

Squads pick up big wins at Hosiery

BY TREVOR LAWSON AND DEANNA MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The second week of action was seemingly as hot as the first week in the Hanes Hosiery Hot Hoops League. Several squads picked up big wins during league play last week, including the Wolfpack, Deacons, Spurs and Hornets.

Wolfpack 14, Blue Devils 13 (6-10 Division): The game between the Wolfpack and Blue Devils was a barn burner, with the Wolfpack narrowly defeating the Blue Devils — 14-13.

Jay Rutherford led the Wolfpack with 6 points, while Dontreal Anderson pitched in with 5 points for the winners. Deante Petree led the Blue Devils, as he recorded 40 of their 13 points by himself.

In other exciting action in the 6-10 Division, the Deacons ran past the Tarheels, 21-10. The young and talented Caleb Burgess displayed his skills during the win. He led all scorers with 11 points. Asanti Dabriel contributed with a solid 8 points. Haven Hairiton paced the Tarheels with 6 points.



The Wolfpack of the 6-10 Division.

Spurs 37, Lakers 32 (11-14 Division): In a back and forth game, Daniel Woodruff and Daquan Lee rallied the Spurs to a five-point victory over the Lakers.

Woodruff led the Spurs with 12 points, while Lee chipped in with 10 points for the winners. Joe Mitchell kept the Lakers within reach for most of the game, as he finished with a solid 17 points. L.J. Strickland and Trae Brown also poured in some valuable points for the Lakers — despite the loss.

In another 11-14 Division game, Rakie Badger put on a show. He led the Hornets to a 58-41 victory over the Celtics. Badger finished with 28 points in the win. Rae Brown and Emmanuel Maree each contributed with 11 points. Daisean Rucker led the way for the Celtics, scoring 20 of his teams 41 points.

Note: League games are played every Monday and Tuesday, starting at 1:30 p.m. Players in the 6-10 Division play on Monday, while 11-14 players battle on Tuesday.

NCCU'S Lawson selected USA track assistant

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina Central University cross country/track and field head coach Michael Lawson

has been selected as an assistant coach for the USA Track & Field National Team during the 2008 NACCA

(North American, Caribbean & Central American) Under-23 Championships in Toluca, Mexico, from July 18-20.

While his specific coaching assignment has not been made at this time, Lawson knows he will be working with the USA men's team.

"I am looking forward to gaining international experience and getting a chance to work with emerging Olympic-caliber athletes," Lawson said. "I will also be around some other quality coaches, so I hope to be able to bring back a lot of that experience to NCCU."

Lawson, in his 19th year at NCCU and the winner of several conference and regional awards, considers his appointment to the USA Track & Field National Team Staff as one of the top honors during his professional career.

"This is an incredible honor for me because it gives me the opportunity to step in the footprints of two coaching legends in track and field — Dr. LeRoy T. Walker and George Williams," Lawson said. "Dr. Walker established a track & field dynasty here at NCCU, and coach Williams was my coach during my collegiate career at Saint Augustine's."

Both Walker and Williams also took their college coaching experiences to the international level, including as Olympic coaches for the USA.



Lawson

T.I.C.K.S

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bracket. A lot of guys were focused on contending for a title, compared to simply being happy to be there during previous years. I really thought that we could've won it this year. But I'm still happy for the guys."

The T.I.C.K.S, which were averaging more than 65 points per game, began the championship contest rather slow — only scoring 7 points in the opening quarter. That was seemingly all of the cushion the Pal Five (5-0) needed to pick up the Division II National Championship.

"The way we started that game made a difference," Smiling said. "We played pretty good from that point on. But we put ourselves in such a hole. We were forced to foul at the end of the game, and that led to some easy free throws for them. That's basically how they were able to defeat us by that margin. We were a lot closer than that."

One of the most exciting games for the T.I.C.K.S took



T.I.C.K.S players and coaches pose with their trophy after last weekend's Division II tourney.

place during their third round victory over the AP Wildcats. Derrick Grant, who held down the point guard position, hit the game-winning shot with under 10 seconds remaining in the game to give his team a one-point lead. The T.I.C.K.S were down by as many as 11

points at one point in the fourth, before battling back to take the slim victory.

"Derrick Grant really hit a big shot for us during that game," Smiling said. "Actually, he played big for us the entire tournament. We

went down there with only one point guard, and he can play any position — one through four. We were able to do a number of things with him. He definitely stepped up for us. Big Matt put us in good position to come back too. A num-

ber of other guys stepped up to play well for us."

Some of the other standouts were Matt Turner, Jontu Brown, Tyler Jones, Trent Coles, Burrell Brown, Javonnie Sweeney, Rashaad Sweeney and Brad McGriff.

"Like I said, I'm very proud of the guys," Smiling said. "They played extremely hard. A lot of the guys contributed during the tournament. The biggest difference between this team and teams from previous years was our inside presence. We normally only had Matt in the middle. But guys like Rashaad Sweeney and Bradley (McGriff) played big for us."

Team founder Jonathan Brown added: "I simply want to thank some of the people that made this trip possible. I'd like to thank Tyrone McLaughlin, Professional Healthcare Services, Bryant McCorkle, Richard Daniels and Octavious Murphy. I would also like to thank our team parents. We have the best team parents. I know I am forgetting some people. We want to thank everyone that helped us during this process."

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