

# SPORTS WEEK

OCTOBER 22, 2009



Kayla Blevins with her dad, Art.

Photo by Gary Lash

## Like Father, Like Daughter

Kayla Blevins inherits her father's love of sports and community service

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center Director Coach Art Blevins has helped a lot of kids during his 30-year career with the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

Without question he loves his "kids," and each and every one of them are very special to him, but there is one in particular that holds the key to his heart — his daughter, Kayla Blevins.

Kayla attends Mount Tabor High School, where she is an honor student and a valued member of the girl's JV Basketball Team. She is also very active in her church, the Girl Scouts, Optimist Soccer and many school clubs. Kayla is also a volunteer at Hanes Hosiery during summer sessions.

She has been participating in her dad's athletic programs since she was six-years-old.

Her most recent accomplishment was winning her 4th straight Punt, Pass and Kick Championship. She has participated in this event at the age of 8, moving up in each age group every year.

Her mom and dad, Ruth Anne and Coach Blevins, are very proud of her accomplishments, especially the fact that she performs well in athletics while excelling in the classroom and with her volunteer work and extra-curricular activities.

The other winners of the 2009 Winston Salem Recreation

See Blevins on B10

## Richmond team drops insensitive name suggestion

BY JEREMY M. LAZARUS  
THE RICHMOND FREE PRESS

**RICHMOND, Va.** (NNPA) - Richmond's new professional baseball team could soon be called the Flying Squirrels or the Flatheads or even the Hush Puppies or Rock Hoppers or Rhinos.

But the relocated minor league franchise that once bore the proud, straight-laced name of the Connecticut Defenders will definitely not be called the Hambones.

The team's management dropped that name like a hot potato after the Free Press and the state NAACP raised concerns about the name's connections to slavery and demeaning minstrel shows. Hambone refers to a dance routine involving thigh slapping, hand clapping and foot stomping.

The Free Press played a key role in scuttling the Hambones, which the management had announced as one of the finalists in the

naming contest.

In an e-mail Monday to Todd Parnell, vice president and chief operating officer of the Richmond team, Free Press Editor/Publisher Raymond H. Boone expressed the hope that "your organization will recognize the inappropriateness of the names in the finalists category — all of which set the stage for Richmond becoming a continuing source of demeaning jokes and insults ... (Considering its history, "Hambone" is particularly troubling.) We deserve better."



Boone

The Free Press published an editorial in the Oct. 8-10 edition that urged the team to adopt such names as the Richmond Diamonds, Richmond Gems or Richmond Rapids.

In response, the team's chief executive manager, Chuck Domino, dismissed the Free Press name suggestions as "ordinary," but thanked Boone for his "insight on the Hambones. We will certainly take that into consideration."

See Team on B10

## WAITING FOR A SPARK



Photo Robert Durell

WSSU players pin-up a member of the University of California at Davis football squad on Oct. 17 as the Rams did battle in sunny California. UC Davis got the best of the team, though, winning 45-15. The Rams will try for their first victory of the season on Saturday when they play Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach, Fla.

## MEAC Goes Pink

Conference taking part in breast cancer awareness efforts

BY ROSCOE NANCE  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

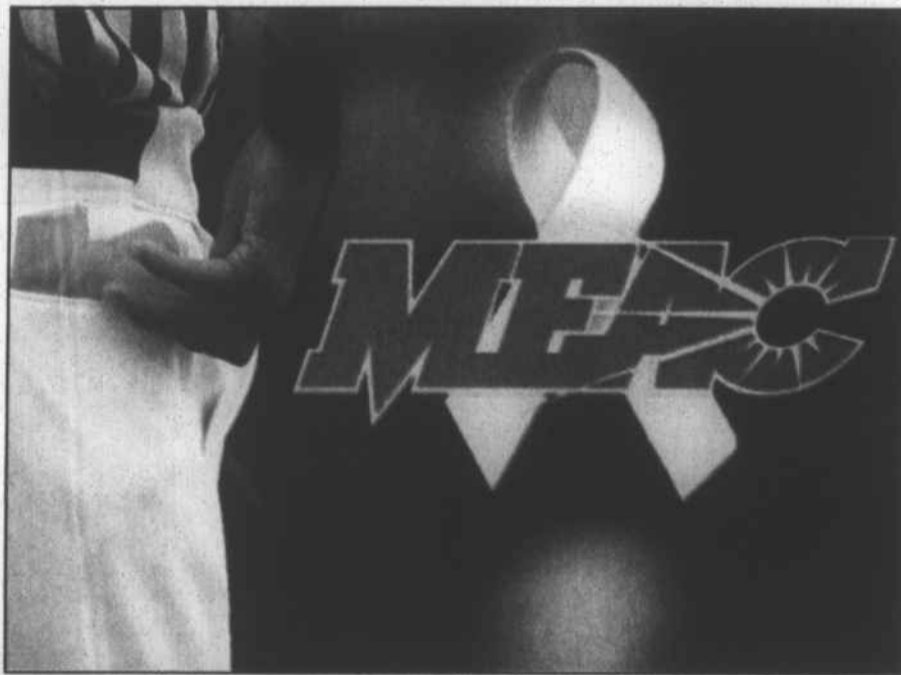
Pink isn't a color that's generally associated with football. But it is this month in the MEAC.

MEAC football game officials this month are using pink penalty flags in place of the traditional flags during conference contests in recognition of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

According to the National Cancer Institute, each year 192,370 women and 1,910 men are diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,170 women and 440 men die from the disease.

"It is imperative that both women and men take seriously their responsibility to get annual screenings for breast cancer," says Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed, Bethune-Cookman President and Chair of the MEAC's Council of Chief Executive

See Pink on B10



## WFU Black & Gold Game is this Saturday

Public invited to free b-ball contest

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest fans will get their first look at the 2009-10 Demon Deacon men's basketball team on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the annual Black & Gold Game. The intrasquad scrimmage will be held at 12 p.m. at Reynolds Gymnasium.

Admission to the Black & Gold Game is free and open to the public. Doors open at 11 a.m., and seating is first come, first served. Free basketball posters and schedule cards will be available.

The Deacons will play their lone preseason exhibition contest on Thursday, Nov. 5, against IUP. The game will be held at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum with tipoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Wake Forest opens the 2009-10 regular season against Oral Roberts on Friday, Nov. 13, at 7 p.m. at the Lawrence Joel Coliseum.



WFU Photo

Forward Al-Farouq Aminu in action last season.