

Semi-pro team

from page B1

Panther player Wil Miller is a native of Winston-Salem. He says he takes a lot of pride in playing in front of his hometown people.

"We are here to stay and we are very exciting," Miller said. "We do a lot more for the community than what people know. We do food drives and other community events to make sure we continue to give back to those who support us."

Kenneth Patten, Panther middle linebacker, says one of the best things about the team is many guys have the opportunity to renew their careers after they have left the sport for a few years.

"It feels good to come

out here because a lot of guys are from the area so for us to be able to do this for the community with snacks and drinks is good," said Patten. "We are proud to have this team out here because a lot of our youth are misguided and now we have a place for people to come instead of out here getting in trouble."

According to Summers, Panthers head coach Will Pompey and offensive coordinator Reggie Jones are two of the best in the business. He feels with them at the helm the Panthers have a good shot in their first year being in the Coastal Football Association.

"We like to do things for the community to make sure we give back if nothing else," said Jones. "My hope is that the community

comes out to support us because I have high expectations from the young men on the team this year."

Councilwoman Adams came out and spoke with the team about the importance of their presence in the community. She implored them to set a positive example for the young men and women coming up behind them.

"You guys are out here today leading by example and I am just so proud of you," Adams said in reference to the team's presence in the community Saturday afternoon. "You all are the next kings and queens of the world and people are looking up to you."

The Panthers kick their season off this Saturday at Carver High School with a jamboree. The games begin at 2 p.m.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Councilwoman Denise "DD" Adams joined the Triad Panthers for their Community Day last Saturday.

K-Cup

from page B1

"We came out flat on defense in the second half so that really hurt us and those threes really killed us as well," said Southeast head coach Matthew Halverstadt.

Southeast would not go away easily as they began their comeback effort early on in the fourth quarter. Led by Tyler Bailey and Julius Reese Jr. the Jaguars closed the gap to three with less than fifteen seconds left in the game. As the clock expired Southeast hit a game tying three to send it into overtime.

Halverstadt told his team they had to step-up the effort on defense because that is what got them there. Kernersville had other ideas as they dominated the glass grabbing every rebound and loose ball. The clutch shooting from Jeremiah Scales did not hurt either.

Southeast had their chances late in the game but a lane violation, one of three they had on the night, negated a game tying free throw with just over a minute to play. That one point would prove costly as the late three point shot from Bailey brought them only to within one in the final seconds.

Last season Southeast



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

The Kernersville Middle school team finished the regular season undefeated with a win against Southeast Middle last week.

defeated Kernersville by a sizable margin so this game was on their radar all season according to Britt. He says on top of finishing undefeated they wanted to avenge this loss and head

into the playoffs with good momentum.

Scales added, "I just wanted to be there for my team and come out and play hard and hit the big

shots when we needed them because that is my role. I'm used to the pressure and I am grateful to come out here and get this win."

Coach Thompson says

his guys have "been doing it all year" and has really listened to what he and his coaches were trying to implement all season.

"They work hard and come to practice everyday

and they really stepped up tonight," he said. "I know we will be playing at home and we will just have to go out there and give it all we got."

Lacrosse

from page B1

"My coach is a teacher here and I was sitting in his class speaking with some friends who play and they kept telling me to just come out and play," said Adams. "At first I told them no because it looked too hard but when tryouts came I went and made the team."

He says by the time the third game of the season came around he knew this was something he wanted to play for a while. As a means to get better he dove head first into obtaining as much information and tips about the game as possible.

"Everyone just gave me tips about what to do and how the game is played," he said. "I just soaked in what the coaches and the experienced players were telling me and I just started liking it."

Adams says he used his athleticism and speed to carry him in the beginning of his career. He now has added other skills to his arsenal to make him a more versatile player.

For Adams he says he prefers lacrosse to other sports because of the continuous style of play. He says even when there is a foul, play does not stop until the ball hits the ground. He also enjoys the team aspect of the game because as he put it "it takes more than one player to make a good lacrosse team."

Another point of motivation to play the sport of lacrosse was the fact that not many African-Americans are involved with it. He feels he can spark interest in the sport from more African-Americans at his school by inviting them to come out



Atkins coach Timothy Callaghan gives his team some words of wisdom during practice last week.

and play

When Nickolas went to his mother Deborah about the possibility of playing lacrosse she was not aware of what the sport was either. Upon seeing how the sport was played she was worried about the amount of contact involved in it.

"When I went to go see his first game I thought it was the most violent sport I have ever seen," said Ms. Adams. "I just saw kids running after one another with sticks trying to knock the ball out of your hands and it made me a bit apprehensive."

"But the only reason why I allowed him to play is because he was good," she continued. "It's nice to go see your son play and the whole team is rooting him on."

Atkins coach Timothy Callaghan says Adams surprised everyone on the team with his play because of his limited experience. Callaghan says the fact Adams did not have any bad habits was a bonus once he took the field. "It was really exciting

to see him carry out a lot of the things we were saying and to see him take that step forward by getting better as a player," Callaghan said. "He went from being a backup to now being a big starter with a lot of playing time this season."

"He is already a leader out there by trying to get the guys to play the right way," he continued. "He has been a huge addition for us since last year."

Callaghan said he is surprised by the impressive fundamentals Adams possesses so quickly in his career. He says Adams doesn't do anything poorly but he just needs to "take it to the next level" to make him a better player.

The Camel program is only in its fourth year of existence. Coach Callaghan hopes to become more competitive and possibly have a winning season.

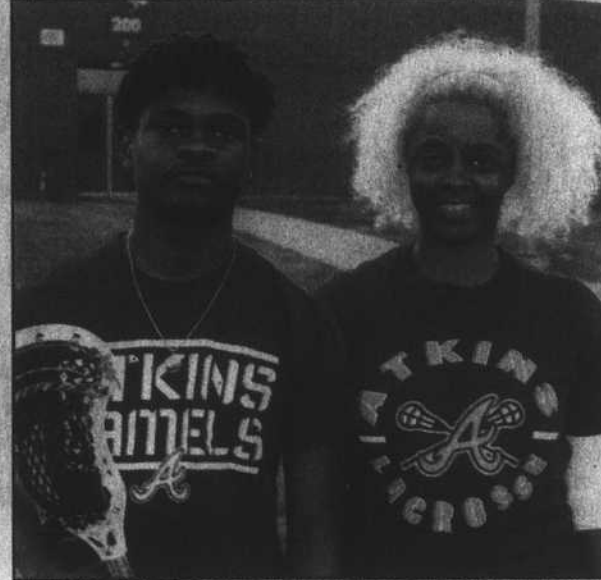
Atkins is one of the more diverse schools in Forsyth County and it really shows on their sports teams. Adams was the only African-American youth on the team last year

but now minorities make up a large portion of the team this season, which was a point of emphasis for him.

"There is so much diversity here and I figured it would be, but I guess it's more surprising when you go out to games to see how diverse we are as compared to other teams," Callaghan said. "There are other schools out there that are starting to grow and it is a lot more fun with the diversity out there."

Adams is also a high achiever in the classroom as well. He is an honor roll student with a 3.8 GPA and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, Crosby Scholars and WSSU Math and Science Education Network just to name a few of his honors.

He ranks in the top 15 of his graduating class and would love to stay close to home when it comes to his choice of college. He would like to continue his lacrosse career if possible but his dream is to become a forensic scientist.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Nickolas Adams, who poses with his mother, Deborah, is a key piece to the Camel lacrosse team this year.

Ramsey

from page B1

the likes of Ken Griffey Jr., Barry Bonds, Albert Belle, Doc Gooden, Darryl Strawberry and Tony Gwynn to look up to, just to name a few. Nowadays there are just a handful of African-American star players, many of which are not household names like they used to be.

My hope for the future is that sports outside of football and basketball focus on including more people of color. Basketball and football do

a great job to marketing to young minorities, which I cannot say about other sports.

If and when access to these other sports becomes readily available to young people of color, it will only be a matter of time before a column like this will be moot. So next time a sports commentator makes a comment about how a finish like Wallace's in the Daytona 500 affects the sport, I hope they mention that those sports need to be available to a wider audience.

Have an Opinion?
Let us Know
 letters@wschronicle.com