

# YBA action resumes after break

*Ballers excite crowd on first weekend back*

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

It was business as usual at the Winston Lake Family YMCA over the weekend. After a two-week break, the action resumed over the weekend and some ballers looked as if they hadn't taken a break.

There were a number of respectable performances and a lot of good games last Saturday when action resumed.

**Bulls 50, Suns 43 (Little NBA):** One of the more exciting games took place in the 11-13-year-old division (Little NBA) during the game between the Bulls and Suns. The Bulls were able to pull out a 50-43 victory. The Bulls overcame an 11-point third-quarter deficit to get the win. There was also a supreme individual performance that had people talking after the contest: the play of Whitney Knight.

Knight showed why her coach, Frank Ratchford, thinks she could be a future star in the WNBA. She even hit three-straight 3-pointers to finish the game with a game-high 15 points.

Knight wasn't the only baller putting it down over the weekend for the winners, though. The talented Jon Brown and Taqueria Rhine also had good games for the Bulls. Rhine finished the game with nine assists.

"This week we came out and played together," said Bulls coach Frank Ratchford. "A great week of practice really paid off for us."

Antonio Leak (17 points)

## Harris

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two guys I've named," Reynolds said. "C.J. hasn't played JV ball. From day one he was the best point guard on the floor."

Harris added: "I really wasn't expecting to play varsity at first. I would've been happy playing JV. I appreciate this opportunity. It's given me a chance to get a lot of experience."

Leading the team isn't anything new to Harris, though. He was the man at Kernersville Middle School, where he led the team in scoring and assists. Even though Kernersville Middle School got defeated in the semifinals in the playoffs last year, few teams had answers for Harris. He always seemingly found ways to put up big numbers on the scoreboard and high assists in the box scores.

## Hill

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future if he just would've stayed clean. Now his problems may scare a few teams away."

Very true. But I also began to find out some of the other offenses Vick has been caught up in since being a freshman. I mean, his track record is ridiculous if you ask me. Check out some of his violations. In 2003 he was suspended for on-and-off problems in school. Let me remind you that his freshman year was 2002.

In February of 2004, Vick was arrested for allowing underage girls to have alcohol and allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old a month earlier. In May of that year, he was convicted of giving alcohol to those minors but was found innocent of the sex charges.

In July of 2004 he was charged with reckless driving and possession of marijuana after a traffic stop. That's what got him suspended from the VT football team last year, which was made official the following August. Vick was also forced to undergo drug counseling and random drug tests, and give up his driver's license for six months.

Last October, Vick was seen flipping off a few West Virginia fans during a 34-20 win over the Mountaineers. And I saw footage of Vick throwing an elbow at a West Virginia coach at some point in that game on ESPN over the weekend. (I'm smiling as I type this.) It was a serious elbow too.

I'm not finished yet. On Dec. 17 (last month), Vick was



Machad Covington attempts a shot during a YBA game at the Winston Lake YMCA over the weekend.

and Chrishon Gwyn (9 points) paced the Suns in the loss.

"We were missing some key players for this game," said Suns coach Brian Leak. "Other kids stepped up, but we simply couldn't hold on to the lead we had."

The Celtics were able to defeat the Hornets 44-34 in the other Little NBA game last week.

There were also some good games played in the 5-7 age group (Little CIAA).

**Vikings 19, Eagles 9 (Little CIAA):** The Vikings and Eagles battled hard for a win, but only one of those squads could win the game. The Vikings were able to get by the Eagles 19-9. Both teams appeared to be even as the game began.

"That's the best part of my game," Harris said. "I love to pass it to people. I really like it a lot. I like to score too sometimes. I was the leader of my middle school team last year with my passing and scoring."

Reynolds added: "I've known C.J. for a long time. I remember when he was born, but I also saw him play in middle school. He comes from an excellent program. I told the coaches then that he has to get stronger. I knew we'd have him for two years on JV and move him up. But he was just too good when we started practicing."

"He has great court vision," Reynolds continued. "You can tell that he's been playing with older guys because of the way he plays. He's got a lot of speed and strength. This is big to me because I'm not big on playing ninth-grade point guards, but he does a good job of running this team. He still needs to get

stronger, but he handles himself pretty well now."

Harris, who's 6 feet tall, admits that he's got to get stronger, quicker and more consistent with his shots. He said that he really realized some of those things after a defeat to an area school.

"I knew I had to get better after the second Glenn game," Harris said. "I have to do a better job of handling ball pressure. It's tough playing on varsity. I'm feeling better and better as the year goes on, though."

Sometimes upperclassmen aren't very patient. Some older teammates occasionally complain about a young guy leading the team.

"That was one of the things I worried about early," Reynolds said. "I thought it might be a problem, but you have to look at it and see what's better for the team. It's always about the team. We just took off with him in

there. Now other teams are paying more attention to him."

Harris also might already be on the radar of a few colleges too. During the Frank Spencer Holiday Tournament, a coach of an unnamed school gave Harris major praise during the Eagles' close loss to Parkland. The recruiter said that Harris was one of the best players he'd seen in the entire tournament.

"That surprises me to hear people say things like that," Harris said. "It also tells me to keep going hard. I know that I can get better. I just want to get there as soon as possible. My top goal is to get to the state playoffs. If things keep going right, we could be there this year. That's what I want right now."

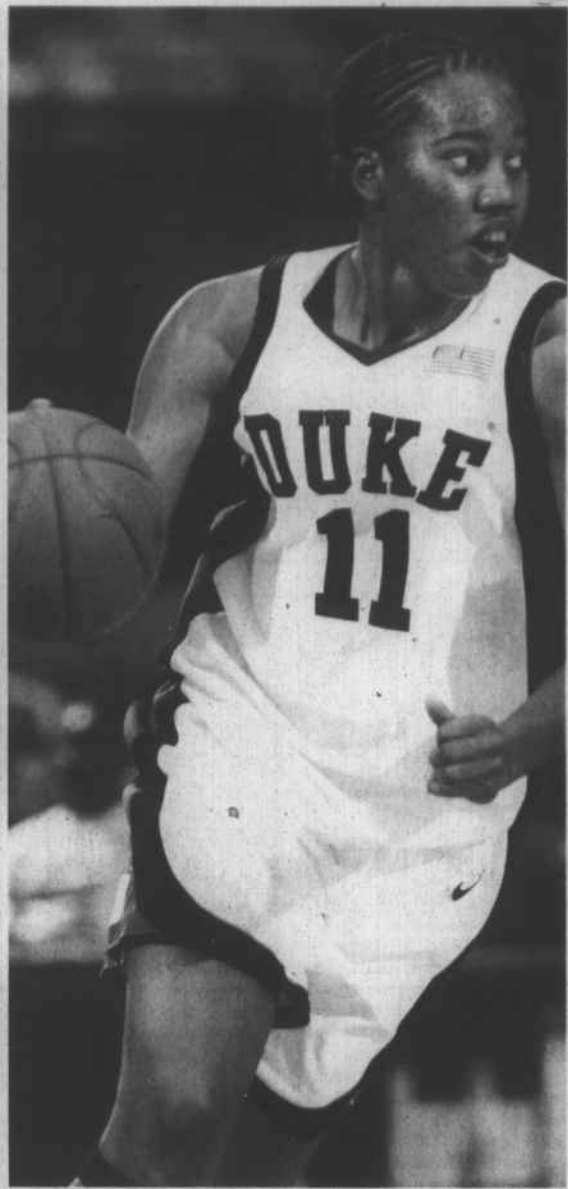
Brandon Worthy paced the Hokies in the defeat.

Hokie coach George Lyons said that the Hurricanes hurt his team with their pressure defense and offensive rebounds. He said that caused his team to turn the ball over too many times.

"We played well on defense," said Hurricane coach Jeff Clark. "Our defense slacked at times, but we picked it up when we needed it most."

In other Little ACC action: The Cavaliers defeated the Deacs 27-23 behind the play of William Dungee. The Tarheels also picked up a 34-17 win over the Tigers.

**Footnote:** Game information needs to be submitted to Tim Henry to be included in The Chronicle.



Black has been coming on strong for the Blue Devils this season.

## Black

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age. But the Blue Devils held Maryland, the nation's second-leading scoring team, more than 20 points under its season average.

Duke will next be at home again against N.C. State Jan.

19 at 7 p.m. The Jan. 23 game against Tennessee at Cameron Indoor Stadium is already sold out. The official announcement marks the third time in the program's history that a women's basketball game has sold out ahead of time in the 9,314-seat historic Cameron Indoor Stadium.

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Marcus' big brother is NFL star QB Michael Vick.

pulled over for driving about 38 mph in a 25 mph zone. Did I mention that his license was suspended, and he wasn't even supposed to be driving? Then, the Gator incident. And the incident with Vick and a gun.

I'm not exactly sure what all actually happen with Vick and the gun. But the parents of a teenage boy reported that Vick pointed a weapon at their son and two others during an altercation at a McDonald's in Suffolk, Va. The Washington Post reported that a person close to Vick said the teenagers were taunting the quarterback and that Vick showed the gun to scare them. The police still haven't located a gun.

So that's basically what happened to Marcus. It's crazy how Vick could go from being the runner-up to Wake's Chris Barclay, by one vote, as the

ACC's offensive player of the year, and was the league's first-team quarterback and then be kicked off the team.

In 24 career games, the 6-foot, 212-pound Vick threw for 2,868 yards, 19 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. He also ran 184 times for 492 yards and six touchdowns. So he's got some skills. He simply needs to transfer to a Division I-AA school (Hampton) and prove that he's not a bad guy, pick up a few awards and maybe a championship.

All I know is that he's NOT ready for the league, and it would be a waste of talent if he tried to get there now.

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