

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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JANUARY 15, 2004

Rec center starts off season with nail biters

Carl Russell Center tips off basketball league

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The young ballers at Carl Russell Community Center got their season started last Thursday with the 13-15-year-old players getting the gym jumping. Many parents, players, supporters and onlookers crowded the center to see some of the future basketball stars of the city tip off.



Bailey

"Last Thursday night had a playoff-like atmosphere," center director Aaron Bailey said. "We had close to 200 people in attendance. It was a very successful night. I was extremely happy to see more parents than kids here tonight. That's definitely a step in the right direction."

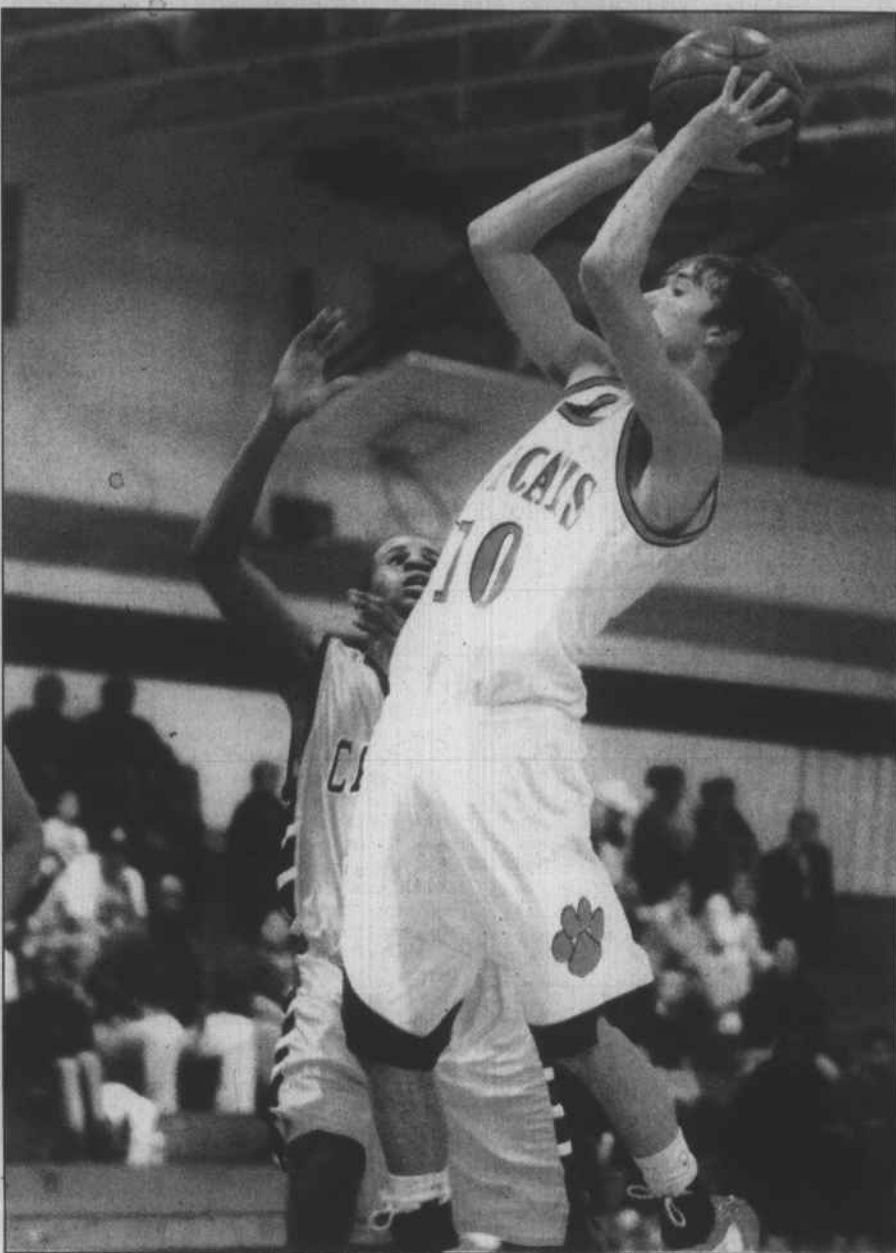
"God has truly blessed us to see such a positive turnout," Bailey continued. "I was a little discouraged initially. I didn't know if we would be able to match last year's intensity. Man, was I wrong."

Carl Russell's Generation Best basketball league is made up of 17 teams, with a combined 10 teams in the 4-5-, 6-9- and 10-12-year-old teams. The league has a total of seven teams in the 13-15-year-old league. The 13-15-year-old league plays on Thursday nights, and the young ballers hit the court on Saturday mornings.

A few changes and adjustments were made for the Generation Best season, but some things will remain the same.

"You're right, some things will always be the same," Bailey said. "Our coaches still have their competitive spirits. It was good to see Angela (Lampson) Dennis (Timmons) and (Marcellus)

Bobcats scratch Yellowjackets



Glenn's sophomore point guard Chase Hawkins goes up strong during a 61-52 victory over Carver on Tuesday night.

Glenn improves to 9-6 with win

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The bread and butter for the Glenn junior varsity basketball team has been its ability to rebound, and play tenacious defense all season. Bobcat head coach Carlos Mumford didn't stray away from that formula on Tuesday night as Glenn (9-6) outrebounded, outthrustled, and outplayed Carver 61-52 at Glenn gymnasium.

"The guys played hard and did everything I asked them to do. We're finally gelling and playing well. This is the right time of year to be coming together. I felt real confident before this game. As long as we could get the ball inside I knew we would do well. I think we did that tonight. We basically just got the ball inside and took what was given to us."

Glenn's Terrance Crosby did most of the damage, inside, on his way to a 12-point, nine-rebound night. He also finished the game with three assists. Matt Patterson and Gary Mahatha also gave the Yellowjackets headaches in the paint. The two players combined to score 22 points and grab over 15 rebounds.

"That's what killed us," Carver coach Rob Moore Jr. said. "They're inside guys just wore us down. We're playing seven guys out there. And they've got two or three great big guys. That size just wore us down."

Carver seemed to have the advantage in the early stages of the game. The explosive acquisition the Yellowjackets obtained from their varsity squad, Tremayne Clemens, paid off in large amounts in the first quarter. Clemens scored eight of the Yellowjackets' 14 points in the opening quarter. But the Bobcats only allowed him to score three more points for the rest of the half. Glenn only allowed five total points in the entire second quarter.

The trio of Patterson, Crosby and Mahatha continued to put dents in the Carver defense, as they were able to get numerous put backs.



Mumford

Anything can happen in football

FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill



I don't know whether to be happy or simply satisfied with the Panthers' recent success. I know one thing: I'd be much happier if the game was going to be played in Charlotte instead of Philadelphia.

The game could have easily been played in Charlotte. If the Green Bay Packers, who had an early 14-point lead over Philly, would have beaten the Eagles on Sunday, the NFC championship game would have been played at Ericsson Stadium. All the Packers had to do was maintain a comfortable, first-half lead, convert on a fourth-and-one late in the game, stop the Eagles on a fourth-and-26, and tell Brett Favre not to just throw the ball up in the air after being rushed, in overtime. That seemed easy enough, didn't it?

The truth of the matter, nothing is easy in the playoffs. Every team is good, and anything is possible. With that said, I think the Panthers have a legitimate chance at beating the Eagles on Sunday. All they have to do is contain Donovan McNabb. He's going to run when no one is open. He's going to throw a lot of post routes and slants. He's not going to get rattled if things go wrong for his team. It's not like the Eagles are worried about the Panthers.

"We're not worried 'bout

See Hill on B3

Maynard talks about being sidelined early

COMPILED BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

This is the third diary entry of WSSU baller Jay Maynard. He shares his thoughts, frustrations and inspirations during his time out, healing a broken tibia. Maynard had surgery to repair his broken leg on Nov. 17.

This is a day full of mixed emotions (Nov. 17). I don't want to go through with the surgery, but I was told that I wouldn't be cleared to play unless I got the surgery. So here I am on this table, waiting to be repaired. I feel like a wrecked car - a nice wrecked car, though.

The hardest part about this is thinking I can still play, even though it (tibia) hurt pretty bad after the Longwood game. But I've been battling this thing for the last three months. I even played against NBA players with this banged-up leg. I knew

it was cracked when I played in the Pan Am games over the summer. This whole thing was sort of a trial-and-error situation for me. I knew I was hurt, but I wanted to see how much I could do with the injury. (Pause.) I



don't know. I guess this (surgery) is the right thing to do. Well, I really don't have a choice. They kind of forced my hand with this matter. Besides, I'll risk the chance of completely breaking it if I continue to

play on it. To be honest with you, I'm a little nervous about this surgery. I guess that I better just do it and deal with it later.

What a complete difference a couple of hours makes. I began the day with so much hope. Now I don't ever feel like I will play basketball again, period. My knee is swollen, and I can't move my leg without pain. I've never had surgery for something like this before. The doctors said that I will probably be out four to six weeks. Man, I don't think I'll ever play again.

I don't know how I'm going to deal with this. This is my senior season, and I'm hurt. I've always been grounded and knew that it could've been over at any time. But when you're looking at your swollen knee, and you can't move it without pain, it will definitely hit you harder than anything else.

I don't even know how I'm

See Maynard on B4

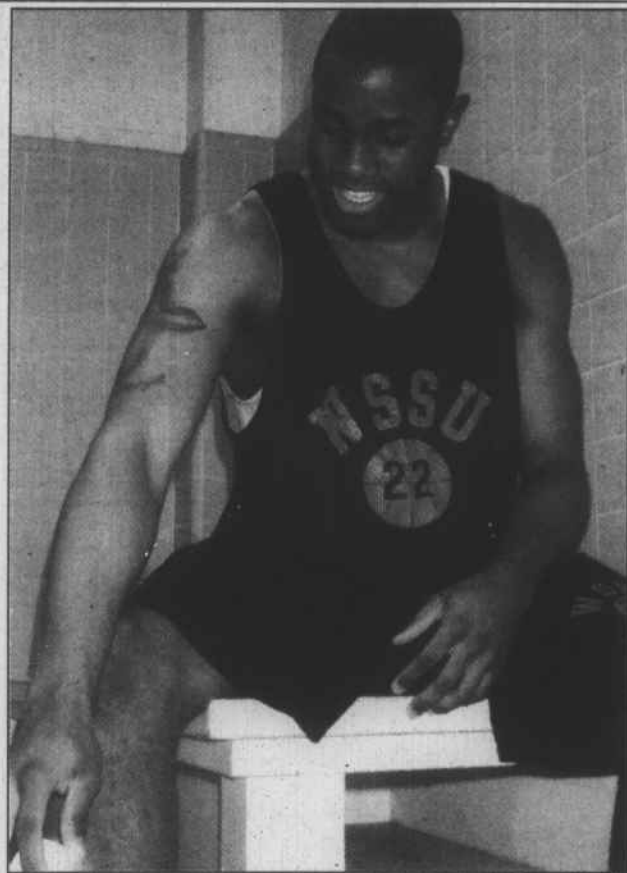


Photo by Anthony Hill

Jay Maynard ices his tibia before practice Monday night.

Eason and McGee named Crown Trophy Athletes of Week

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A pair of basketball point guards have been named the recipients of the Crown Trophy-WSSU Student Athlete of the Week awards on Monday, as Ram guard Rashad McGee (junior/guard/5'10"/Waxhaw, N.C.) and Lady Ram Nikki Eason (junior/guard/5'6"/Greenville, S.C.) have garnered the honor.

Eason led the Lady Rams to three CIAA victories last week, two of them coming versus Western Division opponents as WSSU finishes the week sitting atop the Western Division, undefeated in



McGee



Eason

divisional play.

McGee led the Rams to a 2-1 week, with wins over Elizabeth City State and Livingstone. The Rams are now sporting a 12-3 record overall. For their efforts last week, both Eason and McGee were chosen as the Crown Trophy Athletes of the Week.

Footnote:

Eason and McGee weren't the only Rams to earn honors this week for Winston-Salem State University.

Two of Winston-Salem State's most promising freshmen also earned honors for their performances on the hardwood last week.

Audley Wehner and Shalonda Carter both earned CIAA Rookie of the Week honors on Monday.

Carter, the 6-foot freshman from Fayetteville, averaged 9.6 points and nine rebounds for the Lady Rams last week. In a 72-58 win over Elizabeth City State, Carter scored 18 points and pulled down a career-high 15 rebounds.

Wehner continues to make a name for himself in the CIAA. He finished with 16.3 points and five rebounds for the Rams in their three games last week. In a 78-50 win over Livingstone last Saturday, Wehner scored a career-high 25 points for WSSU.