

Hornets star brings A-list of playmates for charity bowling

By Mike Cranston
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINSTON-SALEM - The A-list of NBA celebrities included LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony, but Chris Paul still owns this town.

Paul headlined the celebrity bowling tournament Saturday night to raise money for a local student to attend Wake Forest, where Paul played for two years.

James, Wade, Anthony and Dwight Howard were among the NBA players bowling in the event. All of them recently returned with Paul from Japan after capturing the bronze medal at the world championships.

"I'm just thankful that these guys came out," Paul said. "We've been in Japan for a while and Carmelo still came out. I really appreciate they all came out and showed their support."

Other celebrities who bowled included former Wake Forest basketball stars Josh Howard and Muggsy Bogues, New Orleans Hornets coach Byron Scott and Bret Hecican and Andrew Ladd of the Carolina Hurricanes.

"At first I had a lot of stuff on my schedule, but I canceled some stuff," Anthony said. "Me and Chris really gained a good relationship overseas and I'm pretty sure we're going to be friends the rest of our lives."

The lighthearted event was part of a busy summer for Paul, who won the NBA Rookie of the Year award with the New Orleans Hornets last season, then played on the U.S. basketball team.

Paul has managed to keep close ties to his hometown, where he set up the CP3 Foundation to honor his grandfather Nathaniel Jones, who was murdered when Paul was in high school. The scholarship Paul established at Wake Forest is named for his grandfather.

"For a kid to be so young and have a great vision and the poise to start something like this, it's just unbelievable," Bogues said. "I'm just happy to lend a helping hand."

While many athletes put together charity golf tournaments, Paul wanted a bowling event. His family introduced him to the sport at a young age. He received a ball as a Christmas present in high school, and he owns his own shoes.

"I tell people all the time I do basketball as a hobby. Bowling is what I really do," said Paul, who says he bowls almost every day when he's in Winston-Salem.

The rest of the NBA stars were iffy bowlers, and got some razzing from Paul.

"It's great to be home," Paul said.

N.C. Tech aims for prep football's top

By Herbert L. White
herb.white@thecharlottepost.com

N.C. Tech football coach Tim Newman aspires to build a prep school powerhouse.

On Saturday, his Tigers will play one

N.C. Tech, a first-year program based in Concord, plays national power Hargrave Academy at 7 p.m. at Waddell High. Tickets are \$10. The Tigers, made up of players from Florida to Virginia, has an opportunity to make a statement against a program that routinely produces Division I-A athletes.

"Hargrave and Fork Union, those are the programs we're patterning our program after," said Newman, a former Olympic High and Johnson C. Smith standout from 1982-86.

N.C. Tech is based at Barber-Scotia College, where Newman coached in 2003. He launched the football program at Lenoir College in 2005 and did the same at Tech to give athletes an opportunity to better prepare

for college academics. The closest post-graduate football schools near Charlotte are Fork Union, Hargrave and Valley Forge in Virginia. Louisburg is the only junior college offering the sport.

"I looked around and saw no postgraduate programs (in the area)," Newman said. "All these players were going to Kansas, Mississippi and California."

The Tigers work out and live at Barber-Scotia. Some are taking SAT prep classes to improve their chances of qualifying for Division I scholarships, while others are on a junior college track with classes at two-year schools in Mecklenburg, Gaston and Cabarrus counties. The program's goal is two-fold: offer a chance to play for athletes who've qualified for college but want a better scholarship offer and prepare those who don't have the grades or SAT score. Charlotte-area athletes at Tech include Larry Brown, a quarterback from Independence; Olympic

receiver Wesley Chancellor and Albert Johnson, an offensive lineman from Garinger.

"They're coming to see where their stock is rising," Newman said. "They're coming in to get on film and get back on the (scholarship) table to prove they can still play."

Four-year schools have noticed, Newman said. Coaches from Shaw and Livingstone in the Division II CIAA have scouted practices and Newman said five Tigers have been offered scholarships.

"We want to get them into Division I schools, but you

want to get the best offer on the table, whether it's Division I or Division II," he said.

Saturday's game against 3-1 Hargrave could go a long way toward securing more offers for Tech. A win would help put the Tigers on the football map.

"That's the biggest game of the year for us," Newman said. "We want to be a Hargrave or a Fork Union. We think we've got as good a team as there is around. We want to play them tough, so it's a great opportunity for us."

Smith a mentor to Panthers receivers while on the mend

Continued from page 1C

er and not really saying I'm not playing so who cares," said Smith on his weekly "My Celebrity Circle" program.

"I was just really making sure that I picked up every little thing that they may have missed because they were in the huddle or preoccupied with the game and looking at so many things."

Those extra eyes will be needed Sunday when the Panthers (0-2) take on Tampa Bay Buccaneers (0-2). The Buccaneers are ranked first in the NFC, and fourth overall, against the pass (224 yards per game).

To hear Smith's podcast in its entirety, Alltel customers may dial #STEVE89 to access the secret pass code and enter it at www.alltelcircle.com/89.

"OUTSTANDING!"

A COMPLETELY INSPIRING, MOVING AND MOTIVATING DROWD PLEASER."

BY BRIAN EDWARDS, FOX-TV



GRIDIRON GANG

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

NOW PLAYING

AMSTAR THEATRE 14	CLARK	CONCORD 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14
ARISTON 14	CONCORD HILLS 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14
ATLANTA 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	GRAND CENTRAL 14	SHALOM 14	SHALOM 14









Public Sales Event

07 All New!

CX-7

Lease For **\$299** Per Month

MSRP \$24,310 Stock #5599



No
Dealers
Allowed

06 4cyl or V6

Mazda Tribute

Take **\$6,000** OFF All '06 Tributes

MSRP \$23,135 Stock #5263



Buy For **\$21,988** DON'T MISS OUT!! Buy For **\$16,995**

• Special lender Financing Available

• All Trades Accepted Regardless Of What You Owe!

• Can You Answer **Yes** To The Following Questions

1 DO YOU HAVE A JOB?

2 DO YOU HAVE A PHONE?

3 DO YOU WANT TO EXPERIENCE THE EXHILLARATION OF DRIVING A NEW MAZDA?

SAVE

NOW

OFFER VALID ONLY WHILE INVENTORY LAST. Offers valid OAC must Fin. thru MAC lease part based on 1000 Dn. Excludes title & tax + Security Deposit and doc fee. See Dealer for details

6735 East Independence Blvd. • 704-563-1510