

Money raised to cut dropout rate at tourney

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Mayor Allen Joines/Winston-Salem Urban League 9th Annual Golf Tournament was a huge success.

Held on Thursday, May 30 at the Bermuda Run West Golf Course, the event raised funds to support the Urban League Youth Leadership Development Program, which is designed to reduce the drop-out rate among students attending alternative schools.

Joines welcomed the golfers and thanked them for their outstanding support. Wake Forest Baptist Health was the main sponsor of the event. Other sponsors included Rock Tenn, Winston-Salem Federal Credit Union, Chapman Company, Truliant Federal Credit Union, Food Lion, Pepsi Beverages, Pepsi Bottling Ventures, Grace Tisdale & Clifton and Modern Toyota.

Unfortunately, none the players made a hole in one to win a two-year lease of a 2012 Toyota Camry, compliments of Modern Toyota.

Grace Tisdale and Clifton teams took both the first and third place awards. The Winston-Salem State University Team, comprised of Head Football Coach Connell Maynor, Golf Coach Robert Bethea, Track Coach Eric Poitier

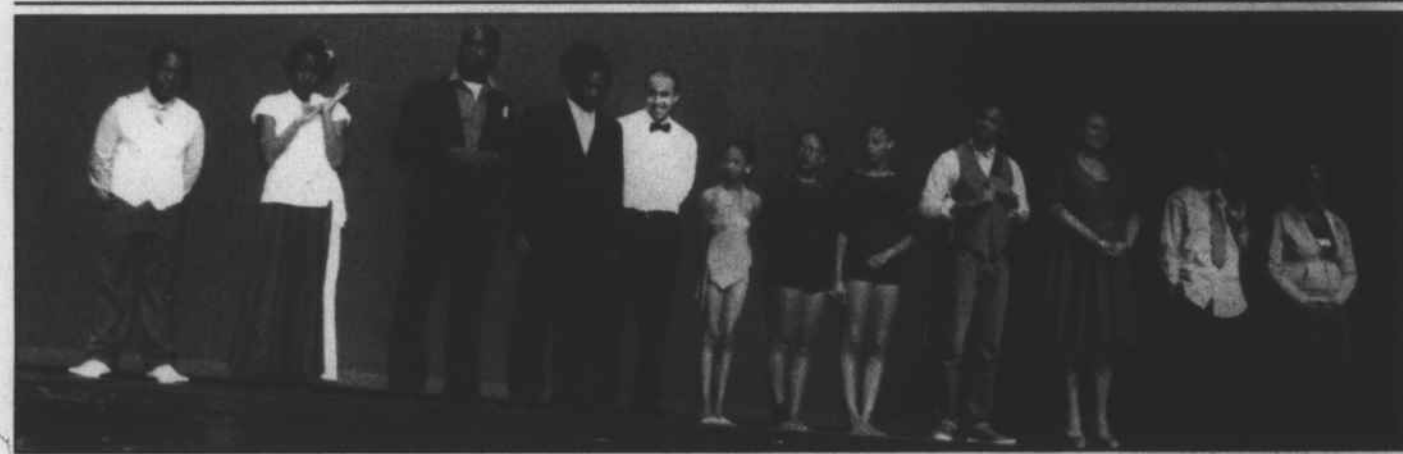


(Above) Keith Grandberry with WSSU team members Mike Asbury, Connell Maynor, Eric Poitier and Robert Bethea. (Below) Keith Grandberry with UPS' Sophia Porter.

and Michael Ashbury, walked away with second place.

Sophia Porter of UPS was awarded the "Closest to the Pin" and "Longest Drive" honors for women. Braxton Speller received "Closest to the Pin" honors for men.

"We want our sponsors and golfers to know that their contributions and entrance fees are going directly back into the community, in ways that promote job creation and economic development, so it helps all of us," said Keith Grandberry, president/CEO of the Winston-Salem Urban League.



Performers Nicholas Brown, Nevaeh Graham, Music on Purpose's Davar Dove, Joseph Sanchez, and Andrew Varela, Morgan Smith, Ashlee Dance, Krystal Cooper, Jonathan Cox, Eurydice White, Jared Smith and Latisha Di Venuto wait for the results to be announced.

Talent

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It's always been there."

The competition gave Latisha Di Venuto, 22, an opportunity to rap publicly for the first time. Di Venuto, who recently graduated from Wake Forest with a communications degree, said that she decided to follow her heart and pursue a career as a hip-hop artist. She performed "Double Consciousness," an original piece.

"I was very, very surprised to make it," she said of advancing to the finale. "I'm very pleased with the song and the content of the song."

NCBRC Artistic Director Mabel Robinson, who also served as a judge, praised all of the performers. She said that some of them have what it takes to shine in future Black Rep productions.

"There are a lot of young people I see I'd like to use for 'Black Nativity' or that will be joining the (Black Rep's) Teen Theatre," said Robinson.

In the end, Music On Purpose, a bilingual gospel group made up of Davar Dove, Andrew Varela and Joseph Sanchez, won third place. The second-place prize went to 11-year-old dancer Nevaeh Graham, who choreographed her own moves to Smokie Norful's "I Need You Now." The dance duo of Krystal Cooper and Ashlee Dance, both 16, won the competition. Both girls have been dancing for most of their lives. They are students at Positive Image Performing Arts. They choreographed the winning performance themselves.

"We honestly didn't expect it," Cooper said of the win. "Even if we wouldn't

have won, I think we would have been okay with it because we were just going out there to have fun and do something we loved."

The pair won \$500 and the honor of performing at the 2013 National Black Theatre Festival next summer.

Other competitors included Jared Smith, who used a hat, suit and single white glove to transform into Michael Jackson and dance to the late singer's "Smooth Criminal;" Eurydice White, who passionately recited an original spoken word piece; and dancer Morgan Smith.

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Ashlee Dance and Krystal Cooper receive their check as Emcee Debra Terry speaks.



NCBRC's Mabel Robinson and Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin.

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