

# Carolina Hornets roll

from B1

Nevertheless, the Hornets were able to do enough on the offensive and defensive end to convince Jabbar that they are making progress as a team.

"I think our defense has improved over the last two tournaments," Jabbar said. "I was quite pleased with our defense."

On offense, the Hornets were able to take advantage of their opponents' turnovers and convert them into easy layups. When the team went to its half-court offense it was able to locate the shooters and get them the basketball.

"We have a couple of shooters and when they're out there



Matthew Dinkins of the Carolina Hornets goes airborne for two points.

we're usually going to be okay on offense," Jabbar said. "But we're still trying to step up defensively and continue taking steps in the right direction."

Jabbar said his team put a lot of time into perfecting its 1-2-2 zone trap on defense.

"We've practiced it a lot and we hope that's something we can

rely on as we go into the state tournament," Jabbar said. "We think with that we can take our opponents' guards out of the game."

But there are still some areas where the Hornets have to work defensively, according to Jabbar. He said he hopes the team's man-to-man defensive skills will improve.

"We'll go into the state tournament on a good note, but I still think our defense is not where we want it to be. We'll be working on it the next two weeks."

From an individual standpoint, Jabbar said the Hornets have several players who came up big during the tournament. Kedrick "Big" Carpenter settled

the team with his play-making ability at the point. Although he didn't put up a lot of big offensive numbers he controlled play and was able to get the ball inside to the Hornets' post players.

Reid also played well and was among the team's leading scorers in all three games. Drum, Baker, Dinkins and Jordan also turned in consistent games for the Hornets.

Overall, Jabbar said the team is making great strides. Although he has been coaching AAU basketball for a decade, Jabbar is in

his first year with the Hornets' program. Jabbar said he, his assistants, Ken Love and John Alexander and the players are beginning to jell as a unit.

"It's a great mix," Jabbar said. "I'm with an organization that has established an excellent reputation. It is a program that is on the forefront as far as academics and athletics are concerned."

"We get great support from the Central YMCA and we have a tremendously strong volunteer base. It's a joy and pleasure to be part of an organization that is first class."

# AAU Basketball Pool Play Tournament

from B1

olina Hornets' program.

"We've been very blessed in that category," Black said. "People like John Allen from the Kappa Magic and others who have been associated with the Winston Lake program over the years have been there for us when we needed them. We've been able to pull in a lot of people to help us."

In addition to having lots of volunteers, there are a lot of logistical situations that have to be dealt with by the organizers.

"We have to plan everything, from the people selling tickets at the door, to people working in concessions and keeping the score book. It takes a lot of effort from everyone involved."

Black is in his fifth year at the helm of the program. Since taking the slot in '92 he said the program has grown in scope and direction.



Michael Drum of the Carolina Hornets breaks free for a layup in last weekend's tournament hosted by the Winston-Salem Basketball Association.

"We have changed our organizational structure to make us somewhat independent of the YMCA," Black said. "We're now the Winston-Salem Basketball Association and we do have our own board of directors."

The group's focus has also evolved, according to Black.

"What we try to do is concentrate more on academic averages and stress to them that life is more than basketball. We do scrutinize the report cards and try to monitor the progress of the kids in the program."

The program is going through a transitional phase in terms of the players in the program. But Black said it is still as strong from an organization as ever.

"There are some kids going to other programs and there is a lot of recruiting going on now," he said. "But we think we're getting kids who like playing in our program."



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