

# Wake Forest football ranks No. 24 in preseason poll

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest has been ranked 24th in the nation according to the preseason poll from Athlon Sports.

Athlon's preseason college football magazine is currently on newsstands. The Demon Deacons are coming off a 9-4 season in 2007 that included a 24-10 win over Connecticut in the Meineke Car Care Bowl. Wake Forest returns 44 lettermen including nine starters on a defense that ranked 27th nationally in total defense.

According to Athlon's preview of the 2008 season, "Wake Forest is enjoying the most successful period of its football history, and all the credit goes to its coach. Jim Grobe has instilled a disciplined, blue-collar approach to the game into his program and it has resulted in 20 wins over the last two years."

In addition, Athlon has selected Wake Forest cornerback Alphonso Smith to its preseason All-America team. The rising senior tied for the national lead with eight interceptions last year, returning three for touchdowns.

The entire Athlon's Preseason Top 25 was as followed: Florida, Ohio State, Oklahoma, USC, Georgia, Missouri, West Virginia, Auburn, LSU, Clemson, Texas, Wisconsin, Kansas, BYU, Arizona State, Illinois, Tennessee, Texas Tech, Oregon, South Florida, Virginia Tech, Rutgers, Penn State, Wake Forest and Fresno State.

## "HAPPY HILL" SEND OFF



Sims Center honored eight graduating seniors last Thursday at the center. Reggie Johnson, Solomon Gathings, Bryan McCorkle, Raymond Malone, Love Lemon, Christina Reid, Sanchez Allen and Antonio Sunday. Most of the students were also athletes in high school. Also pictured is Ben Piggott.

# Winston-Salem Mavericks take home the 11U AAU title

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem Mavericks 11U captured the USSA state championship in the Greensboro Coliseum (May 30-June 1), which qualified them for the USSA National tournament in Fort Wayne, Ind., in July. The Mavericks also finished fourth in the state in the AAU state tournament, and will accept the bid to Cocoa Beach, Fla., July 12-20.

The Mavericks 11U squad is coached by head coach

Willie "B.B." Patrick Jr., and assisted by James Cain, Bryant McCorkle, Mark Gentry. The owners of the team Mike Gonzalez, Willie Patrick and Brent Winslow.

The players are James Antoine, Mitch Cain, Dequan Cunningham, Jamal DeShields, Stephen Gentry, Ryan Henderson, Mike Hughes, Cameron Mack, JoJuan "Jay" McCorkle, Keeshon Patrick and Kendrick Summers.

"I told the guys that they

were a special group of young men," Patrick said. "To finish first in the state is a great accomplishment. We aren't satisfied with our accomplishments, though. We have more work to do in Cocoa Beach. We're looking forward to that."

The Winston-Salem Mavericks need donations, which are tax exempt. For donations contact coach Patrick at 336-416-0907. All checks should be payable to Winston-Salem Mavericks.



The Winston-Salem Mavericks

## Hill

from page B1

all about. Chris is going to be a very special player for a very long time in this league."

I always find it interesting to hear former NBA players praise Chris. I guess that's because I still remember the days when I had to convince so many sports critics around here that Chris was going to still be dominant at Wake, coming out of high school. Can you believe some people were like, "He's not going to start over Taron or Justin?" I know they're all good friends

now. But CP was about business when it came to winning that spot, and never giving it up. Believe that. Then, so many people thought he was going to have to grow an inch or two to be successful in the NBA, while I was saying he was going to be an all-star within his first three years. Shout out to Mike Floyd for remembering some of that, and bringing it up a couple weeks ago.

I was also kind of impressed with what Davison's Stephen Curry said about Chris. I was also surprised by the fact that he just met Chris over the weekend.

"Yeah, I just met Chris when I got here (Winston-Salem)," Curry said. "I didn't know him before. He and my dad share the same agent. That was our only connection. But he's a cool guy. He's definitely very talented. It's been a great experience to learn from him. I had a lot of fun."

I could've printed a number of other remarks, from a few other players. But I feel like you got the point. Chris is one of the solid leaders of the new NBA. The new NBA consist of very talented ballers that are friends with each other off the court. As long as Chris continues to connect with the

younger generation he'll have a firm grip on things in the new NBA. And, everyone will continue to love him as a person and player.

## QEA gearing for Jonathan Skinner Golf Classic

Quality Education is getting ready to host second annual Jonathan Skinner Golf Tournament, which will take place June 21 at Bermuda Run.

The special tournament will be in honor of the late Jonathan Skinner, who's the son of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood Skinner Sr. and the brother of Linwood Jr. Proceeds from the event will endow a scholar-

ship to a Quality Education Academy student beginning in 2010.

QEA's athletic director Isaac Pitts said the school will also add a celebrity basketball game this year, featuring area professionals like Josh Pittman, Tyson Patterson, Phillip McCandies, Danny Gathings, college standouts, incoming college standouts, and QEA basketball players. The special game will take place at the Winston Lake YMCA on June 20.

"We will (also) throw a after party at the 411 Night Spot," Pitts said. "This will be a weekend of fun and festivities for a good cause. We will

remember a extraordinary young man who's life was cut short. However his legacy will continue through the education of a young man or woman."

The golf tournament cost is \$100 a player or \$400 a team. All interested people are urged to make checks payable to Quality Education Academy Jonathan Skinner Memorial Golf Tournament and send to business office at QEA or contact Isaac Pitts at (336) 926-9324 or (336) 245-9095.

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

## Camp

from page B1

It's not just a one day thing. It takes a lot of hard work. And, you have to be hungry. Those are some of the things he's teaching in this camp."

Camp coordinator Tim Fuller added: "Chris sat down with C.J. and Dave Telep. They wanted to do something special for North Carolina. This camp was just going to be with kids from North Carolina, and states around it. Word got out, and we ended up extending invitations to kids all over. We have kids from Washington, Missouri, Boston, Philadelphia and Canada. Some of the top players in the country are here today.

"We also have quite a few college guys in here," Fuller continued. "That was C.J.'s vision to bring the college guys in. He wanted them to know about some of the things Chris went through in his first year. I think this is one of the best things to hit Winston-Salem in about 20 years, to bring college and high school kids together. The potential is unlimited. This can get even bigger."

Some of the high school guards in attendance were O.J. Mayo's younger brother, Todd Mayo (West Virginia), Tim Hardaway's son, Tim Hardaway Jr. (Florida), Glen Rice Jr. (Georgia), Abdul Gaddy (Washington), Fred Gulley (Arkansas), Mfon Udofia (Georgia), Myck Kabongo (Canada), Brian Oliver (Delaware) and Tony Chennault (Pennsylvania). Some of the local guards in attendance were Mt. Tabor's C.J. Harris, Mike Grace and Josh Hicks. Anthony Thomas was also invited to the camp.

Some of the college standouts were Nick Calathes (Florida), Stephen Curry (Davidson), Austin Freeman (Georgetown), Jack McClinton (Miami), Greivis Vasquez (Maryland), L.D. Williams, Ishmael Smith, Tyrese Rice (Boston College), Wes Matthews (Marquette), Devan Downey (South Carolina) and



Mt. Tabor's C.J. Harris applies defense during a drill

Jeff Allen (Virginia Tech)— to name a few.

"This has been a great experience," said Stephen Curry, of Davidson. "Watching Chris in the playoffs, and then getting firsthand lessons or advice from him is great. It's a lot of fun. We're also getting to play with guys from big time schools, doing big things. I'm loving it."

Chris Paul added: "This is something I never got to do while I was coming up. I never got to get with other players from around the country until after I graduated. I never had an opportunity to play with NBA guys. These guys are truly blessed. They are (also) getting an opportunity to build a relationship with guys they may know forever. I'm also getting to know these guys. I don't just talk to them for five or 10 minutes and then let them go home. I chilled with them at the hotel. We'll stay in contact."

## Camp highlights

Campers began the event by watching a CP3 video. Then, the guys had a dinner banquet at the Chop House — before playing video games. Saturday, participants listened to two seminars before heading to the YWCA for drills and other camp activities. Sunday, the guys had devotional, a photo session and championship scrimmages. The NBA players even went against camp counselors in a game. The game of the weekend took place last Saturday, though. The team of Chris Paul, Stephen Curry, L.D. Williams, Ish Smith and Malcom Delaney (Virginia Tech) ran through all comers in series of pick up games.

"We had a pretty good team," Curry said. "I don't think we lost one game, out of the eight that we played. Me shooting, Chris doing his thing — and Ish doing what he does. It was a lot of fun. I just met Chris when I got here. I didn't know him before. He and my dad have the same agent. That was our only connection. I felt connected on the court."

The camp seemed to connect quite a few student-athletes.

# JUNE SPECIALS PLAY ALL DAY

Monday-Friday (Excluding Holidays) (provided space available)

\$37 Championship (Includes cart & green fee)  
\$25 Reynolds (includes cart & green fee)

## TWILIGHT RATES

Every Day After 4pm

\$27 Championship (Includes cart & green fee)  
\$20 Reynolds (includes cart & green fee)

Seniors & Youth (12 & under), play Par 3 for \$4 Mon-Fri. / \$8 Weekends  
Annual Memberships \$1200

Join the Tanglewood Golf Association for golf and fellowship

Golf Clinic Schedule now available at [tanglewoodpark.org](http://tanglewoodpark.org)  
Junior Clinics— 6-7:30 p.m.  
June 9-13 and 16-20  
Advanced Junior Clinic— 6-7:30 p.m., June 23-29

For more information, please call 336-778-6320 or visit [www.tanglewoodpark.org](http://www.tanglewoodpark.org)

# TANGLEWOOD Park

Just 10 minutes west of Winston-Salem