

Hosiery summer hoops league begins

BY RORY DAVIS
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Hot Summer Hoops League at Hanes Hosiery is off to a hot start this year. The action began during the last week of June, and seems to be getting hotter each week.

Young ballers in the 6-9 Division have been playing some of the more exciting games so far. No team is hotter than the Blue Devils.

Blue Devils 24, Deacons 19: The Blue Devils began the season with a 19-14 win over the Wolfpack. Celeste Burgess led the charge during the first win. Caleb Burgess also played big during the opening win. In the second game, Arrington Gray scored 18 points to lead the Blue Devils to a hard-fought victory over the Deacons.

The Deacons were fresh off a 7-point win over the Tarheels. The Deacs appeared to have a chance to force overtime, but Dedrick Hawkins' 3-point attempt fell short. Gray snagged the rebound and sank two free throws to provide the final margin. David Blake chipped in with 6 points for the Blue Devils, while Hawkins led the Deacons with 11.

Wolfpack 19, Tarheels 17 (OT): The Tarheels have played sound basketball for two-straight games, but still haven't found a way to win. They dropped a close game to the Deacs during the first game of the season. Then, dropped a 19-17 game to the Wolfpack last week.



The Heat hope to contend for a summer league title.

Fouled on a 3-point attempt as the final horn sounded, Tevin Lloyd of the Tarheels knocked down all three free throws to send the game into overtime. The Wolfpack opened the game on an 8-0 run, but the Tarheels clamped down on defense — scratching and clawing their way back into the game. Boo-Boo Blue (11 points) and Zack McLeod (6 points) led the way for the Wolfpack, with McLeod hitting two late free throws to give the Wolfpack the victory. Lloyd scored 15 points for the Tarheels in the losing effort.

The Mavericks and Suns picked up victories in the 10-13 Division last week.

Mavericks 32, Spurs 28: Rakee Badger scored 26 points as the Mavericks outlasted the Spurs 32-28. Badger used his superior quickness and strength to score at will against the Spurs defense.

Fortunately for the Spurs, their offense kept them in the game. Gary Lash hit two key 3-pointers, while Corey Allen and Daisean Rucker combined for another 16 points to keep the Spurs in the game. The two teams battled back and forth, swap-

ping the lead throughout the second half until Badger took control and put the game out of reach for the Mavericks.

Suns 37, Heat 25: Jared Smith scored 22 points, helping the Suns cruise to a lopsided victory over the Heat. Danny Roché scored another 8 points for the Suns. Although the outcome had been determined by halftime, the Heat played hard — cutting into the Suns' lead over the final minutes. Dede Johnson led the Suns with 7 points, while Jermaine Gay and Daquan Lee scored 6 points apiece for the Heat.



Wake's Michelle Sikes had an explosive senior season.

Wake's Sikes earns big honor

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest's Michelle Sikes has been named the 2007 Division I Outdoor Track & Field Scholar Athlete of the Year, as the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced the 2007 Women's Division I All-Academic Track & Field Team last week.

Demon Deacon track athletes Caitlin Chrisman, Lindsay Neuberger and Nicole Schappert were also named to the USTFCCA All-Academic Team.

Sikes, a mathematical economics major, had one of the most remarkable years of any student-athlete in the country. She won the 5000-meters at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Sacramento to become the first female track athlete in Wake Forest history to win an NCAA crown. Sikes also recently earned a spot on the USA World Championship team after finishing third in the 5000-meters at the USA Track & Field Championships.

"Michelle built confidence with each passing week and race. I have been very fortunate to work with such a wonderful young person who possesses so much passion, compassion and at the same time the desire and the ability to line up and challenge anyone at anytime. She has a bright future ahead of her, not only in athletics but professionally as well," Wake head coach Annie Bennett said.

In addition to her many athletic accomplishments, Sikes recently received the Marge Crisp Award as Wake Forest's top female athlete for 2006-07 and earlier this year was named a Rhodes Scholar, as well as an Atlantic Coast Conference Postgraduate Scholar.

"She has dedicated herself all year while still maintaining her difficult academic schedule; graduating in Wake's Honor Program and interviewing and winning the Rhodes Scholar award the weekend of NCAA Cross Country championships," Bennett said. "She is a very goal-oriented individual, and she kept her eye on the target all season."

415 student-athletes representing 117 Division I colleges and universities make up the All-Academic team.

The USTFCCA honors Division I individuals for their academic and athletic achievements during the indoor and outdoor track season. To qualify for the USTFCCA All-Academic Track and Field Team, one must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25 and obtain an NCAA automatic or provisional qualifying mark for the most recent indoor championships or an outdoor regional qualifying mark in their respective event.



Photo by Anthony Hill

Several players from the TICKS squad get ready for water aerobics.

T.I.C.K.S.

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ing the ball inside out," Smiley said. "To be honest with you, I didn't think that practicing two hours a week was enough time to prepare for nationals. We have good guard play, and a big man that no one can match up with. If we follow the game plan, we should be all right."

"I'm looking for Richard Daniels, Pat Nicholson, Derrick Grant, Trey Ervin and Jon II to really step up for us," Smiley continued. "... especially Jon II. He didn't have a good tournament for us during our last time out. If they step up then we should be straight. I'm confident we will win another national championship. I think we can come back with the gold."

Some of the other players that Smiley hopes to receive big play from are Antonio Leak, Kurt Myers, Burrell Brown, Terrell Thompson, Jason Kirshner, Jordan Robinson and Matt Turner — to name a few.

The TICKS' performances in various other tournaments have Smiley confident about his teams chances in the national tournament. He said his squad has played very well against a number of talented Division I AAU squads this year.

"... so I know we should be able to do some things in the tournament," Smiley said. "We've played some good Division I teams. The guys have really been working hard. Everything went well with the training camp too. We spent a lot of time on defense. We're going to be pressing a lot. Plus, we

have a very deep bench. Everyone is real excited about what we can do. Like I said, we've just got to

stick with the game plan and everything should work out."

Note: The TICKS uniforms and shoes were sponsored by Dallas Maverick star Josh Howard.

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