

# Summer Recreation In Full Swing

Summer recreation programs for nearly all ages are in full swing under the direction of the county recreation department.

"We have a lot of people involved, for a small county", W.K. Morgan, recreation director said.

The emphasis in summer programs here is on sports, Morgan said, because of the limited facilities for other activities at the present time.

"We try to get the most people involved, and our whole program is geared around athletics. With our facilities, that almost dictates the way you have to do it".

Baseball, a popular pastime everywhere, is no exception here as 36 teams covering a wide range of ages have been organized.

Girls have turned out enthusiastically for baseball, taking places alongside the boys, particularly Pee Wee league.

Pee Wee baseball (which ended last week) was under the direction of Noah Hendrix, Jr., Hoke High student. As a Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) summer worker, Hendrix had charge of the under-ten set on the diamond, teaching the youngsters the basics of the game for much enjoyment for the littler ones.

For ages 10 through 12, the Little Tar Heel Baseball league here boasts eight teams. Coaches Charles Tew and Stuart Smith (Rescue Squad), Richard Walker and Richard Stone (Lions), Earl Oxendine and Leonard Frahm (Kiwanis), Mac McNeill (North Raeford Fire Department), Charles Crowder (Hoke Recreation), Jessie Taylor (Hoke Drug), William Clark and Bobby Posey (Jaycees), and Linwood Huffman and Tommy Burgess (Sheriff's Department) devote much of their time to supervise the sport.

Youngsters age 13 - 14 play in the Junior Tar Heel organization, under the direction of coaches Billy Colston and Spencer Sampson, who also volunteer their time to insure a successful program.

They're a strong contender for a spot in the state playoffs.

Terry Grier, Hoke High baseball coach, is in charge of Senior Tar Heel baseball, which is open to ages 15 - 17.

Five teams participated in Youth Softball, ending their regular season with a tournament won by the Sandhills youth Center team. SYC was led by coach Ronnie Jacobs. Eldridge Blue was at the helm for the Lions, Peter Maynor led Woodmen of the World (WOW), James Cross and Red Singletary directed VFW, and the Kiwanis team was guided by Bill Norris.

A highlight of the baseball picture is the tournament play in the adult leagues.

About 100 women turned out to form six teams for the Armory Park games.

Robert Taylor coaches the Jaycees, Marion Hollingsworth is in for Hollingsworth Barber Shop. Jackson Funeral Home is coached by Robert Blue. Lonnie Hendricks leads Pig 'n Chicken. Alexander Kelly leads the Burlington team, and Geraldine McLaughlin handles the duties for Doby's Funeral Home.

In the mens league, eight teams are providing entertainment at the park, including a team from the McCain prison unit for the first time.

Morgan said he is very well pleased with the results, and hopes a team from the prison will become a regular participant.

"They're a real fine group of fellows, you couldn't ask for a better bunch", he said. One of the teams hosted a dinner recently for the McCain players.

Basketball is also a part of the summer recreation picture, under the capable direction of Hoke High basketball stars who are teaching the sport to the younger boys and girls.

With jobs funded under the NYC program, Ronald Black, James Rainey, George Maynor, and James McQueen direct the 'Little League Basketball' activities for ages 7 - 12.

Clinics are held in the Gibson gymnasium at the high school and also at the Upchurch junior high

gymnasium, where the youngsters can learn the fundamentals.

After each session of instruction, teams are made up by the coaches, who group the children according to age, and 30 minute games are played.

Statistics are kept on the youthful players, who are showing a keen interest in the game, and awards are made for free throw accomplishments.

Both gyms are also open for basketball for children over 12 who want to improve their skills over the summer months.

Much of the basketball equipment in use was acquired by the recreation department through a \$2,300 award last year from the Region N funds, Morgan said.

In a joint effort of the recreation department, the Girls Scouts, and Ft. Bragg, the annual swim camp for youngsters six through twelve got underway this week.

The camp, which runs Monday through Friday until July 25, is an eagerly awaited event for the boys and girls and enrollment was again filled early.

The swimmers are taught by Red Cross personnel at Ft. Bragg's Smith Lake, after leaving Raeford by bus from the Armory in the morning.

Mrs. Milo Postel, former Association chairman in Scouting here and longtime booster for the swim camp, has 76 - 80 children participating this year.

The only summer program which is not free, the swim camp charges a \$1.75 fee, but the proceeds go towards purchase of arts and crafts materials to be used in these activities, Morgan said.

Tennis instruction is also available and free to county residents, from now through August 7.

Taught by Johnny Miller of Campbell College, a large number has turned out for beginners classes between 8 and 9 a.m. at the high school courts.

Intermediate and advanced instruction is also given later in the morning for more experienced netters.

Helping to keep the many programs running, particularly the baseball, is Philos Johnson, whose job it is to supervise the maintenance at the parks.

Johnson and his crew make sure Armory Park, McLaughlin Park behind McLaughlin elementary school, the Rockfish Creek area, and the Robbins Heights play area are kept up and ready for use.

The field at Armory Park, in use so much during the summer months, must be cleaned and kept up regularly.

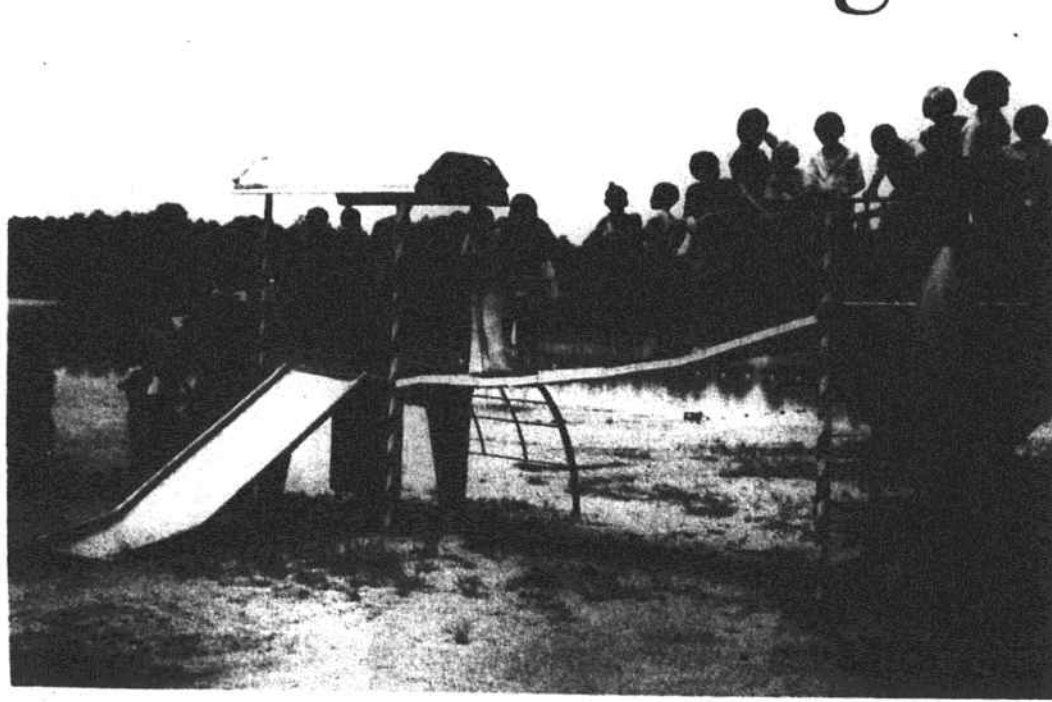
From now through the end of July, most of the focus will be on the baseball action as local tournament play continues into district competition.

The recreation department is also planning activities at the Edinborough shopping center, including volleyball games, to start August 8, and run through the beginning of school later that month.

"We try to cover most everyone", Morgan said, in discussing the various programs offered, "except the senior citizens because we don't have a place to meet".

Bridge games, arts and crafts, painting, and other pursuits are all activities the recreation department is interested in sponsoring in the future, Morgan explained, if adequate space can be arranged for groups to meet.

Pat Scott, an Upchurch school teacher, devotes much of her time to keeping the programs going, serving as gym supervisor, publicity worker, and keeping track of the many schedules and events that are planned.



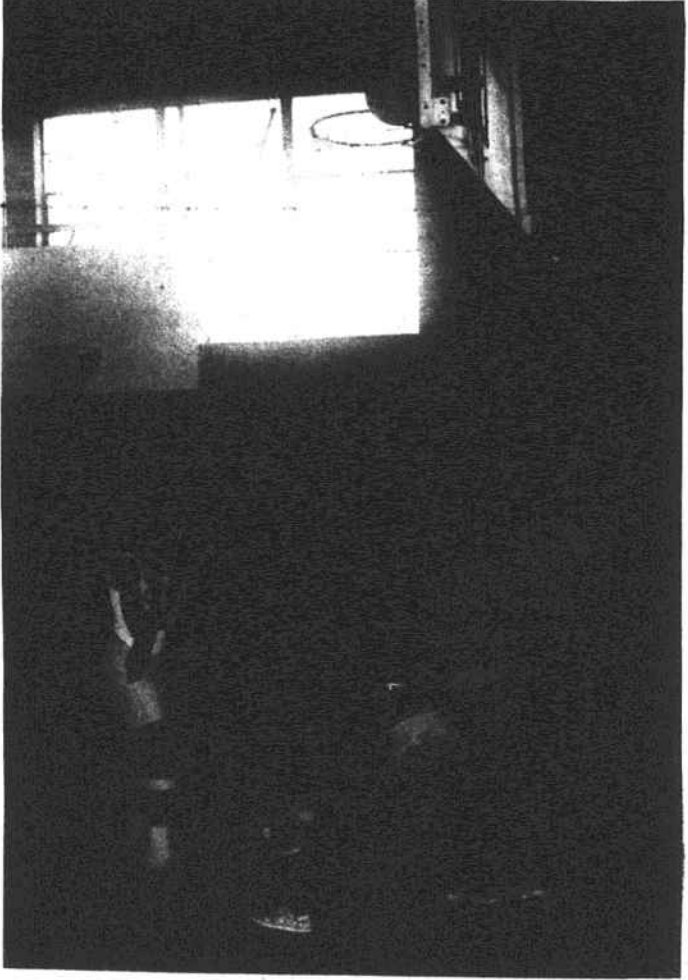
SWIM CAMP—Monday's rain didn't dampen the spirits of these youngsters at the opening day of swim camp at Ft. Bragg's Smith Lake, they put the play equipment to use and enjoyed the outing.



TOURNAMENT CHAMPS—Members of the SPCA team line up Thursday night after defeating Gentry's Tire for the championship. Players from left to right are first row: Nelson Smith, Leon Smith, George McFadyen, Benny McLeod, Jeff McNeill, second row: Gary Culp, Dennis Hawkes, Bobby Baker, Frank Teal, Jimmy Neil Conoly, third row: Joe Cothran, Jimmy Plummer, Eddie McNeill, Earl Daniels, Jimmy Teal, and Dale Teal. Team mascots are in front.



RUNNER-UPS — Members of Gentry's Tire softball team line up after taking the runnerup spot in the mens softball tournament Thursday night. First row, left to right, C.D. Bounds, Randy Higgins, Joe McCollum, Mark Gentry, Bill Upchurch, (Coach), and Bob Gentry. Second row, Larry Phillips, Julian King, Bobby Bounds, Walter Blue, Bill McPhaul, Vardell Hedgpeth, Linwood Huffman, Bob Marval, Mitchell Cox, and Larry Upchurch.



BASKETBALL WORKOUT—The nine and ten year olds here are getting a fast workout during the basketball clinic at Upchurch school under the direction of Hoke High top players.

Story By  
Marty Vega



PEE WEE ACTION—Tammy Griffin is ready for a base hit as Jackson Kolb stands by during a Pee Wee league game at Armory Park.



COACHING—Former Hoke High baseball catcher and summertime coach for the under-ten set Noah Hendrix, Jr., calls the signal to run to a Pee Wee player on base in a fast-paced game.