

Godfrey following his amateur boxing dream

Former high school track star will be on local card Sept. 7

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Joel Godfrey is following his dream. So far the script is going according to plan. Godfrey wants to be in position to vie for a berth on the U.S. Olympic Boxing Team for the 2004 Olympics.

He set his plan in motion two years ago after graduating from Fayetteville's Pine Forest High School. That's when he came to Winston-Salem in search of the proper training to get his boxing career started.

Godfrey began training in December of 1999 and since then has had three fights, losing the first one and winning the last two. That's not much of a track record, but Godfrey is benefiting from local trainers Eddie Gregg and Whit Lowery, who

have professional boxing backgrounds.

Godfrey is one of the boxers who will be on a card on Sept. 7 at the 14th Street Recreation Center. The bout will get under way at 2 p.m. and will feature boxers from six local boxing clubs in the Piedmont Triad.

At just over 6 feet and weighing 194 pounds, Godfrey is trying to take advantage of his athletic ability against his opponents. In high school he was a standout in track, participating in the hurdles, long jump and running a leg on the 4x100-meter relay team.

Obviously his background in boxing isn't very extensive. But Godfrey has taken well to the sport, according to his trainers.

"I like the contact," Godfrey said, explaining why he enjoys

boxing.

Godfrey has become a student of the game. He watches former and current boxers and tries to emulate their successes.

"I'm the next 'Greatest,'" he said. "I get my jab from Muhammad Ali, and I like Roy Jones because he has his own style and likes to confuse his opponents."

Godfrey believes the training he is receiving will catapult him to the top of the amateur ranks. Eddie Gregg, the former Winston-Salem State standout, who went on to become a top heavyweight, has taken Godfrey under his wing.

The two will travel to New York in January so that Godfrey can participate in a Golden Gloves Tournament that will pit New York against Chicago.

Godfrey will also be invited to the National Golden Gloves Tournament.

Until then Godfrey said he's trying to work hard and learn as much as he can from his trainers, who are trying to help him establish the work ethic to be successful.

"You must use everything you have," he said. "It's about 100 percent mental. It's about confidence and self-esteem. I try to isolate myself so I can focus."

"Coach Lowery is very dedicated, and he has taught me how to work my jab and my feet. When I first came to him I was clumsy. I also respect my sparring partner, Derrick Edwards, an up-and-coming pro fighter. We talk before and after fights. I respect him like a brother."

When it comes to inspiration, Godfrey doesn't have to look far.

"I go home every other weekend to see my grandmother (Mary Ford), who is dying with cancer," Godfrey said. "She is a source of strength."

Another is his cousin, Michael Wilkerson.

Godfrey said he's come along faster than he expected.

"I lost my first fight when I was 19," he said. "My opponent had six fights and weighed 205 pounds. I didn't have the confidence then that I have now. I wasn't mentally ready. Now I'm more confident, and I think I'm finally on my way."

"I believe I'm the next coming 'Greatest.' But I do my talking with my hands and have fun with it."

East Area Council will present golf tournament

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The East Area Council of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce will present the 13th annual Governor's Open Golf Tournament Sept. 28, with registration at 7:30 a.m. and shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. An awards ceremony and picnic will follow. The tournament will be at Winston Lake Golf Course, 3535 Winston Lake Road/Highway 311.

Cost: various sponsorships, team and individual entries available. For entry information, contact Richard Williams at 722-5000 or Jill Atherton at 728-9206.

Tri-City Relays Track Club balances sports with the books

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

After the hot, successful summer months of running, throwing and jumping on the tracks, the Tri-City Relays Track Club is now focusing on academics and the classroom along with fall, winter and spring sports.

Realizing the urgent need to balance sports with the books and create hope,

the club now presents Tri-

City Project TEACH (Teaming Education and Athletics to Create Hope).

"The whole idea is to be prepared and able to accept and fulfill scholastic as well as athletic scholarship offers and opportunities," said Learmond Hayes II, director of the project.

Membership to the project is open to students, athletes, parents, teachers, coaches, tutors, trainers and sponsors who need

to balance sports with books or want to help others accomplish that.

"It is our desire to stamp a heavy brand of 'total body and mind development' throughout the community," said Lemuel Johnson, a founder of the track club. "It can be achieved and accomplished only with extensive cooperation among all members, with unselfish devotion to accomplishing that goal."

West

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all came together for us. But we still have to feel fortunate to get that many fumbles."

Other key components in the victory included excellent special teams play by the Titans.

"Our kicker had a great night," Stone said of Will Corbett, who handled the punting and place kicking. He punted them inside the 20 (yard line) three times, and he also had a 42-yard field goal."

Lilly and Bennett provided the Titans with a solid 1-2 punch at running back. Bennett got the Titans back in the game when he

took a pitch and raced 62 yards for a touchdown to cut the gap to 14-10. He finished the game with 168 rushing yards.

Lilly slithered through the Mustangs for a touchdown to put the Titans up for good.

But it was the play of the defense that showed the heart and determination of the Titans.

"Our defense kept taking it away, and we finally punched it in," Stone said. "After we did they kind of let down a bit. They're so good you can't let down. With those great athletes - it only takes a couple of plays for them to get right back in it."

The Titans did a particularly good job against Monté Purvis,


Parkland's quarterback. West kept him in the pocket and didn't allow him to break big runs on the scramble.

"If we hadn't gang tackled him, he would have made some plays," Stone said.

"Jeff Bradley had a very good game, and so did David Heck in his first start at linebacker, with 14 tackles and he forced two fumbles. Blair Willard caused a couple of fumbles and also had 10 tackles. But really they all had a good night."

"Going into the game I thought we were better," Stone added. "I thought we'd have a chance, but I thought some things had to fall in place and they did."

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STEPSHOW & AFTER PARTY
Raleigh Convention & Conference Center

7:00 p.m. CONCERT Alltel Pavilion presents
Luther Vandross, Levert, Angie Stone
Raleigh Alltel Pavilion, Raleigh, NC

AUGUST 31, 2002 - SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. AGGIE-EAGLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Crossing at Grove Park, Durham, NC

7:30 p.m. ALLSTAR COMEDY REVIEW & AFTER PARTY
featuring Jay Lamont, Mike Bonner, B-Phlat, Gary Owens
Raleigh Convention & Conference Center

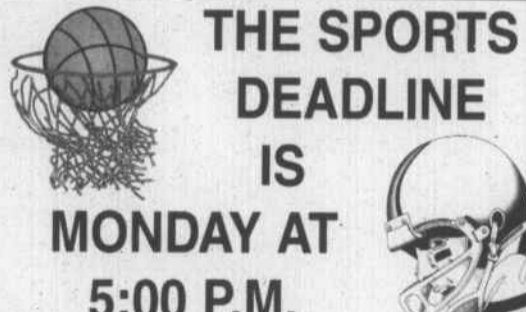
SEPTEMBER 1, 2002 - SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. PARKING/TAILGATING GATES OPEN

2:00 p.m. STADIUM GATES OPEN

4:00 p.m. GAME TIME
Carter-Finley Stadium

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