

TC League targets inner-city youth

Special To The Chronicle

With the start of another youth baseball season set to begin this weekend, Melvin "Rip" Wilkins is pleased with the progress that the Twin City Little League has made, but quickly admits that the organization can accomplish more.

This year, the league has seen an increase in the number of youngsters registering and the number of teams that will be playing. Wilkins, the Twin City organization's president, would like to see financial support keep pace with the increase in participation.

"We really haven't begun to reach our potential," Wilkins said. "There are many kids who would like to participate, but

"Sports really have a way of making you see the world as it really is. You teach a kid that if he works hard he can reach his goals in life. They don't have to wait years to put that into action."

**-Melvin "Rip" Wilkins
Twin City League President**

they either don't know about the program or don't have the financial means to be a part of it."

For the second consecutive year, Twin City is targeting its efforts on inner city youth, particularly those who live in federally subsidized housing projects.

"We have a very dedicated group of individuals working with us from the staff of the

Winston-Salem Housing Authority and they probably have more of an insight into the type of impact our program can have on kids from inner-city environments.

"They realize that it is crucial that we reach our kids and give them something positive to be a part of."

While Wilkins is aware that nothing can replace nurturing

parents or education as key factors in preparing a child for a good future, he feels that little league baseball puts the kids in touch with themselves.

"Sports really have a way of making you see the world as it really is," he said. "You teach a kid that if he works hard he can reach his goals in life. They don't have to wait years to put that into action. They also learn how to be a responsible person. Each person has a role to perform and those around you expect you to be able to do your job."

Teamwork, added Wilkins, plays a big role in the Twin City approach. The league's board of directors has been strengthened to include individuals who are active in the league's day-to-day operations.

A&T 1992 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September

- 5 - N.C. Central (at Charlotte)
- 12 - WINSTON-SALEM ST.
- 19 - MORGAN STATE
- 26 - LIBERTY BAPTIST

October

- 3 - at Norfolk State
- 10 - at Florida A&M
- 17 - Open date
- 24 - at Howard University
- 31 - BETHUNE-COOKMAN (Homecoming)

November

- 7 - at Delaware State
- 14 - at Appalachian State
- 21 - SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

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A HISTORY OF HELPING PEOPLE

Miami faces Bulls in first round

BY STEVEN WINE
Associated Press Sports Writer

MIAMI -- Michael Jordan was among the first to see playoff potential in the Miami Heat.

Now Jordan's Chicago Bulls will go against the Heat in the opening round of the NBA playoffs starting Friday.

Miami, the league's youngest team, won just 57 games in its first three seasons. But Jordan liked what he saw when Chicago beat the Heat in a preseason game last October.

"It wouldn't surprise me if they made the playoffs," he said.

The Heat became the first of the NBA's four newest teams to do so Sunday night, when Atlanta's loss at Cleveland gave Miami the eighth and final postseason berth in the Eastern Conference.

Miami's 38-44 record is the worst of the 16 playoff teams but

an improvement of 14 victories over last season.

"Even if we had not made the playoffs, this would have been a good year," first-year Heat coach Kevin Loughery said.

Fans are thrilled. The 2,200 tickets available for next Wednesday's home game against the Bulls sold out in five minutes Monday. The best-of-5 series opens with games Friday and Sunday at Chicago.

"It's not going to be easy," Loughery said. "But it's great to have the opportunity to play the champs in the first round."

Miami made its breakthrough into the postseason thanks to improvement by several key players. Most evident was the emergence of forward Glen Rice, who averaged 22.3 points and led the league with 155 3-point baskets.

"It's a must in your franchise to have a star-type player," Loughery said.

NBA PLAYOFFS

ery said. Rice became that player.

Center Rony Seikaly and power forward Grant Long, who have been with the Heat since its first game, also continued to progress. Seikaly averaged 16.4 points and 11.8 rebounds. Long added offense to an otherwise solid game, averaging 14.8 points.

"Our starters in the front line had a terrific year," Loughery said.

Point guard Steve Smith was a rookie-of-the-year contender until a knee injury in January sidelined him for several weeks. Guards Bimbo Coles and Kevin Edwards provided reliable relief from the bench.

In its inaugural year, Miami

started 0-17; this season, the longest losing streak was five. The team bounced back quickly from the toughest of defeats, beating Indiana one night after losing to Cleveland by an NBA record 68 points.

Playing meaningful games in March and April for the first time, the Heat held up well. Miami won eight of its final 14 games.

It could be a short postseason; the Heat is 0-14 against the Bulls. But for a team as young as Miami, playoff experience is nearly as valued as victories.

"We went to another level, and the players learned how to play in pressure games," Loughery said. "This is something they have to do to grow."

"Now we're playing at a different level than ever before. Every game is a monster game. It's going to be interesting to see how the young players react."

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Oakland's A's keep on winning

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) -- The Oakland Athletics aren't winning big, they're just winning.

"We haven't played one game yet that either club couldn't win late; it could have gone either way," said Oakland manager Tony La Russa, after the A's tied Monday night's game with a run in the eighth and went on to beat the California Angels in the 4-3 in 11 innings.

"Not that we laid down last year, but coming back to win games was something that just never happened," said reliever Dennis Eckersley (1-0), who pitched two perfect innings for the victory.

Scott Hemond, whose one-out single started the A's rally in the 11th, scored from third on a wild pitch by reliever Chuck Crim (1-1) to win the game.

"It's different when you get a lead, hold it, and win the game," Eckersley said. "It's great to do that, but this feels different. If we hadn't come back like we have this year, we'd probably be a .500 team ... or less."

With a 10-4 start, the A's have won all four extra-inning games they've played. They've won seven games when trailing in the seventh inning or later, including one ninth-inning comeback. Last season, they were 0-68 when trailing in the ninth.

The Athletics again avoided their first two-game losing streak of the season. All four losses have been followed up by victories.

"If we can go through a season and not ever lose more than two or three games in a row," La Russa said, "you're looking at going from a good year to a real good year."

Colts will have first two picks in the NFL Draft

The order of selection for the the first round of the 1992 NFL draft to be held on Sunday and Monday in New York:

1. Indianapolis
2. Indianapolis (from Tampa Bay)
3. Los Angeles Rams
4. Cincinnati
5. Green Bay
6. Washington (from San Diego)
7. Miami (from Phoenix)
8. New England
9. Cleveland
10. Seattle
11. Pittsburgh
12. Miami
13. Dallas (from Minnesota)
14. New York Giants
15. New York Jets
16. Los Angeles Raiders
17. Atlanta (from Green Bay via Philadelphia)
18. San Francisco
19. Atlanta
20. Kansas City
21. New Orleans
22. Chicago
23. San Diego (from Houston)
24. Dallas
25. Denver
26. Detroit
27. Buffalo
28. Washington

Lakers advance to state tournament

By Chronicle Staff

The Winston Lake 11 and Under basketball team won two of three games in the regional championships to advance to this weekend's state AAU tournament in Concord.

The Winston 11s will play the Gastonia Cougars in the first round of the state tourney tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. The tournament finals will be played on Sunday. The winning team will

AAU 11 & UNDER BASKETBALL

reign as state champions and will represent North Carolina in the AAU nationals for that age group being held at Coco Beach, Fla. in August.

At the regionals, played in Fayetteville two weeks ago,

Winston started fast with a 45-25 victory over American Express IDS in the first round.

The Lakers also emerged victorious in the second round, defeating the Kernersville YMCA 53-36. In the final game, Winston dropped a 43-36 decision to Fayetteville.

Craig Haggins and John Anderson are the coaches for Winston Lake's 11 and Under team.

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