to test two or three times a year. They shouldn't just wait until the playoffs in college to test for drugs. It might even be good to start testing high school kids if it didn't cost too much. It's definitely an alarming problem.

— Roy Little



Look at the athletes themselves. A lot of this is over-publicized simply because they are athletes. Michael Jordan and guys like that know where they are. They ought to know where they are and what they need to do to excel. Those guys know to stay off drugs. If they fall, why should we worry about trying to catch them.

— Terry Gwyn



I'm an athlete at Wake Forrest University. I think drugs are stupid. We have people come in all the time to tell us to stay off them. And we're tested for them as well. There comes a time when it just has to be up to the individual himself. With the Bias death, we're more informed and aware now. His death was unfortunate -- but he brought it upon himself.

— Brian Johnson



I say give the college and pro athletes more drug tests to begin with. There ought to be more voluntary programs where people with a problem can turn themselves in. The schools have a responsibility to educate their athletes. Peer pressure is a big problem too. Parents need to get in tune with their kids and keep them straight.

— Mike Kirby