

Community has forgotten local AAU team

By HERMAN LANE
Special to the Chronicle

The city of Winston-Salem will host the 17-year-old National AAU Basketball Tournament beginning July 17. Numerous activities have been scheduled to make sure the event will be successful.

During this same period of time, another team from Winston-Salem is quietly waiting for its turn for the national spotlight when competition begins in San Antonio, Texas. This team, the Winston-Salem Lakers, is the state champion in the 13-year-old division of AAU and has won the opportunity to compete in the national tournament in San Antonio, beginning July 31.

Unlike the other teams, the Winston-Salem Lakers have not received much support or publicity for their achievements. Winston-Salem has several teams representing the city at all levels of national AAU competition. The Winston-Salem Lakers' major obstacle is a lack of financial support and assistance from the community.

For the past three months, the Lakers have struggled in an attempt to raise \$1,500 to cover plane fares, meals, and a nine-day stay in San Antonio for each of the 15 team players. Their fundraisers have been announced in the paper, television, and radio spots. The response to these efforts have been disappointing and non-lucrative, to say the least. One can only hope that the community has not seen or heard these attempts.

Winston-Salem is fortunate to have these young men moving in a positive, determined, and productive direction. The community is urged to support their efforts to reach their goal. It is no secret that there are forces within our commu-

nity that can easily entice young men to be lead astray from the path of positive and productive ways. We need to not only acknowledge the efforts of these young men but help them on their way. The undertaking is a big one, and they have disciplined themselves through practice, development of skills, and talents to earn an invitation to the national level of competition.

We, the members of this city, should see to it that they get there in style and have the luxury of concentrating on the game instead of worrying and "nickel and dimeing" their way to a national event representing Winston-Salem. Presently they are busy holding three-dollar car washes, yard sales, and wondering will they make it or not. The resources of this city are much too rich and plentiful for that to become a serious concern, yet it is a hauntingly serious concern.

Individual donations have been small but plentiful. Businesses have turned on the "deaf ear" to the team's requests. RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company's donation would have been considered sizable if other businesses had followed suit. Sport stores have cried the blues, although through years of various sport activities, these same players have spent much of their parents' income in such establishments. Letters have been sent to many area businesses and only a pitiful few have responded. Come on Winston-Salem, we can't have it both ways—complaining about boys gone wrong while ignoring their efforts made in taking advantage of opportunities they have created for themselves.

Championship AAU teams in other cities experience no such difficulty. Their cities' merchants and elected officials offer their support.

They supply financial support and/or goods, such as tennis shoes, team warm-up suits, hats, monogramming, team waist packs, etc. Charlotte sent two teams in each division last year and wanted to send them again this year, but the Lakers put an end to that dream. The Charlotte teams went with team outfits, new team shoes, entertainment money, fast food coupons galore, and with the interest and support of their city.

The same is true of the Greensboro teams.

We need to rally behind this team of 13-year-olds and give them the incentive to win now. They need the support and the media hype now. They need to get on with the disciplined business of practicing plays, developing strategies, and

psyching themselves up for the win. The Metro YMCA as an organization needs to become involved by providing some financial assistance, particularly because this winning team is being touted as a YMCA team.

The Winston-Salem Lakers are winners, who would appreciate knowing that we are behind them. Instill within them pride in themselves, their city, and their community. Give them the added incentive to bring home a national championship. Without your help they may not get there!

Donations should be sent to P.O. Box 431, Clemmons, N.C. 27012. Questions may be forwarded to Jacob Williams (919)784-8553 or Herman Lane (919) 998-2740. All contributions are tax deductible.

Jenkins completes science program

August Jenkins of Winston-Salem recently completed the Coast Trek Marine Science Education Program sponsored by the Division for Public Service at The University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The program offers academically-gifted students the opportunity to study the marine life of the Atlantic coastal waters with university faculty and other experts in the field.

Projects include setting up and stocking a salt water aquarium with animals and plants collected during trips to nearby inlets, sounds, and marshes; and conducting research on the behavior, life cycle, and environment of animal and plant specimens.



August Jenkins

Kids' Corner

What's up 'round the 'hood?

FRIDAY, JULY 17

7 p.m. — Project Upward Bound will hold its annual Summer Awards Program at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium Winston-Salem State University.

MONDAY, JULY 20

10:30 a.m. — Registration for the Junior Achievement Program, where kids make money while learning about economics and business, will be held every Monday morning until 12 p.m. throughout the summer, at the Neighborhood Government Services Office, 2301 N. Patterson Ave. For more information, call 727-2429.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

7 p.m. — The Arts Council will sponsor "Evenings in the Neighborhood" at The Sims Recreation Center, 1201 Alder St. "Choyce" will be the featured Rhythm and Blues group.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Applications are now being accepted for the 4-H Electricity and New Technology Camp which will be held Aug. 2-6 at Betsy Jeff Penn 4-H Center near Reidsville. The camp is open to children ages 10-14. The cost is \$165 which includes lodging, meals, insurance, and other camp expenses. To get application forms or for more information, contact Carolyn High at 767-8213.
- The William C. Sims Center, 1201 Alder St., will hold free mediation classes on Wednesday and Fridays from 2-3 p.m. beginning July 15.
- The Nature Science Center will offer five new science camps for young people during July for grades kindergarten through sixth. The week-long workshops are offered July 20, and 27, and will take place at the SciCamp location at Hanes Mall. The workshops will vary from two hours to all day sessions. For more information, contact Allyson McCauley at 659-9020.
- The YMCA of Greater WS will begin registration for Before and After-School Child Care Programs on Aug. 1. Call the: Central YMCA at 721-2100, the Northwest Family YMCA at 983-0660, or the Winston Lake Family YMCA at 724-9205 for more information.
- The Central YMCA of WS will offer pre-school gym for youngsters ages 2-5 years, and Gym/Swim for pre-schools beginning Sept. 8. Call 721-2100 for more information. The Central YMCA will also offer the following activities beginning in Aug. and Sept.: Youth Indoor Soccer - Aug. 1; Judo - Sept. 7; Karate - Sept. 21; and Youth Basketball Skills Clinic - Sept. 21. Call the number listed above for registration information.
- The Northwest North Carolina Chapter of the American Red Cross is now accepting applications for its annual Summer Youth Volunteer Program. The program matches teens ages 13-18 with one of 20 area agencies who have immediate openings for summer volunteers. For more information, call 724-0511.

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