



Parkland's T.J. Shepard is dreaming of a Mustang state championship this year. His dominant play on the field has the Mustangs sitting pretty late in the season. Photo by Anthony Hill

Parkland's Shepard leads Mustangs

Some people say the best leaders of a team are the quiet ones that simply lead by example. That couldn't be more true when talking about Parkland's exciting senior T.J. Shepard. He's arguably the most exciting football player in the city.

There aren't too many athletes in the state that put on a show like Shepard. He's one of those players that simply don't get enough attention from select colleges or most media. But, he's a favorite of many athletes, both high school and college.

"Nobody makes moves like lil' Timmy," said Parkland star Antonio Wardlow, during an earlier interview. "He's probably the best athlete in this city."

Antonio is not the only person who might be saying things like that about Shepard. Just ask many of the Glenn and Carver players about how dangerous T.J. is on the field. Heck, ask Mt. Tabor

players too. The Spartans defeated the Mustangs, but Shepard still did his thing and nearly spearheaded a Parkland comeback.

I talked with Tim earlier this week to get his thoughts on the season, the playoff picture and a few other things. He seemed shy at first, but once I turned on my tape recorder he started talking as if he was on "SportsCenter." That's the way Shepard plays too. He's not one of the players hooping and hollering before the game, but he's always the one everyone is talking about when the game is over.

Anthony: What's up,

Timmy?

T.J.: (Smiles.) What's up. Anthony: What's been going on with you, man?

T.J.: Nothing much. I've just been chillin'.

Anthony: I see you're sitting out of practice this week.

T.J.: Yeah.

Anthony: What's wrong with you?

T.J.:

Uh, I had a mild concussion during our last game. The doctor said that I needed to sit out until I get better.

Anthony: Man, how did that feel to suffer a concussion?

T.J.: It was weird. (Smiles.) But at the same time it was funny. For a while everything was just zoned out of my mine, then some

things came back to me all of a sudden. But I still don't remember what happened to me last game.

Anthony: You don't remember anything, or do you just not remember the hit?

T.J.: I don't remember anything from the game. (Smiles.) And, I delivered the hit, and I remember scoring, but nothing else.

Anthony: That's wild. T.J.: And I still got back in the game afterwards.

Anthony: Man. Let me ask you this: Your team is really starting to come around like you guys always seem to do this time of year. But what about you? I mean, did you expect to be playing so well this season?

T.J.: Yeah. Last year I didn't get the ball as much as I am this year, and I didn't score as much. But I've averaged three-and-a-

See One-on-One on B11



A&T inducts two into Sports Hall of Fame

Induction ceremony held last week in Greensboro

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Vernell Stallings and Charles Tisdale were inducted into N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University's Sports Hall of Fame at the institution's Hall of Fame Banquet 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at the Sheraton Four Seasons.

Stallings started N.C. A&T's first women bowling team in 1979. He coached the team until 1999. Under his leadership the team won its first N.C.A.A. bowling championship and M.E.A.C. championships in 1996, 1997 and 1999. Additionally, he was instrumental in the success of the team and its championships for 2001 and 2002.

A native of Warsaw, N.C., Stallings worked for more than 25 years as associate director for operations for A&T's Memorial Union before retiring in 2001. Because of his commitment and contributions to the university a room in the facility, "Stallings Ballroom," was named in his honor.

Stallings received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in industrial technology in 1964 and 1971, respectively, from A&T. He served 21 years on active and inactive duty in the U.S. Army. Stallings was the first African-American to serve in the position of human relations manager at Cone Mills Corp.

Stallings is a member of numerous organizations, including Association of College Unions International

(lifetime member) and Personnel Association of Greater Greensboro (lifetime member). He has received several awards, including A&T's Alumni Excellence Award and the National Association for Equal Opportunity Distinguished Alumni Award.

Tisdale was quarterback for N.C. A&T in the early 1950s. His multiple offenses included more than 217 plays that

he ran from six different formations. Tisdale was an excellent blocker who had the ability to run and pass the ball. During his tenure at A&T, he won All CIAA Honorable Mention. Additionally, he excelled in track and field, where he held the CIAA record for the javelin throw.

After graduating from A&T, Tisdale joined the Army, where he set more football records. During his military serv-

ice, he was named All Army Quarterback in 1958 and he held the All-European record for the Allied Armed Forces in the javelin throw. Following the military, he was a civil servant in the state of Connecticut and the community of Bridgeport. He was also a member of President Jimmy Carter's White House staff.

Tisdale has received numerous awards and recognitions, including the National Association for Equal Opportunity Distinguished Alumni Award. He currently serves as chief executive director of Action for Bridgeport Community Development.



Tisdale



Stallings

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