

## MUSIC TO THEIR EARS — **Finally!**

The **Hayes High School** band had uniforms, a fight song, and even learned to march, but they were missing the most important piece — instruments. Thanks to the **Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham's** partnership, **BAP** was able to purchase \$8,700 worth of instruments. BAP would also like to acknowledge **Play It Again, Alabama** for donating instruments as well. Hayes band director **Darryl Johnson** was with BAP Executive Director **Mike Vest** as BAP purchased the much-anticipated instruments Mr. Johnson had requested. "We desire to do more, not only for Hayes High School, but for all the high school band programs in the city, and with the community's continued support, we are working to help their programs," stated Mike Vest. If you would like to donate an instrument(s) or contribute monetarily to BAP, please call Mike Vest at, **205-250-9006**.

## THE **HEAVYWEIGHTS**

No, we are not talking about a boxing match but a kind-hearted man who has a heavy heart for the student-athletes of the City of Birmingham's high schools — **Leo Wright**, owner of **Leo Wright Weight Equipment**. Leo has partnered with BAP in the past, but nothing of this magnitude. Leo donated over 6000 lbs. worth of dumbbells to be distributed to the high schools who needed them most. 7 high schools were benefactors of these dumbbells and were very thankful as they were delivered. BAP Executive Director **Mike Vest**, along with volunteer, **Roger Phillips** personally hand-delivered the dumbbells to each of the designated schools. BAP again is very grateful to wonderful partners such as Leo Wright for their passion to give these student-athletes the resources to be competitive.

## TENNIS IS GROWING!

**BAP**, and BATA Executive Director, **Kevin Theos**, along with Assistant Birmingham City Schools Athletic Director, **Dr. Sherri Huff** have helped the city high schools' tennis teams grow to 9 teams for the 2005 season. This growth is a part of the **Nick Bollettieri Fundraiser** BAP sponsored a little over a year ago and your thoughtful contribution at this fundraiser has served a rewarding victory and is the catalyst to this exciting growth. We are hoping to see for the first time in many years an All-City Tennis Tournament to be held this spring. **GAME, SET, MATCH = VICTORY FOR THE TENNIS TEAMS!**



*Ensley girls' tennis player, Ms. Yolanda McCarroll, lobs the ball over the net.*

## SLIDING IN... Headfirst

*Mike Vest, BAP Executive Director*



**T**en months ago I took a headfirst leap of faith, came back home to Birmingham from Texas, and accepted

this position here at the Birmingham Athletic Partnership and I truly have been blessed more than I can ever express to you.

I must be honest with each of you and say I have never loved, enjoyed, or looked forward to coming to work more than I do now — ever!

Edgar Welden, our Board Members and Team-Captains, and you, the contributors, are significant reasons of this love for my job. However the true blessings have been my involvement in the lives of the student-athletes.

I have the pleasure to interact with these teens and after seeing the success they have, even without a lot of resources, I am overwhelmed. They are my heroes.

Since last summer (2004), BAP has purchased much needed: weight room equipment, track, golf, tennis, baseball, softball, basketball, football, and volleyball equipment, not to mention band equipment, video equipment and the list goes on.

Your generous contributions to BAP touch the lives of these student-athletes and are making a significant difference in the outcome of their education. They are seeing the care and kindness from the community and are showing appreciation by their success in the classroom and performance on the fields and courts.

There is a verse in a Randy Travis song that I tell my kids and my former players to always remember, "...The difference between a Hero and coward is the direction in which they run."

BAP continues the mission and with your financial contributions, the direction in which we run will be able to produce heroes for our community.

## **BAP Sponsors Media Days!**

**2004 BAP Football and Basketball Media Days** jump-started their seasons giving the players and coaches exposure to the area newspapers, radio and television stations. Each event was held at the renowned **Alabama Sports Hall of Fame** giving each student-athlete insight on many of the star athletes of Alabama and within the Birmingham area.

**Football Media Day** was held in August and our guest speaker was **Byron Franklin** of **Buffalo Rock Corporation**. Byron who played football and ran track at Auburn gave an uplifting speech to the athletes emphasizing the importance of character and leadership.

**Basketball Media Day** was held in November and the Birmingham media recognized the teams of each school. The media interviewed the student-athletes before BAP provided lunch. Then the student-athletes visited the exhibits. A highlight at the Basketball Media Day was the announcement of the return of the **City Championship Tournament** sponsored by **BAP**.

*BAP acknowledges its appreciation of the media-newspaper, radio, and television — and is proud to have them as partners.*