

# TC Little League officials optimistic about '91 season

By SAM DAVIS  
Special To The Chronicle

If last week's pre-registration is a sign of things to come, the 1991 season for the Twin City Little League should be the best in the loop's 29-year existence.

Some 150 youngsters turned out for the series of registrations that were held at local community and recreation centers. Of the total turnout, more than 30 girls signed up to join the softball circuit, which the league will be operating for the first time. There was also a considerable number of boys who signed up to participate in T-Ball, which is also a new addition to the Twin City program this season.

The registration total combined with the 195 youngsters who are returning from last year, gives Twin City a total of 345 participants as of last Saturday.

The number of children signing up to play this season, combined with those on the rosters turned in by coaches two weeks ago, gives league directors reason to be excited.

In previous seasons, pre-registration was virtually non-existent and teams didn't begin to take form until late April. This year, the league is well ahead of schedule, with at least five teams already showing a full 15-member roster. Veteran league personnel are pleasantly surprised at what has been accomplished in the short period of

time that the new program president, Melvin "Rip" Wilkins has been in office.

"I'm really enthused about the way the league is taking shape," said Alfred Mitchell, the program's Major League vice president who has been involved with the program

responsible for maintaining the relationship between the coaches and the league officials."

With the addition of the T-Ball and softball programs and with the authority being delegated in more areas, Carlyle McClinton, a 15-year veteran says he's willing to take a

more active role in league affairs. McClinton has been named the vice-president of softball and T-Ball.

"I'm very positive about the direction we're going in right now," he said. "The program has to grow to keep pace with the way society is changing and we have been willing to open up to change in the past. This year, we're trying to interject something new and I think that's the reason why the program is off to such a good start."

But unlike Mitchell, McClinton doesn't have a base to start from. Yet, he seems to be up to the challenge of molding the fledgling program.

"My biggest responsibility will be in recruiting players, coaches, and umpires for T-Ball," he said. "I'm going to make sure we have good, solid people and that everything is done properly. I really believe that T-Ball is the foundation on which you build a program. What the kids learn at that level will go with them throughout their careers in baseball."

The optimism about this coming season isn't confined to just the league officials. Almost to a man, the coaches manning the stations at last week's pre-registration came away excited about the upcoming year.

Gene Williams, who has coached in the league for eight seasons, was on the verge of stepping down this season. But with the new blood and enthusiasm being shown, he's eager to get onto the field.

"In the eight years I've been in the league, it's been up and down," he said. "We didn't seem to have any real stability. With our new administration, I think we will have a golden year. I'm very proud of the staff that we have assembled."

James Johnson, a 34-year old veteran of coaching little league (more than 25 of those spent with Twin City), says he's recommitting himself to coaching. "I've had some ups and downs in my 34 years," he said. "But I've never minded getting out there and coaching. But when you have a solid board and program behind you, it makes you want to give even more."

Derwin "Pud" Isaiah echoes Johnson's comments.

"The community needs our program to help the kids and the league should be a tool to teach the kids about sportsmanship and respect," he said. "I've been coaching 18 years and I've seen how things have changed. Today, it's more teaching attitude and aptitude. And you have to find a way to reach the kids. This year, we're doing more to reach the kids and they are responding to it."

Zeb Payne, an ordained minister and veteran Twin City coach says he's not just jumping on the

bandwagon. He can see the sincerity coming from the top in implementing the program.

Said Payne: "I truly believe this is going to be the best season we've ever had. We've got the kind of leadership that has organized and made it possible for us to reach the people that should benefit the most — the kids. Little League is for the kids and it is our responsibility to get the kids to turn out and participate and get something out of it. This is something that helps to make them better citizens as they grow up. I thank God that I am a part of this wonderful program."

## Twin City Fundraiser

The Twin City Little League is having another fundraising project coming up this weekend. On Saturday, the league will sponsor an "After Valentine's Jam" at the Baby Shamu night club, located at Liberty St. and Sixth Ave. downtown. Jam hours are from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. All proceeds go to the Twin City Little League.

since its inception. "I think Twin City is really on the upswing. In the past, we've had difficulty putting the right personnel in place. But with the leadership we have now, I think we will have one of the most successful seasons we've had in a long time."

In past seasons, Mitchell has held the office of player-agent for the entire league. His new position has pointed him more towards administrative duties, although he will assist the newly elected player-agent (Pat Grimes). Mitchell says that the league's restructuring will only make the league stronger.

"My position is more or less to act as the liaison in all major league business," Mitchell said. "I'm

more active role in league affairs. McClinton has been named the vice-president of softball and T-Ball.

"I'm very positive about the direction we're going in right now," he said. "The program has to grow to keep pace with the way society is changing and we have been willing to open up to change in the past. This year, we're trying to interject something new and I think that's the reason why the program is off to such a good start."

But unlike Mitchell, McClinton doesn't have a base to start from. Yet, he seems to be up to the challenge of molding the fledgling program.

"My biggest responsibility will

# Top four seeds advance to semi-final round in Over 35 basketball playoffs

By Chronicle Staff

Just as expected, the top four seeded teams all won their first round games in the Over 35 Basketball League playoffs last weekend. The winning teams now advance to the semi-finals to be played on Saturday.

The City Stars barely nudged the Winston Lake YMCA to gain their spot in the semis, while the Record Boutique held off the Cavaliers in their match-up.

The defending champion Spurs encountered few problems as they made short work of the Winston-Salem Players. The Rams moved on to the next round without having to shoot a shot or grab a rebound. Here's a look at how the action took place in the league's first round playoffs games held at the Winston Lake YMCA.

### Stars edge YMCA

Tim Thomas' free throw with three seconds left to play, gave the City Stars a 74-73 win in their showdown against the Winston Lake YMCA.

The YMCA, however, didn't go down without a fight. After calling time-out after the Thomas free throw,

Harry Davis hit what would have been the game winning shot for the YMCA. But the shot was disallowed because it hit the basket support before falling through the net.

With 1:09 left to play, Winston

The City Stars led 49-43 at the half.

Battle was the top gun for Winston Lake with 25 points. Davis followed him up with 18 points.

**Boutique takes Cavs**  
Luther Burden scored 24 of his 34

with 16.

The Cavaliers stayed in contention throughout the contest and came within a basket of knotting the score at the two minute mark in the second half. But Burden's foul shooting made the difference.

Record Boutique held a 40-30 lead at halftime.

**Spurs plaster Players**  
The Spurs blasted past the Players by 14 points in the first half to earn a 69-45 victory over the Winston-Salem Players.

Raymond Perry and Rob Little were the major offensive weapons for the victors, scoring 17 points each. Clyde Reynolds added 10 points.

The Players were led by Calvin Edwards (14 points) and "Wimp" Brown (10 points). The Spurs cruised in the second half after taking a 34-20 lead at intermission.

**Rams win by forfeit**  
The Rams had the easiest time of all playoff participants when they won by forfeit against the Boys' Club, who didn't have enough people to make up a squad for a game.

## PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

**Saturday -- Semi-final round**  
Spurs vs. City Stars 3 p.m.  
Rams vs. Record Boutique 4:15 p.m.  
**Sunday -- Championship game**  
Winners in semi-finals tip off at 3 p.m.

Lake led 70-68, but it didn't last long. The Stars forced some turnovers and went up 73-70 on a three-pointer by Willie Griffin. Winston Lake bounced back to tie the score on Richard Battle's three-pointer, setting the stage for Thomas' free throw.

Griffin was the Stars' leading scorer with 23 points, which included six for six free throw shooting over the final three minutes of the contest. Kenny Love chipped in with 13 points and Worth McCloud added 14. Ike Black finished the game with 10 points.

points in the second half to lead the Record Boutique to an 83-76 win over the Cavaliers.

Burden was especially lethal from the foul line against the Cavs, sinking 14 of 16 from the line in the second half to ice the game for his team. Manuel Jessup provided additional fireworks with 21 points (17 in the first half). Jack Jackson and Frazier McCollum scored 10 points apiece.

The Cavaliers were led by Byron Ingram's 23 points. John Brown tossed in 19 points and David Hart chipped in

## INDERA MILLS FACTORY OUTLET

Northside Downtown

# SAVE!

Childrens' T-Shirts Size: 7-10, 10-12, 14-16  
Large Assortment of colors.

# 6 SHIRTS \$5.00

BEAT INFLATION!

BEAT IMPORT PRICES!

Assorted colors & sizes Stock up now!

## INDERA MILLS FACTORY OUTLET

Now with two locations to serve you

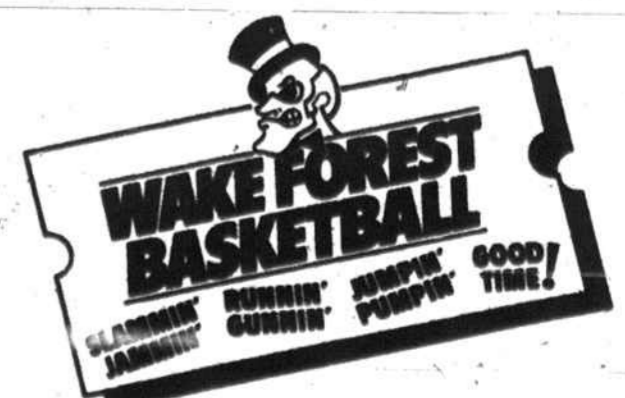
300 S. Marshall St.  
Mon.-Fri. 10-5  
Sat. 10-4  
Telephone 723-9841

Pinebrook Plaza Patterson Ave.  
Mon.-Wed. 10-5, Thurs.-Sat. 10-6  
Closed Sun.  
Telephone 767-7279



# MAKE A DREAM FOR THE HOTTEST TICKETS OR FOUL OUT.

Nothing's hotter than Wake Forest basketball. And season tickets are running out. Be at home court for Deacon action with Maryland, Clemson, Carolina, N.C. State, Georgia Tech, Duke and Virginia. It's 16 games you can't sit still for!



Season Ticket Hot Line  
1-800-772-WAKE