

from page BI

ton.

"The area we need to work on the most is sportsmanship. We also want the children to develop a love for the game. We want them to have an interest in the sport for the rest of

their lives.". There are several success stories that quickly come to mind in terms of players who have come through the program. They include Tiffany Speas, who earned a scholatship and is attending Howard Uni-

Juniors

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making the adjustment from the small field to the big field.

Chisholm was the coach of the Padres team, which finished as the runners-up in the Pony League division at Twin City. He is assisted by Alfred Crump, who worked with him on the Padres, and Tim Moore, who helped lead the Tigers to the championship.

Crump said he believes the coaching staff is solid and they will have the team ready for their opening round game in the tournament.

"We have a group that is more committed than what we usually get," he said. "Most of the time our kids stop coming to practice because of summer football workouts and we don't really get a true All-Star team.

"I'm very happy with this team because all of the kids out here want to be here," Chisholm added. "It's going to be a learning experience for some of them. You'll probably see some jitters in some of them, but I think they'll settle down and play well."

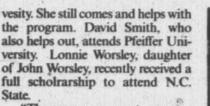
Chisholm said he looks to several veteran players to step up and lead this year's team. They include Marcus Vereen, Raysean Moore, Bediako Gaines and Andre' Hairston, who played on the Juniors All-Star team last year. Marcus Gaines, Stepfone McCall and Antiwan Kelly were on the Majors All-Star team a year ago.

"We have a good mix of veterans and new people," Chisholm

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without a lot of talking," Rice said. "My assistants (Mike Conrad and Reggie Williams) are different. But everyone seems to be blending in well together. We're trying to bring some comradery between the players and with the

oaches The first week of workouts went well, according to Rice. He said he was surprised at the team's power hitters. They include Terrell Russell, Ronald Hackett, Teron Middleton and Devon Smith. The pitching rotation is also impressive. Eric Eaton will be the opening game starter. If he falters, Rice said he would not hesitate to bring in O.C. Wardlow. "I think we're pretty set as far as game one," Rice said. "I'm not going to try to play short. I want to get out to a good start and Eric can get us out to a strong start. I believe that O.C. is an outstanding stopper. That's the



"There are some great opportunities for kids if they would only





bove: Morgan Mills Left: Cirena Buchanon makes a forehand volley

ning.

Defensively, the key to the team is in the outfield, where the team has outstanding speed.

lot of extra-base hits," Chisholm said. "We have a lot of kids who are fundamentally sound and can make the routine play. That excited me right off about this team. They handle situations well and we don't have a lot of showboaters."

The key to the team's overall performance in the tournament is getting off to a good start, according to Chisholm.

"If we can get win that first one, I think it's going to help our confidence," Chisholm said. "We need to get a win to settle us down.'

Twin City Junior All-Stars

Marcus Vereen Anthony Wellman William Theodore Miles Griffin Andre Hairston Marcus Gaines Bediako Gaines Raysean Moore Stepfone Mccall Jeff Middleton Anthony Steele Antiwan Kelly Bobley Brazero
Bobby Pearson Eugene Smith
Coaches: Carlton Chisolm Alfred Crump Tim Moore

kids who can play behind the plate and we'll probably have a different catcher for each pitcher.

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Shepherd

said. "I think these guys get along well and they want to perform as a team. That's got to help us in the tournament.'

Chisholm said he had an idea of his pitching rotation and batting order, but wasn't 100 percent sure at the start of the week. He said he was leaning toward using Hairston as the starter on the mound in the opener. Next up would be Vereen. In terms of his offense, Chisholm said he expects to have William Theodore and Bediako Gaines in the middle of the order to take advantage of their power.

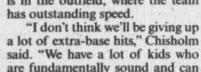
"Really I think it's going to take a lot of teamwork to get it done on offense," he said. One of our assets is going to be our quickness. We don't really have a lot of power hitters, so we'll have to manufacture runs. I think we're going to be solid at the plate and take advantage of our solid base run-

role I've given him.

In game two, Russell is slated to start on the mound with Brandon Farrington filling in for the team in relief.

One of the things that has impressed Rice about the squad is the players' knowledge of the game.

"You can tell that a lot of these kids came from coaches



who have really taught them the fundamentals," Rice said. "I think we have some infielders who know the game. the little things like straddling the ball and knowing how to position themselves to take a throw from the outfield. That has helped us to be able to go on to other things.'

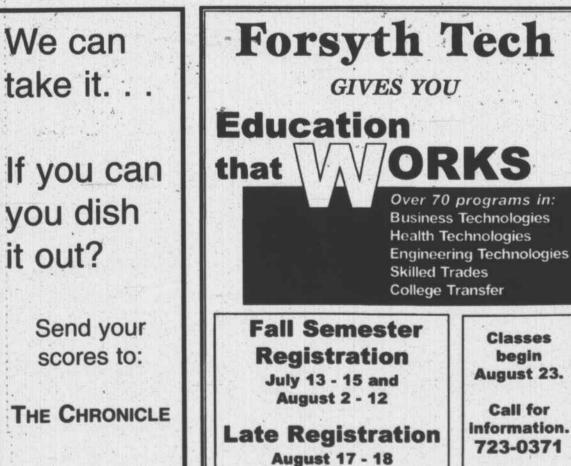
Rice said the team isn't short on confidence. Many of the players have played on All-Star teams in the Minor League. That should go a long way when they take to the field against South.

"I have confidence in them," Rice said. "We're going to play everyone, but some will play more than others. We have five

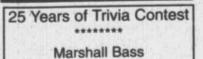
Antione Brown **Eric Eaton Tony Kelly** Terrell Russell O.C. Wardlow Lamaris Poole Jamol Shell Mychal Conrad **Brandon Farrington**

Coaches **Charles Rice** Reggie Williams Michael Conrad

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