

DUKE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CAMP FOR GIRLS AT RED OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL



Above, Duke senior point guard Chelsea Hopkins leads a group of young girls in a drill during a basketball camp Wednesday at Red Oak Middle School. Below, Duke senior guard Bridgette Mitchell, far left, shows a group of girls how to box out during the camp Wednesday.

Summer Ball

Contributed to the Telegram

The Duke women's basketball team has played host to a basketball camp at Red Oak Middle School for one week for three consecutive summers. With the help of Heather Thompson, a guidance counselor at Red Oak Middle School, approximately 50 children join the Blue Devils to learn and improve their basketball skills. Current and former members from the Blue Devils squad venture to Rocky Mount to teach and interact with the campers. For the Blue Devils, it's an opportunity to promote Duke in an atmosphere outside of Durham. For the children, it's a chance to spend time and learn from talented college student-athletes. Lauren Rice, who serves as camp director, played basketball at Duke from 1996 to 2000. While she was a player at Duke, she was a member of Duke's first Elite Eight (1998), regular-season Atlantic Coast Conference champion (1998, 1999), Final Four/National Championship runner-up (1999) and ACC Tournament Championship (2000). Rice returned to work with Duke women's basketball during the 2007-08 season as the team's video coordinator. The camp concludes today.



Visit [www.RockyMountTelegram.com](http://www.RockyMountTelegram.com) for a photo gallery from the Blue Devils' camp

Playing golf in front of a crowd isn't as easy as the pros make it look



J. Eric Eckard prepares to hit a fairway shot during the Buick Open Pro-Am on July 29 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich.

By J. ERIC ECKARD  
Special to the Telegram

GRAND BLANC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Anyone who has watched a PGA Tour event has seen it — a professional golfer hitting his ball into the gallery and the crowd parts to make room for the shot. For a pro golfer, hitting with a group of spectators within a few feet of them is no chore at all. But for me, playing last week in the Buick Open Pro-Am, it just proved the old adage that golf is such a mental game. Playing with K.J. Choi, whose best year was 2007 when he won both the Memorial Tournament and the AT&T National, I had two goals: Hit my first tee shot in the fairway and contribute positively to our team scorecard. To say I was nervous as we approached our first tee at Warwick Hills Golf and

Country Club was the proverbial understatement of the year. Choi's name was announced to the crowd gathered around the teebox, and a round of applause erupted from the gallery. Choi calmly stepped up to his ball and whacked it about 270 yards down the fairway, just like he'd done 1,000 times before, I'm sure. But as my name was announced and I stepped up to the teebox, silence. Not a peep. Not even a quiet whisper, "Who's he?" So with my usual "playing the fool" demeanor, I turned to the crowd and asked, "What? No one's gonna clap for me?" Thankfully, my teammates and our caddies started the applause, and I think I saw a few in the gallery give me a polite golf clap or two. Nerves calmed. I teed my ball and went through my pre-shot routine and checklist — don't try to kill it and keep your head

down. After my swing, all I heard was Choi saying, "Good shot." Goal 1 accomplished. In fact, Choi and I were the only ones in our fivesome who hit the fairway on our first hole. Well, my game got worse, while my teammates' games fortunately got better. We finished 13-under for the day, just four strokes behind the winning team of four Warwick Hills members and Steve Lowery. Lowery, the first-round leader in the real Buick Open, credited his team in his post-round interview, saying that he contributed little to the pro-am team score. "That was an incredible pro-am, Lowery said. "They only had 19 strokes between the four of them, and they shot 17-under. "That was an incredible day. It was a positive day out there. I don't think I contributed much, but it was a positive day just to be in that

See ECKARD, 2B

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Marshall ready for increased role at CB

By MIKE CRANSTON  
AP Sports Writer

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — Steve Smith sprinted across the middle Wednesday morning, caught a pass in front of Richard Marshall and spiked the ball in front of him. Welcome to your first full-time starting job, Richard. Have fun covering one of the NFL's more dynamic receivers with unmatched intensity and ability to annoy. "I actually like he when he catches the ball and spikes the ball," Marshall said with a straight face. "He gets me riled up. He gets me to say, 'OK, I've got to get my mind right.' I've got to really get out there and get him now." The Panthers now expect Marshall to do that every week. After three years as a nickel back, Carolina's second-round pick from 2006 was elevated to the starting job in March when veteran Ken Lucas released.

The move came less than a year after Lucas had his nose broken by Smith in camp, the culmination of years of 1-on-1 matchups and bickering in practice. "It gets me going," Marshall said of facing the four-time Pro Bowl receiver. "If I'm having a slow day and I'm not really into the practice mode, he'll spike the ball. Or he'll catch the ball and spin it. It gets me going. It's time to play now. Let's go." The 5-foot-11 former Fresno State star is eager for the challenge after waiting patiently behind Lucas and Chris Gamble, Carolina's top cornerback who late last season signed a six-year extension worth more than \$50 million. Entering the final year of his rookie contract, Marshall will get his chance to be out there on every down and prove his worth. "Oh man, his intensity level has picked up," safety Chris Harris said. "Richard, I think he's going to be a great starting corner for us. I always felt we had three starting corners on our team last year and the year before. But now he gets his time to shine."

It comes after the Panthers' defense faltered late last season, giving up 30 or more points in five of their final seven games. Lucas was criticized late last season as Carolina gave up large chunks of yards through the air. Using mostly zone coverage, Larry Fitzgerald caught eight passes for 166 yards and a touchdown in Carolina's 33-13 playoffs loss to Arizona.



Carolina cornerback Richard Marshall reacts after a play during the team's NFL training camp Wednesday in Spartanburg, S.C.



On This Day

**AUG. 6**  
1966 — Muhammad Ali knocks out Brian London in the third round to retain his world heavyweight title.  
1972 — South African Gary Player wins his second PGA golf championship with a two-stroke victory over Jim Jamieson and Tommy Aaron.  
1994 — Jeff Gordon wins the Brickyard 400, the first stock car race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.  
1999 — Tony Gwynn goes 4-for-5, singling in his first at-bat to become the 22nd major leaguer to reach 3,000 hits, as the San Diego Padres beat the Montreal Expos 12-10.  
2006 — Tiger Woods wins his 50th PGA Tour title, shooting his fourth-straight 6-under 66 for a three-stroke victory over Jim Furyk in the Buick Open. Woods is the seventh member of the PGA Tour's 50-win club.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	64	42	.604	—
Boston	62	43	.590	1½
Tampa Bay	59	48	.551	5½
Toronto	51	55	.481	13
Baltimore	45	61	.425	19
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	55	50	.524	—
Chicago	55	52	.514	1
Minnesota	53	53	.500	2½
Cleveland	44	62	.415	11½
Kansas City	41	65	.387	14½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	63	41	.606	—
Texas	59	46	.562	4½
Seattle	55	51	.519	9
Oakland	46	60	.434	18
Tuesday's Games				
Baltimore 8, Detroit 2				
Minnesota 10, Cleveland 1				
N.Y. Yankees 5, Toronto 3				
Tampa Bay 4, Boston 2, 13 innings				
Seattle 7, Kansas City 6				
Chicago White Sox 5, L.A. Angels 4				
Oakland 6, Texas 0				
Wednesday's Games				
Baltimore at Detroit, 7:05 p.m.				
Minnesota at Cleveland, 7:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.				

Baseball

Boston at Tampa Bay, 7:08 p.m.				
Seattle at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels at Chicago White Sox, 8:11 p.m.				
Texas at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Minnesota (Blackburn 8-5) at Cleveland (Carmona 2-6), 12:05 p.m.				
Baltimore (Da.Hernandez 3-3) at Detroit (Porcello 9-7), 1:05 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (E.Santana 3-6) at Chicago White Sox (Danks 9-7), 2:05 p.m.				
Texas (Tom.Hunter 3-2) at Oakland (Cahill 6-10), 3:35 p.m.				
Boston (Smoltz 2-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Chamberlain 7-2), 7:05 p.m.				
Seattle (J.Vargas 3-5) at Kansas City (Chen 0-6), 8:10 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	59	45	.567	—
Florida	55	51	.519	5
Atlanta	55	53	.509	6
New York	51	56	.477	9½
Washington	35	72	.327	25½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	57	48	.543	—
St. Louis	59	51	.536	½
Milwaukee	53	54	.495	5
Houston	53	55	.491	5½
Cincinnati	45	61	.425	12½
Pittsburgh	45	61	.425	12½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	41	.617	—
Colorado	59	47	.557	6½
San Francisco	60	48	.556	6½
Arizona	48	59	.449	18
San Diego	44	65	.404	23
Tuesday's Games				
Arizona 6, Pittsburgh 0				
Colorado 8, Philadelphia 3				
Washington 6, Florida 4				
Chicago Cubs 6, Cincinnati 3				
St. Louis 12, N.Y. Mets 7, 10 innings				
San Francisco 8, Houston 1				
Atlanta 9, San Diego 2				
L.A. Dodgers 17, Milwaukee 4				
Wednesday's Games				
N.Y. Mets 9, St. Louis 0				
San Francisco 10, Houston 6				
Atlanta 6, San Diego 2				
Arizona at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.				
Colorado at Philadelphia, 7:05 p.m.				
Florida at Washington, 7:05 p.m.				

Football

Jacksonville	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	.000	0	0
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	.000	0	0
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Kansas City	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Oakland	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	.000	0	0
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Philadelphia	0	0	0	.000	0	0
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	0	.000	0	0
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Detroit	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	.000	0	0
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	0	0	0	.000	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	.000	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Sunday's Game						
Buffalo vs. Tennessee at Canton, Ohio, 8 p.m.						
Thursday, Aug. 13						
Washington at Baltimore, 7:30 p.m.						
New England at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.						
Arizona at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m.						
Dallas at Oakland, 10 p.m.						
Friday, Aug. 14						
St. Louis at N.Y. Jets, 7 p.m.						
Minnesota at Indianapolis, 7:30 p.m.						
Cincinnati at New Orleans, 8 p.m.						
Denver at San Francisco, 10 p.m.						
Transactions						
BASEBALL						
MAJOR LEAGUE						
BASEBALL—Fined						

Transactions

Houston RHP LaTroy Hawkins an undisclosed amount for comments he made about an umpire after he was ejected from a July 27 game at the Chicago Cubs.

**American League**  
BOSTON RED SOX—Purchased the contract of LHP Billy Traber from Pawtucket (IL). Optioned OF Josh Reddick to Pawtucket.  
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Recalled RHP Jess Todd from Columbus (IL). Designated RHP Jose Veras for assignment.  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Recalled RHP Kyle Davies from Omaha (PCL). Designated OF Ryan Freel for assignment.  
NEW YORK YANKEES—Recalled RHP Anthony Claggett from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Designated INF Cody Ransom for assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS—Announced RHP Roy Corcoran declined outright assignment to the minor leagues and became a free agent. Acquired RHP Mike Koplove from Pittsburgh for INF Deyvis Benitez.

**National League**  
CHICAGO CUBS—Activated INF Aaron Miles from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Jeff Waddell from Iowa (PCL). Granted LHP Jason Waddell his unconditional release from Iowa.  
NEW YORK METS—Announced C Robinson Cancel cleared waivers and was optioned to Buffalo (IL).  
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Activated RHP Joe Martinez from the 60-day DL. Optioned RHP Waldis Joaquin to Fresno (PCL). Placed RHP Henry Sosa on the 60-day DL.  
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Purchased the contract of OF Jorge Padilla from Syracuse (IL). Placed OF Austin Kearns on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Aug. 4.

**Southern League**  
CAROLINA MUDCATS—Added LHP Jeremy Horst from Sarasota (FSL).

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Placed DT Maake Kemoeatu on injured reserve. Signed DT George Hlopote.

**COLLEGE**  
DUKE—Named Rhett Parrott volunteer assistant baseball coach.  
ELON—Named Brandon Lane volunteer assistant football coach.  
GEORGIA STATE—Named Sylvia Kamp men's and women's cross country coach.  
GREENSBORO—Promoted Jean Lojko to athletics director.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

TODAY

**CAROLINA MUDCATS BASEBALL**  
Mudcats at W. Tennessee Diamond Jaxx (Mariners), 8:05 p.m.

**ON TELEVISION**  
**GOLF**  
**11:30 a.m. —** USGA, U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, second round matches, at St. Louis (TGC)  
**2 p.m. —** PGA Tour/WGC, Bridgestone Invitational, first round, at Akron, Ohio (TGC)  
**6:30 p.m. —** PGA Tour, Reno-Tahoe Open, first round, at Reno, Nev. (TGC)

FRIDAY

**CAROLINA MUDCATS BASEBALL**  
Mudcats at W. Tennessee Diamond Jaxx (Mariners), 8:05 p.m.

**HIGH SCHOOLS**  
**BOYS' SOCCER**  
Faith Christian at Atlantic Shores (Va.)

**ON TELEVISION**  
**AUTO RACING**  
**11:30 a.m. —** NASCAR, Sprint Cup, practice for Heluva Good (SPEED)! Sour Cream Dips, at Watkins Glen, N.Y.  
**1:30 p.m. —** NASCAR, Nationwide Series, practice for Zippo 200, at Watkins Glen, N.Y. (SPEED)  
**3 p.m. —** NASCAR, Sprint Cup, pole qualifying for Heluva Good (ESPN2)! Sour Cream Dips, at Watkins Glen, N.Y.  
**5:30 p.m. —** NASCAR, Nationwide Series, final practice for Zippo 200, at Watkins Glen, N.Y. (ESPN2)  
**8 p.m. —** Rolex Sports Car Series, Crown Royal 200, at Watkins Glen, N.Y. (same-day tape) (SPEED)

**BOXING**  
**9 p.m. —** Middleweights, Alfredo Angulo (15-1-0) vs. Gabriel Rosado (12-3-0), at Primm, Nev. (ESPN2)

**GOLF**  
**11:30 a.m. —** USGA, U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, quarterfinal matches, at St. Louis (TGC)  
**2 p.m. —** PGA Tour/WGC, Bridgestone Invitational, second round, at Akron, Ohio (TGC)  
**6:30 p.m. —** PGA Tour, Reno-Tahoe Open, second round, at Reno, Nev. (TGC)

**SOCCER**  
**7:30 p.m. —** MLS, exhibition, Real Madrid at Toronto FC (ESPN)

ECKARD

From Page 1B

group.”

My partners definitely carried the day for us. Vanessa Bishop-Diggs had an eagle and a couple of birdies; Tyrone Fletcher had a slew of birdies; Choi played 3-under for the day; and Nate Pilon had some decent shots as the day wore on.

And as for me, I still had one more goal to achieve. After three good shots on No. 13, a 500-yard par 5 that features a small pond on the right and front of the green, I was on the dance floor – quite a feat for me. I lined up my 10-footer, which I didn’t realize at the time would have been for eagle with my handicap in consideration.

I missed it by about six inches. I tapped in for a net birdie, and Choi and Fletcher both had pars. Goal 2 in the books. I even got a hug from Choi.

Walking down one fairway after our next tee shots, I asked Choi how he liked playing with a bunch of hackers in pro-am rounds. Choi, a Korean whose English is fairly limited, hesitated for a moment, and then put his arm around me as we walked and said something with a big smile.

I’m not sure, but it

sounded like: “It’s been the greatest honor of my life to play with you today, sir.”

Of course, it could easily have been: “Watching you try to hit a golf ball is worse than having your tooth pulled without anesthesia.” Or it might even have been: “It’s fun. I get to meet good people, and I see the course one more time before the tournament starts.”

Choi was having fun that day, laughing, joking and stopping endlessly to sign autographs – an experience that strangely happened to me, as well. Two kids saw my UNC hat and starting yelling “Go Heels” as I passed them on the course. A few minutes later, the same kids were

on the ropes between holes, shoving a program in my direction, saying, “I just gotta have a UNC autograph.” I didn’t want to disappoint my fans, and I had to be a good ambassador for North Carolina, so I signed it.

But make no mistake. Those definitely were the highlights of my game, strange as they were. I picked up on several holes after playing my way out of contention. But with Bishop-Diggs’ eagle on 16 and her birdie on 17, the party hole with the most raucous crowds, our scores kept going lower and lower.

And the galleries kept getting more vocal. Naturally, we didn’t have the

following or the roars that erupted around the group that included Tiger Woods and rock legend Bob Seger, but we had our share of crowd noise and interaction.

Plus, Woods, Seger and Co. finished at 8-under for the day, so now I’m one of several people who can say they beat Tiger Woods on the golf course.

By the time we reached No. 18, I was pretty relaxed and having the time of my life. I even had a couple of good shots on the hole. And although I hit into the crowd that was surrounding the green, I still had a shot at a net birdie.

All I had to do was chip over the greenside bunker and get close enough to the hole to make the putt. So, the gallery parted, making a semicircle around me and giving me just enough room for a backswing.

This is a pretty common scene on any golf tour as spectators try to get as close to the action as possible.

I’ve done it, jockeying for position to watch Woods hit out of trouble after he sprayed one off the fairway.

I’m sure pros like Woods, Choi, Lowery and others just tune out any crowd noise or comments.

But this was my first experience with a large group of spectators.

I was good though. Just a chip and a putt. No big deal. Easy shot. But then I heard it. Someone in the crowd said, “Just pretend the bunker isn’t there.” The comment drew a smattering of laughter, and I even smiled.

But with that “helpful” piece of advice, I was done. My shot, which I wanted to fly about 20 yards onto the green, landed about six feet in front of me – right in the middle of the sand trap.

Oh yes, golf is truly a mental game.



Contributed photo

K.J. Choi tees off during the Buick Open Pro-Am on July 29 at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich.

# Expressions Collection

Interchangeable Jewelry...