

Bill Hayes does it again From Page B2

this season, Mack says he chose WSSU for a number of reasons.

"I guess the main reason is that I wanted to stay close to home," Mack says. "I want my family to be able to come and see me play often. When my parents are there, it makes me play harder because I know they are watching."

Mack also says he chose WSSU because of Coach Hayes and his fondness for the Ram football program.

"I like Coach Hayes and the way he explained things to me," he says. "Plus, I remember when Kermit Blount and Timmy Newsome played there. That is when I first got interested in college football. And we talked a lot about the guys from Winston-Salem who have gone to WSSU before me."

Mack's parents are also happy with his choice of schools.

"I have always wanted Clifton to stay close to home and play," says his mother, smiling broadly. "I have watched him play ever since he was at the Boys' Club when he was 9 years-old. Then I used to run down the sidelines when he had the ball, trying to keep up with him. I know I can't keep up with him now, but I'll be happy just to sit in the stands and cheer him on."

Mrs. Mack and her husband Taft have always been staunch supporters of their son's efforts in sports. And

they are staunch supporters of black institutions.

"WSSU is Clifton's choice," says Mrs. Mack, "but I like the idea of black athletes attending black schools and I know Clifton will be looked at as a student and not just a football player there."

Clifton's father shares his wife's feelings. "My major concern is for him to get a quality education," he says. "Football is not the only reason he is going to college."

The Macks have two other sons who played football but Clifton, the youngest, is the first to go to college. "I tried to get my other two sons to go on to college but Clifton is the first to do it," says his mother.

And the Macks promise that Clifton will have plenty of support at WSSU. "I have a lot of relatives here in Winston and all of them will be coming out to see Clifton play," says Mrs. Mack. "And Taft has relatives in South Carolina and even Michigan who say they will be here every time they get the chance."

"We hadn't thought about WSSU until about the last month when my cousin Francisco Hardy and some other people mentioned the school. Then, when Coach Hayes came and talked to us, we started thinking that WSSU was the right place for Clifton."

Mack says he feels relieved to have chosen a school. "I've been under a lot of pressure recently," he says. "I have been getting so many phone calls and letters and somebody was telling me something different every day."

Now that the pressure is over, he says, he hopes to be "the best running back over there."

Whether that happens or not, he'll probably be the only runner at WSSU with his own cheering section.

Airwaves From Page B1

man," Johnson supervises the student staff and sees to it that the radio operation is running smoothly enough without supervision from Thomas.

"I think the station is going to be a great one day," says Johnson. "Response to us is growing rapidly."

"From the low celebrity status of it," he says, "we just know we're good when you can walk around campus and someone sees the station jacket and starts commenting on the music or ask, 'Which one are you?' Plus the phone stays hot all the time."

Johnson, an ROTC student who hopes to use his radio knowledge in the military, is banking on a wattage increase to help him and the other students expand their experience in radio.

"This is just our starting point," he says. "When the wattage goes up, our experience will go up and there will be no stopping us."

One of the other reasons Johnson and the other students are so headstrong about learning all they can from Thomas is that he will leave at the end of the semester.

Because of the consent decree, handed down by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to require more faculty members to have doctorate degrees, Thomas will leave WSSU in May to begin studying for his Ph.D.

Johnson says Thomas' leaving is all the more reason the students must function as professionals.

"To me, that consent decree puts us in a bind," he says. "We know he's qualified and when we come back next year, we're going to have an advisor, but I really doubt if they'll know anything about running a radio station."

"That's the reason we're trying to get it all together now," Johnson says.

But others at the WSSU, such as Dr. Hazel Harvey, former chairman of the communications arts department and now director of the Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences, are looking out for WSNC. Harvey was instrumental in getting a minor in mass communications and the television studio, Thomas points out.

"All of this," he says, turning around in the small radio station and throwing up his hands, "all of this stemmed from her work a long time ago and I just hope it can continue to grow."

Despite his leaving, Thomas is optimistic about the future of the mass communications curriculum at WSSU. Plans for a major have already been drawn up and presented to the UNC Board of Governors.

"Once the plans go through," he says, "we'll be a big powerhouse in this area and that will mean an increase in enrollment for this university because communications on many of today's campuses is the largest major."

"Right now everybody wants to know where can they get one of our jackets," Thomas says, "but everybody can't have one because we wear them with pride."

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