

SportsWeek

Scores, Standings, Columns, Features

Sports People

Deacons' Teachey says he'd do it all again

By SAM DAVIS
Staff Writer

Recently, the nation's best college basketball players gathered at the University of Indiana to battle for 12 positions on Coach Bobby Knight's U.S. Olympic basketball team. Among them were dark horses aplenty, but none more unheralded than Wake Forest's 6-9 Anthony Teachey.

For three years, Teachey played in the shadow of more polished and publicized players. But each year he played for the Deacons, Teachey improved in every aspect of his game. Finally, with Wake doing well during the final half of the '83-84 season and making it to the final eight in the NCAAs, he got his chance to shine.

"Towards the end of the season, we beat some tough clubs, and that gave the team and myself some recognition," said Teachey before departing for the Olympic trials. "The seniors knew that, the further we went in the tournament, the more exposure we'd get. Since the tournament, I've been getting a lot of recognition throughout the country.

"I still have a lot to prove," said the lean, powerfully-built Teachey. "I've had to play out of position for four years and take on taller, stronger players. I'm a true forward that has been forced to play center.

Yet Teachey believes playing center at Wake improved his chances of making both the Olympic team and the professional ranks. "I think my chances of making the Olympic team are pretty good," said Teachey before the tryouts. "I've been told that six forwards and two centers will make the team. Since I can

play both positions, I think my chances of making the team are increased."

Teachey did indeed do well in the eyes of Knight, surviving the first Olympic cut.

And, though he fell victim to the second cut (as did a number of nationally-respected players), Teachey has come a long way both athletically and personally. Reflecting on his career at Wake Forest, Teachey said he'd do it all again if he had the chance. "Coming here to play basketball and get an education was a decision I feel will help me throughout life," he said.

"It's a small school, and everyone knows you. The classes aren't large so you get personal attention from the instructors.

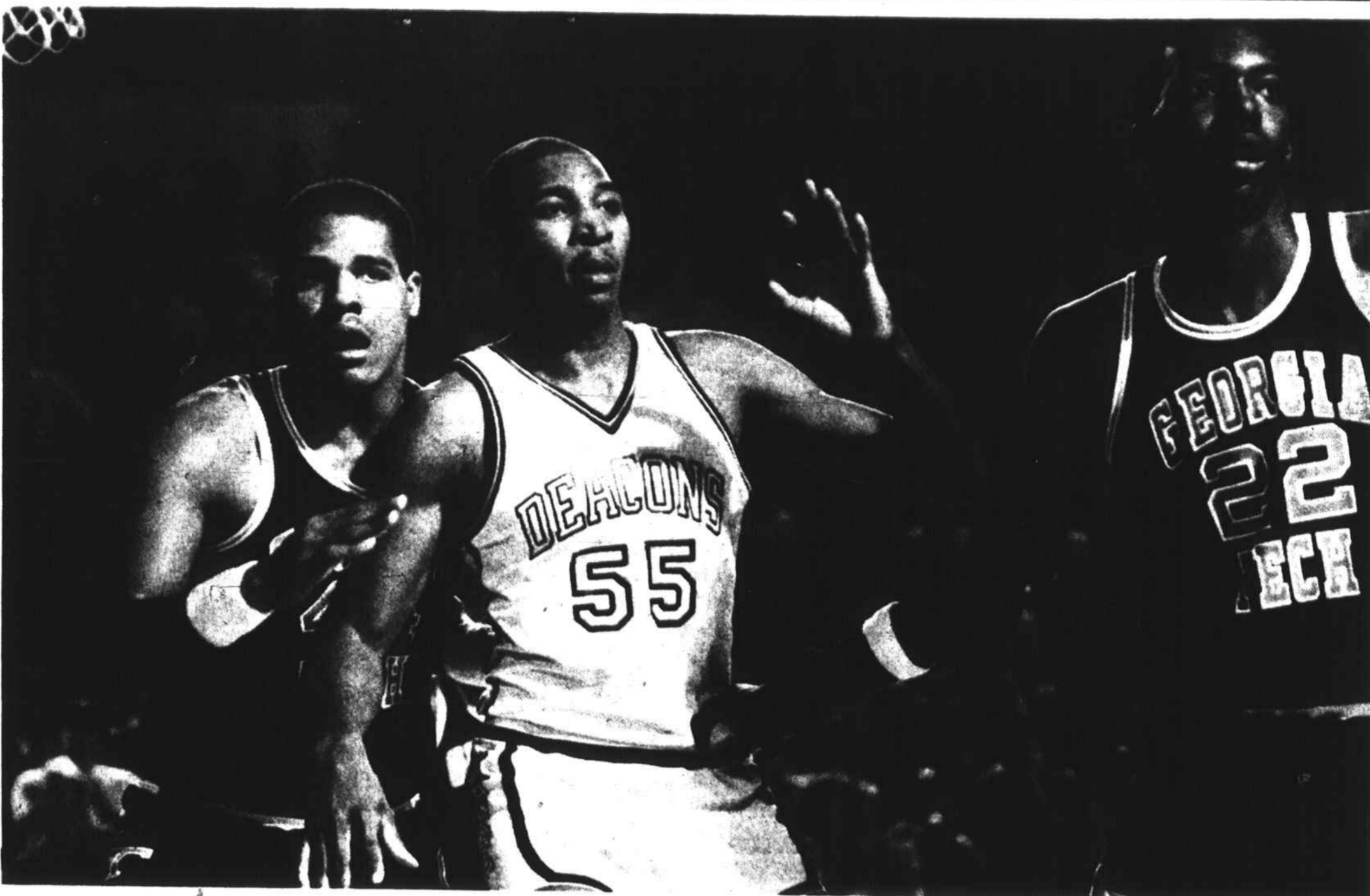
"The athletic department stresses academics very heavily," Teachey said. "No matter how good you are, you have to attend class and do your work.

A communications major, Teachey plans to receive his degree this year in summer school and, though he doesn't know when he'll need to put his education to use in a full-time profession other than basketball, he said he's prepared for that day.

"I've gotten a very good education and met a lot of people," he said. "It has opened me up more as a person and prepared me for the future. You've got to have something to fall back on when your basketball days are over and I think the school does a good job of doing that."

Teachey's also proud of the record the Deacons achieved in '83-84. His class is the first in Wake history to win 20 games four years in a row. And Teachey individually is the second winningest

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Teachey (55) in action during the '83-84 season against Georgia Tech (photo by James Parker).

Rams to tangle with alumni Saturday night

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

Last year, no one, not even Coach Bill Hayes, knew what to expect when his WSSU football team took the field at Bowman Gray Stadium against a group of former Ram players in the school's first-ever alumni game.

Hayes had junked his highly-successful veer offense in favor of the Delaware wing-T in spring drills and had no idea how his team would fare in using it against an opponent for the first

time.

On the other hand, the coach also had no idea what kind of shape former stars such as Kermit Blount, Anderson Noble, Jerome McDaniel and Marvin Morrison were in, or just how hard they would be able to play.

At the end of the game, won 31-12 by his present players, Hayes was still a little confused. His team had played raggedly on offense and defense. The Rams were, in fact, actually outgained by the alumni club and Hayes admit-

ted that, had the alumni not fumbled the ball twice inside their 10-yard line, the game might have been much different.

The alumni team must have been in better shape than most thought since the Rams, with the addition of some fine freshman runners, went on to a superb season, winning the CIAA Southern Division title.

This year, Hayes has expanded the activities that culminate in the alumni contest. He will

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Christian: Working miracles without magic

By ROBERT ELLER
Sports Editor

When asked last fall how his team would fare in '83-84, Norfolk State Head Basketball Coach Charles Christian -- who had lost starters Kenny Haynes and Bobby Davis as well as CIAA Tournament semifinal hero Tim Allen and reserve Morris Peterson -- offered a simple answer.

"Well," said Christian, in his third year back at the Spartan helm after a brief retirement, "we have Pope (all-American forward David) and hope."

Then the Richmond, Va., native took on a more serious tone in assessing what obviously would be a rebuilding year.

"We know David will have an outstanding season and we have Lawrence Hayes, who started last year, back," he said, "but everything else is wide open."

The hope that the former Virginia State basketball and football player had spoken of came not only from the likes of recruits Ralph Tally and Barry Mitchell, transfer Barry Mullen and a group of returnees that saw limited action in the previous season, but also from Christian's simple but sound approach to the game.

"I've always said that there aren't a lot of secrets to the game of basketball and my philosophy is pretty basic," he said, the ever-present toothpick bobbing in his mouth. "I believe in the fundamentals and basics and I teach them. I tell the kids that, if we can keep the other team from doing the things they do best on their end of the court and execute what we do best on our end, we will win."

It didn't take Christian long to instill those values in his young team. With CIAA Player of the Year Pope providing leadership as well as

scoring and rebounding and the rest of the team providing support, the Spartans got through November and December unbeaten and their confidence grew with each win.

"We played some tough road games early," Christian recalled. "In one game we were down by 12 and won and in another we won in overtime. Then we beat a tough Winston-Salem team in our first home game."

As the team improved, Christian continued to preach the basics.

"I kept impressing upon them to work to minimize the other team's strength and they

"Coaching basketball is not something I set out to do. I was an industrial engineering major and I got my first coaching job after a principal saw me play and needed a bricklaying teacher who could coach."

-- Charles Christian

began to take pride in doing that," he said. "We set a goal to limit the opposition to 35 points per half."

Christian soon began to notice an eagerness to work from the group as well as a willingness to accept individual roles. "When the kids came back after Christmas, we called for practice at 8 a.m. and they were all there and ready at seven," he said, "and all of them seemed to accept their role, whether it was starting, playing 20 minutes, or five minutes."

Practicing what its coach preached and achieving its goal of holding opponents to less than 70 points per contest, Christian's team rolled up one win after another until running into pre-season favorite Virginia Union in Richmond on Jan. 26. The Spartans lost that contest in overtime as they failed to limit the powerful

Panthers to their magic number in an 81-80 loss.

But Norfolk followed that loss with one of its most impressive showings of the season two nights later at Elizabeth City.

And the wins kept mounting right through the CIAA tourney championship game.

The season came to an end in the title game of the NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regionals against Union, 58-56. But Christian, though disappointed with the loss, deemed the season a success.

"Not many teams will finish 29-2," he said. Then the fiery little coach (he is 5-8 and weighs 150 pounds), who nearly came to blows with a somewhat larger "Big House" Gaines during the CIAA tourney and charged a fan who insulted his daughter after the regional loss to Union, put things into perspective.

"Coaching basketball is not something that I set out to do," said the man who carved a 351-60 record in 18 years of high school coaching before accepting a job as an assistant to Bob Smith at Norfolk in 1970.

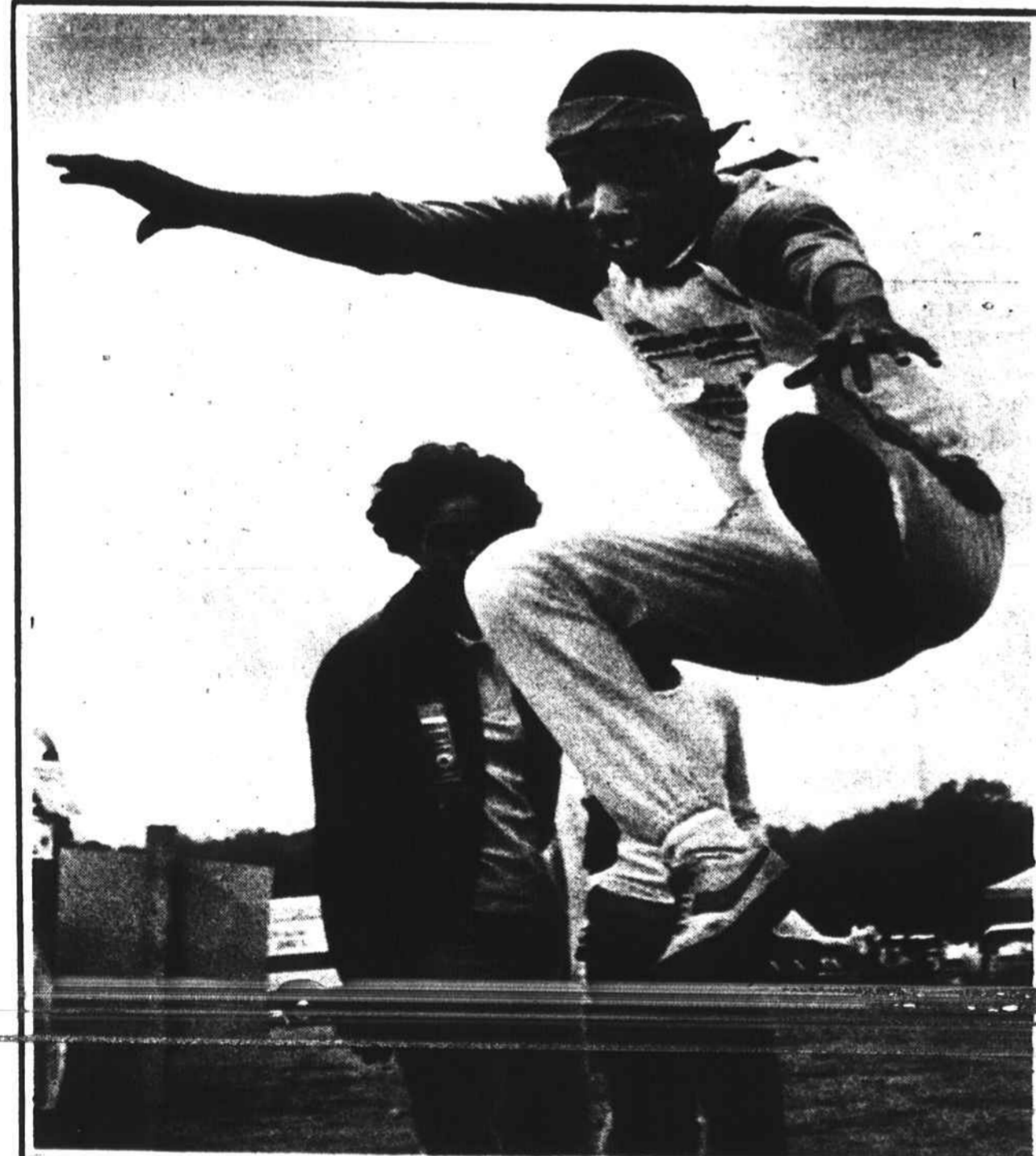
"I was an industrial engineering major and I got my first coaching job after a principal saw me play and needed a bricklaying teacher who

"And I felt the same way when I stepped down after the 1978 season (and after his fourth CIAA tournament title in five years). There were situations I wasn't pleased with and pressures I didn't need and I enjoyed sitting on the sidelines."

"Plus," he added, tongue firmly in cheek, "I didn't lose a game in the years I didn't coach."

Christian says he returned to coaching not for the challenge but because "I'm a very programmatic, team person. I was thinking in terms of the university when I came back.

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Giving It His All

Is Calvin Brown trying to negotiate a safe landing without the benefit of an air traffic controller? No. The Griffith Junior High School student is placing second in the long jump for the 13-15 year old division of Forsyth County's Special Olympics held last week (photo by James Parker).

Black College Sports

Delaware State: From 105-0 humiliation to an athletic renaissance

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

One of the most dramatic turnarounds in the history of college athletics has occurred at tiny Delaware State.

It was only five years ago that the Hornets' football team lost one game by a staggering 105-0 score. Most of Delaware State's other sports were in shambles, too, what with the basketball team struggling to stay above .500 and the spring sports teams little more than patsies

for their opposition.

But that was five years ago. Today, Delaware State's football team is one of the best in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, its basketball team is fast becoming a power in the league, and the wrestling and men's and women's track programs have become the class of the MEAC.

Delaware State's comeback has not gone unnoticed. This academic year, Hornets' coaches won a staggering

five MEAC Coach of the Year honors. The winners included football Coach Joe Purzycki, one of only two white head football coaches at predominantly black schools, women's basketball Coach Stanley McDowell, women's track Coach Fred Sowerbi, men's track Coach Joe Burden and wrestling Coach Bill Collick.

It was an incredible coup for the Hornets, who now have put their laughing-stock days behind them. The man most responsible for the turnaround may be DelState's

athletic director, Nelson Townsend, who is largely given credit for making the difficult decision to hire Purzycki and bringing in men's basketball Coach Joe Davidson from Dunbar High School in Washington, D.C.

Their presence, as well as the addition of other coaches, has given Delaware State the kind of leadership it had not had in years. But Townsend, who is working in his first job as an athletic director (he had been director

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