

Rubin Carter fought systemic racism to the end

BY ROBERT PACHECO
STAFF WRITER

"Here comes the story of the Hurricane, the man that the authorities came to blame ..."

Bob Dylan's 1975 song "Hurricane" was never meant to be a pop hit. The song was a rallying cry against the imprisonment of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter.

Carter died on April 20, 2014, after a long battle with prostate cancer.

Unfortunately, the man who defeated 27 opponents in the ring, a corrupt Patterson, N.J., police department and the judicial system of New Jersey could not overcome his final opponent.

"Carter, and his story, was my first exposure to the inherent racism in the judicial system," said Brandon Dobert, Wicked Weed Brewery bouncer and amateur mixed-martial arts fighter.

Dylan became aware of Carter's plight after reading Carter's autobiography, "The Sixteenth Round."

Carter refused to accept the 1966 triple homicide verdict by a Patterson, N.J., jury, which was influenced local law enforcement.

"I wouldn't give up," Carter said, in an interview with PBS in 2011. "No matter that they sentenced me to three life terms in prison."

Carter said, he would not stop fighting just because a jury of 12 misinformed people found him guilty.

"And because I was not guilty, I refused to act like a guilty person," added Carter.

In an interview with the New York Daily News, Carter said, "Death may have me on the ropes, but I will not back down."

"I'm looking death straight in the eye," said Carter.

The tenacity in Carter's words seep out from a life and perspective that few men have ever been able to live through.

Condolences immediately poured in to the Carter family.

"God bless Rubin Carter and his tireless fight to ensure justice for all," said Denzel Washington in a Tweet.

Washington starred as Carter in the 1999 movie "Hurricane."

Carter and his friend John Artis each received life sentences, before the New Jersey Supreme Court acquitted them in 1985.

Artis was falsely convicted of driving Carter's getaway car during the triple homicide.

Carter spent 19 of his 75 years in prison, and Artis served 14 years.

"He was a great boxer, but he inspires people because of his fight against a system that imprisoned him for a crime he didn't commit," said Dobert.

Carter's transcendent story also appeals to those who are not fans of combat sports.

"It's sad that he passed away," said local hairstylist Jess Lucas. "I feel like society owed him the 19 years that they took from him."

Many people were influenced by Carter's courageous battle against corruption.

"He was called The Hurricane, but I would say he was more of a catalyst," said University of North Carolina A&T senior T.J. Tyson.

"He was one of the first high profile figures to go public with his unjust imprisonment and never let up. He never forgot his experience and was uninhibited in advocating for others."

Others are just learning about Carter's legacy.

"I didn't know much about (Carter) until recently," said senior William Moore. "I think there are some things we can learn from Carter."

"In the words of Dr. Carter, 'It makes no difference what happens to us in life, because it happens to everybody ... what is important is what you do with what happens to you in life.'"

Rubin Carter left the earth on Easter Sunday.

"Perhaps ... those close to Hurricane will find some solace with the coincidence of his death occurring when people around the world celebrate another man who was falsely persecuted," said Jim Lang, bartender at Bench Tavern.

Augusta dazzles golf spectators' senses

BY KELLI URESTI
STAFF WRITER

If you saw television coverage of the 2014 Masters Golf Tournament, you saw how the beauty of the course shone through. To walk on that vibrant green grass is another story.

On the morning of my arrival, the smell of the fresh-cut grass filled the Georgia air. Walking past the concessions, one could smell an aroma of barbeque sandwiches, pimento cheese sandwiches and my favorite: egg salad sandwiches.

The course was filled with patrons milling around: women in summer dresses and men sporting golf attire, as if they were Masters participants.

Each tournament day at Augusta National Golf Club is magical, but the most important day is championship Sunday.

The Masters is the Super Bowl of golf, that all golfers aspire to win.

This is the day Bubba Watson, the victor, was presented the prestigious Green Jacket, representing a lifetime membership to the Augusta National Golf Club.

Championship Sunday started for me with a drive down Magnolia Lane. Looking down the path, I could see the mammoth white clubhouse.

In front of the clubhouse is a bed of flowers shaped in the Masters symbol. When you first walk in the clubhouse, there is a grand staircase that guides members upstairs to the dining area.

Beyond the staircase is a wall with photos of previous Masters champions.

The most recent addition was Adam Scott, his two arms extended over his head celebrating his victory.

The next room is the formal room. This is the smallest clubhouse, but it is the most beautiful and pristine clubhouse I have ever seen.

Once you walk out of the clubhouse you enter the golf grounds.

In the member's area, there are outdoor patio chairs and tables spread out in the area adjacent to the clubhouse.

There is a bar area that serves the most amazing drink, an Azalea. It is the beverage of the Masters, topped with vodka, lemonade and grenadine topped with a cherry and an orange slice as garnish.

On the outdoor tables members order salads and shrimp cocktails. Every now and then you will see a hardy Masters burger.

The golf course begins just beyond the member's area.



Bubba Watson celebrated after putting a birdie on the 14th hole on his way to win the Master's.

Directly in front of the media/clubhouse area is the 18th green. Hole number nine curves around on the left side of the 18th green, while hole number one curves around the right side.

The course is a hilly one, rising and falling in harmony with the golf holes.

The grounds alternate between beautiful bright green grass and light brown pine needles.

Once you get close to the green, it is impossible to stand near the ropes, due to the amount of chairs laid out and people crowding around.

The most beautiful place on the course is Amen Corner, which refers to holes 11-13.

You are able to see the putting area for

holes 11 and 12 from the stands. You can also witness the 12th and 13th hole tee box as the golfers head back to the clubhouse.

Rae's Creek separates the fairway and the 12th green, and the Hogan Bridge allows the golfers to cross Rae's Creek to reach the green.

Hogan Bridge was dedicated to Ben Hogan, who was a professional golfer from 1930-1971, in 1958 to acknowledge his 274-stroke record five years before. This bridge is one of the trademarks of Augusta National.

Behind the green are beautiful azaleas and tall Georgia pine trees, with sandy beach white bunkers.

The entire course is a truly beautiful sight, and the visitors who witness it are the real winners of the Masters tournament.

Turner Votipka aces it on and off the court

BY KELLI URESTI
STAFF WRITER

"Turner never wants to slow down," said junior tennis player Blake Brown. "He'll go from practice, to intramural basketball, to soccer."

Junior tennis captain Turner Votipka impacts Guilford in ways no one can imagine.

Votipka said he enjoys doing all of those things and wants to continue doing them, even if it's a lot on his plate.

"Sometimes it gets to be a little stressful," said Votipka. "It is a lot of work, but because they're all things that I enjoy doing it becomes more than worth it."

Votipka spends most of his time working as a resident advisor in English Hall and as a two-time tennis captain.

In his spare time, he's the president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee as well as the treasurer for the College Republicans.

"The College Republicans would be a completely different group without Turner," said sophomore Harrison Houlihan, rising president of the College Republicans. "He brings humor to the group; the meetings he attends are always filled with laughter."

Votipka's cherished values make him an ideal student-athlete at Guilford.

"Turner is really strong in his faith, which is something that I really look up to," said junior Amber Weaver, a resident adviser in Milner Hall.

On the tennis court, Votipka displays sportsmanship, and on and off the court he expresses dependability and a compassion for others.

"As an RA, he gets to know you," said Brown. "As a teammate, he

makes you want to work harder.

"And as a person, he's always willing to help a friend out."

Many people who work around Votipka end up becoming a friend because he is loyal and caring.

Weaver said Votipka is always lending a helping hand.

"I mentioned to him that I didn't understand an assignment I had been assigned for one of my classes," said Weaver. "Before I knew it, I had an email from him telling me what he thought the assignment was about and said that if I needed any help to just ask."

Whether you need him as a friend, a teammate or a leader, he never lets you down.

Houlihan said he would not want to be heading into next year with anyone else as treasurer.

"Turner is responsible," said Houlihan. "He keeps up to date with the expenditures."

Even though Votipka is involved in different activities, he never slacks off. He puts 110 percent into everything he does.

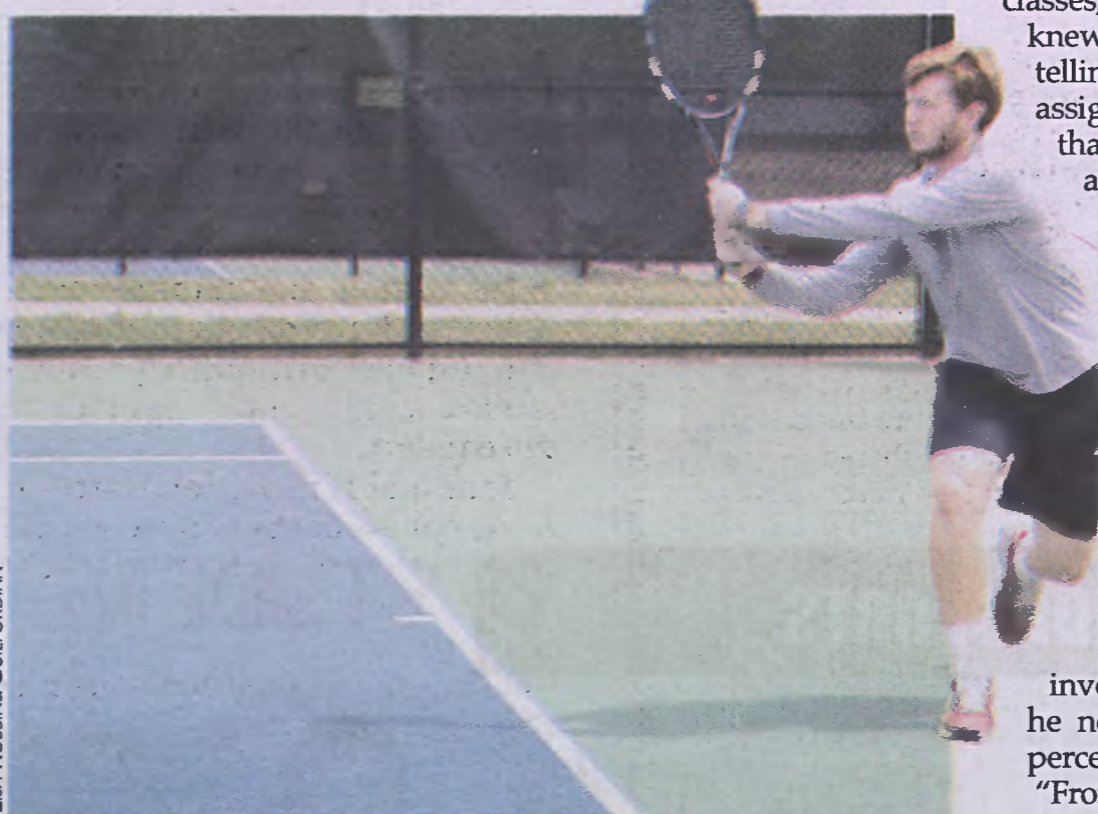
"From an RA standpoint, he was always present for staff meetings and throwing his ideas out there, as well

as helping to keep everyone in a good mood, since our staff meetings were early in the morning," said Weaver.

Brown said Votipka strikes a good balance between having a good time and getting the most out of his practice.

"He can give it everything ... on the court and laugh while doing it, which is a rare quality in a person."

With so many responsibilities — playing a sport, taking leadership roles in groups and school — it's hard to imagine anyone being able to accomplish all those things.



LISA ROBBINS/GUILFORDIAN