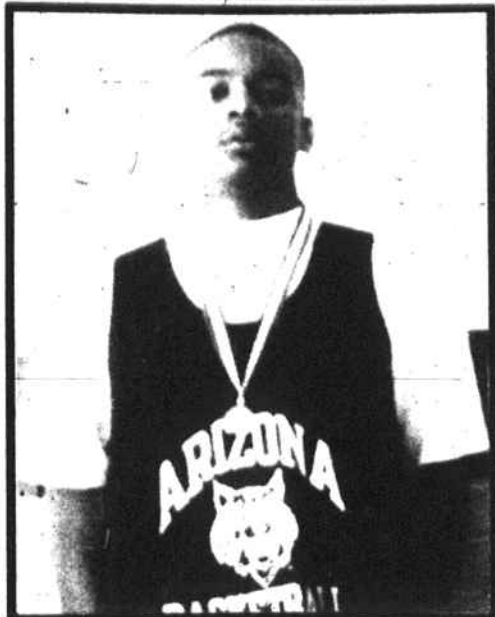
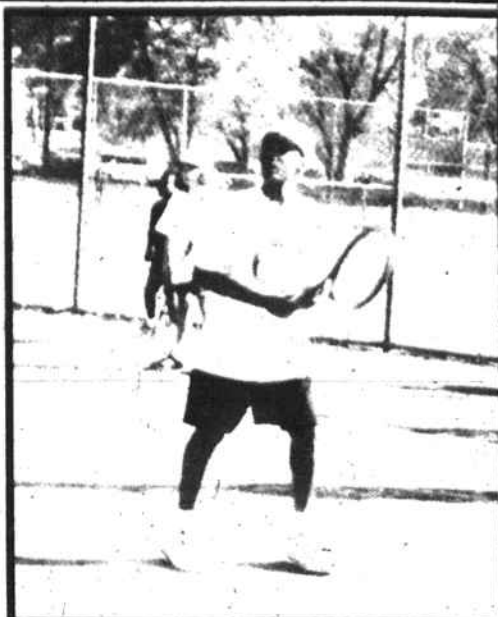


## AAU BASKETBALL

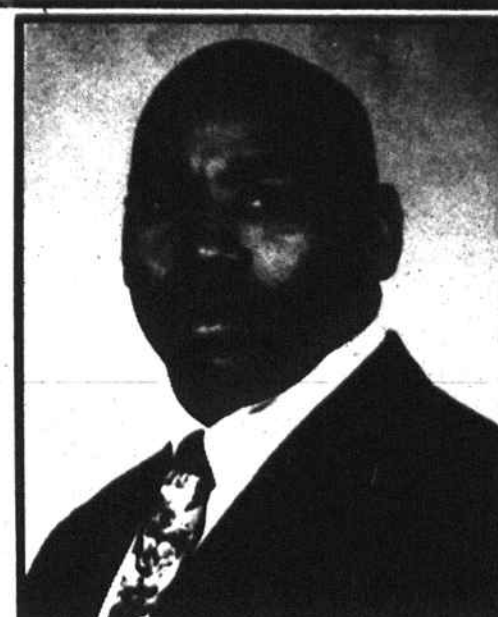
A profile on Geoffrey Williams, who helped the Winston Lake 15-unders team reach the nationals **page 20**



The U.S. Tennis Association began its all-out effort to recruit Winston's youths into the sport **page 19**



Alcorn State's John Theiry was one of the first players picked in this weekend's NFL draft **page 22**



# SPORTSWEEK

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## Winston Lake 15-Unders Going to Tennessee

▲ *Patterson scores 24 as Lakers rout Durham 82-52 in AAU state finals, will play in nationals July*

By MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Chronicle Sports Writer

The Winston Lake 15-unders knew if they kept it up, something good was going to happen.

That reward was a trip to Kingsport, Tenn., where this year's AAU boys' national championships are being held. The Lakers are going to the Volunteer State riding the top seed, posting an 82-52 win over the Durham Eagles in the state championship game held Sunday at Carver High School.

One day after beating the Charlotte Royals 90-75, the Lakers knew they would be one of three teams from their age bracket — and the first from Winston-Salem this year — to earn a nationals spot in Kingsport July 9-16. But Sunday's game was one for a higher seeding in the nationals and, more importantly to the Lakers, a title.

"We already knew we were going to the nationals yesterday, but we still had some work to do here," said guard Tyson Patterson, who scored a game-high 24 points in the title game. "We knew we



The Winston-Lake 15-under AAU team will be the top seed from the state in the national championship in July.

weren't going to play flat, and we did what we had to do to win."

What the Lakers did was neutralize the taller Eagles' lineup of Idris Arrington, Curtis Beatty and John Stinson. Using a 2-3 stack defense, the Lakers guards scratched

and clawed at any passes and harassed the Durham guards into making hasty decisions. Whenever the ball did go inside, Laker forwards Brandon Cain, Vincent McConnell, and Geoffrey Williams were lurking inside.

Williams recorded three blocks in the first five minutes and Cain and McConnell grabbed seven rebounds each in the first half to frustrate the emotional Eagles.

See WINSTON LAKE Page 22

## 15-Under Has 'Special Love'

By MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Chronicle Sports Writer

The Winston Lake 15-under AAU basketball team has a love thing going on among its players.

And that's why head coach Daryl Napper feels that got his team into the nationals this year.

"These players have a special thing for each other, not the type of thing that you see with other players on other teams," Napper said of the team that will be in Kingsport, Tenn. July 9-16 as North Carolina's top seed during the AAU nationals.

"When you have a special kind of love these players have for each other, it will take you a long way. The only team that can beat a team like that is a team with the same thing and it will have to be an off-day for our team to lose."

The Lakers must have had that bond working this weekend, beating its four opponents for an average of 22 points. The Lakers defeated Salisbury 86-67, the Greensboro Gators 91-56, the Charlotte Royals 90-75 before beating the Durham Eagles 82-52 in the championship game.

"They're aren't any superstars on this See SPECIAL LOVE Page 20

A COMPLETE look AT WHERE THE AAU NATIONAL Championships will be held **Page 20**

## Players Relive Basketball Glory Days in Winston Lake Adult League

By MICHAEL JOHNSON  
Chronicle Sports Writer

Weekend basketball warrior Guy Morgan grabs the pass from his teammate with two players surrounding him. Instead of pump faking or passing the ball back out to the open man, Morgan does something he's known by his teammates for.

Dunking the ball.

With an emphatic slam, Morgan races down the court pumped up. Not only does he excite the modest-sized crowd and his teammates, but his opponents join in on the celebration. According to Morgan, it's all part of the fun at the Winston Lake YMCA Adult League, a league for older players who only want to play on Saturday afternoons.

"We all play hard to win, but the most important thing for us is to stay in shape and get some good exercise," said Morgan, a former Wake Forest basketball standout from 1979-82. "We still want to show others — and ourselves — that we still like to play the game."

"But," Morgan says with a laugh, "we know we're not any spring chickens anymore."

This is the second year of the men's league, which has existed off and on during the Winston Lake Family YMCA's existence. After many of its male members asked about starting a league for themselves, the YMCA decided to field a eight-team division for those

men 21 and older.

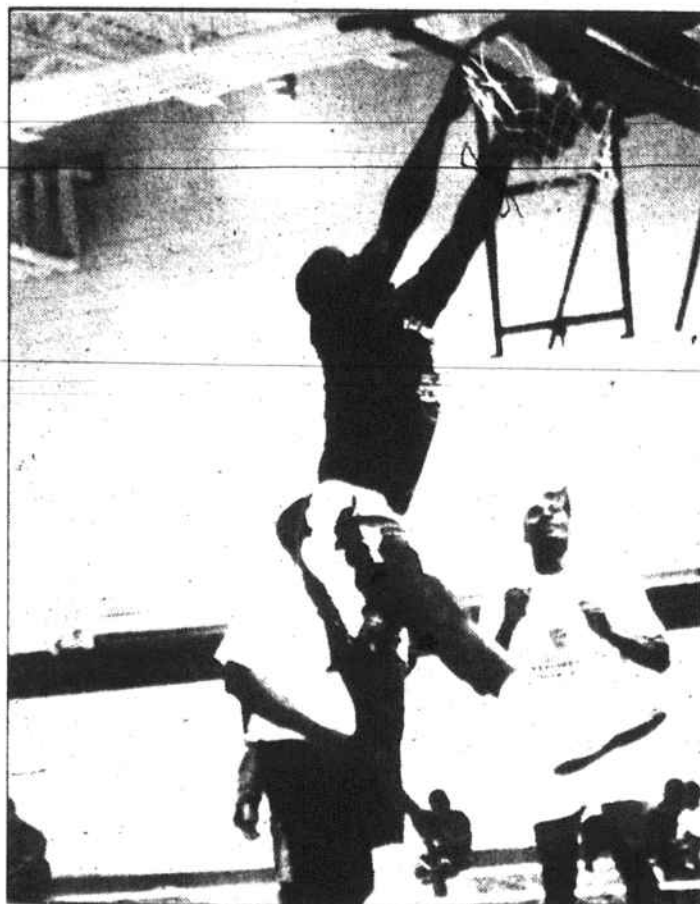
Most of the players — who admitted to being in their thirties — have played in adult leagues around town at other recreational centers and YMCAs. The major difference — and advantage, the players say — is the schedule, which makes coming to the games easier.

"It's just better for everyone because we all work during the week and there are some things we need to take care of on Saturday mornings," Michael Griffin said. "So we can do what we have to do and get together and play some ball with our friends."

The only requirements for the teams is each squad must have five to 12 members. The eight squads — Boyz II Men, Too Much, teams sponsored by Discount Records, Sara Lee and Lee Jean and two named after its head coaches — started playing in late March. Registration for each team is \$300 and the teams play on a round-robin, six-game schedule. In late May, the teams will play a playoff-style tournament for the senior league championship.

Most players agree the best aspect is playing against friends they haven't seen since high school. After each game, the players joke and reminisce about shots they could make 15 years ago and now can't. But despite the camaraderie and friendship exhibited by opposing teams, it is clear what each person's objective is.

"We all want a shot at that championship," Denor-



Guy Morgan slams home two points.

ris Nichols said. "Don't let anyone fool you out here, because it wouldn't be fun if we didn't have something to play for."

Said Michael McIntyre, who with Curtis Canty has a team named after him, "We all play in a competitive spirit, but we all want to win. It wouldn't be anything but a pickup game if we didn't. But we don't get out of hand with it. We all just want to have a little fun."

Griffin, who played in the Hanes Hosiery men's league last fall, said the Winston Lake league is more fitting to players who fit his age group. He said the time and day makes it easier for the older players to join, whereas other leagues are more accessible to younger players.

"Most of the people in other leagues are younger and they play all the time. I can't run with the gym rats, the young kids anymore," he said. "So one day a week is enough to satisfy my basketball fever."

While Nichols said some of the players have a slight loss of their skills, the effort and intensity more than makes up for it. And the most important thing is for everyone to come out and have a good time.

"It's great to get together with old friends, no matter who wins or loses," Bill Tibbs said. "Instead of sitting around the house on Saturday, we're out getting some exercise and competing in a well-run, well-sponsored league."



### ENTERTAINMENT

ArtsReach column published poems written by participants in the Young Black Writers Program. **Page 28**



### RELIGION

Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church will hold the 5th Annual Gospel Music Concert on May 1. **Page 25**



### BUSINESS

Ray Robinson has been elected AT&T vice president of corporate relations. **Page 27**