

Stanley ready for AAU national title



One-on-One

with Anthony Hill

Most basketball fans in this area may not be familiar with the name Cameron Stanley. There's no doubt that everyone will know his name around here before long.

Stanley is a slick, smooth and dominating player on the Millbrook High basketball team in Raleigh. But he's already committed to playing college ball for Wake Forest. He's also teaming up with M t



Stanley

Tabor's Chris Gaynor and the rest of the Kappa Magic squad to try to bring Winston-Salem and North Carolina a second straight AAU national championship this weekend.

Cameron has been compared with everyone from Tracy McGrady to Michael Finley. He's got that much game. He can do a variety of things once he puts the ball on the floor. The most impressive thing about 'Cam' is his mind, though. He's as sharp as a razor. I sat down with him a couple of days before the team left for Orlando. I had to find out where his head was at before they left. There was no need for me to worry: He's ready.

Anthony: What's the deal, Cam?

Cameron: Nothin' much. I'm just chillin'.

Anthony: Aight. What's going through your mind right

now? You've got the AAU national championships this weekend. What are you thinking?

Cameron: Um. Nothing, really. It feels like just another tournament to me. I just want to go down there and represent North Carolina in the best way that we can.

Anthony: But how do you prepare for a game like this? I mean, you know you're going to face some of the best talent from around the nation. How do you get ready for that?

Cameron: Nothing out of the ordinary. We just need to practice the same way that we've been practicing and maintain our intensity. We're just gonna go out there with the mind-set that we can win this just like they did last year.

Anthony: Now you weren't a part of that last year, but do you think this team could be just as good as last year's team?

Cameron: Yes, sir. I think we've worked just as hard as the team last year. We have some of the players from last year. Some of the players played up. So I think that experience will also help us. ("Cam, what size shoes do you wear, 13 or 14?") Um, 13. (Pause.) And that's about it.

Anthony: What are you going to bring to the table?

Cameron: I'm just gonna do what I have to do. Luckily, they had a place for me on the starting lineup. I know they had a team already. I just wanted to fill up any spots where I could help at.

Anthony: Does this kind of feel like the Olympics or

All-Stars honored at Reynolds Rec

Former Glenn High standouts get jerseys retired at center

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Two young athletes definitely have a special place in the heart of Bryant McCorkle, Reynolds Park Recreation Center director.

Sure, there's a picture of Josh Howard on the right side of the wall of the centers' entrance. But two other former Bobcats, Michael Cook and Danielle Edwards, have McCorkle smiling big lately.

"I can't say enough about those two kids," McCorkle said. "Both of them are great, excellent students and very respectful. And their work ethic is great. I remember when Mike graduated from high school.

"When most kids were off to the beach, he was getting ready for the East and West All-Star Game. Mike's going to succeed. I can't wait to see him at Winston-Salem State next season. Danielle is the same way. She works hard for things that she wants. She's going to do great things for Appalachian State."

Both student-athletes have known each other since they were in the fifth grade. They continued to be around each other when they both reached Glenn High School. Both are also coming off great performances in all-star games. Cook played in the East and West football game last week, while Edwards posted up the competition in the East and West basketball game in Greensboro. Cook also was able to make one of the more clutch plays of the game when he recovered a fumble in the first half to help the West to a 10-3 victory.

"My performance was excellent in the All-Star game," Cook said. "We played hard. We only gave up one score, and we got the

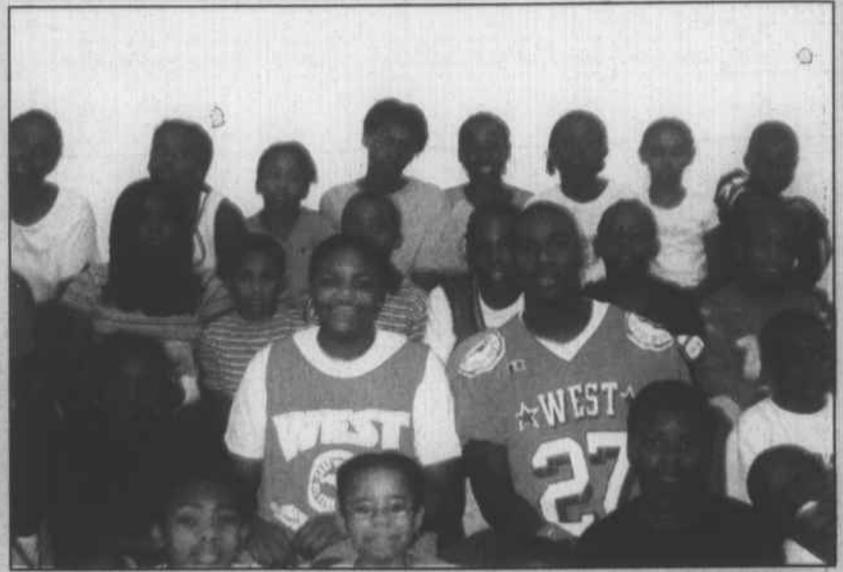


Photo by Anthony Hill

Former Glenn High School standouts Danielle Edwards and Michael Cook pose with kids at Reynolds Park Recreation Center.

win. It was also special to go and watch Danielle play. It felt even better to know that we came from the same place. She's always been good, though. I had to work a little harder for attention."

Cook even went into his game with a chip on his shoulder. Unlike Edwards, he didn't exactly know if he was going to get the opportunity to play on the next level. The letters weren't coming in as often as he might've liked, and he didn't feel like too many schools were interested. But he never seemed to give up. Cook continued to work hard.

"That's the story of my life," Cook said. "I knew that I was going to go to college, but I didn't think that I'd be playing football. When I got selected for the (All-Star) team, I looked at it as an opportunity to show everyone that I'm a special player. I wanted people to know that I'm not a regular player. I wanted to show them what I was all about. And, besides football, I'm a great person."

That's what most people

mention first when talking about the two student-athletes. Everyone talks about what type of people they are before they mention their athletic abilities. Some even like to talk about how shy Edwards is at times.

"Danielle has always been a quiet person," McCorkle said. "Even when she was little, she was to herself. You have to make her talk now."

Edwards added, "I can play in front of 1,000 people and be OK, but it's hard for me to give a speech in front of, like, 20 people."

Edwards wasn't really into sports early on either. She was more into tap dancing and ballet. She even missed a few games so that she could go to dance recitals and ballet practice. She didn't see a future in basketball until middle school.

"When I was playing at Reynolds Park I was into ballet and tap dance," Edwards said. "I used to miss basketball games so I could go to ballet practice. I didn't think I was gonna have a future in

basketball. I took ballet very serious. I didn't really like playing basketball until I got in seventh grade at Hill Middle School. The people I played with made it more fun for me."

Now both former Bobcats are on their way to college, in hopes of making names for themselves on the basketball court, football field and classroom.

"My motivation is to go to school and get an education," Cook said. "I want to get a master's degree in education. Hopefully, I can sign a professional contract somewhere in there, but my focus is on school and being a Ram."

Edwards added: "I'm pretty excited about school. I'm not excited about the workouts, but I'm excited about going up there to play, and majoring in communication. I want to be a sports broadcaster."

McCorkle believes the sky is the limit for the two sports stars. He's confident they will both do well in all areas of life

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