Thursday, July 8, 2010

### Hoppers end skid

Kyle Skipworth breaks a scoreless tie with a solo home run in the seventh to lead Greensboro past Lakewood, ending the Hoppers' four-game losing streak. Story, B3



#### **MORE INSIDE**

■ **BASEBALL:** UNCG pitcher opts to go pro with the Oakland Athletics. B3

■ **NHL:** The Hurricanes bring back defenseman Joe Corvo. **B5** 

■ **BUSINESS:** Auto dealers, community banks skirt new financial legislation. **B6** 

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# A&T track heats up in the summertime

**GREENSBORO** — Welcome to Track Town.

The lazy days of summer are anything but out at A&T, where they're getting ready for this week's USA Track and Field Region 3 Championships. Some 3,500 athletes are coming here to compete, and many of them are coming with Mom and Dad and coaches and trainers and volunteers and, well, let's just say you can forget getting a hotel room here

DePaul Mittman was going down his list of last-minute things to do Wednesday as time ticked off and the reality of the meet loomed. The meet manager was in a good mood despite soaring temperatures and uncertainty about a few undone details.

"There's a lot of moving parts to this thing," said Mittman. "And I'm out here putting some of the moving parts together. We have to secure some issues."

Greensboro is known as Tournament Town in certain circles, a reference to the many basketball, golf and



baseball championships held here annually. Folks over at the Sports Commission want it known that the city is taking on a few more tournaments in the coming years, and the Region 3 Championships is an example of Greensboro's desire to become a national and even international destination for track and field.

Kim Strable, the head of the commission, said there's an estimated \$2.8 million economic impact from this meet alone, and he promised more events that will bring in even more money in the future.

All of that sounds nice to Mittman, but he was more concerned with a shipment of shirts that was supposed to be here already.

"They better be here," he said, laughing.

That was in addition to all the other things he needed to take care of before today. By morning, he'd made sure he'd seen the 50 cases of water

needed in the coming days.
"And I'll pick up another 25 or 30 cases," Mittman said. "Then we'll have the round coolers at each hydration station and another 25 or 30 cases of Gatorade."

He has more than the 3,500

athletes to worry about.

"Hydration stations are being set up," he said. "We're constantly dealing with that during the meet. People don't think about this, but the athletes are taken care of. They're constantly being told by coaches and trainers to 'Drink more water; drink more water.' But the fans are the ones we have to remind."

The meet will begin today out at the A&T track, where Aggies track coaching legend

See Hardin, Page B3



NBA free-agent LeBron James takes a shot during a workout at the LeBron James Skills Academy for high school and college players. P.J. Hairston and other high school players watch on the sideline at Rhodes Arena on the University of Akron campus in Akron, Ohio. "I would think (he would go to) the Knicks," Hairston said.

# HAIRSTON: 'IT'S CRAZY'

■ Greensboro's P.J. Hairston, taking part in the Lebron James Skills Academy, offers his observations on the media circus around James.

By Gerald Witt Staff Writer

Hairston

↑he spotlight remains on Akron, Ohio, and LeBron James.

Chris Bosh's decision to join the Miami Heat and Dwyane Wade made news Wednesday, but the NBA world sits idle for word from the star they call King James. And it hangs out near the gym at his basketball camp, according to Greensboro's P.J. Hairston.

'We'll be walking in the gym and the media will be piled up, just waiting for LeBron to come out," Hairston said Wednesday from the LeBron James Skills Acad-

emy in Akron. James will make an announcement on ESPN at 9 p.m. today in a special broadcast. Cleveland-Plain Dealer columnist Terry Pluto called it the biggest moment in Cavaliers history, and a poll at cleveland.com showed Wednesday 53 percent of voters be-

lieve that James will stay put. Most players at the camp believe that James will go

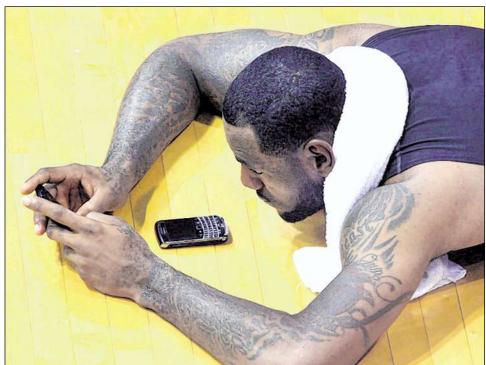
to the Heat, Hairston said. 'I would think the Knicks, because it would just be him and Amare (Stoudemire)," Hairston said. "Then the role players could do their jobs and (James) could make the team a whole lot better.'

Speculation remains the order of the week, while Hairston and plenty of others scratch their head over

the circus that is pro sports. "I don't really have an explanation for it," he said.

"It's just crazy, what's going on over a human being."

Contact Gerald Witt at 373-7008 or gerald.witt@news-record.com



CHUCK CROW/The Plain Dealer (Cleveland)

LeBron James works on one of his BlackBerrys after the evening workout with high school players. James will announce his team of choice on ESPN at 9 p.m. today.

I don't really have an explanation for it. It's just crazy, what's going on over a human being.

P.J. Hairston, Former Dudley player

**INSIDE:** Reports say former Duke star Carlos Boozer is headed to the Chicago Bulls. **B3** 

# Swimming coach spans generations

■ After 26 years, Chip Johnson sometimes coaches the children of his former **Greensboro Country Club swimmers.** 

By David Reynolds Staff Writer

When Chip Johnson, the swim coach at Greensboro Country Club, was asked about how many children he's taught in his 26 years with the team, he couldn't help but sound a little exasperated.

"Oh my goodness gracious," Johnson, 53, blurted out.

For the next few moments, he tried to add up the number of swimmershe had coached. He finally settled on "I don't know" and a chuckle.

In a job that traditionally has a short shelf life, Johnson has been a fixture.

When he started in 1985, his team had 35 members. It now has about 180, and they'll be part of the Greensboro Community Swim Association's City Championship begin-

ning today at Lindley Park Pool. He's been with the GCC for so many years that

See **Johnson**, Page **B3** 

#### CITY MEET

What: Greensboro Community Swim Association's City Championship

When: Today-Saturday. Today's events are 9:30 a.m.-

1:30 p.m. then 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Where: Lindley Park Pool, 2914 Springwood Dr., Greensboro Information: greensborocsa.org

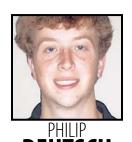
## The World Cup's real winner is South Africa

Greensboro resident Philip Deutsch is in South Africa as part of a study-abroad program. He is attending World Cup events and filing reports periodically for the News & Record.

When FIFA selected South Africa for the

2010 World Cup, talk of Afro-pessimism such as lack of skilled workers, high crime rates, disease, prostitution and sex slaving began.

To many, these worries were legitimate as more than 400,000 tourists of more than 32 countries were coming to see probably the biggest sporting spectacle in the world in a mysteriously developing country at the Southern tip of Africa.



AT THE WORLD CUP

The question was whether it would be safe for fans of all nationalities to harmoniously spectate and the event to become a complete success for the world. Or, would the monthlong event turn

See Deutsch, Page B5

#### **WORLD CUP FINAL**

What: Netherlands vs. Spain

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday TV: WXLV-45

INSIDE: Precision passing helps Spain beat Germany. **B4** 

# Montgomery helps Hoppers out of tailspin

## Skipworth's homer ends 0-0 tie

**GRASSHOPPERS REPORT** 

Grasshoppers **BlueClaws** 

**Site:** NewBridge Bank Park, Greensboro

Why the Grasshoppers won:

Matthew Montgomery and reliever Alejandro Ramos combined on a four-hit shutout, and Kyle Skipworth broke a scoreless tie with a solo home run in the seventh to lead Greensboro past first-place Lakewood, ending the Grasshoppers' four-game losing streak.

**Performances** worth noting: Montgomery pitched eight scoreless innings, giving up four hits with one walk and



leading 18th save.

Montgomery to pick up his South Atlantic League-

**Also worth noting:** The game featured a rare feat: the Hoppers left no runners on base. ... Montgomery's record improved to 5-8 and his ERA dipped to 3.04. ... Earlier in the day, Hoppers infielder Terrence Dayleg was taken off the DL and transferred to Jupiter.

The big play: Skipworth's 13th homer of the season broke the scoreless tie. The Hoppers added an insurance run in the eighth on Chad Cregar's one-out RBI single.

AB R H BI

– Staff Report

			BI	AB	п	п	DI
4	0	1	0 Duarte cf	3	0	0	0
4	0	0	0 Austin 3b	3	0	0	0
4	0	2	0 Skipworth c	3	1	1	1
3	0	0	0 Jensen dh	3	0	1	0
4	0	0	0 Bass If	3	1	1	0
3	0	0	0 Smith rf	2	0	0	0
4	0	1	0 Cregar 1b	3	0	1	1
3	0	0	0 Pasek 2b	3	0	0	0
3	0	0	0 Torres ss	2	0	0	0
32	0	4	0 Totals	25	2	4	2
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LOB-Lakewood 7, Greensboro 0. 2B-Castro (22), Bass (15). HR-Skipworth (13). SH-Smith. Pettibone L, 3-3 Ramos S, 18

Umpires—Home, Bailey. Base, Karle T-1:45. A-3,662.

**UP NEXT** 

Who: Greensboro Grasshoppers at **Hickory Crawdads** 

When: 7 p.m. today

Where: L.P. Frans Stadium, Hickory

**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** 

	w	L	Pct.	GB	
x-Lakewood (Phillies)	10	3	.769	_	
Greensboro (Marlins)	8	6	.571	21/2	
Hickory (Rangers)	7	7	.500	31/2	
Delmarva (Orioles)	6	7	.462	4	
Hagerstown (Nationals)	5	9	.357	51/2	
Kannapolis (Chisox)	5	9	.357	51/2	
West Virginia (Pirates)	5	9	.357	51/2	
Southe	rn Divis	ion			
	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Greenville (Red Sox)	10	4	.714	_	
Anhavilla (Doalrina)	0		642	- 1	

.500 .500 .429

Lexington (Astros) Rome (Braves) Charleston (Yanks) Lakewood 7, Greensboro 6 Delmarva 3, Hickory 1

West Virginia 7, Hagerstown 3

Asheville 6. Charleston 4

Greenville 10, Kannapolis 2 Augusta 9. Lexington 5 Rome 7, Savannah 6

Wednesday's results oro 2, Lakewood 0 Delmarva 2, Hickory 1 Charleston 4, Asheville 2 Lexington 4, Augusta 1 West Virginia 7, Hagerstown 2 Kannapolis 7, Greenville 4

Savannah 6, Rome 2

Today's ga Greensboro at Hickory, 7 Charleston at Rome, 7 Hagerstown at Greenville, 7 Kannapolis at Augusta, 7:05 Lexington at West Virginia, 7:05 Delmarva at Lakewood, 7:05

Friday's gam Charleston at Rome, 7 Greensboro at Hickory, 7 Hagerstown at Greenville, 7 Delmarva at Lakewood, 7:05 Savannah at Asheville, 7:05 Kannapolis at Augusta, 7:05



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>LWD</b>	<b>LWD</b>	<b>LWD</b>	<b>LWD</b>	<b>HIC</b>	<b>HIC</b>	<b>HIC</b>
7 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	12:30 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
HIC	HIC		<b>ASH</b>	<b>ASH</b>	<b>ASH</b>	<b>ASH</b>
5 p.m.	7 p.m.		7 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>ASH</b>		<b>AUG</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>AUG</b>	CSC
4 p.m.		7:05 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	7:05 p.m.	7 p.m.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<b>CSC</b>	<b>CSC</b>	<b>CSC</b>		<b>HAG</b>	<b>HAG</b>	<b>HAG</b>
4 p.m.	7 p.m.	12:30 p.m.		7 p.m.	7 p.m.	7 p.m.

# **UNCG** pitcher foregoes senior year, turns pro

Staff Report

Former UNCG pitcher Blake Hassebrock will forego his senior season after signing a contract with the Oakland Ath-

Hassebrock, an eighth-round pick in June who has a low to mid 90's fastball, will begin his pro career with the Arizona League Phoenix Athletics, Oakland's rookie-ball affiliate.

Hassebrock will move on to the Vancouver Canadians, which is the short-season single-A affiliate.

In his 21 appearances for the Spartans last season, he held opponents to three earned runs or less 16 times. He finished second on the team with 61 strikeouts in 73 innings, including 25 with the batter looking.

Hassebrock's selection marked the 14th time in the past 15 years that at least one UNCG player has been drafted. He is also the 12th pitcher in the past 14 seasons to be cho-

HITOMS 5, ASHEBORO 4: Ben Grisz hit a go-ahead solo home

#### **AREA BRIEFS**

run in top of the ninth inning for Thomasville. Grisz went 3for-4 with that home run and a

Cody Penny was the winning pitcher for the HiToms. He went two innings, struck out five, walked two and gave up one hit.

Jordan Jankowski struck out three in one inning of work for the HiToms and earned the

Joseph Hughes was the loser, going six innings and giving up six hits and four runs. He struck out four.

#### **SOCCER**

**CLASH OF THE CAROLINAS:** Alex Kubrick of Ragsdale, Taylor Dulaney and Carson Williams of East Forsyth will be playing in the Clash of the Carolinas soccer tournament in Daniel Island, S.C. on Friday. Chad Lorentz of East Forsyth will be a co-coach.

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# Carlos Boozer headed to Chicago

The Associated Press

Carlos Boozer is headed to the Chicago Bulls.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press that Boozer, a twotime All-Star forward, agreed to a deal Wednesday and is leaving the Utah Jazz after six seasons. The person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the contract can't become official until today, did not reveal the terms.

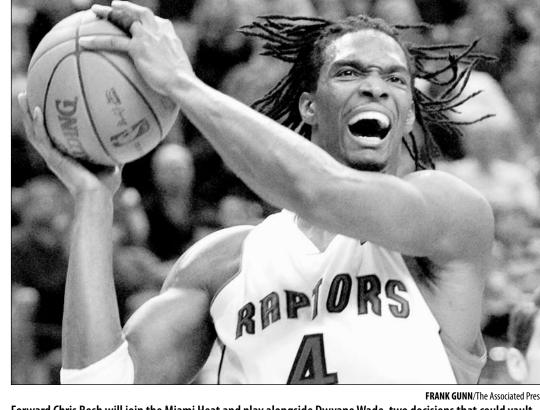
Several outlets have reported it's a five-year deal, and the Chicago Tribune cited a source saying the Bulls would still have enough room to offer a maximum salary contract to another free agent. The NBA set the salary cap at \$58.04 million for next season on Wednes-

The Duke alum becomes the latest chip to fall on a day when Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh confirmed they will play in Mi-

LeBron James, the jewel of this star-studded class, is still out there. While everyone awaits his announcement tonight (9 p.m., ESPN), the Bulls at least know they're not coming away empty-handed after landing Boozer.

Anticipating about \$30 million in cap room, the Bulls were looking to make a big splash in free agency after consecutive first-round playoff exits. Adding Boozer strengthens their standing in the Eastern Conference — and maybe makes them more attractive to James, his former teammate.

Boozer averaged 19.5 points and 11.2 rebounds last season.



Forward Chris Bosh will join the Miami Heat and play alongside Dwyane Wade, two decisions that could vault the Heat back into the NBA championship picture. The Heat is two-thirds of the way to hitting one of the biggest trifectas in NBA history. LeBron James will announce his destination today (9 p.m., ESPN).

His arrival gives the Bulls a formidable pair in the frontcourt with Joakim Noah, not to mention a good pick-and-roll partner for All-Star point guard

MORE CAP ROOM: The NBA salary cap for next season was set Wednesday at \$58.04 million, a higher number than projected that could help Miami fill out a roster around Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and perhaps even LeBron James. The cap goes into effect today, ending the league's moratorium period and allowing free agent contracts to be signed. It's a slight increase from this season's \$57.7 million cap, a surprise for teams considering what they were bracing for last summer. Teams were warned in a memo last July that the economic crisis could send the cap spiraling to somewhere between \$50.4 million to \$53.6 million, some \$10 million below what teams

were once anticipating.

**CELTICS:** Ray Allen has agreed to a two-year, \$20 million contract to return to the Boston Celtics. Allen, who turns 35 this month, was a free agent.

CLIPPERS: Former N.C. State guard Vinny Del Negro agreed to a three-year deal to coach the Los Angeles Clippers, taking over a team that went 29-53 last season and missed the playoffs for the 15th time in 17

### Johnson

Continued from Page B1

it's no longer unusual for him to coach the sons or daughters of his former swimmers.
"Makes me feel old," John-

son said with a laugh. "It's great to have that connection between the parents and the children. It is a little odd, but it just means I've been around a long time."

But just because he's been with the club for a long time doesn't mean he's lost his energy and passion for coaching.

Johnson arrives at the pool at about 7:30 a.m. on practice days and splits his time between coaching and serving as the aquatics director for the GCC's two facilities.

Practice for swimmers ends at 6 p.m., but Johnson often stays later to help the pool's lifeguards, balance the pool's chemicals and work on entry forms for his swimmers.

'He strict when he needs

to be, but he's also very kind and loving to the kids," assistant coach Kelley Schott said. "He makes sure everybody is comfortable swimming the strokes that they want to swim in meets and making sure that everybody knows what to do." Johnson also works hard to

come up with ways to make sure all his swimmers stay involved with the program, no matter what their talent level. He has organized trivia nights with questions about

individuals and coaches on the team, and he instituted a special system to recognize improvement during a summer. Only the top 10 places in

meets received ribbons, and with a team as large as GCC's, that meant a lot of swimmers previously did not receive anything. "He came up with an idea

of rewarding the less gifted swimmers with improvement ribbons and bracelets," assistant coach Walker Schott said. "He's always been very fair like that. Not giving all the attention to his top swimmers, but sharing his knowledge with the less talented swimmers as well." Under Johnson's leader-

ship, the GCC also has become

heavily involved with the Swim for Cancer program. The program, in its 37th year, raises money through swimmers soliciting pledges for a certain amount of money

per lap that they swim on a

particular day, with the maximum amount of laps being 40. Troy Thee, the executive director at the Greensboro branch of the American Cancer Society, said that the program has raised more than \$2.66 million and that GCC swimmers have been a big

Thee said he cannot remember the last time the trophy for the team that raised the most

money didn't go to the club. The organization means a lot to Johnson, whose wife, Anna Lea, battled breast cancer for 19 years. She died in

December.

swimmers to raise even more money this year to remember the woman they knew as "Mrs. J." GCC raised more than \$37,000 in 2009, but Thee said that number is significantly higher this year. The final amount will be re-

Her death spurred GCC

leased Saturday. "They have dedicated the

summer to raising money in her memory, and it's been really overwhelming what they have done," Johnson said. In the non-summer months.

Johnson is an adjunct professor at Elon, where he teaches theater classes. And though he has coached

at GCC for almost three decades - winning city championships in 2007 and 2008 — he's not showing any signs of slowing down. "It's something I love to do,"

he said. "It's just a matter of having the energy to do it.

Contact David Reynolds at 373-7016 or david.reynolds@ news-record.com.

## **Hardin**

Continued from Page B1

Roy Thompson envisioned events like this one. Mittman said it's a much bigger deal than you might think, a lot more involved than a basketball tournament. "We've got more than 3,000

athletes with volunteers and coaches and trainers and timers and scorers and families,' he said. "Parking is the first concern. Then there's the event. It's not like a one-day event. It's magnified. And it's all over. In basketball, everybody's in one place. You just roll the ball out. We have people throwing javelins.'

And there will be sprinters and walkers and discus throwers and hammer throwers and hurdlers and decathletes and pole vaulters and long jumpers and shot putters.

The kids, ages 8 to 18, are

#### ON TRACK AT A&T Among the 2010 events hosted on

the Irwin Belk Track at A&T's Aggie

May 6-8: MEAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

May 14-15, 20-21: N.C. High School Athletic Association state meets in each of four classes.

May 27-29: NCAA East Preliminary Round.

June 17-19: New Balance Nationals.

June 24-27: USA Track & Field Junior Olympics North Carolina Championships.

July 8-11: USA Track & Field Junior Olympics Region 3 Championships.

here from all over the region, the top qualifiers from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, the District of Columbia and parts of Maryland. The top qualifiers from the track and field events here will qualify for the national championships in Sacramento, Calif.

"This is a huge event," meet director Frank Davis of Durham said. "It takes a lot of coordination. We have athletes here from five associations. It's not easy, but it all comes together because of people like DePaul Mittman and the facilities at A&T. It's one of the best in the country. It's hard to find a track facility better than A&T's. A lot of tracks are just the track. This is actually a football stadium with parking and restrooms and facilities. It seems like small stuff. But you don't have a bunch of Port-A-Johns all over the place.

"The sight lines are good all over the stadium. You can see everything, from the javelins outside to the four jump pits and over the entire track. The

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dedicated staff assist you with your retreat planning.

track itself is Olympic quality. A lot of people want to run on A&T's track. It's a fast track.'

Davis hopes all of the hard work has been done. That's the key to a well-run meet, he said. And he's put much of it the hands of Greensboro's Mittman.

"I won't have much to do once it starts," Davis said. "I'll be putting out little fires.'

Mittman wasn't putting out little fires Wednesday. He was working down his list, waiting for the shirts to arrive, hoping the volunteers get here on time and wondering how in the world he can pull it off in four days.

"We have to feed these folks," he said.

Then he went back to his long to-do list on a hot day in Track Town.

Contact Ed Hardin at 373-7069 or ed.hardin@ news-record.com





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