

SPORTS WEEK

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SECTION B

JULY 1, 2004



File photo
Shaquille O'Neal has been doing a lot of crying about his future in Los Angeles lately.

The big 'crybaby'

FROM THE HUDDLE
Anthony Hill



Shaquille O'Neal likes to refer to himself as a lot of funny names. A few of you may remember Shaquille calling himself names like the big Aristotle, the big daddy, the big diesel and other names that begin with the word "big." Well, I've got another one for Shaq, and it's the "Big Crybaby."

It was bad enough that he showed the world that he will quit if and when his team is done by the way he played with minimal effort during the NBA Finals when it was evident the Pistons were going to win. Now, he's grabbing the headlines by crying about the Lakers, saying the organization isn't committed to winning anymore. Neither are you, Shaq. It seems like Shaq can't take it when he's not in the spotlight. This offseason began with everyone talking about the future of Phil Jackson, Kobe, Karl Malone and Gary Payton. And Shaq simply couldn't take that. He had to make his future shaky as well, and he did so by trying to piss off Lakers owner Jerry Buss so much that he couldn't take another year of Shaq on the team.

Shaq made it perfectly clear that he wants out of L.A. If you ask the big diesel, he'll pretty much tell you that it's not about if he's leaving, it's about when he's leaving. "There ain't no ifs," Shaquille O'Neal told the Associated Press last week. "I want to play for a team that's willing to win."

Shaq has to understand that it's not gonna be an easy task to trade him. One reason is his monster contract. O'Neal is under contract in Los Angeles for two more seasons - at close to \$30 million per - and while management has indicated a willingness to trade him, the Lakers won't comply unless they get value in return. And how many teams, besides Dallas, has that type of money? Another thing that's making it kind of hard to deal the big diesel is his age. O'Neal, at

See Hill on B5

NCCU player taken in draft

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Young becomes school's first NBA draft pick in 21 years

Last week was a good one for N.C. Central University senior David Young.

Young had his dream fulfilled last Thursday night when the Seattle SuperSonics selected the All-CIAA guard with the 41st overall pick in the 2004 NBA Draft. Young, NCCU's first NBA draft pick in 21 years, sat alone in an Atlanta hotel room when he saw his name flash on the television as the 12th player chosen in the second round.

"Wow," Young said, "God is good."

After ending his college career as the Eagles' top scorer in 2003-04 with 20.5 points per game, Young faced a long and tough journey around the NBA workout circuit. He had workouts with the Houston Rockets (May 24), Washington Wizards (May 27), Los Angeles Lakers (May 28 and June 23), Seattle SuperSonics (June 4 and June 19), Detroit Pistons (June 14),

San Antonio Spurs (June 15), Dallas Mavericks (June 17), Miami Heat (June 21) and Atlanta Hawks (June 22).

"I knew I had real strong workouts with the Los Angeles Lakers, Miami and Seattle, and they all had good things to say about me," Young said. "I felt it was just a matter of time. I have endured and persevered through a lot of tough times. I have always dreamed about playing in the NBA. I got a second opportunity at North Carolina Central University, and now my dream has come true."

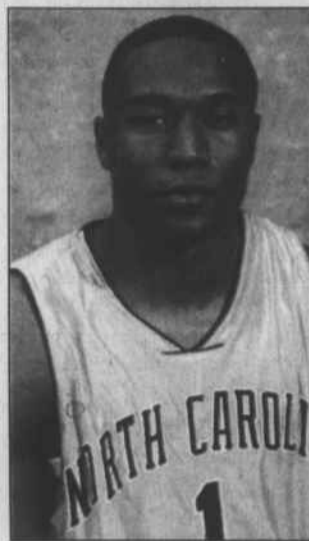
A native of New Castle, Pa., Young came to NCCU via Xavier University, where he saw his playing time diminish after three seasons with the Musketeers. The 1999 Pennsylvania State Player of the Year made a big impact during his only season in Durham, becoming the first Eagle in 21 years to net more than 200 field

goals in a single season.

Ironically, the last Eagle to accomplish that feat is also the school's last NBA draft pick. David Binion was chosen by Seattle in the 10th round as the 221st overall pick in the 1983 draft after averaging 22.4 points per contest and earning All-CIAA honors as a senior. A year earlier, NCCU's Donald Sinclair was a 10th-round selection (217 overall) by the Washington Bullets.

Then there was Joe Pridden in 1969 (Round 18, San Diego Rockets), Lee Davis in 1968 (Round 10, Phoenix Suns), and Ted Manning, NCCU's all-time leading scorer, in 1965 (Round 5, Detroit Pistons).

Of course, the school's first and most notable NBA draftee came in 1957 when the Boston Celtics chose future Hall-of-Famer Sam Jones with the eighth pick in the first round of the draft.



David Young

Late Nite ballers light up gym

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

The first two weeks of the Late Nite league at 14th Street Recreation Center is almost complete. If the next three weeks are anything like the first two, then this will be the best Late Nite season ever.

"I'm really starting to enjoy this," said Rob Little, 14th Street Recreation Center director and league coordinator. "The first two weeks have been something else. The teams have really been playing well. This shows how tough the league is. Anybody can beat anybody on any given night. I'm ready for the next games."

The league will officially conclude the second week of play with two games tonight, starting at 7:30. The Hot Boyz, fresh off their thrilling win over One and Done on Tuesday, will face a hungry Young Guns team. And the league's top team, PSC, will bump heads with one of the best shooting squads, One and Done, at 8:30 p.m.

"PSC has really surprised me this year," Little said. "I am surprised they are the only undefeated team. They have good players, but I thought they would've gotten beat by some of the teams they've already beaten this season."

PSC 49, Young Guns 43: PSC made easy and quick waste of the Young Guns 49-43. It was the J.K. Edwards' show. Edwards stormed in the gym two minutes before tip-off. He didn't even get five warm-up shots, but he still handled his business on the court once the game began.

"Anytime you have a guy like J.K. Edwards you're going to have a good chance at winning," said PSC and North Forsyth coach Walter Faye. "He's probably the most dominant force in the league. I believe. He's definitely one of them. We needed him to step up, and he did."

Hot Boyz 68, One and Done 65: The next game will probably go down as the one with the season's most exciting finishes. It took three overtimes, but the Hot Boyz pulled off the three-point victory. Mike "Petey" Nowell hit a floater right below the top of the key with time running out in the third overtime to give the Hot Boyz the exciting win. The shot looked



Faye

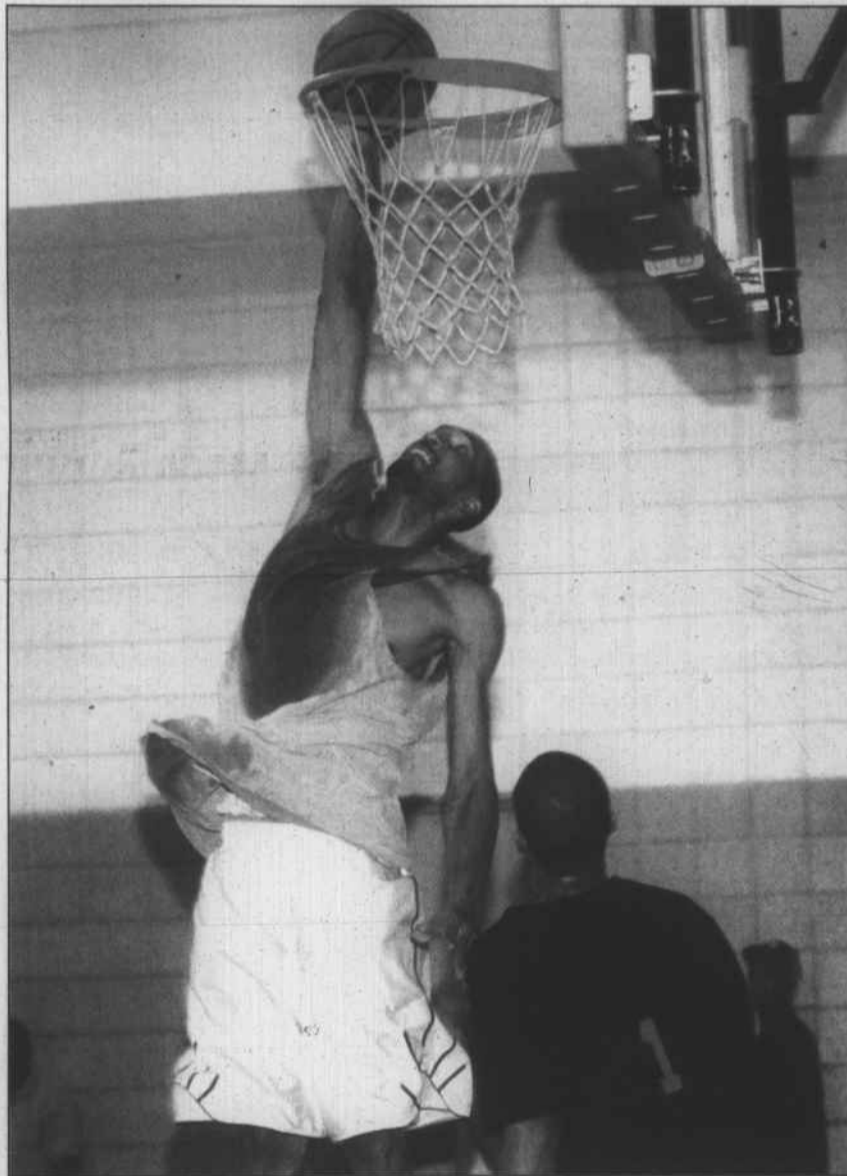


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

One and Done's Robert Stevenson goes up strong against the Hot Boyz on Tuesday night. Hot Boyz won the game 68-65 in a triple overtime thriller.

See Late Nite on B3

TIPS FROM J-Ho

Howard entertains local kids with hoops camp

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Josh Howard, Dallas Maverick star and former Demon Deacon, showed off some of his basketball moves to local kids earlier this week. As a matter of fact, he displayed his skills to the 110 kids who participated in his first-ever basketball camp, at Mount Tabor earlier this week.

"It's a first time for everything," Howard said of his camp. "I didn't expect the turnout to be the way that it was. One hundred and ten kids is a big number for your first camp. I'm real excited right now. This lets me know that a lot of people like me, and they're willing to send their kids to learn from me."

The camp began on Monday and concluded yesterday evening. Howard co-hosted the camp with One on One basketball coordinator Monty Gray. Gray said that his company headquarters, which is located in Washington, D.C., contacted Howard's agent, who is also based in D.C., to pitch ideas about doing a basketball camp together.

"It was kind of a no-brainer," Gray said of the choice to co-host the camp with Howard. "His (Howard's) agency is in D.C., just like our headquarters. Josh is from Winston-Salem, and our guys



Photo by Anthony Hill

Josh Howard laughs it up with lil' sister Jewel Robinson during his camp earlier this week.

See Howard on B4



Photo by Anthony Hill

Claudette Weston (second from left), Burt Weeks and Bucky Dane were awarded medals for their efforts in coordinating the State Games in this area. George Haybel and Chuck Haygood of N.C. Amateur Sports awarded the medals last Friday night at the State Games Gold Medal Reception.