

# Hoop Dreams



Atkins Middle School students recently competed in the local Special Olympics program and captured gold medals in each of the events in which they were entered. The team was coached by Shirley Gaither and Kynya Milam.

## Football

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routines now that we will in the fall when we start game preparation."

On a first day, there were the usual miscues: the jumping off-sides, the lack of concentration and an obvious lack of size, but those issues didn't stop the enthusiasm oozing from participants.

"I've been wanting to play since I got here," said senior Donte Lane, who was also a guard on the men's basketball team. Lane is one of two basketball players and five track and field athletes trying out. "Although my basketball eligibility is up, I can play football. This is a new program, and I want to be a part of history. I might make the first tackle or the first interception."

But it is teammate Kevin Smith, who is a forward in basketball, that has caught the coach's eye early. Smith, a quarterback in high school before he broke his collarbone, is vying for the role again four years later. "God has blessed me to be able to come out for it again," Smith said. "Right now, it's more of a learning experience, and I'm glad the coach is being patient with me."

Costas has completed his coaching staff:  
• Andre Waters is the defensive coordinator. Yes, THAT Waters, formerly with the Philadelphia

Eagles. Costas coached Waters in college.

• William Frizzell is a double Eagle alumnus: a former player at N.C. Central and Philadelphia.

• Jamie Holland, a Raleigh native, is the wide receiver and special-teams coach.

• Mr. Askew (Mr. is his first name), who played at ECSU, is the running-backs coach.

• Matthew Montgomery, a former quarterback at Hampton, is the offensive coordinator.

• Salisbury State's Lamont Robinson is a defensive-line coach.

• James Mackey and Larry Vann will assist with the OL duties.

"This is a dedicated group," Costas said. "They are not making a lot of money; they are doing it for love."

The team is practicing on the track and field grass courtesy of athletics director George Williams. The Falcons will play their inaugural season at Enloe High School.

"The kids will only have to walk four blocks to the game," Williams said.

Costas said he hopes to have a spring scrimmage April 13 at 1 p.m. "if I have anybody left."

Right now he has a whole campus. "Everywhere we go on campus, people ask, 'Has practice started yet?'" Smith said. "Everybody wants to be a part of it."

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