

Washington's Haywood returns to city

Washington Wizard center Brendan Haywood is very familiar with this area. He's played in a number of high school games in Winston-Salem while he was a basketball star at Dudley High School, where he was also named the Gatorade N.C. Player of the Year as a senior. Then he enjoyed quite a bit of success while playing with the Tarheels and defeating Wake a number of times in the Joel.

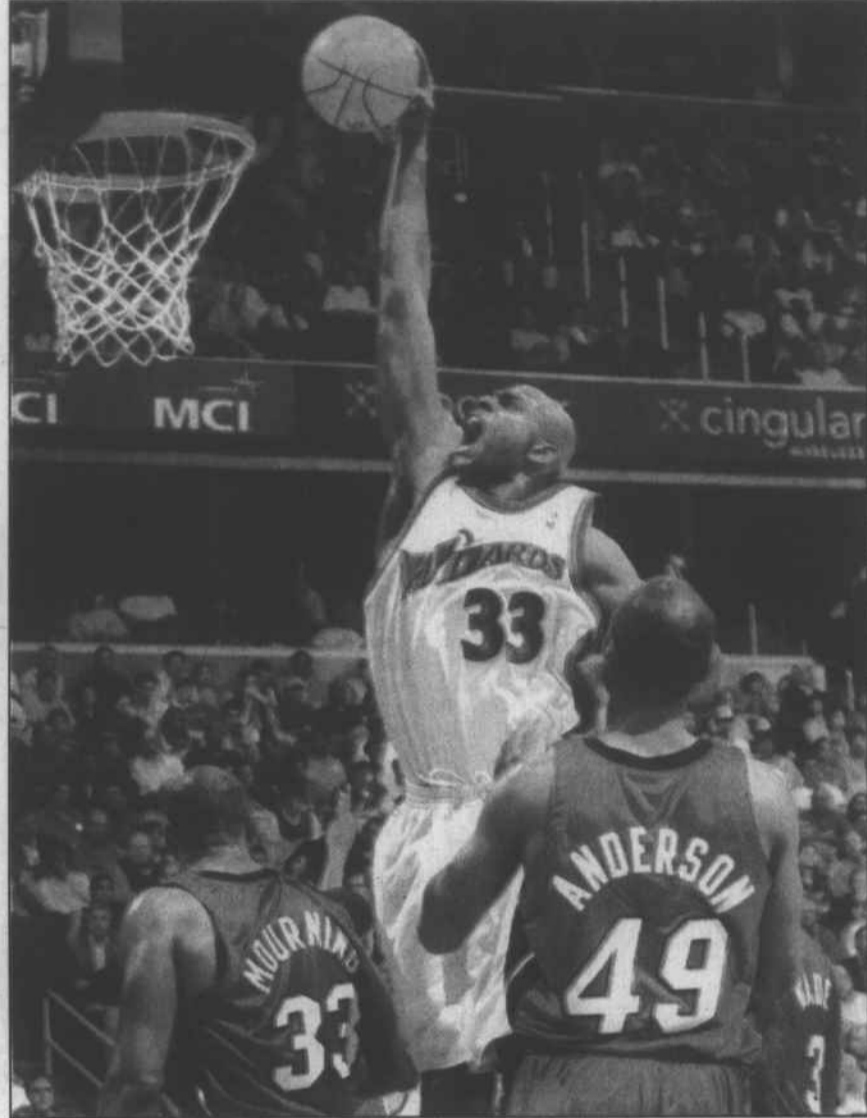
Haywood will return to Winston-Salem and the Joel when his Wizards play an NBA preseason basketball game against Tim Duncan and the San Antonio Spurs tonight. I wanted to see how Brendan felt heading into that game. I

Brendan: Uh, I feel all right. I don't think we played as good as we should've on defense. I'm real happy with the way that we started the game.

Anthony: You also got a chance to play against one of your former teammates in Larry Hughes. How big was that?

Brendan: It wasn't that big because it's just the preseason. Larry was chillin' out there a little bit. During the preseason most guys concentrate on running your offense and not getting hurt. So it was nice, but it wasn't that big of a deal.

Anthony: How important are these preseason games to



Washington Wizard center Brendan Haywood is a former all-state baller from Dudley High in Greensboro.

Photo by Mitchell Layton/NBA Photos/Getty Images

One-on-One with Anthony Hill

also wanted to see what's new with the 7-foot, former first-round draft pick from Greensboro.

Haywood began his NBA career on fire, after tying the MCI Center record with a career-high seven blocked shots against Atlanta on Dec. 12, 2001, during his rookie year. But he's only averaged 6.9 points per game so far in his career. That's big for the first player in UNC history to record a triple double in a single game and the ACC's all-time field goal percentage leader.

Brendan and I discussed his NBA career, as well as a few other things when he and I talked earlier this week.

Anthony: What's good, Brendan?

Brendan: I'm chillin'.

Anthony: I feel that. How do you feel after that first preseason game (on Monday)?

you all?

Brendan: I think the closer you get to the season, every preseason game becomes more important. At the beginning, you just want to implement some of the stuff you learned in training camp and get everyone in (the games). Toward the end, you try to warm up more for the season.

Anthony: Well you've got a big preseason game on Thursday (tonight) in this area. How big is that game going to be for you, being that you're from around here?

Brendan: Um, I definitely want to come out and do well because I will be in front of my home crowd. I'm going to be in front of a lot of family and friends. You always want to come in and do your best at home.

Anthony: Is it important to win?

Brendan: Sure. I mean, you want to get a win because

you want to play well. You want the starting unit to come out and play well. You want the second team to play well. And you want the guys that are trying to make the team to play well. It's always important to get the win because you want to see that progression. You're

not crying if you lose, but you definitely want to get the win.

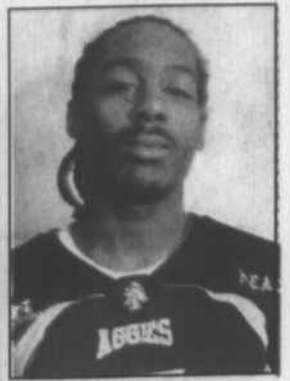
Anthony: I feel that. Let's talk about your Tarheels for a moment.

Brendan: All right.

Anthony: How big was that for you to see your boys win it all this past year?

Brendan: It was great to see Carolina back on top. They hit a low for a little bit after I left. We weren't doing so well. But those guys worked hard and worked their way to the top. They made the Carolina

See One-on-One on B5



Brandon Trusty

Trusty gets MEAC honors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Hampton University running back Alonzo Coleman was selected the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week, the league announced on Monday. Delaware State linebacker Sam Smith was chosen Defensive Player of the Week.

But they weren't the only two big winners out of the MEAC on Monday.

Aggie senior Brandon Trusty also picked up MEAC weekly honors after his play against Morgan State last week. Trusty did it all last Saturday, but he made two key special teams plays that earned MEAC Special Teams Player of the Week honors.

Trusty completed a pass, scored on a punt return and scored a two-point conversion in the Aggies' 40-33 overtime win over Morgan State.

Trusty started the game with a 62-yard completion to Chaz Dawson that set up a 3-yard touchdown by Orrick "Rico" Watkins. Trusty then took over on the special teams phase of the game. He used a block from Michael Hays to break into open field for an 88-yard punt return that gave the Aggies a 19-0 first-quarter lead.

Trusty's final feat of the evening may have saved the game for the Aggies. With the Aggies leading 31-25 in the third quarter, Trusty, who was playing the role of holder on an extra point following one of Brandon Sweeney's four touchdowns, took a bad snap from center. He alertly stood up and ran the ball into the end zone before the Morgan State defenders even noticed.

Trusty's main duty is still catching passes. He had five catches for 57 yards last Saturday and has caught at least one pass in 19 straight games, a streak that dates back to the 2003 season.

He leads the Aggies in receiving yards (208) and receiving (22 catches).

"We call him 'Trust,'" said Small. "I think that's an appropriate name for him. You can trust that he's going to do the right thing on the football field."

Other winners include Jonathan Woods (South Carolina State), who picked up Rookie of the Week honors; and the Pirates' Nevin McCaskill picked up Offensive Lineman of the Week.

A&T to host several track meets in spring

Irwin Belk Track getting more exposure

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Thanks to meets such as the Nike Championships and the N.C. High School Athletic Association Track and Field Championships in 2005, N.C. A&T's Irwin Belk Track emerged into a viable facility to host track and field events.

After 2006, it should blossom into one of the most utilized and respected track and field facilities in the country.

There will be 10 track and field events hosted at Irwin Belk in 2006, highlighted by the 2006 NCAA East Regional May 26-27. N.C. A&T will become the first historically black college or university to host a Division I NCAA track and field regional.

"This will be one of the finest track and field seasons in the history of our institution," said Roy "Spaceman" Thompson, the director of track field programs at N.C. A&T. "Being the first HBCU to host a Division I regional championship is a major accomplishment. I am very proud of my university."

Six different organizations will bring meets to Irwin Belk, including the return of the Nike High School Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which brought national exposure to N.C. A&T because thousands of the best high school athletes competed at Irwin Belk in 2005.

All four of the NCHSAA classifications' (1A, 2A, 3A and 4A) track and field championships, the Russell E. Blunt East Coast Invitational and the USATF National Age Group Championships also return. The other new addition to the schedule of events other than the NCAA East Regional is the MEAC Outdoor Track and

Field Championships, which will feature athletes from all 11 member institutions.

The Aggies track and field program will conduct four home meets of its own, starting with the Aggie Team Invitational on March 18. Teams scheduled to appear include Clemson, Howard, Maryland, Northeastern, North Carolina and Wake Forest.

The Aggie Relays, the Murray Neely Alumni Invitational and the Aggie Last Chance Meet will round out the Aggies' home schedule.



Thompson



Former Mt. Tabor sprinter J-Mee Samuels (left) broke a national record during the Blunt Invitational track meet this past summer.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY

Check it out!

You're Invited To
The Greatest Homecoming On Earth! and beyond

