

SPORTS WEEK

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Overreaction once again to A-A achievement

Recently America bore witness to an African-American man finish second in the Daytona 500, the most prestigious race on the NASCAR circuit. Darrell Wallace Jr. was the first black man to start the Daytona 500 since Wendell Scott in 1969. Ever since his historic finish pundits around the nation are saying this may open the door for more African-American drivers in the sport, I beg to differ.

Too often when an African-American or minority achieves something monumental in a sport outside of ones they are normally associated with, it creates a buzz. Many times that starts a conversation about the possibility of more minorities taking up that particular sport, but that rarely happens.

Take for instance Tiger Woods. When Woods took the golfing world by storm in the late 1990s, it made many African-American youth look at the game in a different light. I can remember many people saying that he will encourage young minorities to pick up the game of golf.

While Woods has propelled many minority men and women to pick up the game of golf, many of them are just "weekend golfers" who never have the chance of making it to the PGA Tour. There has not been this mass participation in the sport as many have assumed it would.

Another example is the emergence of P.K. Subban of the Nashville Predators in the NHL. Subban led the Predators to the Stanley Cup Finals last season and once again people began the discussion of more African-Americans playing the sport.

The problem with many of these assertions is that yes, African-Americans and other minorities probably would gravitate to sports such as golf, hockey, soccer and tennis, but they just do not have access. If you go to many urban neighborhoods, you can find a basketball court or a field to play football. Many times you don't need an actual field to play football.

But on the other hand, I rarely find a golf course or country club in urban communities. There are also not many hockey rinks or tennis courts there, either. If these children were given access to these facilities, they would definitely shine.

As the Williams sisters in tennis have shown, they do not need the top teachers or trainers to compete in the sport. All it takes is the necessary skill set and a will to win.

I wish it were true that Wallace's win would cause an influx of minorities to auto racing, but in reality it just will not. Until people in those sports focus on bringing more people of color into the fold, the dynamics of those sports will not change.

Even baseball has seen a precipitous dip in African-American participation over the last 30 years or so. Throughout the 1990s, black kids had

See Ramsey on B2

Semi-pro team reaches out to the community



BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The Triad Panthers is a local semi-pro football team who will play their games at Carver High School stadium this year. Last Saturday, they held a community outreach event where they gave out snacks and drinks to the people of the eastern part of the city.

The Panthers were joined by 102 JAMZ radio station along with a surprise visit from Council Member Denise "D.D." Adams. The event was held at the old Burger King on the corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. and East Fifth Street.

"We did this today just to give back to the community and to also give the guys who never got a chance the hope that you can still live your dream and maybe make it to the next level," said team president and player James Summers.

Summers is a veteran of multiple semi-pro football teams over the years. He says as his career winds down he wanted to go out on his own terms so he and some friends decided to put together their own team and the Triad Panthers were born.

"The vision is here now and the people that were selected for this team are from different backgrounds representing the entire Triad area," Summers continued. "We are going to go out there and put on a show for the people in Winston-Salem."

See Semi-pro team on B2

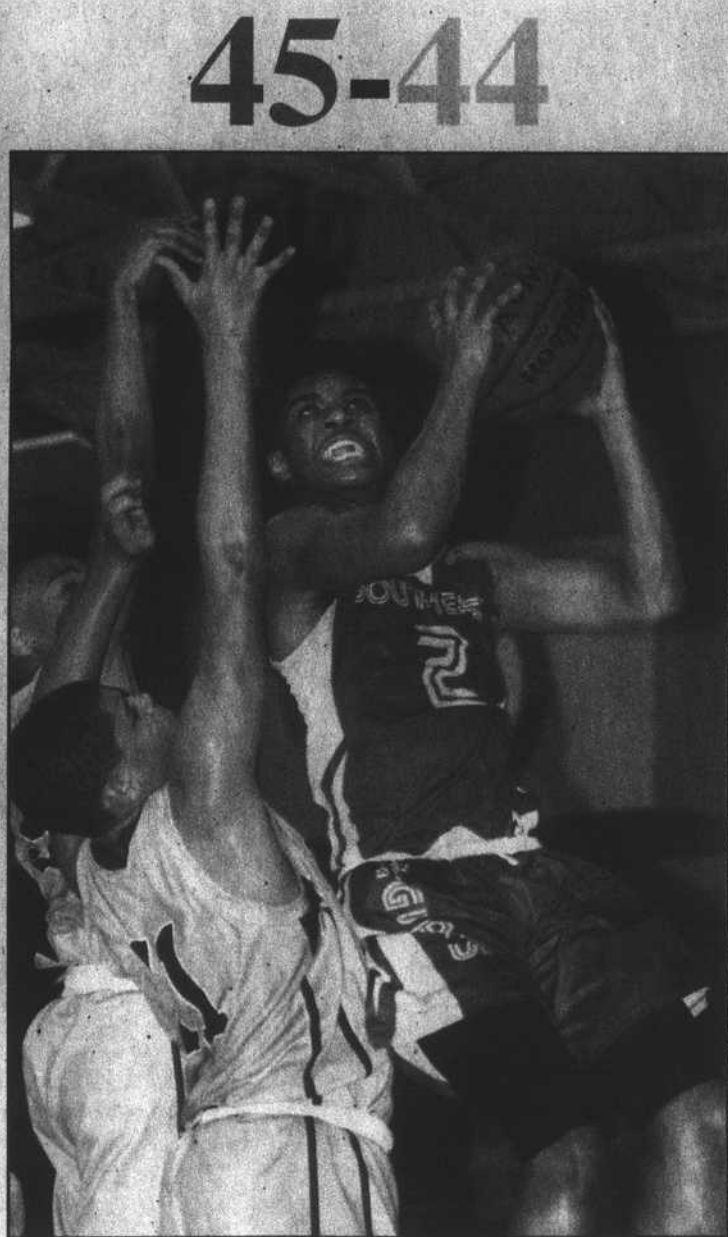
102-FM JAMZ radio station joined the Panthers Saturday afternoon as they gave out snacks and drinks to community at the old Burger King on Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

The 'K-Cup' decided in classic fashion



(Above) Jeremiah Scales, player with ball, was a key contributor to the Kernersville Middle School victory.

(Right) Julius Reese Jr., No. 2 in green, goes over two Kernersville defenders for a layup in their game last week.



BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

The annual matchup between Kernersville and Southeast Middle Schools is an event the entire city of Kernersville embraces. This year's game was so anticipated it had to be held at East Forsyth High. After the dust settled Kernersville Middle came away with a 45-44 victory in overtime.

The game is affectionately called the "K-Cup" because both schools are in the city of Kernersville. This year's game held extra importance this year as the winner went on

the playoffs as conference champion.

Kernersville came into the game undefeated. Southeast was also a highly rated team in the county, so the game totally delivered on the pre-game hype.

"We hung in there tough even though they hit that three to send it into overtime but we made our free throws and held onto the ball in the end and pulled it out," said Kernersville head coach Craig Thompson.

The entire first half was a close game. Both teams were able to lock in on the defensive side of the ball keeping the score close. Southeast held a slim 16-13 lead at the break.

The first few minutes of the second half really swung the momentum in favor of Kernersville. While both teams were converting offensively Caleb Britt of the Hawks hit all four of his three-point shots giving them a comfortable lead throughout the third.

"We were down and coach took us in the locker room and said we needed to get the three points we were down back so I just came out and was just feeling it with the first three and from there on my shot felt great for the rest of the game," Britt said.

See K-Cup on B2

Submitted photo
Nickolas Adams is only in his second year playing lacrosse and has already become a force on the field.



Atkins athlete finds new love in lacrosse

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY
THE CHRONICLE

Since his freshman year, Nickolas Adams has been a key contributor to the Atkins Camel football and basketball teams. After a conversation with classmates he is now also a building block in the Camels up and coming lacrosse program.

According to Adams the idea of playing lacrosse came to him while speaking with some friends about the sport. He says he was very unfamiliar with the game and with some urging decided to try out. As his second season is about to kick off he is looking to play a major role for the Camels.

See Lacrosse on B2