

# Longhorn legend leads local YMCA campers in basketball basics

By EMILY WEAVER  
Editor

Sixteen Kings Mountain YMCA campers have returned from an exciting two-day basketball camp led by the "most winningest coach" in University of Texas basketball history, Rick Barnes.

The Longhorn legend has guided Texas to a school-record 12 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances and a school-best 11 straight 20-win seasons in his first 12 years at the helm. On July 21-22 he guided more than 170 lucky campers at Lenoir-Rhyne University, Barnes' alma mater.

The camp was sponsored by the Hickory YMCA in a city proud to welcome home a faithful son. Barnes, who is lovingly referred to as "Ricky of Hickory" by folks in his Catawba County hometown, learned to play basketball at the Hickory YMCA's teen center.

The proceeds raised from the basketball camp continue to benefit that same teen center. And the crowd of tomorrow's possible b-ball stars that filled the LRU gym July 21-22 learned a thing or two about that game the coach learned many years ago - a game that led to him receiving an honor in 2009 with the John Wooden Leg-

ends of Coaching Award.

Before leading the Longhorns to greatness, he led the Clemson Tigers to three straight NCAA Tournament berths and a No. 2 national ranking nearly six years ago. Texasports.com, the official site of Texas athletics, has called him the "winningest coach" in Texas history.

At the camp, he gave T-shirts to all of the participants and autographed "Hook'em 'Horns" basketballs for each of the campers.

Kevin Osborne, executive director of the Kings Mountain Family YMCA, said that the campers (four more this year than last) re-



**SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP** - Front row, left to right, Jaden Henderson, Gabe Petty, Wyatt Shope, Drew Hollifield, Mark Petrilli, Reese Ayscue, Wilson Moore, Luke Rikard, Emma Ayscue and Layla Harris. Second row, Matthew Madden, Mariah Surratt, McRae Moore, John Harris and Lindsay McGinnis. Back row, John Maynard, YMCA Sports Director; Ramey Kerns, YMCA Counselor; and Coach Rick Barnes.

ally seemed to enjoy the program.

In addition to meeting a basketball legend, "I think they really enjoyed eating in the college cafeteria," Osborne said.

Campers were divided into groups and rotated to 10 different stations inside a gymnasium at LRU, where they practiced techniques such as ball handling, dribbling, passing and rebounding. In the afternoon, the campers ate with the college students at the university cafeteria. They played "knock out games" (like HORSE) and "pick-up games" and on Friday evening the campers returned home with stories to tell.

The 45-minute drives to Hickory and back were made a little more comfortable this year with the use of an air-conditioned bus on loan from KM's First Presbyterian Church.

For more information or to find out about some of the camps and sporting activities that are open to all local youths, visit [www.kingsmountainymca.org](http://www.kingsmountainymca.org) or call 704-739-9631.



Photos Courtesy of KM YMCA  
University of Texas Men's Basketball Coach Rick Barnes talks to 170 campers on the first day of the 7th annual CO Miller Teen Center YMCA Basketball Camp at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

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