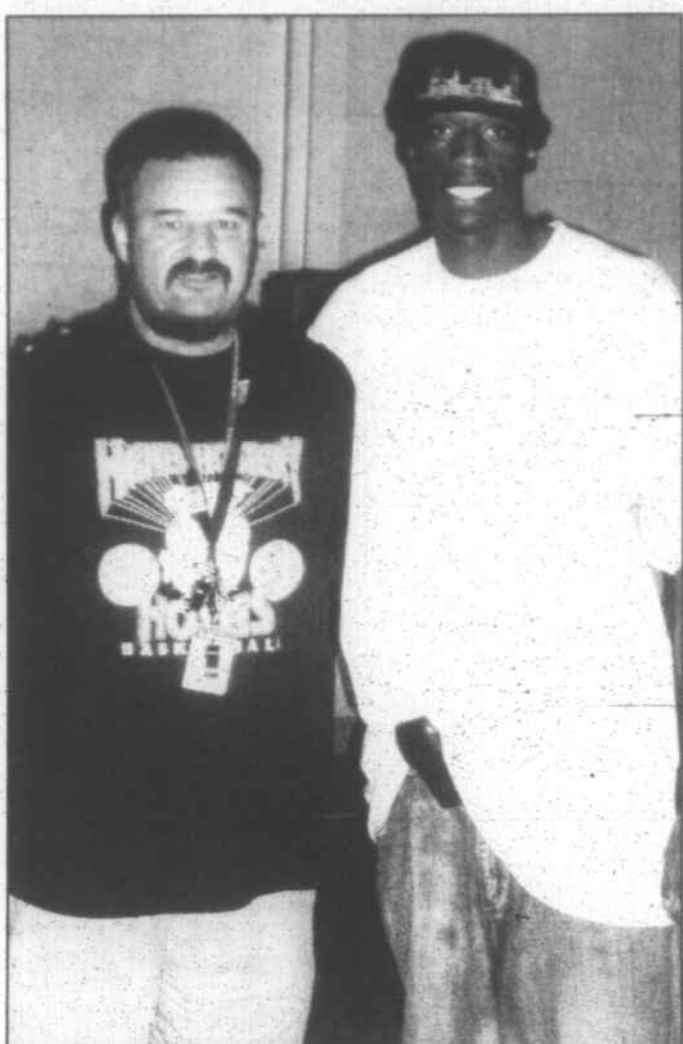


Celebrities, youths ready to 'Hang the Net'

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

What is "Hang the Net?" The "Hang the Net Celebrity Shootout and Slam Dunk Contest" is a special event developed several years ago by Art Blevins of the Winton-Salem Recreation Department. It is designed as a basketball contest comprised of a shootout and a slam dunk contest. In the shootout, participants (children ages 9-18, local athletes and celebrities) shoot from outside the 3 point line with the objective of hitting and hanging the net over the rim. If this feat is accomplished, the participant is awarded 21 points for "Hanging the Net." Contestants receive 7 attempts and three points are awarded for all regular baskets made.

The "Hang The Net" contest was created by Blevins in 1986, when he was the supervisor at South Fork Gymnasium. The event was designed to give children a chance to showcase their three point shooting skills while also affording them the opportunity to meet local celebrities, legends and heroes. "Hang-The-Net" started with about 100 participants and spectators, two local sponsors and one local celebrity (news anchor Cameron Kent-of WXII-TV 12). It has since grown to 12 or more sponsors, media coverage from at least three local television stations; two or more local newspapers and two local radio stations with more than 500 people in attendance. In addition, a slam



Hanes Rec Director Art Blevins with Josh Howard.

dunk contest was introduced and several more "Celebrity Shootouts" including college stars, city leaders, legends and coaches now take place.

Over the years, the list of local celebrities and college stars taking part in "Hang-

The-Net" has grown to include such names as the late, great WSSU Hall of Fame coaching legend Clarence "Big House" Gaines; the late great WFU Coach Skip Prosser and the Deacon coaching staff; former WFU and current Dallas

Mavericks star and NBA All-Star Josh Howard; former UNC Lady Tarheels and WNBA stars LaQuanda Barksdale and Camille Little; former Wake Forest star Porshe Jones; local media personalities Dave Goren, and Marlo Klein (now with ESPN) of WXII-12, Scott Pryzwansky of WFMY-2, DJ Buster Brown of 97.1 WQMG, the 102 JAMZ Posse, columnist Sam Davis, columnist Kim Underwood, John Dell, Lisa O'Donnell and Michael Huie of the Winston-Salem Journal; head coach Jim Caldwell of the Indianapolis Colts; former New York Knicks, Ticky Burden and dozens more.

The list also includes local stars Flagge Stanfield, Travis Holcomb-Fay, Whit Holcomb-Faye, Walt Baxley, Danny Gathings, Louis Lowery, "Popbottle" Thomas, Ricky Hickman, Jamie Wilkes and many more.

A "Living Legends" Award has also been presented over the years to area icons, including the late, great Hall of Fame Sportswriter Mary Garber.

The contest is free to the public, and will be held Thursday, July 30 at 2 p.m. at Hanes Hosiery Community Center, 501 Reynolds Blvd. The phone number is 336-727-2428 or 336-659-9696.

If you would like to help sponsor this year's event or know of a local or national superstar that would like to participate, please contact Art Blevins.

Harris

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bring in a coach that could take our already successful women's program to new heights," said DeBusk. "Coach Harris brings a passion for the game of basketball. She is a quality person that brings in high morals and character. She will work hard to graduate our players, but also make them understand the effort it takes to continue to be champions on the floor as well as in life. Her energy and enthusiasm will bleed over into our players and will make all Tusculum fans, alumni and our community proud. I am very, very excited that Adell has decided to become a member of the Pioneer Family."

Harris played her collegiate career at Wake Forest University, where she was a four-year letter winner for the Demon Deacons. During her senior campaign, she led Wake Forest with 108 assists, and averaged 4.6 points per game, while also serving as team co-captain. She wrapped up her career 10th on Wake's all-time list

with 241 career assists. "I am very grateful to Frankie DeBusk for trusting me to lead the Tusculum women's basketball program," Harris said. "I am both excited and anxious to serve Tusculum College, the Greeneville community and our student-athletes. My goal is to continue to build on what currently exists, one of the top 25 programs in the country."



DeBusk

"I am extremely thankful to Betsy Blouse for being the first person to believe in my abilities as a collegiate coach," added Harris. "I am grateful for the opportunities that she has provided for me to grow professionally in her program. My time at UNC Asheville has prepared me tremendously for this opportunity and for that I am greatly appreciative to the entire UNCA athletics department."

Harris began her coaching career as an assistant coach at her prep alma mater T. Wingate Andrews High School in High Point during the 2002-03 campaign. She also served as head coach of the Piedmont X-Press AAU team from 1998-2003.

Classic

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all.

The game will be played on Oct. 3 at Memorial Stadium with a 1 p.m. kickoff. Livingstone College is a private, historically black, four-year college in Salisbury. It is affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Johnson

Smith University is a private, co-ed, four-year liberal arts institution located in the heart of Charlotte, North Carolina. Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, JCSU is also a

historically black college.

The two universities are located approximately 43 miles apart.



The 14U squad.



The 15U squad.

Local AAU team sets its sights on Gold

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Mavericks would like to welcome aboard the 14U and 15U Boys AAU basketball teams. In the State Warm-up Tournament in Davie County, the 15U won the Gold.

The 15U team also came in second in their first tournament. The March

Shootout, and won the championships in the Easter Shootout and the Big Shot Tournament in Greensboro.

The general manager is Carlton Fleming, the head coach is Jamie Foster, and the assistant coach is Dameon Foster. The players are: Tevin Fleming, Trequan Lewis, Brandon Washington, Albert Wright, Davonte Foye, Malcolm

Boyd, Justin Valintine, Charles Bronson, Dale Martin, Oue Bonner, Rashard Roberts, and Rashawn Speas. The Mavericks are going to the Nationals tournament in July, and they plan on bringing home a national title.

The 14U head coach is Steve Wagoner, and assistant coaches are Vann Harrell and Kenny Gooden.

The Winston-Salem Mavericks are sponsored by Top Priority Care Services, LLC, and are a nonprofit organization. Any donations are needed and appreciated.

For more information contact Mike Gonzalez Sr.; GMSTAR4@aol.com and Willie "BB" Patrick Jr.; coachbb28@hotmail.com and Brent Winslow.

Lee

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Conference champion teams — Hampton, Howard and A&T — though never as a head coach. When A&T won the league title in 2003, Lee was the defensive coordinator and the linebackers coach.

Lee's experience with and knowledge of the conference proves that he has what it takes to build a winning team. A&T Athletic Director Wheeler Brown said when Lee was hired.

"He knows this conference, what it will take to win in the conference, and will bring the needed toughness and discipline our football program has lacked over the past few years," Brown said.

Lee spent the last three seasons as defensive coordinator at Morgan State.

Coming into a program that was ranked near the bottom of the conference's defensive statistics, Lee led the Bears to a No. 2 national ranking in total defense in 2007 and to the top spot in 2008.

He credits the rankings to a solid staff of coaches and a team of great athletes that understood the importance of discipline.

"We had good talent, and they fell in line with the system we had," Lee said.

He will be looking to duplicate that success at A&T, where the Aggies are a combined 3-31 from 2006-08. In each of those years, the A&T defense ranked last in the conference in yards allowed per game.



Alonzo Lee will lead his Aggies against the Rams later this year.

Additionally, the NCAA assessed a scholarship penalty on the A&T football team for not meeting academic progress guidelines. Instead of 63 football scholarships, the Aggies can award no more than 57 in 2010-11.

But Lee, looking at the upcoming season, sees reasons that the team can take steps forward this year. It helps that some of the seniors on the team, especially on the defensive front, are athletes that he recruited during his previous stint at A&T.

"The defensive line is probably the most consistent right now of all the defensive units," Lee said.

Preparing for Battle

Lee and the Aggies will meet their first opponent on Sept. 5, when they take on the Rams of Winston-Salem State. It's a rivalry that Lee knows well. The two universities did not play each other when Lee was A&T's defensive coordinator from 2003-05, but he is familiar with the Battle of I-40 nonetheless.

"I know everyone is looking forward to it," Lee said.

He is also familiar with Kermit Blount, the WSSU head football coach. They spent five years together in the 1980s as a part of the coaching staff at Howard

University. Lee was the assistant head coach, Blount the offensive coordinator.

"We went against each other numerous times (in practice)," Lee said.

The winner on Sept. 5 will be undefeated going into week two of the 2009 season. And regardless of how that game and the weeks that follow unfold, Lee said he knows he made the right choice to come back to A&T.

"In my heart of hearts, I believe A&T is an outstanding situation," Lee said, citing the tools at the coach's disposal and the on-campus facilities. "It's a gold mine. It's a sleeping giant."

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