

**AAU Basketball**



Photo by Collegiate Sports/Tim Montgomery  
*Carolina Hornets 14-and-under AAU basketball team*

**Gaters Nip Hornets for Championship**

▲ Greensboro hands Winston-Salem first AAU loss of the season

By JEROME RICHARD  
Chronicle Sports Editor

The 14-and-under Carolina Hornets scored over 100 points in three easy romps in the Greensboro Gaters AAU Spring Shootout to advance to the championship game against the Greensboro Gaters Blue. The Hornets could have used some of those excess points in the title tilt.

The Gaters avenged an earlier loss to the Hornets with a 54-52 victory to win the championship and hand Carolina its first loss of the season after eight consecutive wins.

The matchup between the teams was the second in two weeks. The Hornets recorded a 90-84 win the previous week, but the Gaters slowed the tempo in their tournament to avenge the loss and claim the title.

Marcus Oliver led the Hornets in scoring with 15 points. A.J. Steele added 11 for Carolina and Bradley Tuttle, Jason Brown and Will Johnson were credited with good work on the boards.

The Hornets reached the championship game with a 90-66 victory over hometown rival the Winston Lakers. The Hornets grabbed the lead in the second quarter and never looked back as they sped to the victory. Steele had the hot scoring hand with 27 points, while Johnson contributed 13. Brown and Oliver led the Hornets in rebounding, while Travis Holcomb-Faye dished out a team-high eight assists.

The Hornets swatted the Burlington Hornets 128-41 in the first round of championship play to advance to the semifinals. Brown drilled 27 points to lead Carolina in scoring. Steele added 23 and Trey Williams netted 16. Every member of the Carolina Hornets scored with Tuttle hitting the 100th point. Oliver, Brown, and Skeeter Powell paced Carolina on the boards and Rodmond "Shaq" Dunlap handed out a team-high seven assists.

Carolina won two games in pool play. The Hornets beat the WNC Storm 100-58 to record

their first 100-point game and got their second with a 116-28 pasting of the Greensboro Gaters White.

Steele led the Hornets in scoring against the Storm with 15 points and Andre McCain had 11. Jason Brown paced the Hornets in the second game with 20 points, including the 100th point. He pulled down seven rebounds and had three steals. Johnson scored 17 points and Tuttle notched 15.

Steele scored 86 points in the five-game tournament, while Brown hauled in a five-game total of 33 rebounds. Oliver had 15 steals and Holcomb-Faye passed out 23 assists as the Hornets averaged 97 points per game. Steel and Oliver scored in double figures in all five games.

The Hornets are now 8-1 in AAU competition and will be in action this weekend in pool play for the state tournament. The Hornets play April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Glenn High School and April 15 at 12 noon and 6 p.m. at Carver.

**N.C. Select Doesn't Fare Well in Carolina Classic**

By JEROME RICHARD  
Chronicle Sports Editor

The North Carolina Select AAU basketball team of Winston-Salem ventured to Charlotte last weekend for the Carolina Hoop Classic and met an old foe in the first round, losing the game and setting the tone for the tourney.

The Select squared off against the Winston Lake Lakers 16-and-under team in the opening game, losing 76-70 when the Lakers' Rhaman Love-Lane of West Forsyth High School took control in the second half.

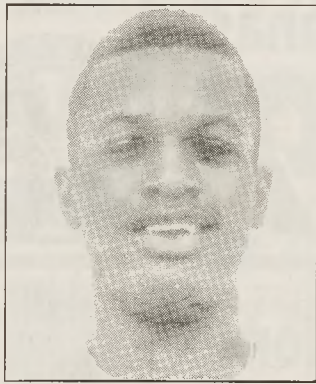
The Select led 37-30 at half-time after playing what Select coach Ron Hollingsworth called a good first half.

"We looked good in the first half," he said. "We were pretty well in sync running our offense and we were communicating on defense. Then Love-Lane took over the game in the second half with his scoring and rebounding."

"We got complacent in the second half because we jumped to an early lead and because we were playing a 16-and-under team. We got away from what got us the halftime lead. We missed 20 free throws, but the real reason we lost was because Winston Lake outplayed us."

The Select was 9 of 29 from the line for the game. Tyson Patterson of East Forsyth led the Select in scoring with 19 points. David Wall of High Point Andrews had 15 for the Select and Tim Wells and Delayo Dodd of Carver added 10 each.

The Charlotte Nets Blue inflicted the second loss on the Select when it sank a 3-pointer with 10 seconds to play to post a



Delayo Dodd

72-69 victory in the second round.

The Select trailed by 15 points entering the final period, but rallied behind second and third stringers to take a 63-62 lead with three minutes remaining. "They gave us a spark and turned up the defensive intensity," Hollingsworth said. "They were more hungry than the starters."

The lead changed hands down the stretch and a couple of questionable calls by the offi-

**"Rhaman Love-Lane took over the game in the second half with his scoring and rebounding."**

-Ron Hollingsworth

cial benefited the Nets. The Select took a one-point lead on two free throws with less than 25 seconds to play before Charlotte hit the game-winner.

The Select got into the win column with a third-round 79-52 victory over the Tennessee Travelers as four players hit double

figures for the Select.

"This was a game in which we finally did what we wanted," Hollingsworth said. "We played 32 minutes of good basketball and ran our offense flawlessly and had good defensive intensity."

Eleven of the 12 players on the Select roster scored in the game, led by Wells' 16 points. Dodd and John Bennett added 12 each and Wall contributed 10.

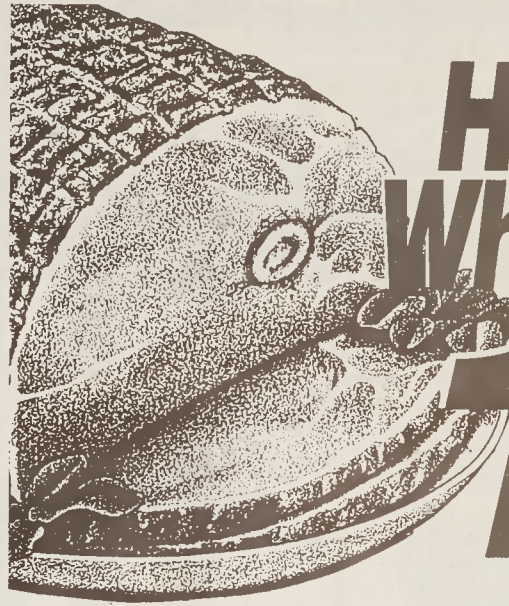
The Select's first three games were in pool play with the top two winners in each pool advancing to championship play and the others going into the consolation round. The Select won its first game in the consolation round by beating the Charlotte Nets Gold 85-50, using a 32-8 run in the second quarter to break the game open.

"We went to full-court pressure defensively and we were able to control the defensive board, which turned it into a transition game," Hollingsworth said. "That was the key along with our offensive execution, which was flawless for the second straight game. It was like the kids had played together for a couple of months."

Wells led the Select in scoring with 16 points followed by Bennett with 11. Wall added nine and Dodd and Chris Choate of Glenn High School notched eight each. "The defensive contribution of Nick Glenn of Reynolds High School cannot be overlooked," Hollingsworth noted.

The Select ended tourney play the way it started, losing to Winston Lake, this time by 10 points.

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