

SPORTS WEEK

JUNE 20, 2013

CARVER HIRES NEW ATHLETICS LEADERS

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Carver High School recently named Michael Winbush as its new athletic director and Danny Piggott as the assistant athletic director. Winbush is currently a physical education and health teacher, and Piggott serves as a math teacher.

"Mr. Winbush and Mr. Piggott are two very conscientious professionals," said Principal Ronald Travis. "They both have a great deal of pride. As principal, my primary

job is to hire competent, caring teachers and improve the test scores of Carver High School. I needed persons in the athletic department who can take care of business without constant supervision. I feel we have accomplished this with the hiring of these two gentlemen."

Winbush is stepping into the shoes of Aaron Bailey, who announced earlier this year that he was exiting the AD job at Carver. Travis said he was looking for someone who has the ability to continue the process that Bailey began.

"As athletic director, Mr. Bailey began the process of upgrading our facilities. During his tenure, the athletic facilities at Carver High School have undergone a major facelift. Mr.



Michael Winbush (left) shakes hands with Danny Piggott.

Bailey also required all coaches to earn their commercial driver's license, which has resulted in a reduction in transportation bills for Carver High School," said Travis. "In addition, he revitalized a golf program which had folded prior to his arrival. These improvements have been accomplished with very little resources. I'm very pleased with the job he did."

Winbush has served as a coach on the high school and college levels for more than 20 years, while Piggott has led high school basketball teams for 19 years. Most recently, Winbush served as head baseball coach at Carver, while Piggott recently

resigned as Carver's head boys' basketball coach. They will now have to hire replacements for themselves, as well as a new head girls' varsity and JV basketball coaches.

Winbush has outlined short-term and long-term goals that include building a positive rapport with his coaches, increasing collegiate exposure for student athletics, increasing faculty and staff attendance at sporting events, improving athletic facilities and increasing alumni participation in athletic programs.

Piggott wants to see the addition of tennis, soccer and volleyball programs at Carver.



Derrick Reid Jr. hands off the baton to Joel Hayes.

Pee-wee runners get team of their own

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Positive Running 4 Kids, or PRE-K, a new Next Level Track Club group, is off and running – literally.

"We've noticed the younger siblings of our Junior Olympics athletes for years, as they warmed up with the athletes, but we just didn't quite know how to incorporate them into our team," said Coaching Assistant Buddy Hayes.

Plans to develop the group began in the early part of the year with the help of Parents like Yolanda Reid and Keith Perry, both of whom have children in PRE-K, which is made up of athletes between the ages of two and six.

Though kids that young are not officially recognized by track and field's governing body, United States Track & Field, Next Level was able to find track meets that



Jamon Simes makes his way to the finish line.

offered events for PRE-K athletes. "Even though the athletes are members of Next Level, they were given their own identity and uniforms," said Coach Keisha Hayes.

The team has already had great success. PRE-K has competed in five competitions throughout Virginia and North Carolina in events like the 50m, 100m, 4x100 relay and even the turbo javelin.

While the older athletes, who are still competing in the Junior Olympics, continue their quest for medals, the PRE-K program ended its season June 1. In the coming weeks, Next Level's Junior Olympics athletes will compete in Charlotte, Greensboro, Durham and Richmond.

Learn more about the track club at www.nextlevel-trackclub.com or call Buddy Hayes at 336-705-6818.

Native could hear name on draft night

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE FOR THE CHRONICLE

When the NBA Draft takes place next week (June 27), it's not clear if Reggie Johnson's name will be called out as one of the chosen ones.

Johnson, a Winston-Salem native who played at the University of Miami, has been busy in recent weeks displaying his skills in pre-draft workouts for the Houston Rockets, Boston Celtics, Brooklyn Nets and several other NBA teams. The 6-foot-10, 295 pounds center has attracted more than casual interest.

Michael Hodges, who serves as Johnson's agent, declined to speak specifics about his client's status as a draft pick or free agent. He's confident, however, that Johnson will get his opportunity to earn a roster spot on a NBA team.

"We'll know a lot more after the draft is over," said Hodges in a phone interview. "Reggie excels when it comes to grabbing rebounds. He's agile, has legitimate NBA size and has the ability to score the ball inside."

The 2010-11 season was Johnson's best as a collegian. As a sophomore, he averaged 11.9 points, 9.6 rebounds and was voted honorable mention All-ACC. Johnson graduated from Miami with a degree in liberal arts last December.

Johnson's final season of college ball didn't turn out the way he hoped it would. His per-game averages slipped to 6.7 points and seven rebounds. Prior to the start of his senior year (2012-13), the former Winston-Salem Prep star was viewed as a key cog in the middle for the Hurricanes, who won the ACC regular-season and tournament titles and advanced to the NCAA Tournament's



Reggie Johnson (No. 42) in action for Miami.

Sweet 16.

The season came to an abrupt end for Johnson after Miami's second-round NCAA win over Illinois. A knee injury which required surgery prevented Johnson from playing in the Sweet 16. He had planned to be available for action if the Hurricanes made it to the Final Four, but those plans were nullified when Miami lost to Marquette in the Sweet 16. Being sidelined probably hampered Miami's chances to make a strong run at the NCAA title, and it certainly caused Johnson's NBA draft stock to drop because he didn't get the opportunity to show what he could do against the best college competition.

Hodges is satisfied that Johnson is primed to prove that's he's a worthy NBA acquisition.

"Reggie is very close to being 100 percent (recovered from his injury)," said Hodges. "At the workouts, he's showing what he can do and he's

competing."

NBA Draft analysts aren't convinced that Johnson will enter the NBA as a second-round draft pick or as a free agent. The consensus is that he'll have to re-establish himself all over again in the eyes of the pro scouts. They predict that he'll more than likely start his pro career in the D-League (NBA's development league) or overseas.

There's no question that the D-League is a step down from the big-time. Still, it's hardly a career-ending move. Roughly 25 percent of every NBA roster is comprised of players who have played in the D-League. Jeremy Lin (Houston Rockets), Danny Green (San Antonio Spurs), Joel Anthony (Miami Heat), Matt Barnes (Los Angeles Clippers) and Avery Bradley (Boston Celtics) are among the most notable D-League alumni who are now playing in the NBA.

Aggie Freeman taken by Cubs

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina A&T first baseman Kelvin Freeman was selected in the 17th round, 498th overall, by the Chicago Cubs in the 2013 MLB First-Year Player Draft.

Freeman is the first A&T player drafted since Xavier Macklin was selected in 2011 by the Oakland Athletics, and is the seventh Aggie player drafted since 2002. A&T has had 15 total players drafted since the MLB First-Year Player Draft began in 1965.

Freeman put together a tremendous senior season for the Aggies in 2013, earning the MEAC Player of the Year award, first-team MEAC and MEAC All-Tournament team honors, and third-team Louisville Slugger All-American honors.

He finished the season with a .342 average, 12 doubles, a triple, 16 home



Kelvin Freeman (No. 35) was drafted Saturday.

runs and 59 RBI. Freeman led the conference in home runs, RBI and total bases. He ranks ninth in the nation in home runs and 31st in RBI.

He posted a .663 slugging percentage, which is 10th best in the nation. He led the team with 15 multi-RBI games and 20 multi-hit games this spring, and was named MEAC Player of the Week on April 29.

"Good for him. He worked himself into this position, going from two home runs last year to 16 this year," said A&T Head Coach Joel Sanchez. "He always had the power, but put it together this year. That was good to see."

He finished his A&T career with a .344 average with 49 doubles, three triples, 31 home runs and 175 RBI.

Freeman was highly decorated throughout his career at A&T. He was the 2010 MEAC Rookie of the Year and earned second-team All-MEAC honors in 2012. He also earned 2010 Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American honors and 2010 MEAC All-Tournament honors.

A&T to offer sports admin master's

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Department of Human Performance and Leisure Studies (HPLS) at N.C. A&T State University recently received approval for a Master of Science in Sport Administration concentration, which is accepting applications for Fall 2013.

The Master of Science in Sport Administration concentration focuses on the professional preparation of individuals who are interested in serving in a leadership capacity within various athletic and/or sporting industry contexts.

The 39 credit-hour graduate program degree curriculum places emphasis on a variety of theoretical and practical sport leadership paradigms, with internship opportunities at the local, regional and national levels.

Admission requirements are a bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university; three letters of recommendation; and the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Applications can be completed online at <https://aggiadmissions.ncat.edu/graduateadmissions/default.asp>.

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