



Julius Erving stops to talk with kids from Hanes Hosiery.



Center supervisor Art Blevins and kids meet Johnny Unitas.



Students from Hanes Hosiery visit Sara Lee's tent.



Art Blevins and his Hanes Hosiery kids meet Joe Montana.

Hanes Hosiery participants meet NFL and NBA players at Crosby

Special to THE CHRONICLE

It's not an everyday occurrence to be able to talk with two of the greatest basketball players in the history of the NBA. Neither is it an everyday thing to be able to meet and receive autographs from two of the best NFL quarterbacks of all time.

But that's what happened to a group of kids from the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center last week. The kids, along with center supervisor Art Blevins, were special guests at The Crosby Celebrity Golf Tournament at Bermuda Run Country Club.

The kids had an opportunity to meet former NFL players Joe Montana and Johnny Unitas, along with former NBA stars Julius "Dr. J" Erving and Bob Cousy.

With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jones of Winston Salem, who are volunteers at the Crosby and special friends of Hanes Hosiery

Gym director Art Blevins, ten participants traveled to The Crosby and "had a wonderful day."

"It was the first time any of the participants had been to the Crosby," Blevins said. "Most of the younger kids did not know what it was, but when we got there, and started showing them who the star athletes and celebrities were, they began to recognize some of them too. They were really excited and started to enjoy themselves! It was a great day and a wonderful experience for our kids."

The highlight of the day came when Erving's team came to the area where the students from Hanes Hosiery had positioned themselves.

"We had brought along a six-foot poster of Dr. J in his ABA days," Blevins said. "The poster showed him getting ready to throw one down on a dunk and I think he really enjoyed seeing that and our group of kids waited to meet him."

Erving took time to talk with

the group and to take pictures with them.

"He was really great with us," Blevins said. "And he really made our day, stopping like that to see us."

Blevins and his kids also had an opportunity to meet and have autographs signed by Billy Joe DuPree, the former Dallas Cowboy tight end; Roy Williams, basketball coach at Kansas; Jim Hart, a former NFL quarterback with the St. Louis Cardinals; Joe Washington, former runningback with the Washington Redskins; Stan Makita, a standout hockey player with the Chicago Blackhawks for 21 years. Makita, a six-time All-Star and former NHL MVP, also took pictures with the group.

Jim Martin, former governor of North Carolina, also signed autographs and took pictures with the Hanes Hosiery group.

The group was treated to breakfast and lunch at the Sara Lee hospitality tent, thanks to Tom Jones and Betty Jones of Sara Lee.

"It was just a tremendous opportunity for these kids," Blevins said. "It was a great day, a day to remember forever. I'd like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Sara Lee for making it possible. Others who contributed to make the events of the day possible included Richard Jones; a photographer, Mark "Bip" Worthy; and Denise Scott-Johnson and Tim Grant of the City of Winston-Salem Recreation Department, who made sure the group had transportation for the outing."



Joe Washington signs autographs for Hanes Hosiery kids.

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