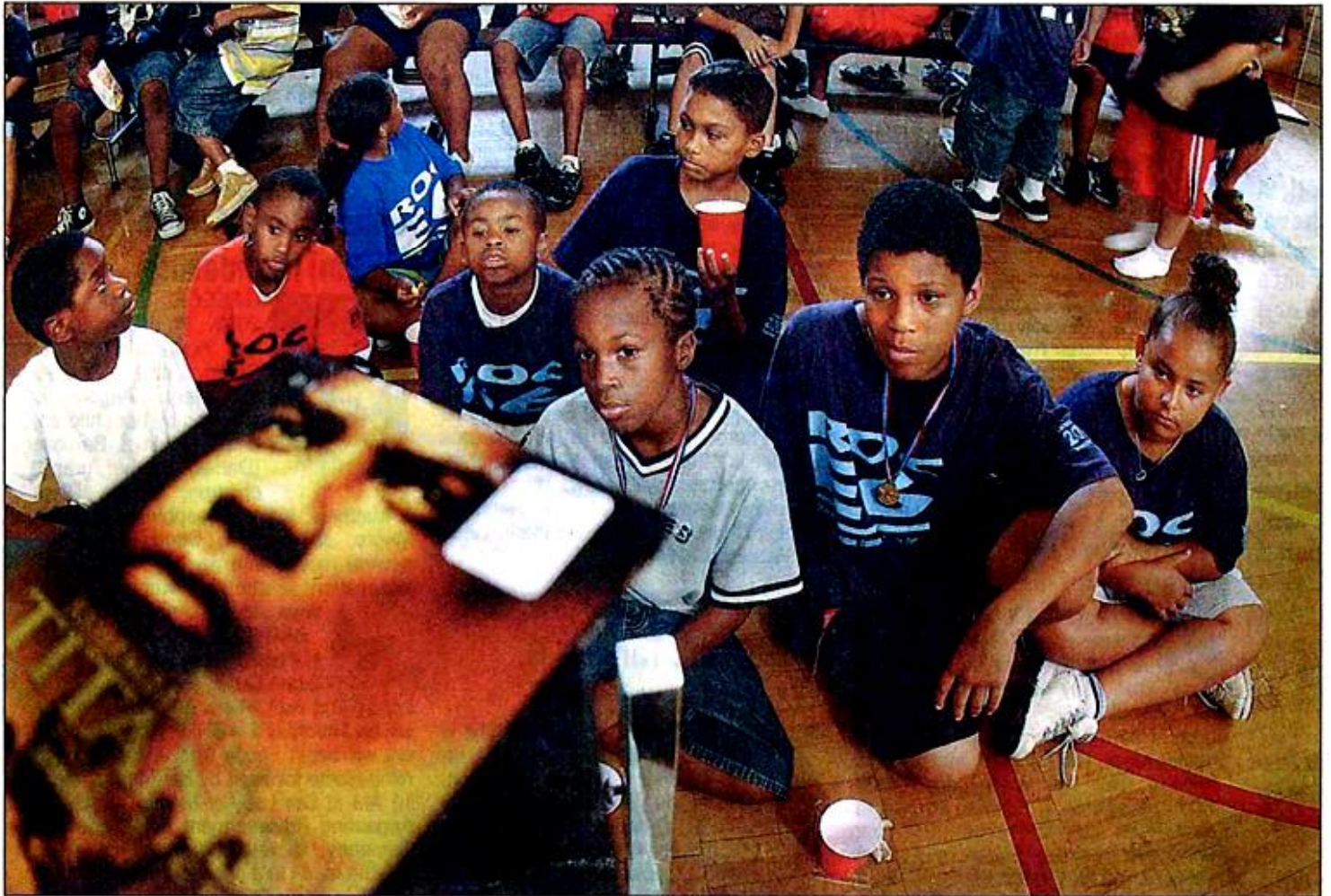


Don't tell the kids, but this camp is also school



SHAWN DOWD staff photographer

Center to right, Rochester residents Jeremy Brown, 10, gray shirt, Eddie Tabers, 11, and Jasmine Roby, 10, watch the film *Remember the Titans* on Friday, the last day of the six-week ROC E6 camp at School 50.

Summer program focuses on language arts, math, sports and avoiding drugs and gang life

DIANA LOUISE CARTER

STAFF WRITER

When Arkee Allen was in junior high school in the late 1980s, he didn't even think of playing lacrosse.

A city student attending West Irondequoit schools through the Urban-Suburban program, he didn't see any other African Americans on the lacrosse team. So he concluded that lacrosse was a "white sport."

"I was caught up in that in those days," says Allen. A West Irondequoit teacher since graduating from college, Allen moves to East High School in the city next month.

The teenage Allen chose wrestling for his sport. That choice eventually resulted in a sports scholarship to Columbia University, where he got a dual degree in mathematics and education. But Allen always regretted making a choice based on his lack of exposure to something.

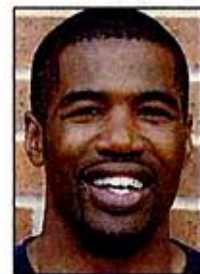
So when Allen was brainstorming about a way to help impoverished city

kids stay out of trouble, he came up with a camp that would expose them to the kinds of opportunities he had growing up.

"It changed my whole life," he said of attending Irondequoit schools instead of troubled city schools. A math teacher and wrestling coach for the last eight years, Allen, through the ROC E6, now wants to give city kids the same leg up he got. The six Es stand for empowerment, education, exposure, ethics, equality and exercise.

Don't tell the kids this, but the ROC E6 is really summer school with sports attached. The 76 children who signed up attended math and language arts tutoring each morning. Then they took either wrestling and lacrosse or wrestling and soccer in the afternoon. The camp, which operated at School 50 on Seneca Avenue, finished up last week.

"This is really school and at school, you have practice after school," Allen



Arkee Allen

The teacher created camp to help disadvantaged kids.

You can help

Arkee Allen's ROC E6 camp is still seeking donations to cover expenses this summer, as well as line up funding for next summer.

The camp welcomes all children ages 8 to 13 but is designed to be affordable for extremely low-income families.

For more information about the camp and to donate, go to www.armdrag.com/city/.