

SPORTS

William Hayes continues to rack up accolades

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PITTSBURGH, PA

Winston-Salem State University defensive end William Hayes has been named to the American Urban Radio Networks (AURN) 2007 SBN Sports Black College All-American (BCAA) Team. He will be honored during the annual BCAA Awards Weekend Feb. 15-16 in Atlanta.

Hayes led WSSU with 8.5 sacks and was second on the team in total tackles with 78. He also broke up three passes and recovered four fumbles, two of which he returned for touchdowns for the Rams.

Over his past two seasons at WSSU, Hayes, a former star at High Point Andrews, combined for 16 sacks and 129 tackles.

Eighteen schools are represented on the list, led by three honors for the SBN Black College National Champion Tuskegee Golden Tigers.

Quarterback Jacary Atkinson of Tuskegee, who was named SBN Sports Doug Williams Offensive Player of the Year. Bethune Cookman linebacker Ronnie McCullough was named the SBN Sports Mel Blount Defensive Player of the Year, and Tuskegee head coach Willie Slater was named SBN Sports Eddie Robinson Coach of the Year.

Atkinson was the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) MVP and Offensive Player of the Year, lead the conference and Division II football in passing efficiency (188.0).

The running backs are Alabama State's Jay Peck and Chad Simpson of Morgan State. Peck was named Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Offensive Player of the Year and finished the season with 246 carries for 1,186 yards and six touchdowns. Simpson led the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) in rushing and set a single-season school record by accounting for 1,402 yards.

Grambling State's Clyde Edwards, Howard University's Jarahn Williams and Charles Moody of Alabama A&M make up the receiving corps. Edwards became GSU's career record holder for career receiving yards, (2484) receptions

(147) and touchdown receptions (37). Williams, a 5-10, 185-pound senior, led all MEAC receivers with 15 TD receptions while tying for the conference lead in scoring. Moody led SWAC tight ends with 38 receptions for 423 yards and 11.1 yards per catch. He also caught two touchdown passes.

The offensive linemen selections include Jackson State's Lorenzo Breland, Norfolk State's Jason Kressen, South Carolina State's James Lee.

The defensive line is led by repeat performers Rudolph Hardie of Howard University and Hampton University's Kendall Langford. They are joined by William Hayes of Winston-Salem State and Curtis Johnson of Clark-Atlanta.

Zach East of Prairie View, Marquez Davis of NSU and Bethune Cookman's Ronnie McCullough - the Mel Blount Defensive Player of the Year Award -- are the linebackers. East was also named SWAC Defensive Player of the Year. Davis, led NSU and ranked second in the MEAC with 107 tackles, 9.5 of which came behind the line of scrimmage. McCullough was named MEAC Defensive Player of the Year after finishing atop the nation with 149 tackles.

The defensive secondary is made up of Alabama A&M's Al Donaldson, Southern's Jarmaul George, Tennessee State's Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and Bobbie Williams of BCU. Donaldson was the nation's co-leader in interceptions with nine. George had a Jaguar 64 tackles and four interceptions. Rodgers-Cromartie finished the 2007 season with two interceptions, both returned for TDs (69 and 71 yards). Williams ended the year with two interceptions and a team second-best 77 tackles.

Peter Gaertner of Delaware State University is SBN's 2007 placekicker. During the season he led the MEAC with a DSU-record 19 field goals. Brandon Larkin of Clark-Atlanta, who finished second in the nation (Division II) in punting with 46.3 yards per game. is the punter.

Aggies "Rush" to win

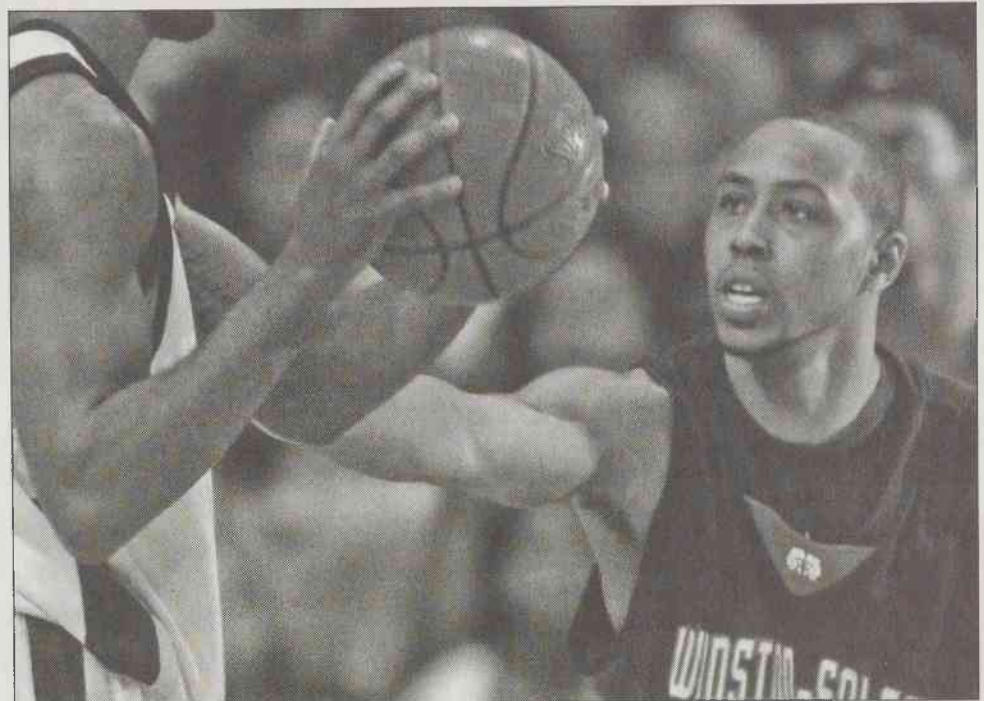


Photo by Charles E. Watkins

Winston-Salem State's Roy Peake guards a North Carolina A&T player.

By Steven J. Gaither
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It was a game ten years it the making, but it only took five minutes to decide.

North Carolina A&T guard Steven Rush scored 23 points, including nine in the first five minutes, as A&T jumped out to a 17-4 lead and coasted to a 75-56 win over rival Winston-Salem State in the Corbett Arena in Greensboro on Jan. 26. It was the first time the two former CIAA rivals squared off since the 1997-98 season.

Leading the way for the Rams was Jamal Durham with 17 points, 10 rebounds, two steals and two blocks. Durham was the only Ram to score in double figures. Darrell Wonge finished with nine points and four rebounds.

After the game, Rams head coach Bobby Collins admitted that Rush's quick start critically wounded the Rams early in the game.

"He was just on fire," said Collins. "He was shooting them from like 25-feet. I was just glad Coach Eaves took him out of the game. That was the only way we could stop him."

After trailing 41-23 at halftime, the

Rams managed to cut the lead to 12 when Isaiah Tucker's 12-foot jumper made the score 47-35 with less than 13 minutes remaining.

The Aggies came back to answer with a 11-2 run in the next three minutes that put the game away for good.

The Aggies outshot (40 percent to 33 percent) and out rebounded (48 to 43) the Rams. They also got to the free-throw line with more frequency, hitting on 20 of 29 attempts, while the Rams made just 11 of 22 attempts.

"If they hit a few shots, it would have been a much closer game," said A&T head coach Jerry Eaves, who picked up a win in his first game against WSSU.

"Steve (Rush) was tremendous for us in the first eight or nine minutes of the first-half."

Nearly 6,000 people packed into the gym to see the two rivals play for the first time this decade. The Corbett Arena is known as a tough place to play and it lived up to its reputation against the rival Rams.

"You come into a place like this, into a hostile environment, you have to be mentally tough and mentally focused," Collins said. "That's something that we weren't tonight."

WSSU football continues to earn accolades on and off the field

MEDIA RELATIONS

Winston-Salem State University senior defensive end William Hayes and senior linebacker Thadeus Griffin have both earned spots on the 2007 Sports Network FCS All-America teams as announced recently.

Griffin, a 6'2", 255-pound senior linebacker from Sumter, South Carolina earned Sports Network FCS All-America Honorable Mention honors and also earned a place on the FCS Mid-Major and Independent All-America First Team.

Griffin led the Rams in tackles for the third consecutive season as he tallied 117 total tackles, 49 of which were solo tackles. He also tied for second on the Rams' roster with 10 tackles for loss while picking off three passes and collecting a sack.

Hayes, a 6'3", 260-pound defensive end from High Point, North Carolina earned FCS Mid-Major and Independent All-America Second Team honors as he ranked second on the Rams' roster in tackles with 78 including a team-leading 19 tackles for loss including 8.5 sacks. Hayes tallied three passes defended, 12 quarterback hurries and four fumble recoveries, two of which he returned for touchdowns.

In addition to Hayes' FCS Mid-Major Second Team All-America honors, Hayes was named to the SBN Sports Black College All-America Team, was invited to play in the 2008 Heritage Bowl, and was selected to play in the Texas vs. The Nation All-Star Game in El Paso, Texas.

The Texas vs. The Nation Game is a post-season college football all-star game that was established in 2006 as part of the 2006 NCAA Division I FBS football season. The format of the game pits a team of top-rated college seniors who played college or high school football in Texas against a squad of top-rated seniors from the rest of the nation. Seniors rated in the top 15 at their position by the NFL are eligible to play in the game.



Photo by Mark W. Sutton

Winston-Salem State's Linebacker Thad Griffin and defensive end Will Hayes were named to the 2007 Sports Network All-America team.

The game is held in El Paso, Texas at the Sun Bowl Stadium. The first occurrence of the game was held on February 2, 2007 to conclude the college football season, and was broadcast on CSTV. The 2008 edition of the Texas vs. The Nation game will again be broadcast live on CSTV at 3:00 pm Mountain Time from the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas.

Griffin and Hayes are the first two WSSU players to receive national honors since the Rams made the move to NCAA Division I two seasons ago.

For more updates, log on to WSSUrams.com

Larry Williams
STAFF REPORTER

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words can never hurt me." Many people have heard that

saying for years from parents when being teased by other children. Well, the recent comments and decisions

by some paid professionals are putting that saying to the test.

By now most of you have heard that the Golf Channel Kelly Tilghman, suggested on Jan. 4 that one way for young players on the PGA tour to deal with the challenge posed by Tiger Woods would be to "lynch him in a back alley." Tilghman quickly apologized to viewers and to Woods directly. Tiger said he forgave his friend of 10 to 11 years, calling it a "non-issue" and that all was behind him.

"It was unfortunate," Woods said. "Kelly and I did speak. There was no ill intent. She regrets saying it. In my eyes, it's all said and done."

Well sorry Tiger, but it is not that easy for some. In the past year a national syndicated radio host, Don Imus, has referred to women of color playing basketball as "nappy headed ho's." A very successful TV personality "Dog The Bounty Hunter" (Duane Chapman) has been recorded telling his son not to date a black girl because "I'm not going to take a chance ever in life of losing

everything I've worked for 30 years because some drunken nigger heard us say nigger and turned us into the Enquirer magazine."

Speaking of magazines, Golfweeks Dave Seanor, vice president and editor, thought it was appropriate to put a NOOSE on the cover of its Jan. 19 issue. According to Tuskegee University, 3,466

blacks were lynched in the United States from 1882 to 1968. These facts must have somehow gotten lost in Mr. Seanor's memory.

So what is driving this wave of public racial insensitivity? No one can give the exact answer. Some people believe that this is a racist country at its core and this is how a certain number of people really think. Others say that some black people refer to each other with words that have a negative history (nigger, boy, dog, bitch), so what is the big deal?

There are some people who think this country is making positive strides in racial interactions. For example, a black man is considered by some to be the leading candidate to be president of the United States. However, these people do not speak for the majority of the country.

Whether you agree with one of the opposing sides or have your own opinion, we should all have a raised eyebrow with this current trend. The moment we start to allow racial insensitivity to become the norm again we will be taking a major step back.

OPINION