

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

JULY 22, 1999

King pitcher has no-hitter, eliminates Twin City Minor League All-Stars



Coach James Summers offers encouragement to Twin City Minor League All-Stars.

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Twin City Little League was dealt a double whammy last Thursday night. Both the program's remaining teams, in All-Star play were eliminated from their respective tournaments.

The Minor League All-Stars faced one of the tournament's top pitchers and didn't have enough offensive firepower to earn another victory. Twin City was eliminated by King, which got a no-hit shutout from its pitcher en route to the 5-0 win.

The game, which had been originally scheduled to be played last Tuesday, was postponed for two days because of rain. That gave King a chance to rest its ace and

have him available to pitch the entire game.

Starting pitcher Sherrod Nickles of Twin City pitched well, but several defensive lapses allowed the homestanding King team to jump out to an early 2-0 lead. King didn't come through with many hits, but they were very timely. After getting a walk and a single, King got a timely two-run double to push its lead to 5-0.

Facing such a big deficit and with the bases loaded, coach Gene Williams called upon Randy McCray to get the team out of its jam. McCray retired the next three batters in order and didn't give up a run in three innings of play.

Twin City had trouble getting base runners throughout the game.

It had runners on first and second in the fourth, after McCray drew a one-out walk and Mike Parker reached on a fielder's choice. However, Twin City couldn't come through with anything to advance them. Consecutive strikeouts got King out of the inning.

King's leadoff batter reached on an error and the next batter drew a walk. But Twin City was unable to come through with a hit and King got out of the inning behind its outstanding pitching.

From there, Twin City never threatened. Only one batter reached base and he was thrown out trying to steal second base in the fifth inning.

"You can't win baseball games when you don't hit the ball,"

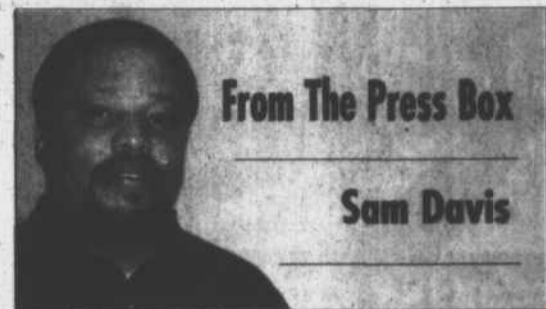
Williams said. "That was the name of the game today. I don't know why we didn't hit the ball."

Twin City had been on a roll after winning consecutive games. It opened the tournament with a win and lost its second game before posting its back to back wins. However, the team looked sluggish after having played its last game on the previous Saturday.

"The long layoff could have been it," Williams said. "We were on a good streak and then we didn't get to play. But I thought we had some good practices and we were ready to go."

"We told them before the game that they had to swing the bat," Williams added. "We knew they

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From The Press Box

Sam Davis

Little, WSSU basketball play waiting game

Anne Little, Winston-Salem State's athletics director, will pay particular attention to incoming phone calls this week.

The fate of the Rams head basketball coaching position could be decided before the end of the week, and Little said she must be prepared for the outcome.

Rick Duckett, who led WSSU to a 21-10 record and the CIAA tournament championship last season, was interviewed by Norfolk State about its vacant head coaching position and could be the choice of the school's search committee. If that is the case, it would leave the Rams without a head men's coach with less than a month before the start of the 1999-2000 academic year.

That possibility would put Little and the Rams in a quandary. Qualified candidates would be hard to find at this late date. Little said she hopes that possibility never materializes.

"Obviously we're hoping that he will stay," Little said. "We thought that at this point in July that wouldn't be a consideration for us here."

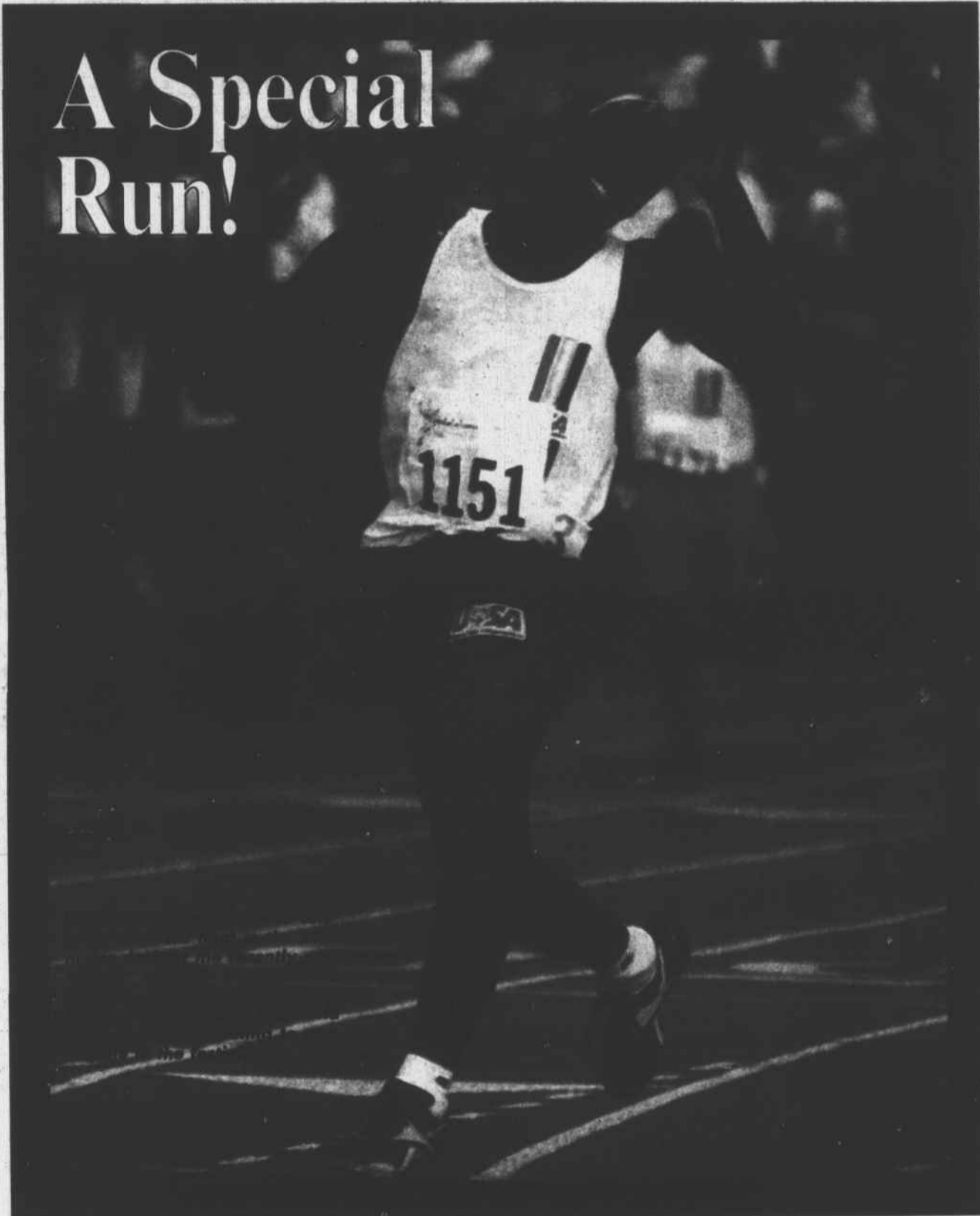
Little said Duckett has been upfront since Norfolk State called to initiate its discussions with him.

"He let me know that they had called and expressed an interest in him," Little said. "He said he was going to go up and listen to what



Little

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A Special Run!

WSSU's Duckett weighing Norfolk State's job offer

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Although it might change in a few days or weeks, Rick Duckett is still Winston-Salem State's head basketball coach.

Duckett, who led the Rams to its first CIAA Basketball Tournament championship in 21 years last season, interviewed last week for the vacant head coaching job at Norfolk State. Duckett said talks with Orby Moss, athletics director at Norfolk State, went well, but his visit was mainly a feeling-out process for both parties.

"It wasn't a knock-your-socks-off type of thing," Duckett said. "It was more of an exploratory situation. They wanted to see my interest, and I wanted to see their commitment to their program. For me it was a matter of comparing and contrasting the things you have to what is available."

The competitive nature of the coaching profession is such that all opportunities should be explored, according to Duckett.

"I think you have to take a look at any job in the realm of college athletics," Duckett said. "If there is a sincere interest in you, you're doing yourself an injustice if you don't listen. I think you have to be open to all opportunities."

From a standpoint of the facilities and resources, Duckett said he was impressed. However, when it came down to the salary and other incentives, there wasn't a lot of difference in what WSSU offers.

"I'm not sure that the things they have in mind for the coach made an impression," he said. "They are pretty much what I can get here in Winston."

The job at Norfolk State came open on June 26 when Mel Coleman and his top assistant stepped down in the wake of allegations leveled against the Spartans' program. Cole-

See Duckett on B3

Pitching problems cost Seniors in tournament; Twin City eliminated

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Pitching woes got the best of Twin City Little League's Senior All-Stars, and their chances for a championship in the area tournament fell by the wayside last Thursday night when they dropped a 14-7 loss to the Winston-Salem Nationals.

Twin City jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning but couldn't hold it. The Nationals used three consecutive walks in the bottom of the second inning to get untracked offensively. By the time the inning ended, Twin City trailed by a 5-2 score, from which they never recovered.



Barkley

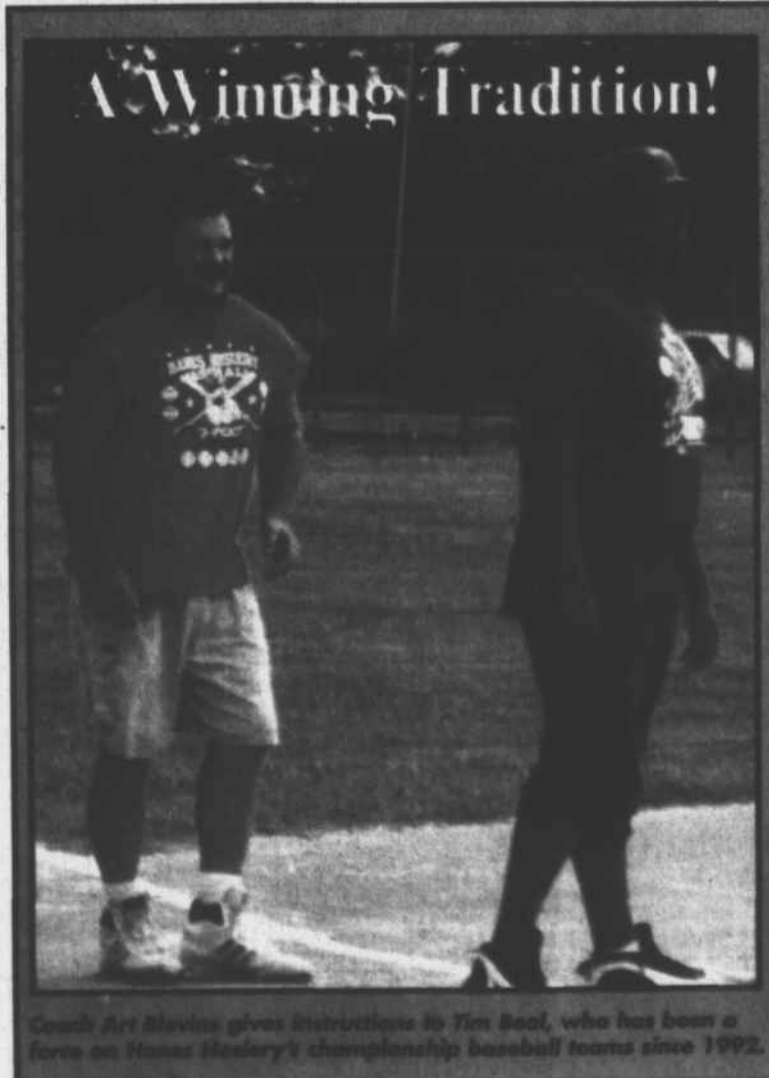
JaDon Barkley powered a blast over the 316 mark in deep center field to pull Twin City to within 5-3 in the bottom of the third inning.

Chris Key, the Twin City starting pitcher, struggled throughout the bottom of the third inning and the Nationals used a barrage of hard hits to increase the lead to 12-3. The Nationals used a combination of timely hits and Twin City errors and batted around before Key finally got out of the inning on a grounder to third.

Twin City put together a rally of its own in the top of the fourth inning. Carl Shepherd and Derrick Wardlow paced the outburst that allowed Twin City to close the gap to 12-7.

Wardlow, who began the tournament as Twin City's ace pitcher, took to the mound in the bottom of the fourth inning and held the Nationals in check the rest of the way. Although he gave up two runs he never got himself in much trouble through three innings.

See Seniors on B5



Coach Art Shivers gives instructions to Tim Seal, who has been a four-time National Championship baseball team since 1992.

Area tournament was learning experience for Twin City Juniors

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

More than a week has passed since Twin City's Junior Boys (13-14) were eliminated in the area tournament, and coach Carlton Chisholm said after reflecting upon his team's tournament losses he can see things that weren't clearly visible before.

Twin City played well at times in both its tournament losses. However, the team's weaknesses in several spots cost Twin City dearly. In its opener in the tournament, Twin City was playing on equal footing with Southwest Forsyth. Twin City was in striking distance late in the game but fell apart in the bottom of the sixth.

Andre Hairston, the team's pitcher, had a two-hitter going until the fifth inning, and Marcus Gaines' defense helped keep Southwest Forsyth at bay. However, Southwest Forsyth came through with several key hits in

the bottom of the sixth and Twin City lost its poise. The result was a 12-3 loss.

From there the team never seemed to regroup and the next game, with the Winston-Salem Nationals, was just a formality. Twin City never got off the ground, was dealt a double digit loss and was eliminated from the tournament field.

"We learned a lot about the kids and the level of competition they were facing," Crump said. "We played so well in that first game and then all of a sudden we lost it."

"There were a lot of bright spots, but our lack of pitching depth cost the team," Chisholm added. "We had outstanding play on defense by Marcus Gaines, who had nine putouts in center field. He was all over the field making plays."

"C.P. (Hairston) pitched well too. He made a lot of good pitch-

See Juniors on B5