

Reynolds Park director Bryant McCorkle presents Josh Howard with a plaque of appreciation last Saturday.

Photos by Ronald Beverly

# Howard excites Reynolds Park kids

More than 60 kids attend camp

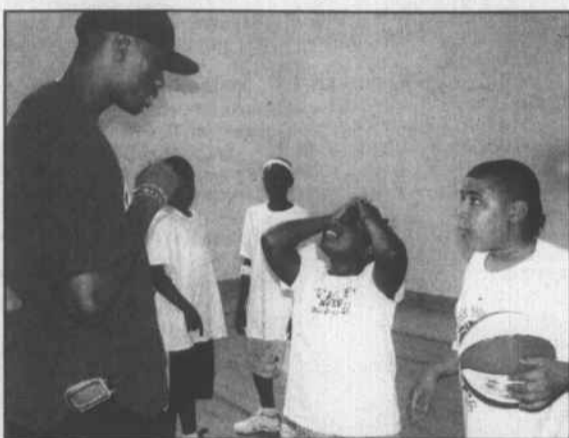
BY ANTHONY HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

There were scattered showers outside last Saturday, but it seemed bright and sunny inside Reynolds Park Recreation Center. Most of the positive energy was exerted by the more than 60 kids who packed the gym for a free basketball camp put on by Dallas Maverick star Josh Howard.

Many kids were at the center two hours before the camp actually began to try to get a jump on the excitement.

"This is something that we're very excited to do," said Reynolds Park director Bryant McCorkle. "The kids really had a great time today because they all look up to Josh. I was able to get Josh here through his friends and his agent, and I know that I had a ball today."

Howard hosted his official camp earlier this summer, but he wanted a chance to give back to Reynolds Park, the



Howard takes time to teach local kids some basketball.

center that he basically grew up in. He also wanted to treat the kids that participate in the center. As a matter of fact, only kids from that center and area around the center attended the camp over the weekend.

"We could've had a lot more kids here today," McCorkle said. "There were only kids from this center here, and that was good. It really made these kids feel a

little more special because they all felt like Josh was doing this for them, and he basically was."

The kids all got a chance to go through various player development drills with Howard and a number of other basketball instructors. After the drills, the kids listened to Howard speak about various topics. Then, all of the participants were given photographs

autographed by Howard, Nike T-shirts and key chains.

"I can't say enough about how much this meant to us," McCorkle said. "This meant a whole lot. I mean, this was a real biggie for us."

Howard wasn't the only person giving out gifts of appreciation. McCorkle also presented Howard with a plaque to recognize his dedication to his community and to thank him for always being there to help out the kids.

"I presented him with a plaque for the community service that he always finds time to put in," McCorkle said. "To be honest with you, he (Howard) looked like this really touched him. I had never really seen that side of him. I could see that he was really thankful to get the plaque."

"The moment almost got to me because I can't help but to think about when Josh was younger, coming through here. And then I look at him now. That's touching to the people that really care about him. I can't wait to do this again."

there's no rush now.

And playing basketball in North Carolina isn't exactly like playing tennis in Minnesota (a state that's known for hockey). This place is and will probably always be a hotbed for hoop talent.

Another thing that I'm wondering about is whether Marshall Moses and Sam Grooms have been added into this rotation. I mean, it seems like it would be easier to get Moses and Grooms into St. Vincent, St. Mary's than it would be to get them both into Glenn. So who knows how this will turn out. We'll just have to wait and see.

Stephen A. Smith's show started this week

One of my favorite columnists/analysts, Stephen A. Smith's show "Quite Frankly" debuted this week on ESPN. I've only caught two episodes, but it looked good so far.

He also had a feature on him in the latest Sports Illustrated. I

mean, things are looking good for Stephen A. I'm happy for him. I hope that he can keep the show going for a minute and make it a classic, like "Larry King Live," "The Tonight Show," or maybe even the "Daily Show." Who knows? I know I'll continue to look forward to seeing the best guests, while hearing some of the best questions. I expect to disagree a few times, but I also expect to learn something too.

That's what Smith brings to the table. So check him out on ESPN 2 at 6:30 p.m. during the week.

My girl got traded

I usually don't give two thoughts about trades that occur in the WNBA. That changed when I got the release about Dawn Staley being traded to the Houston Comets for two players and two first-round draft picks on Monday.

"This move will help us con-

tinue to rebuild our team. We now have two first-round draft picks in 2006 plus two proven players in Rasmussen and Goodson," said head coach and general manager Trudi Lacey.

"Dawn Staley has been a great ambassador for women's basketball and the Charlotte Sting in every possible aspect. She has meant the world to our franchise, and we wish her nothing but the best. This gives her an opportunity to compete for a WNBA championship," Lacey said.

Staley is my favorite female athlete of all time, and I never thought she'd leave the Sting through a trade. I always thought that she'd leave on her own terms, and the Sting would always want her leadership. But I guess ultimately this was the best thing for her. Charlotte isn't having the best season, and Houston is a championship-caliber squad. So I guess I need to be happy for Dawn and hope that she wins a title in her new home.

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## Hill

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under team. Three players from North Carolina are on the team. I know that we all play against each other, but we're a family. So don't step on our toes by speaking about the caliber of competition in this area."

Gould wasn't finished talking. "The bottom line is he's wrong," Gould continued. "He's using Eric to get his name out there. I keep hearing his name (Brian Clifton) come up. He's getting quoted in all of these stories. He's basically turning into Eric's agent or something. And Eric is such a good kid. I mean, he's a great kid. Then you have this coach that's trying to get his name out through him (Wallace)."

Whatever the case may be with Clifton is between him and Wallace, I guess. I just don't think that Wallace should leave. I mean, what's wrong with playing at Glenn, seriously? It would be different if there wasn't a new 20-year-old age limit to enter the NBA. Then, I guess, Wallace might need to jump to a bigger stage to get ready. Maybe. But

## Gray

From page B1

versity (Pa.) head coach Phil Martelli, who was an assistant coach on the 2001 USA U21 World Championship Team that claimed the gold medal in Japan.

"They've been well schooled by their college coaches, and I think they've all been raised properly because they all talk about being very appreciative of the opportunity of being able to represent their country, to represent their schools, their programs and their families. I think those are good values and it's a good core to have to start with on any team."

"As a college coach, you don't normally have to deal with this," Martelli continued. "But the players who were let go gave us everything they had. There's nobody



Gray

being let go who wasn't a good player or didn't handle themselves properly. They let their play do the talking.

"This was a lot of hours. You don't expect to have sleepless nights in July as a college coach, but I've had two on this trip. Both times were as we were approaching the cut-down. I never want to be in a position to take away somebody's dream or their aspirations. It was not easy; these were not easy choices that we had to make."

In addition to Gray, Redick and Withers, named to the 2005 USA U21 National Team were: Mardy Collins (Temple), Glen Davis (LSU), Nick Fazekas (Nevada), Rudy Gay (Connecticut), Taj Gray (Oklahoma), Allan Ray (Villanova), Terrence Roberts (Syracuse), Rajon Rondo (Kentucky), and

Marcus Williams (Connecticut).

"I'm really anxious because when we first got together we told them the goal was to win the gold medal," added Martelli. "The gold medal is not attainable on the first day. Seven, eight or nine days in, that doesn't change. The gold medal is not attainable unless we maximize every day along the path to the gold medal. I like our chances with this group, though."

The American team traveled to Mar del Plata, Argentina, to compete in the opening game of the 2005 FIBA U21 World Championship against China on Friday at 3:30 p.m. (all U21 World Championship times EDT). The United States will then go up against Lithuania on Aug. 6 at 2:30 p.m. and Puerto Rico on Aug. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

After a day off, the United States is slated to face Nigeria on Aug. 9 at 3 p.m. and will close out preliminary round play on Aug. 10 with a 12:45 p.m. contest against Slovenia. The quarterfinals, semi-

finals and finals will be played Aug. 12-14.

Acting as Martelli's assistants are collegiate head coaches James "Bruiser" Flint from Drexel University (Pa.) and Dennis Felton from the University of Georgia.

Contested Aug. 5-14 in Cordoba and Mar del Plata, Argentina, the 2005 FIBA Men's U21 World Championship will consist of 12 national teams split into two groups for preliminary round-robin play. The top four teams in each group will advance to the medal quarterfinals, while the fifth- and sixth-place finishing teams in each group will compete for ninth through 12th places.

The USA men are not only defending FIBA world champs at the U21 level, but the U.S. squad last summer dominated its FIBA Americas competition in striking gold with a 5-0 record. Overall, in the three previous FIBA World Championships for this age group, the United States has won gold twice and compiled a 22-2 record.

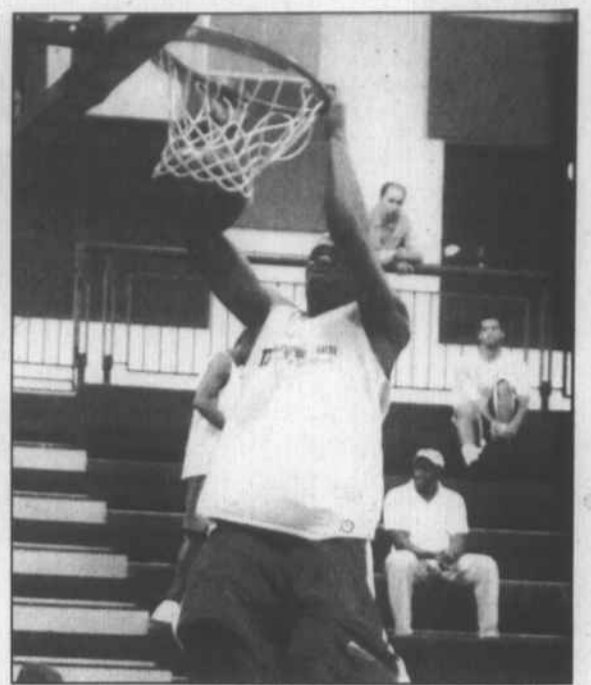


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Wake's Cameron Stanley has taken over the scoring average in the Pro Am league for the Cintas squad.

# Mercedes squad shooting lights out

BY ANTHONY HILL  
THE CHRONICLE

ton team.

Four weeks into the RLBA - Triad Pro Am league, and the Mercedes-Benz squad has officially taken over first place, and Wake standout Cameron Stanley has become the leading scorer in the league.

Last Friday, the Mercedes-Benz squad played a tough Cintas game and walked away with a 117-113 victory behind a 37-point performance by Rusty LaRue. Craig Dawson also came up big for the winners, chipping in 32 points and five rebounds.

The Cintas squad was paced by Bryant Camp. He finished the game with 46 points and 10 rebounds. Mike Smith chipped in with 20 points, while Trent Strickland finished with 19 points and seven rebounds in a losing effort.

The surprise game of the week had to be between the Cobb-Vantress squad and Page Printing. Page Printing was fighting for its first victory of the season, and it got it thanks to the play of Joe McClinton and Curtis Pass. The talented Anthony Crews also played big for the Page Printing squad. McClinton finished the game with 46 points, six rebounds and four assists. Pass finished with 26 points and eight assists, while Crews chipped in with 25 points.

The Cobb-Vantress squad was very disappointed after the game, but it still received respectable play from Thomas Burge, who finished with 38 points, and Caleb Kimbrough, who had 35 points during the loss.

The Velocity squad shocked a few people after it knocked off the Norman Stockton squad 111-100. Norman Stockton seems to still be reeling back from last Friday's defeat. The Norman Stockton squad even looked as if it was going to pull the victory off, but a late Velocity surge proved to be too much for the Norman Stock-

ton team.

Brad Harris led Velocity with 30 points and five assists. He was helped by Josh Shehan (24 points) and Rodney Blackstock (25 points, six rebounds and five assists). Norman Stockton was paced by Wake Forest player Mike Drum. Drum finished with 45 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow Deac John Buck also had a good game with 17 points and seven rebounds in the loss.

The standings are as follows (as of Monday): Mercedes-Benz of WS (6-1), Velocity (5-2), Norman Stockton (5-2), Cobb-Vantress (2-5), Cintas (2-5) and Page's Printing (1-6).

Here are the top scorers in the league are (after four weeks): Cameron Stanley (Cintas), 34 ppg; Chris Paul (Mercedes-Benz of WS), 34 ppg; Rodney Blackstock (Velocity), 33 ppg; Chris Oliver (Mercedes-Benz of WS), 30.25 ppg; Kevin Swinton (Cobb-Vantress), 29.60 ppg; Michael Drum (Norman Stockton), 28.71 ppg; Anthony Crews (Page's Printing), 28.29 ppg; Craig Dawson (Mercedes-Benz of WS), 28 ppg; Trent Strickland (Cintas), 27.67 ppg; Rusty LaRue (Mercedes-Benz of WS), 27 ppg.

Chris Oliver (Mercedes-Benz of WS) is still leading the league in rebounds with 18.5 rebounds a game. Kevin Swinton (Cobb-Vantress) is in second place with a 12-rebound-per-game average.

Friday's games are as follows: The Velocity squad will try to knock off the top team, Mercedes-Benz of WS, at 6:15 p.m. Page's Printing will try to continue the winning when it bumps heads with a reeling Norman Stockton squad at 7:45 p.m. The final game of the night will be between Trent Strickland and Cameron Stanley's Cintas squad and the Cobb-Vantress team. That game will begin at 9:15 p.m. All games are played at Forsyth Country Day's Childress Gym.

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