

Optimist Field Hockey competes for regional spot

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Optimist Field Hockey program sponsored a team of local high school Elite Field Hockey players when they recently traveled to Richmond, Va., to play in the U-19 indoor field hockey regional qualifier. Similar qualifiers are being held across the country with the top 12 teams from each region being selected to attend the USA Field Hockey National Indoor Field Hockey Tournament. The National Indoor Field Hockey Tournament will be held in Virginia Beach, Va., March 7-9, 2008 and will bring teams from all over the country.

The players representing the Winston Salem Optimist Field Hockey Club came from five local high schools: Mt. Tabor, West Forsyth, Forsyth Country Day School,



Members of an elite high school field hockey team, sponsored by the W-S Optimist Field Hockey program, pose for a photo.

Reynolds and Reagan high schools. Players who traveled to Richmond included Forsyth Country Day School junior Moriah Rhyne and Morgan Rhyne. Mt. Tabor juniors Ariel Keith, Julia Heelan and MC Hamilton, Reagan High School junior Alex Fox; West Forsyth seniors Bronwen Gainsford and Ariel Yoder and West Forsyth sophomore Amanda Hayes. Reynolds High freshman Kaitlin Anstrom was unable to accompany the team due to illness.

The squad battled the Typhoon Storm (Fredericksburg, Va.), Peninsula Lightning Blue Team (Gloucester, Va.), Ultimate PlayHer (Silver Spring, Md), Ultimate PlayHer and North Carolina TarDevils from Chapel Hill. The squad was unable to collect enough wins to qualify, despite a great effort. The

team plans to apply for a wild card spot into the National Indoor Tournament in March. According to team representative, the squad is convinced they were as good as any of the teams in attendance at Virginia. The team will compete in additional tournaments in February and March, in Maryland and Pennsylvania — respectively.

The Winston Salem Optimist Club sponsors the field hockey program and is comprised of volunteers, representing a cross-section of the community who are in action for the good of the youth of the community. Those wishing to sponsor or make donations to the Winston Salem Optimist Field Hockey program may do so by contacting the Optimist office at 773-1887 or by going online to www.wsoptimist.org.

Hill

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Jenkins, Cha'Von Young and Brandon Sloan, should play well in the tournament. The Demons have the number seed after winning the event last year.

"Being the defending champions doesn't translate into a whole lot," said Reynolds head JV coach Cris Wiley. "The number one seed is obviously a reference to last year's team. This is a new year and different team. We have to go into this tournament ready to fight every team we play. There's a lot of parity. This is anybody's tournament. I think we can compete with any team in this tournament. We simply need to take everything one game at a time."

North Forsyth also looks pretty good. They're led by C.J. Maxwell and Jamel Summers. Those two guys are nice at guard. West, Reagan and Glenn look pretty good

too. It should be interesting to see which teams outlast the rest this year. This is probably the most competitive the competition has been. I'm serious. Any team can win it this year. So, don't miss the championship game tomorrow night at 7:30. It's going to be a good one.

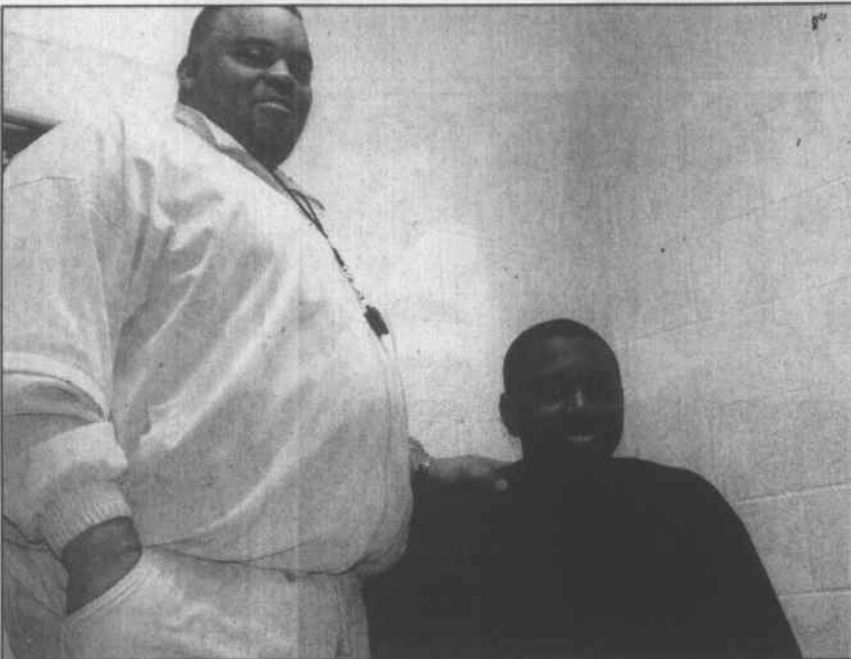
No one on one this week



Grace

There was no One on One interview this week due to the short week. I was going to talk with Clemson redshirt freshman lineman Chris Hairston. Hairston is a former Carver lineman that made first team all-state his senior year.

He and I spoke over the weekend. But I decided not to do the interview until next week. I thought it would be more interesting to talk to him after his bowl (Chick-fil-A Bowl) game against Auburn, which will be played on Dec. 31. He'll be starting for the Tigers too. So, check out that interview next week. It should be pretty good.



Carver's Keith Wilkes stands by Chris Hairston after the former all-state lineman signed with Clemson two years ago. Hairston will start for the Tigers during their Dec. 31 bowl game.

Who will win the Frank Spencer?

The varsity guys will be starting the Frank Spencer

today. That's always a great event. It should be even better this year with it going back to the local format. No one really wanted to watch a bunch of national teams playing each

other. This isn't AAU ball. It would be different if at least one of our teams were in contention. But that didn't seem to happen since the tournament started inviting high

school teams from around the country a year after Chris Paul and Reyshawn Terry graduated.

It would've probably been different if the Frank was like that when they were in high school. I think this year's event will be pretty good. I don't know which school will win it either. Last year, East Forsyth, coached by Clyde Reynolds, played well enough to capture the title. This year it will probably be between Mt. Tabor and Winston-Salem Prep. Both squads are playing pretty good right now. And, it's hard to bet against C.J. Harris and Mike Grace (Mt. Tabor). But I also know how hungry Big Reggie is for a Frank title. He even hit me up on Myspace on Christmas day to make sure I was going to be in the house. I told him that I plan on checking him out. I also want to see what my boy, Marcus Wright has in store.

So, I look forward to seeing a show.

Anthony Hill is the sports editor for The Chronicle. He can be reached at 722-8624 (ext. 111) or ahill@wschronicle.com.

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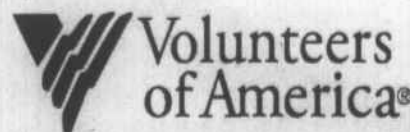


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