

SPORTS WEEK

MARCH 22, 2012



Tre Young (top position) competes against teammate Jarred Haney during a practice session.

Epilepsy doesn't limit Tre Young

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Epilepsy is a chronic neurological disorder that is greatly misunderstood.

Burrell "Tre" Young of Atkins High School is eager to do his part to change that perception.

Young was diagnosed three years ago, and the 15-year-old sophomore has not let the disease prevent him from engaging in his athletic pursuits as a varsity wrestler for the Camels.

"Having epilepsy doesn't mean that you're handicapped," Young said. "As long as you take the proper medication and your seizures are under fairly good control, you can do whatever you put your mind to."

Young will share his insights and experiences as part of next week's "Kids Speak Up!" program, sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation. The three-day program for youngsters ages 8-18 is set for April 1-3 in Washington, D.C.

"I'm looking forward to talking to people in Congress," Young said. "Having the opportunity to speak makes me feel like I can make a difference. The way I see it, everybody has their flaws. Epilepsy will not hold me back."

Patricia Gibson is acutely aware of the issues and challenges that people with epilepsy face. Gibson, a highly-regarded expert on the disorder, is an associate professor in the Department of Neurology at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Additionally, Gibson is the director of the Epilepsy Information Service, a nationwide hotline for epilepsy patients and their family members. As the advisor for Young's teen support group, Gibson has observed how Young has moved forward with his life in spite of his condition.

"Tre is a dynamic young man," said Gibson. "The way he approaches things, it's like him saying that yes, he has epilepsy, but epilepsy doesn't have him. Tre has made the commitment to do what it takes to manage his epilepsy and still live his life to the fullest."

Natalie Young admitted that she had an uneasy feeling about her son's decision to wrestle. As Tre's mother, she was still fearful, even though she had the assurances of doctors and counselors that it was OK for him to participate. It took some time for her to get to the point where she could even watch her son wrestle and remain worry-free. But it didn't take long for her to notice the changes.

"Wrestling is the last thing I thought he might try," said Mrs. Young. "It's such an intense sport. Since Tre started wrestling, he's got a lot more confidence. And I

joke with him that he has a little swagger about himself. Socially, he's developed some great friendships on the wrestling team that he might not have had otherwise."

"Of all sports, wrestling seems like the most unlikely choice for anyone who has a history of suffering seizures. Young's story is especially inspiring when you consider that he recently finished his first year of wrestling as a pure novice. Young didn't win any titles, and he finished the regular season with a 4-20 record. Even so, Young's accomplishments cannot be accurately measured by wins and losses. The ultimate victory is based on Young's ability to learn a new sport while at the same time competing and improving his skill level with each passing week.

While Young was never convinced that he picked the wrong sport to participate in, he did have recurring thoughts about what might happen if he had a seizure at practice or during an actual competition.

"I used to think about it all the time," he said. "But after my first three matches, I saw where everything was going to be OK. So, since then, I haven't thought about it at all."

Atkins wrestling Coach Brent Gerald knows better than anyone just how far Young has progressed. He watched Young embrace the rigorous practices and the intense competition and kept coming back to learn more and he continued to get better.

"By the end of the season, he was more like a strong candidate to be our team MVP as opposed to being our most improved wrestler," Gerald said. "When I look at how he was when he first started, and compare that to how he is now, it's like night and day. Tre is the toughest kid I have and he battled through every match, regardless of how the match went. The bottom line is that he won't lay down for anybody. Tre has the heart and the desire to be as good as he wants to be."

In nearly every match, Young, 5-foot-8, 120 pounds, was always at a disadvantage due to his lack of experience. Even so, he never wavered in his desire to improve and he never thought about quitting.

"In all those losses, I'd get pinned, but I know I gave it my best," he said. "I can be as good as or better than the people I wrestled against. But to do that, I must stay committed and stay dedicated. As long as I do that, one day, I'll win and become a champion. I know I can do this."

For more information, contact the Epilepsy Information Service at 1-800-642-0500.

Rams Sweep Falcons

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Rams baseball team completed a 4-0 sweep over St. Augustine's College over the weekend, to push their record to 20-14 overall and 8-2 in the CIAA.

Sheldon Jones, Scott Wells, Adam Satanoff and Joseph Herbert all picked up victories, while Ryan Vickers picked up a save.

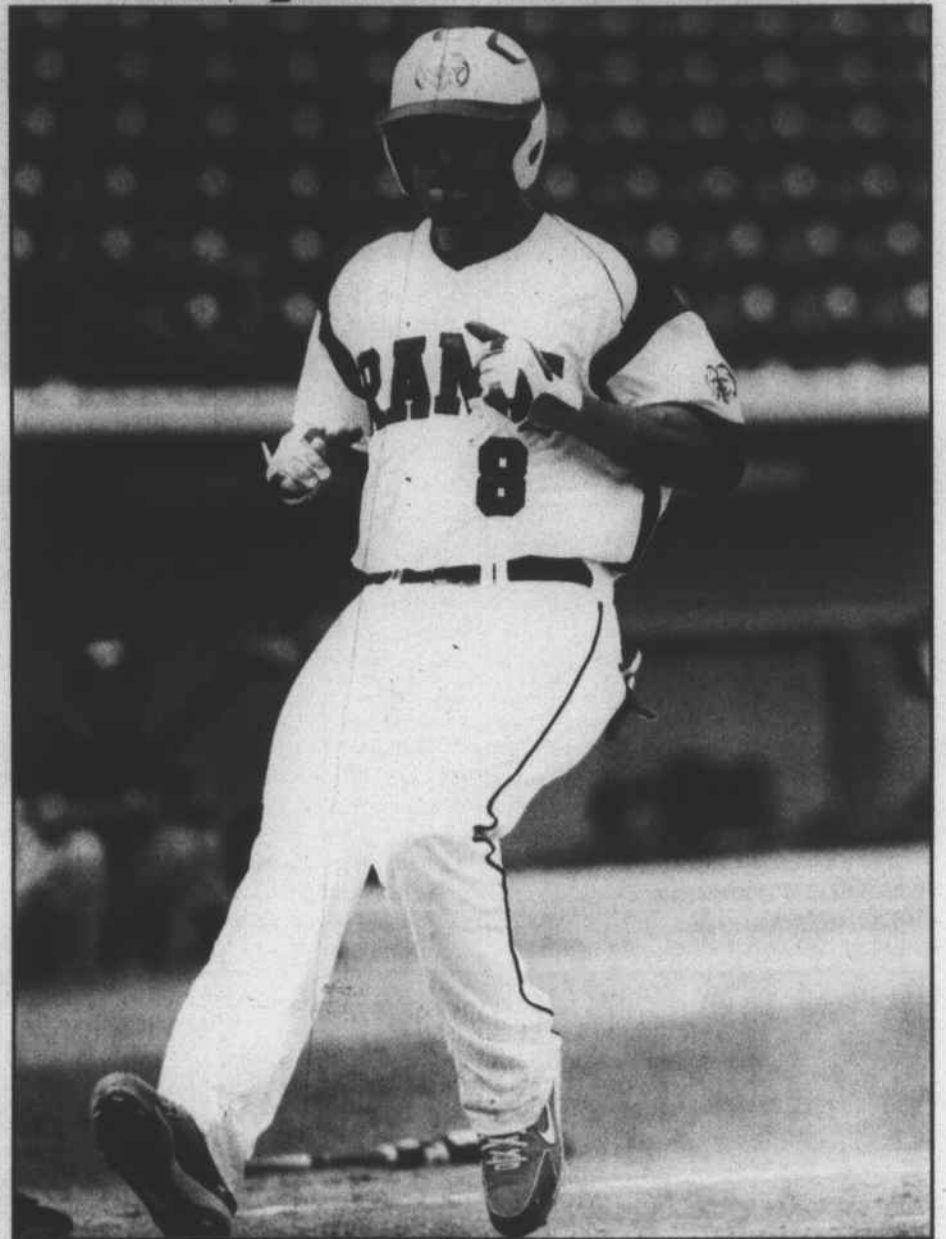


Fitzgerald

The WSSU Rams won game #1, 2-1 and game #2, 15-1 at BB&T Ballpark in Winston-Salem on Saturday. The Rams won 6-3 and 8-3 on Sunday at Rich Field in Mocksville.

German Reyes swung the hot bat, hitting .571 on the four game set, going 8 for 14 with 8 runs scored and 8 hits that included 3 doubles, 2 triples and a home run. He also knocked in five runs, while slugging an incredible 1.286.

Dominique Fitzgerald hit .500 going 2 for 4 with a double, and Jonathan Wells also hit .500, going 1 for 2 with a run scored. Aaron Jones was 5 for 11 (.455) with four runs scores and two doubles, while Jacob Nunn was 6 for 14 (.429), Paco Martin 6 for 15 (.400), Brandon Harrison 5 for 13 (.385) with one home run, and Devin McLemore finished the weekend 5 for 14 (.357) with four runs, two doubles and a team-high 6 RBIs for the weekend.



German Reyes scores.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Garm



Photo courtesy of VSU

Jernail Hayes, second from left, with teammates Leslie Cole, Natasha Hastings and Sanya Richards-Ross.

VSU Coach helps Team USA win silver

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Virginia State University Assistant Track & Field Coach Jernail Hayes competed at the Indoor Track & Field World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey from March 9-11.

She was a member of the Women's USA 4x400m relay team, which brought home the silver medal by placing second to Great Britain by a mere three-one-hundredths of a second, 3:28.76 to 3:28.79. These were the two fastest times run in the world this year.

Team USA left the Atakoy Athletics Arena after the final day of the World Indoor Championships with the most gold medals in team history. Team USA bettered the mark of eight gold medals it set in 1993, 2003 and 2010. The weekend's performances brought Team USA's

total medal count to 18 for the World Indoor Championships, which is second only to the 19 medals it won in 1999. Great Britain was second in the medal count with a total of nine.

"I was very pleased. We had a young team and we were able to come through. They had challenges and I couldn't be more proud," said Rahn Sheffield, Team USA women's coach. "The U.S. always has a good tradition. Today was an example of symbolic footsteps. We walked in the same footsteps as the great athletes in the past."

This was Hayes' first national team, as she prepares to make her first Olympic Team this summer at the US Olympic Trials held in Eugene, Ore. (June 22-July 1).

"I feel very blessed and fortunate that I was able to represent our country at the World Championships. Our VSU Track & Field student-athletes have seen firsthand how hard work, discipline, consistency and encouragement can help you reach your goals," said Hayes. "I have had tremendous support from the student-athletes, administration and the entire VSU family - I couldn't be more excited right now!"



Sheffield



Submitted Photo

The Tarheels, left, celebrate their win, while the Blue Devils, right, celebrate their good game.



Little 'Heels beat pint-sized Blue Devils

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

In another Hanes Hosiery Youth Basketball thriller, the #3-seeded Tarheels defeated the #1-seeded Blue Devils 42-32 to win the 2012 Winter League Championship for the 6-10-years-old division.

The Tarheels jumped out to an early 12-2 lead behind the outstanding play of Javon Cobbs, Zach Gibson, Lee Scales and William Capizzi.

The Blue Devils made a good run in the second half behind the shooting of Jordan Timmons, Micha Gainey and Nyguel Young.

The Tarheels were too strong in the end, with Cobbs pouring in 18 points and Gibson going inside for 12 more. The Tarheel defense was led by Richie Szacila, Malik Little, Malachi Little, William Capizzi and Lee Sales. The Blue Devils were led by Young with 12, Timmons and Gainey with 10 each. Jada

Willis and Keyon Smith led the Blue Devils defense.

Center Director Art Blevins was again pleased with this year's turnout of kids, their great attitudes and the improvement of skills by each player from day one to the end of the season.

"We really appreciate the outstanding job that the Wake Forest Law students did as volunteer coaches and mentors," he said.

