

Carolina Angels host Davidson County at Rupert Bell on July 22

The Carolina Angels will play host to a battle at Rupert Bell Park against the Davidson County Girls in a USSSA Fast-Pitch softball game July 22 at 6 p.m.

The game is a rematch of the USSSA Fast-Pitch Softball 1999 championship game, in which the Angels escaped with a 5-4 victory.

The Angels are one of the only fast-pitch softball teams in the area made up of teen-age girls. The team has placed in the top three and won a number of trophies at tournaments since starting in 1996. The team's most recent accomplishment came when it defeated the Davie County girls in the USSSA Pool "B" championship recently.

Coach Jonné Hayes of the Angels said the team is one of the area's best kept secrets.

"These girls play well together, they work hard and give their all every game," Hayes said. "It would be great if the community came out and supported them."

Veterans Roxanna Hayes and Monique "Nikki" Hines know all too well the importance of having fan support.

"Every time we travel to another team's field they have a hundred people or more cheering for them and on our side we have two or three and that's embarrassing," Hines said.

Roxanna Hayes, a seven-year veteran, agrees.

"I remember playing in a championship game last year," she said. "We were ahead by eight when all of a sudden the fans from the other team started yelling and pumping their girls up. We lost our concentration and the game. Now it's our turn."



Antrice Phillips



Jennifer Harrell



Monique Hines



Roxanna Hayes

The Angels' ultimate goal is to return to Salem, Va., for the regionals Aug. 13-15 and to bring back a title.

Coach Hayes said he would like to see support and attendance from people in the neighborhood, business leaders and even aldermen. In addition to Thursday's game the Angels will be in action again at Rupert Bell Park on Saturday afternoon when they will play a double-header beginning at 5 p.m.

Press Box

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they had to say."

This is the kind of situation that you'd like to be in as an athletic director. We've always said that we wanted to be the kind of program that had a staff that people would be attracted to. Unfortunately if you have that kind of staff these kind of situations are going to present themselves."

While discussions are taking place between Norfolk State and Duckett, Little said she and WSSU can only play the waiting game.

"My understanding is that Norfolk State is hoping to make a recommendation this week."

Seniors

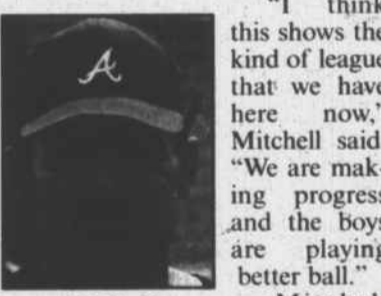
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However, Twin City's offense never came around in the final three at-bats, and the team was eliminated from the tournament.

"I thought we made a good run through the tournament," said Phil Mitchell, the team's head coach. "Our pitching wasn't what we expected, but I'm very proud of the way we played and what we were able to accomplish."

For the Seniors that was considerable. This season marked the first time in several years that the team won more than one game. It also was the deepest that the team has progressed in the tournament

in more than a decade. Only one other team has been within one game of reaching the championship bracket.



Mitchell

also thankful of the way coaches in the league worked together to put a top effort together for the tournament.

Juniors

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es. And I thought Stepfone McCall hit a lot of good line drives. He was 3-for-3 against quality pitching. Really, I thought we had a lot of individuals to step up, but we didn't get it done as a team. I thought we were a good hitting team overall, but once we got behind we lost our composure and we struggled."

The team was also hurt in its second game because two of its key players weren't available.

Chisholm and assistant Alfred Crump had to dig deep to find pitchers because they had used up two of their top hurlers in relief to get out of the previous game. Neither Antoine Steele nor Bediako Gaines was able to silence the opponents' bats and Twin City found itself in a hole early in the game and never could climb out.

"We had some kids who hadn't been in All-Star tournament play," he said. "It has to benefit them next year and maybe in school ball if they choose to go that route. They know now how seriously they have to take it if they plan on pursuing it beyond

"They scored seven runs in the first inning and that pumped up their pitching," Chisholm said. "From our standpoint, once

you're facing that kind of lead it's hard to come back. I thought the kids played hard, but it was just too much to overcome."

Although the team didn't advance past the second round of the tournament, Chisholm said it gained a lot of experience.

"We had some kids who hadn't been in All-Star tournament play," he said. "It has to benefit them next year and maybe in school ball if they choose to go that route. They know now how seriously they have to take it if they plan on pursuing it beyond

Minors

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would have their top pitcher and we had to make contact."

Even though the team was ousted from the tournament, Williams said he was proud of his players.

"They did a good job throughout the tournament," Williams said. "I'm proud of them. We just didn't come through with the hits that we needed. There are going to be days like this in baseball. But these are good kids. They'll bounce back."



Calvin Gant III

Brandon Chandler

Sherrod Nickels

Let THE Chronicle know the score! 5 p.m. on Monday is the deadline.

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