

# ANGEL ELITE SPORTS

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### AE TRACK STRIKES GOLD IN '07

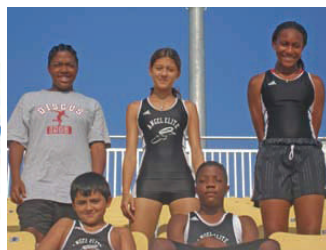
Angel Elite is one of the smallest AAU track clubs in North Carolina but made some serious noise at big meets this year. The team, led by Coach Candace and Coach Rasheeda produced numerous gold medals at prestigious events including the club's first gold medal at the AAU Junior Olympic Games. The season started impressively when Angel Elite athletes grabbing 5 gold medals at the State Games of N.C. in Greensboro with **Jamicia Jones** winning the 800m run, **Brandon Brown** winning the 200m hurdles and **Jaynell Brown** winning the discus and the shot put. **Justin Jacobs** added a silver in the discus.

Angel Elite then collected a team record 8 Gold medals at the AAU Region 3-A meet in Charlotte with Jones winning double titles in the 400m and 800m, Jaynell Brown winning triple gold in the shot put, discus and javelin and **Aminah Ghaffar** grabbing gold in the long jump, high jump and pentathlon. Five athletes qualified to participate in the AAU Junior Olympic games in Knoxville, TN (Jaynell Brown, Brandon Brown, Aminah Ghaffar, Justin Jacobs and Jamicia Jones). Prior to the JO Games, Ghaffar traveled to Orlando and picked up two silver medals (high jump, pentathlon) at the AAU Club National Championships before finishing off the season winning the AAU National Championship in the 12U high jump at the Junior Olympic Games (first Jr. Olympic Gold in the club's history). Several of our athletes compare favorably with high school competitors in our region. Jaynell, Jamicia and Ami-

nah would all finish in the top 5 in any conference in our region with their marks in their respective events.

<http://www.aaujrogames.org/>

**Taylor McBryde, Savion Ashford, Nyuka McNair, Ulma Cain and Michael Warren** all recorded top 10 finishes at various meets this season with Ashford and McBryde narrowly missing trips to the JO Games in Knoxville with top 8 finishes in their regional events. Ashford finished fifth in the 18U triple jump (the top four competitors get the invitation to the National Championship meet) McBryde finished her season placing 6th in the 400m dash at the regional meet. The race's winner was the eventual 13U JO champ.



2007 AAU Jr. Olympic Team

Seated: Justin Jacobs, Brandon Brown, Standing: Jaynell Brown, Aminah Ghaffar, Jamicia Jones

### AE SENDS FIRST TEAM TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Coach James "Man" Williams 13U team led by the dynamic duo of **Jensine Alvarez** and **Nicori Sinclair** represented Angel Elite at it's first ever national tournament by qualifying for and attending the Youth Basketball of America (YBOA) national tournament in Orlando, Florida. Several Angel Elite teams in past years have qualified for national events but no team has actually attended an event outside of North Carolina.

The team qualified by finishing second at the YBOA Eastern Regional tournament and 5th at the YBOA State tournament. Alvarez averaged 18.2 points and Sinclair pumped in 17.7 to lead Angel Elite to a 2-2 record and 5th place State Tournament finish. Coach Redean Cotton's 15U group finished 3rd at the state tournament but declined the national tournament invitation. The third place finish is AE's highest ever girls

finish at the YBOA state tournament. **Amanda Dowe** led Angel Elite at the state event.



13U team in Orlando at Islands of Adventure (Spider Man Ride)

### AE MAKING NOISE ON THE NATIONAL SCENE

### COACHES CORNER

#### Coach Heath at Hoops and Dreams

Coach Tim Heath has been coaching with Angel Elite since AE was the Robeson Rockets (about 7 years). During those years, Coach Heath has proven to be the #1 "big game" coach in the program. This year, Coach Heath started the year off leading his 17U team to the prestigious Hoops and Dreams championship game against the powerful Garner Flames team (featuring the daughter of Superbowl Champion coach Bill Cowher). After leading for much of the game, Tim's undersized and under-manned team lost to the Flames. Making an appearance in the championship game of a national event got the Angel Elite program off to a great start in 2007. Heath's teams also produced 2 wins at the Deep South Classic (the premier national event in the southeast U.S.)

### NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Three hoops teams participated in the Deep South Basketball Classic in front of hundreds of college coaches
- Track team was included in article in Youth Runner magazine
- Jensine Alvarez, Raven Bowden, Damillia Brooks, Mo Edwards, Jamicia Jones, Nicori Sinclair, and Bre Williams traveled to Orlando for the YBOA Nationals! SEVEN STRONG!!!
- Jaynell Brown recorded two top 12 finishes at the AAU Jr. Olympic Games (both events had nearly 40 competitors)
- Aminah Ghaffar won 7 AAU National medals and the club's first Junior Olympic Title.



**Angel Elite Sports Complex:**

Planning for the Angel Elite Sports Complex is ongoing. The final drawings are near completion. Currently Angel Elite staff is in the process of raising the money necessary to get the project started. The complex will include 6 basketball courts, a 200m banked hydraulic track (one of just 7 in the world of it's kind. The complex will allow Angel Elite to host events from the local level all the way to the national level. AAU has expressed interest in using the venue for the AAU Indoor Southern National Championship meet.



**AE HOSTS VOLLEYBALL AND SOFTBALL CLINICS AT UNCP**

Angel Elite plans to add travel softball and volleyball to our program. In an effort to introduce AE to youth who are interested in the sports, the club worked closely with the coaching staffs at UNC Pembroke to sponsor **FREE** clinics in both Softball and Volleyball.

**Volleyball**

UNCP volleyball coach Jeff Billington and his staff along with his players provided the instruction at

the Angel Elite Volleyball Clinic held October 13 at the UNCP Jones Athletic Center . Over 40 athletes attended the event.

**Softball:**

Coach Steve Johnson and his staff and players taught fundamental techniques including pitching and hitting at the Angel Elite Softball Clinic held October 20 at beautiful LRA Field on the UNCP campus. Twenty young ladies attended the event.

**Outcome:**

AE for years has offered free basketball clinics and has seen the growth of the program due to these clinics. Continuing to host these events will allow AE to increase interest in volleyball and softball as well solidify the positive relationship with UNCP.



**ANGEL ELITE CROSS COUNTRY PROGRAM COMPETES AT STATE MEET**

For the first time in 3 years Angel Elite sent runners to the AAU State Cross Country meet in Gastonia, N.C. Alicia Luevanos of Pembroke Middle School and Brenicia McNeill of Red Springs Middle school both competed at the State Championship meet in November. Both athletes trained for about one month with cross country coach Willie Chris-

tian before the meet. AE track coaches Candace Foster and Rasheeda Ghaffar traveled to the meet with Alicia and Brenicia. The race was the first ever for both runners. The lack of running experience hurt but both runners finished with personal records and top 10 finishes.

The AAU Cross Country National Championship meet was held in Hamp-

ton Virginia and although both runners qualified to attend, they decided to skip the event. Both Brenicia and Alicia look forward to running track this year.



**ANGEL ELITE PARTNERS WITH ADIDAS JR. PHENOM**

One of the biggest accomplishments for the Angel Elite Sports program was hosting the Adidas Jr. Phenom girls camp December 1-2 at the beautiful Jones Athletic Center on the Campus of UNC Pembroke. Angel Elite staff worked with the Adidas Camp National Office, UNC Pembroke staff, and local coaches to bring the event to the Robeson County Community. Nearly 40 athletes attended the

camp. The coaching staff combined for nearly 1000 high school wins and 7 state championship appearances (either as players or coaches). The top 15 players received invitations to attend the National Adidas Jr. Phenom Camp held in San Diego, CA in July 2008. Congratulations to the Angel Elite players who were selected to attend the national event: Laura Bird, Jaynell Brown, Damillia

Brooks, Aminah Ghaffar Jamicia Jones and Karmen Spencer. Angel Elite will also be hosting the event in 2008 and 2009.



Jamicia, Kayla, Aminah and Jaynell at the Jr. Phenom Regional Camp