

Brown, former North Forsyth player, remains humble despite accomplishments

4.0 GPA earns N.C. Central receiver Scholar Athlete of Year Award

DURHAM - Ansel Brown, a wide receiver at North Carolina Central, and 15 of his teammates were recently punished by head football coach Larry Little for missing their progress report deadline. Their punishment? More than an hour of intense calisthenics that left Brown and many of the other players screaming for mercy. Brown's offense: He was

athlete. Yet, the fact remained, the progress report was late. "He (Brown) could have given it to me Friday morning," said Little. "He had plenty of time." That Friday evening, Brown and Little were on a plane headed to Atlanta. It's easy to see why Brown's credentials won over the judges. A double major in geography and business management, he held a perfect 4.0 grade point while lettering three seasons in football. A \$5,000 scholarship from Adidas America was also

donated to Central's academic program in Brown's name. "It was a good feeling, but I try not to focus on it too much," Brown said. "I try to stay humble about it because while I was down there, I realized that it's only by God's grace that I'm even in a position to receive it." "There are so many other people who have contributed to me and so many different circumstances that have allowed me to be able to receive that award."

Brown, a 6-0, 180-pound junior from North Forsyth High in Winston-Salem, made all-CIAA second team after ranking third in the conference in receiving with 28 catches for 329 yards and two touchdowns. Despite all the accolades, Brown remains humble. "It really hasn't hit me because it's just me," he said. "I'm the same guy. It

was my father, the Rev. Ansel Brown, Sr., and the nurturing support of my mother, Darlene Walker, who instilled the educational values in me. My father always stressed doing our best and putting God first. "It wasn't OK for me to bring home a B because he accepted nothing less than our best. He was the biggest influence on my life."

When his father died at age 40, Brown was only 14 years old. While his father's death was devastating, Brown couldn't forget the echo of his father's words, "Do your best, put God first." He could also have said, "Be humble, too."

"Ansel is so humble," Little said. "It was a very proud moment to have someone of his caliber representing the school. The audience gave him a standing ovation after his acceptance speech." Brown transferred to NCCU after one year at Evangel College, a Christian school in Springfield, Mo. An aspiring entrepreneur, Central's Computer Information Systems Program piqued his interest. Before he was fully involved in a business major, Brown was introduced to a geography class taught by Dennis Enberg, the brother of sportscaster Dick Enberg. That was where Brown's love of science, maps and space shone through. Like Michael Jordan, Brown also majored in geography while shooting hoops for his school. However, His Airness never had a 4.0 grade point average.

"Ansel is an ideal student," said geography professor Harris Williams. "He doesn't come in with a lot of extra added attraction, he comes in for work. He's very sound in terms of his values, and he's solid in terms of his foundation. He's not just an athlete, he's an all-around person and a really good person."



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busy preparing for a week-end trip to Atlanta to receive a national award; specifically, the Scholar Athlete of the Year Award at the American Urban Radio Network's 24th Annual Black College All-America Awards Banquet. Brown's athletic prowess transcends statistics. He is a rare commodity in all of sports; a true scholar

Tryouts scheduled for 16-and-under Winston Lake Lakers AAU team

The 1998 Winston Lake Lakers 16-and-under AAU basketball team will hold tryouts on Saturday, March 21 and Saturday March 28 for the upcoming season. The tryouts will be held at the Winston Lake Family YMCA on Waterworks Road. The March 21, tryout will be held from 1:45-3:15. On March 28, tryouts will be held from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Anyone interested should come ready to practice and bring a copy of their birth certificate and report card. For further information, contact Greg Higgins at 321-1142.



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