

Sports Briefs

Norfolk's Greene Named BCoSIDA Player of the Year; A&T Wins Track Title

The Black College Sports Information Directors Association selected Norfolk State's Kristi Greene as its College female Player of the Year and Nisha Weston, a guard from North Carolina A&T, was selected as its rookie of the year.

Greene, a native of Chicago, led the Lady Spartans to the CIAA regular-season championship in the Northern Division and the Elite Eight while averaging 19.7 points, 11.3 rebounds and 42.3 steals. Greene was named to five all-tournament teams during the season and was the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Region's most valuable player.

Watson started every game and played both guard positions on her way to being named the MEAC Tournament's most valuable player. The Durham native averaged 13 points and 4.1 rebounds per contest.

Joining Greene on the all-America squad was forward North Carolina Angela Hill. Hill was a member of the all-America team last year.

▲ A&T Wins Track Title

North Carolina A&T earned its first MEAC outdoor track championship last week by edging Morgan State by a half point at Florida A&M.

The Aggies led by 8.5 points going into the final event, but did not have a representative in the javelin throw as two Morgan State competed. However, South Carolina State took first and second place, squashing the Bears' chances.

▲ 4 AAU Teams Advance

Four more Winston Lake AAU basketball teams qualified for spots in the state finals in their respective age groups last week.

The 14-, 15- and 17-under AAU teams won their respective tournaments in Fayetteville, Greensboro and Raleigh in their pool qualifying rounds, while the 16-under team finished second in the junior boys tournament. The four teams

joined Winston Lake's 11-, 12- and 13-under teams in the number of squads coming from the Winston Lake Family YMCA.

▲ 15-Under AAU Hoops

Over 14 teams from across the state will be in Winston-Salem this weekend for the North Carolina AAU 15-under basketball tournament. The tournament will be hosted by the Winston Lake Family YMCA.

Among the teams invited to the tournament are the Durham Bulls, Durham Eagles, Fayetteville Martins, Garner Road Rockets, Greensboro Gaters, High Point Hurricanes, Kings Mountain AAU team, Mooresville AAU team, Salisbury/Rowan AAU team, Sandhills, Stokes County AAU team and Winston Lakes. Games will be played at the YMCA and at Carver High School.

For more information, contact John Allen at 744-4593 or 765-8216

or the Winston Lakes Family YMCA at 724-9205

▲ Clarification

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth

County Sportsmen held a luncheon ceremony last week honoring its new inductees for its twelfth class.

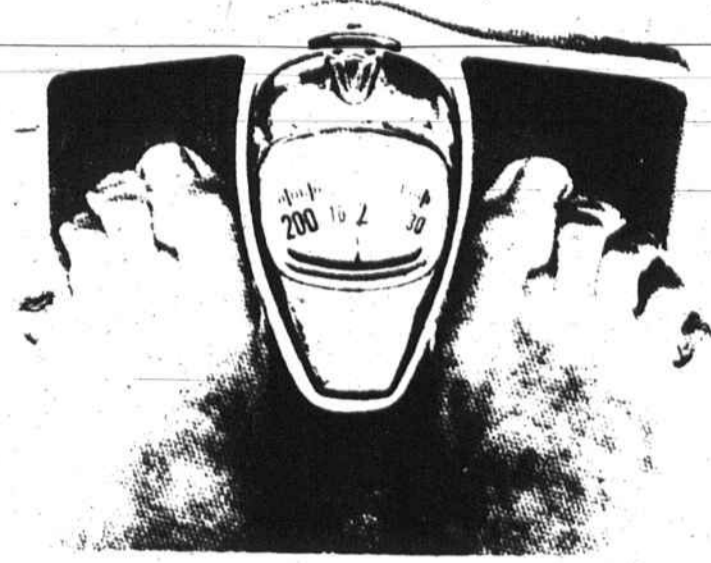
The actual induction will take place May 20 at 7 p.m. at the M.C. Benton Convention Center.

Among the inductees will be Integon vice president Nigel Alston, Kimberly Lash, Winfred Mack and Barbara Howell White.

The *Chronicle* regrets the error.

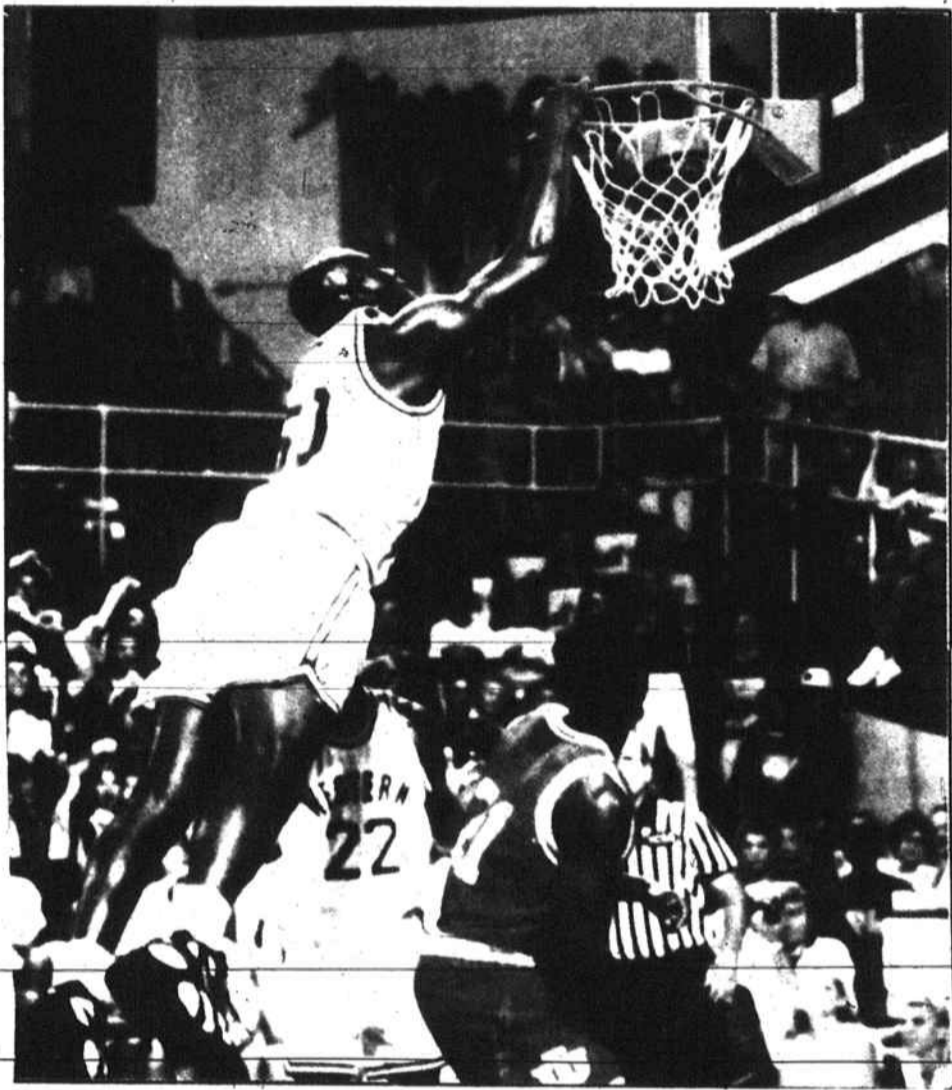
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Shaquille O'Neal stars as Neon Bodeaux in the movie "Blue Chips."

O'Neal

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This year, we are in second place in the (Atlantic Division) ... so obviously, we have made significant improvement as a team. And as long as I'm in this organization, I just want to continue to improve.

Q: How has Anternee Hardaway helped your team?

O'Neal: He pushes the ball and he's a great passer. He makes the guys want to run, because he sees you are out on the break and he will get you the ball.

Q: Who's the league's MVP this year, including yourself if you feel you deserve it.

O'Neal: I don't know. I think the player whose team wins the championship should be the MVP. I think there are a lot of guys who are having a good year. I think I'm having a good year. But, I don't know how they are going to look at it. If they look at stats, then maybe I should get it, but if they look at (NBA experience) I probably won't get it, maybe I haven't paid my dues yet; whatever that may mean, but I will write a check for my dues if they want me too (laughs).

Q: What about the so-called animosity between the NBA's top centers, particularly between yourself and David Robinson. Is it good for the league?

O'Neal: I think it's kind of good because it causes controversy and people like to see controversy. "Dave was talking about Shaq and Shaq was talking about Dave," so next time they will subscribe the game to see what will happen.

Q: Was acting an awkward experience?

O'Neal: No. Before acting I was experienced at being behind the camera. I had already did two rap videos and seven commercials. So I just wanted to go and do the best that I could do. I didn't want to come out as a flop.

Q: Making the album must

have been fun, because it's right in your personal comfort zone.

O'Neal: when I was little, I wanted to be like Run-DMC and Dr. J, so when they came to me with the deal, I just took advantage of it. I think I did a pretty good job, cause it went platinum.

Q: Did you consciously write and record songs that had inspirational and solid messages?

O'Neal: Not really. I was just writing about me and the things I do. If people think it is positive, then it probably is a tribute to my parents, and it came out like that. I like to think I'm a music expert. I know what people want to hear. They - the audience I'm after - like good beats. If you got a nice beat that makes a person's head like this (O'Neal begins nodding his head), then it's all good.

Q: Do you consider yourself a role model?

O'Neal: There are many definitions of a role model. When I was growing up, a role model was a person you could talk to about the birds and the bees and troubles, and that person was my father. Now we as athletes can get on television and say, "Don't use drugs" but if someone comes to your son and say do drugs, he can't call me up and ask me to do something about it.

But I can relate to having kids maybe wanting to be like me. I have a little brother and two little sisters. The best thing athletes can do is stay out of trouble. Don't go out and get drunk and doing crack and that kind of stuff. I'm being myself and having fun, but I'm going to stay out of trouble. The reason I can relate to being a role model is I have my little brother and sisters looking at me; I don't want to be a failure in their eyes.

(Leland Stein is the sports editor for the Black Voice News)

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