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Finally! N.C. High Schools Are Realigned For 89-90

After many hours of hard work by the Realignment Committee, the committee finalized realignment for the next four years.

The plan recommended to the Board from the committee will begin with the 1989-90 school year and run through the 1992-93 school year.

Our own Dave Harris, athletic director of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, and Dr. Emmett Floyd, superintendent of Catawba County Schools, served as co-chairman of the realignment group.

Two appeals were heard from Murphy and Lee counties and denied.

The process began in the fall of 1985 when the committee was elected and a questionnaire sent to all schools to rank the variables they felt should be inclined as well as to determine if the membership wanted four essentially equalized classes. Seventy-six percent said YES. Geography was listed as the most important variable followed by natural rivalries and conference size.

In January, 1988, the committee met and divided schools based on average daily membership figures released by the Department of Public Instruction. They had a chance to indicate if they wanted to play where they fell, play up or play down.

A proposal was put together and the play was sent to member schools. The committee heard a series of appeals in August, more appeals in September and the final appeals recently.

Some 14 conferences remained identical to the previous realignment and the final breakdown of schools by classification, after adjustment for playing up or down, includes 23 percent in 1-A, 23 percent in 2-A, just over 25 percent in 3-A and 28 percent in 4-A.

Charlotte Hornet Dell Curry Playing Time:

"Playing time has turned my game around. I can better prepare myself for the game now. Offensively, our game plan was the same as usual. Our two and three men have been scoring all year. We tried to get Kurt in the scoring a little more tonight. We just couldn't get the stop down the stretch when we needed it. We can't get over the hump at the end."

Eighteen points in the Hornets' upset of New York in the Big Apple shows that Dell Curry is back on track.

Robert Reid on the Off Season

"During the off season, I lift weights, run sprints up a man-made hill and shoot during the evening hours."

One of the more likable Hornets, Reid follows this routine all summer to get ready for another year of action in September.

Philadelphia 76er great Hersey Hawkins in his rookie season says that the biggest surprise has been the traveling.

"I never had any idea that we would be traveling so much," said Hawkins. "Nothing else has been a big surprise. But living in different hotels in strange cities has been a real surprise. Everyone thinks that traveling is fun, but if you travel as much as we do, it begins to get boring. But it is a part of the pro life."

Advice to Freshmen from Hersey Hawkins

"Go out and play hard. Listen to the coaches. Never underestimate any team. There is always someone who is trying to get better than you by working hard. You can't take anything for granted."

Chalk me up as one of Charles Barkley's fans. The things that the big man can do with a basketball with his size and weight defy all laws of gravity. He can dribble, rebound, pass, shoot with a defender, bank shots off the board, and block shots and play good defense. He is worth every penny he is getting. I think his BAD BOY image is more front than anything. Deep down inside he seems like a very nice person.

Barkley on the Hornets

"It is a psychological thing. There are some teams that you have trouble with and some teams that you beat all the time. We have trouble with the Hornets. I like playing here (in Charlotte) because the arena is loud and the fans are having so much fun. This brings out the best in me. The Hornets are a good team, but their weakness is on the inside. You can not win games on a consistent basis focusing on the outside shot. You have to win ball games inside."

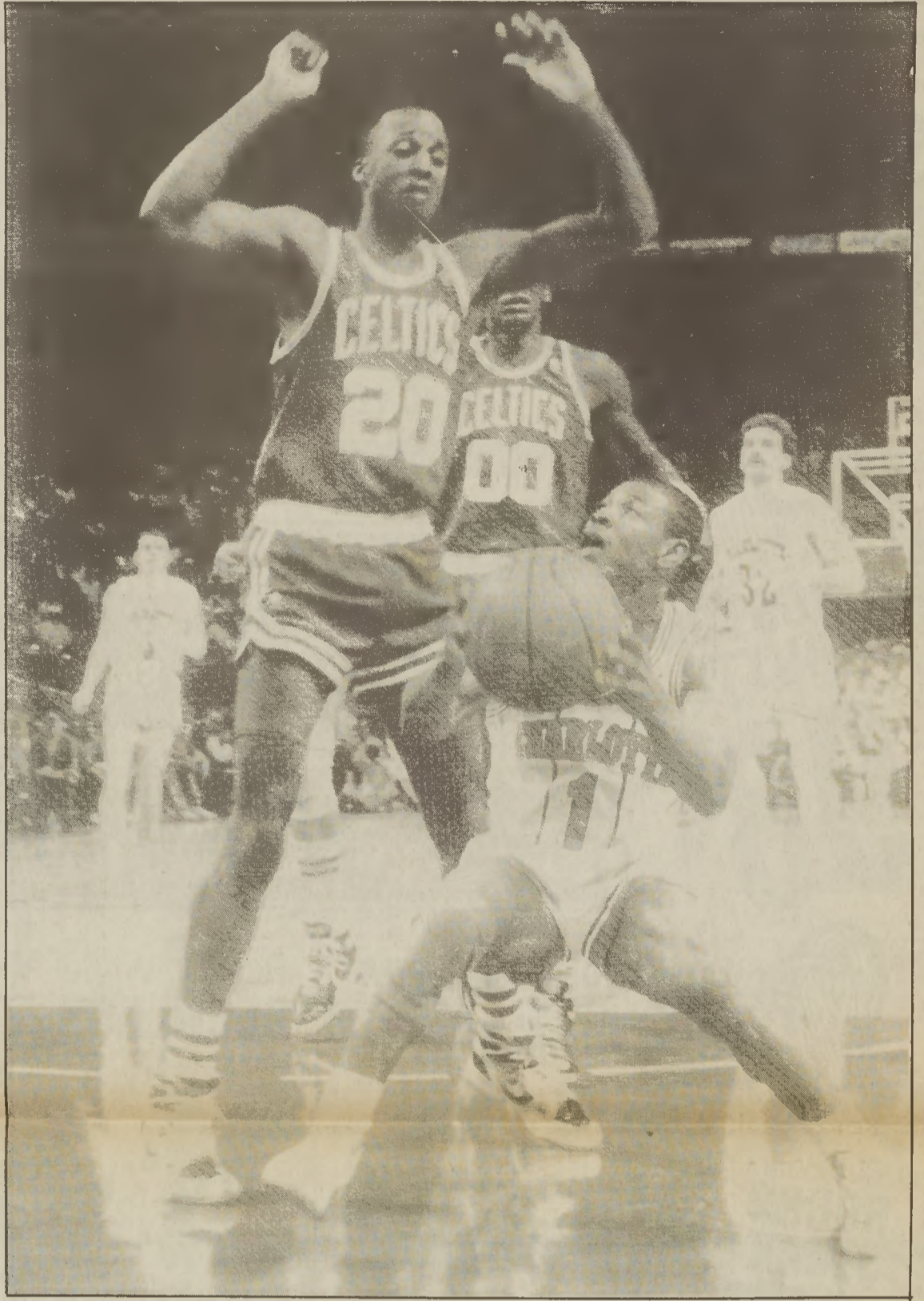
Uptown Optimists Club Sponsors Youth Basketball Program

The Uptown Optimist Club of Charlotte will sponsor its annual Tri-Star Basketball Program for kids between the ages of 8-13 at the Earle Village Recreation Center in Uptown Charlotte. The basic skills competi-

tion will consist of dribbling, shooting and passing.

The program will be held Saturday, April 29, from 1-3 p.m. For more details, contact Darrel Williams, 375-5564 or Glen Frix at 483-6146.

Goal Is Met---20 Hornets Wins



Charlotte guard Muggsy Bogues looks to shoot as Boston's Brian Shaw (20) defends. Photo:FRANK WILLIAMS

By HERB WHITE Post Sports Editor

The Charlotte Hornets conclude a milestone NBA season this week with a couple of milestones going into tomorrow's game with the Milwaukee Bucks.

The Hornets won their 20th game of the year Tuesday with a 121-105 victory over the New Jersey Nets, accomplishing one of the team's main goals.

Robert Reid reached a personal milestone with his 10,000th point as Charlotte won its fifth road game in its last nine outings.

The night before, the Hornets drove Boston to overtime before losing 113-108. The Celtics, who play Charlotte Sunday in the season finale, needed a win to stay in front of Washington for

the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. They got it, but not without a struggle.

Boston's saving grace was its front line duo of Robert Parish and Kevin McHale, who combined for 39 points and 33 rebounds against the smaller Hornets. The Celtics outrebounded Charlotte 73-44, the difference in the game.

"When you can pound the ball into guys like McHale and Parish, that is where you win games," said Hornets forward Greg Kite. "They get more free throws, more rebounds, and better percentage shots."

"In the past five or six years, they have had the best half-court offensive unit because of those two guys."

Even with a smaller front line,

Charlotte's big men continue to play inspired ball. Dave Hoppen and Earl Cureton contributed solid efforts in both games with 15 and 26 points between them.

Kite, the newest Hornet and a former Celtic, has given Charlotte some badly-needed muscle in the middle. It showed against Boston, where Kite and Parish went to war under the basket.

"We were more effective against their post game than we have been in the past because we leaned on them more," Kite said.

Sidney Lowe has given Charlotte a stabilizing presence in the backcourt, directing the offense with 10 assists and five points against New Jersey. The six-foot guard also proved to be a pretty tough fellow, decking

Boston's Kevin Gamble as Gamble went in for a layup. The Charlotte Coliseum crowd, known for not letting anything of note slip by, gave Lowe's play its seal of approval.

"When Gamble was trying to drive, I made sure he didn't get the shot off by knocking him down," Lowe said. "He understood I was trying to prevent an easy layup...there was no hard feeling."

Lowe said the Hornets have improved steadily and feels they can win their remaining games. Charlotte has lost 12 straight at the coliseum, another incentive to do well. With the win over New Jersey, the goal is to end the season on an up note.

"We're not just trying for 20 wins, we're trying to win our last three so we'll have 22," he said.

Triple County Dries Out, Warms Up Year

By Bob Johnson Special To The Post

The Triple County Baseball League finally got under way after three rain-outs. The reigning champs - Queen City Rangers who were to play at Norwood last Sunday, suffered their fourth cancellation due to field conditions. Everyone else did get a chance to open their season last Sunday.

Charlotte Bombers 6 Lincolnton Twins 2

The Charlotte Bombers opened their season at home and outlasted a tough Lincolnton team.

The game was tight throughout. The Bombers took a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Gary Marrow walked, stole second and scored on a single by Charles Latta Jr. The Twins went ahead 2-1, scoring runs in the fifth and seventh innings. Larry Dye put the Bombers ahead for good with a three-run home run in the seventh inning.

Reggie and Charles Latta Jr. went two for three at the plate. Gary Barber (1-0) was the winning pitcher. He pitched seven

innings yielding one earned run. James Young picked up the save.

Allen Sigmon was the losing pitcher for the Twins. He also went two for three at the plate. The Twins stranded 10 base runners.

Manager Robert Burris said, "My young team did a superb job. The season is young and they will do much better as the season goes on."

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Twins	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	5	1		
Giants	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	X	6	6	4	

Rock Hill O's 15 Charlotte Red Birds 7

The Charlotte Red Birds, back in the league after a year, had their home opener spoiled by the pitching of the O's Cornell Perry (1-0) and the Birds' nine miscues.

Perry went the distance for the O's, giving up 10 hits, striking out six batters, while allowing five earned runs. Melvin Hemphill hit a towering three-run homer in the fourth inning to boost the

O's lead to 7-2. John Chisholm - after being walked - scored the winning run on a wild throw by Derrick Fewell after catching a ground ball from Rick Pickett in the fifth inning.

For the Red Birds, Rick Carelock homered to left field after Mike Peake had singled, putting the Birds ahead 2-0 in the bottom of the second. Another outstanding player for the Red Birds was Chris Peake who singled, hit a monster triple to center field in the seventh and later scored on a single by Mike Smith. The losing pitcher was Chris Calloway (0-1). He pitched six innings, gave up five hits and 11 runs.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
O's	0	0	4	3	2	2	4	0	15	6	4	
R. Birds	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	7	10	9	

Hoskins Giants 7 Charlotte Trojans 5

Steve Sowell doubled in Sam Williams and Darryl McCauley in the eighth inning to put the

Hoskins Giants ahead for good (6-5) in a very thrilling opening game. Both teams scored two runs in the fifth inning to start the scoring. Willie Lampkin singled in the bottom of the sixth, and scored on Gerome Thompson's double to put the Trojans ahead (3-2). Both teams scored twice in the seventh before the Giants' lightning struck in the eighth. Sowell scored the seventh run when Eugene Roley doubled.

Eugene Roley (1-0) was the winning pitcher and the Trojans' Jay Johnson (0-1) was the loser. Johnson also registered 10 strikeouts.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	E
Giants	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	0	7	9	0	
Trojans	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	5	9	0		

Clover Hornets 14 Westside Eagles 9

The Westside Eagles scored five runs in the top of the ninth inning with two outs, yet fell short of what would have been a

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