

AAU Basketball



12-and-under Carolina Hornets

Hornets Qualify for National AAU Tourney

▲ Extinguish Flames 62-27 to earn trip to Salt Lake City

By JEROME RICHARD
Chronicle Sports Editor

The 12-and-under Carolina Hornets qualified for the National AAU Basketball Tournament with a 62-27 rout of the Newton Flames last weekend in the state qualifying tournament in Concord.

The Hornets, who will head to Salt Lake City for the national championship to be played this summer, finished third in the 18-team qualifying field by extinguishing the Flames for the last qualifying spot from North Carolina.

The Hornets were led in scoring by Lance Searcy with 10 points and C. J. Paul with nine. All 13 players on the Hornets' roster broke into the scoring column against the Flames.

The Hornets, who are spon-

sored, in part, by the Central YMCA, opened the tournament with a 78-39 romp of Kings Mountain as Ronnie Carmichael led the way with 12 points. Michael Russell added 11.

The Hornets made it two victories in row by beating the High Point Hurricanes 54-46 behind Russell's 17 points and 11 from Dovonte Edwards. The Winston-Salem team suffered its first defeat when Garner Road of Raleigh posted a 58-55 victory in the third round despite Russell's 20 points and Searcy's 11.

The Hornets, who were based in Hickory last year but have moved to Winston-Salem for this season, got back on the winning track with a 57-48 win over the Hurricanes in the fourth round. Searcy and Edwards each scored 11 points for the winners.

The Hornets started a string of lopsided victories in the fifth game by pummeling the Surry Stars 79-54 as Travis Pritchard buried 16 points and Russell 11. The Hornets, who have players from as far away as Morganton and Chapel Hill on their roster, shot down the Concord Stars 67-51 in the sixth game behind Edwards' 14 points and Searcy's eight. The Hornets ended the three-game reign of routs with the 62-27 win over the Flames.

The Hornets, who are coached by Charles E. Paul Sr. and David T. Russell Sr., are in the midst of raising funds to attend the national tournament in Salt Lake City. Tax deductible donations may be sent to the Central YMCA, 777 West End Blvd., Winston-Salem, Attention: Marc Pruitt.

Soccer



Photo by Melissa Vaquera

Two North Forsyth junior varsity soccer players celebrate a goal against Parkland April 18.

Varsity Softball

First-Inning Scoring Explosion Paces North Forsyth

By JEROME RICHARD
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North Forsyth erupted for 12 runs in the first inning behind six consecutive hits, including two RBI singles from Misty Sellers and Abby Craven, to crush Carver 15-1 April 20 in varsity softball at Carver.

Leading 5-0 with the bases loaded and one out, the Lady Vikings looped, blooped, dinked, and otherwise put the ball where the Yellow Jackets weren't as they moved players around the bases with the regularity of a metronome.

"There was a lot of luck involved in that," North Forsyth coach Mike Muse chuckled when asked if the ball placement was luck or skill. "But it's not luck when Trish Sargent hits a home run and Misty Sellers hits the ball hard. And we got a great

performance from our pitcher Rebecca Kleen. It was a total team effort."

Sargent, a UNC recruit who averages a home run a game, kept her average intact with a two-run dinger in the fourth that increased North Forsyth's lead to 14-0.

Carver avoided a shutout with its lone run in the fifth on an RBI single by Megan Smith, who will join Sargent next year at UNC on a softball scholarship.

Sargent accounted for the game's final run with a sixth-inning single to drive in Sellers, who opened the frame with a single and advanced to third on an error on the relay. Sellers is being recruited by UNC-Wilmington.

"We showed up to play today," said Muse, whose club improved to 9-4 with the victory. "We haven't been playing well in

the last three or four games and we had a lot of doubts coming into this game.

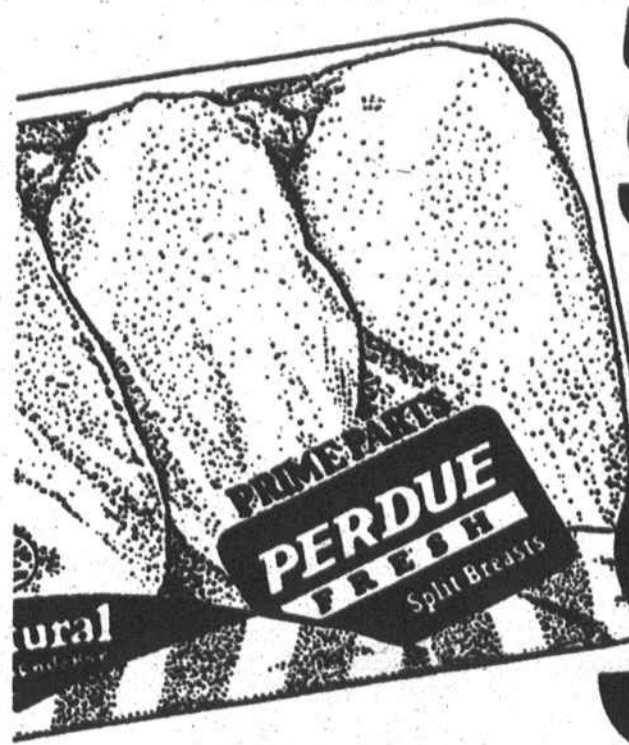
"We needed this game going into the conference tournament."

Emotional games with different outcomes played a part in both team's performance, according to Muse.

"Carver had an emotional win over Glenn yesterday and were probably flat," the Viking coach said. "We had an emotional loss (11-5 to Surry Central) yesterday, but we came ready to play today. We came out flat against Surry Central and gave them a seven-run lead before cutting it to 7-5. But we couldn't get back in it. I told the team that they had to play with hustle and enthusiasm or I would find someone that would."

"When we come to play, we are good. When we don't, we aren't very good."

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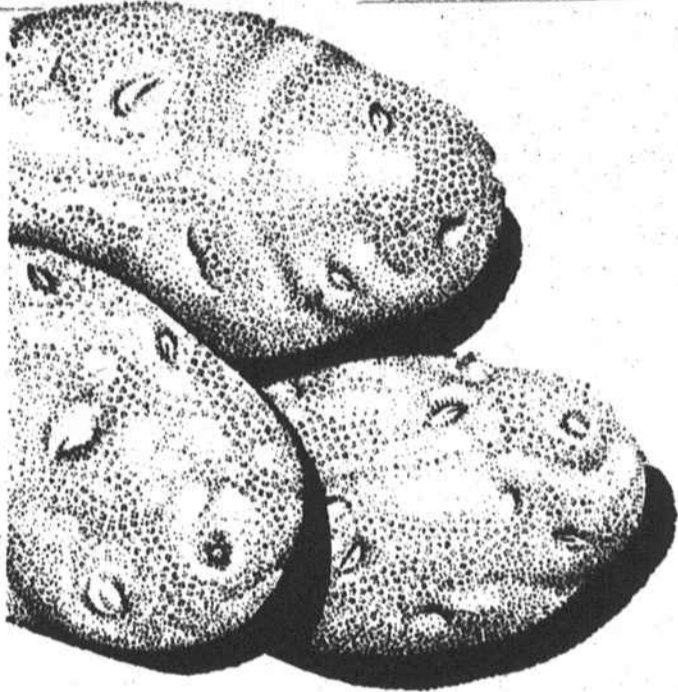
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