

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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NOVEMBER 29, 2007

Athlete's death still shocking

It's been a couple days since we all heard the unbelievable news about the death of Sean Taylor, who was a star defensive player for the Washington Redskins. He died Tuesday (morning) after being shot at his home near Miami.

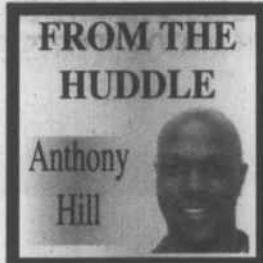
Taylor, 24, who was the Redskins first pick (fifth overall) in the 2004 draft, was shot in the leg (one time), severing his femoral artery, during an apparent home robbery. As most of you know, that's a very serious artery. That's the same artery that they put catheters through, that sends blood straight to the brain. On Monday, there were various reports simply stating Taylor was in critical condition after losing a significant amount of blood because of the bullet damage.

Police reports state that Taylor's home was also invaded eight days prior to his death. I'm just wondering why there wasn't stiffer security after his home was broken into just days before.

Taylor's death on Tuesday was simply a sad turn of events

for the budding star. Sure, he had his brushes with the law, but who hasn't? I hate it when some media outlets choose to state useless information like his troubled past, trying to subliminally tie incidents together. Or, make Taylor out to be some kind of thug. Some publications were probably trying to fill more space. I happen to have more than five years of daily newspaper experience. So I know what goes into putting stories out on a day-to-day basis. I still don't think that was cool.

To be honest with you, I was kind of numb when I saw the early morning reports of the tragedy, while getting ready for my day. I was ready to hear that Taylor was progressing nicely and hear experts debate on how long he would be away from football. Instead, I got the same news most of you got. My heart goes out to his family, and all the friends he left behind. He had a fiance and an 18-month-old child. I've had the pleasure of meeting Sean, while chilling with a friend at a charity

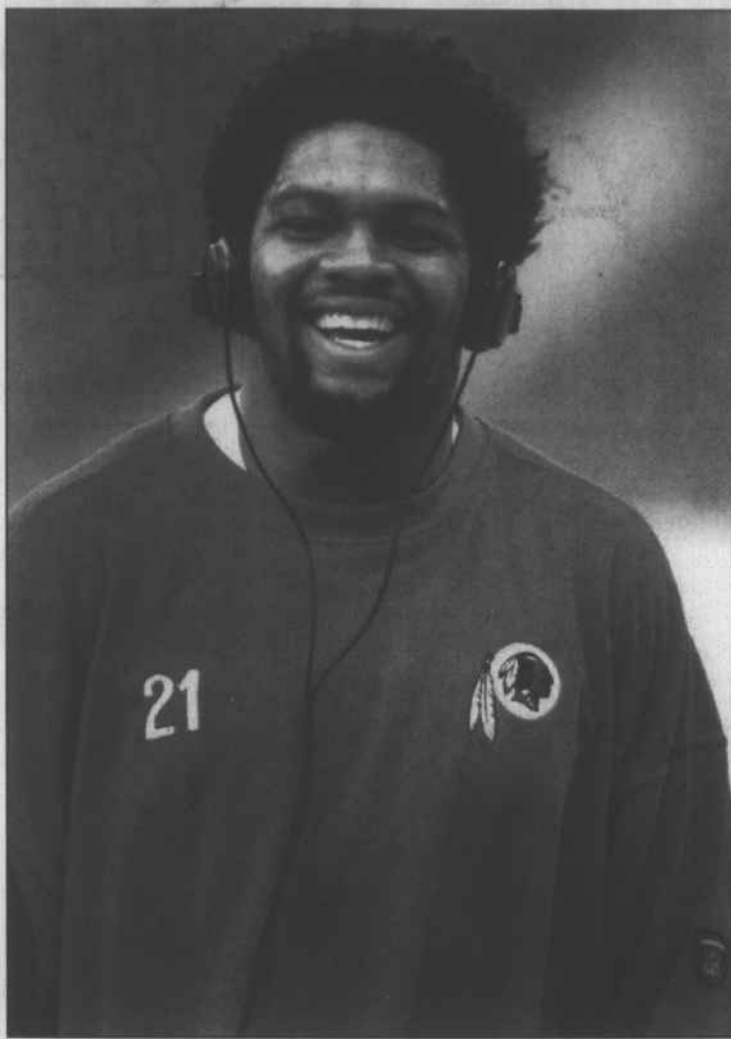


FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill

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See Hill on B4



UPI Photo by Mark Goldman
Sean Taylor, shown here during a game on Jan. 1, 2006, died this week after being shot in the leg.

Aggie men earn ranking

Team named on recent mid-major poll

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

When Jerry Eaves took over the North Carolina A&T men's basketball program five years ago, he inherited what many considered the worst Division I program in the country.

On Monday, enough voters thought Eaves has a team worthy of being ranked among the best mid-major programs in the country. After defeating DePaul 96-93 last Saturday, the Aggies find themselves ranked No. 25 in the collegeinsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 poll. Mid-major schools are schools that are not a part of the BCS conferences such as the ACC, Big 10, Big East, Pac 10, SEC, Big 12, etc.

The Aggies faced one of those teams on Tuesday when they played the Associated Press' No. 7 ranked team in Tennessee. Knoxville, Tenn.

"We are starting to be recognized on a national level and that's great for the program," said Eaves. "To be ranked among some of the mid-majors that have made great runs in the NCAA Tournament like George Mason, Gonzaga, and Winthrop is a great honor. But our goal is to make it to the NCAA Tournament. Anything we earn as a team along the way is secondary to that goal."

Butler is the No. 1 team in the poll. Gonzaga, Southern Illinois, George Mason and St. Mary's are also among the Top 5. The Aggies are 4-2, which is their best start in 16 seasons. Standout guard Steven Rush is coming off of a 40-point performance in which he hit a school record 10 3-pointers, breaking the record he set last season when he had nine 3-pointers against Norfolk State.

The Aggies, who are on a four-game winning streak, return home on Dec. 5 to play Southern Virginia at 7 p.m. They enter conference play at 6 p.m., Saturday, December 8 when they travel to Norfolk, Va., to face the Norfolk State Spartans at Echols Hall.

Note: The Aggies were led by Steven Rush in the win over DePaul, as he finished the game with 40 points. The complete mid-major poll can be seen at www.collegeinsider.com/mmpoll.



N.C. A&T photo

A&T's Jerry Eaves has his Aggies playing well early.

Reynolds JV spoils McCarter's debut

Demons use fastbreaks, solid guard play to defeat Parkland

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Reynolds head JV coach Cris Wiley couldn't wait for his Demons to play Parkland on Tuesday, simply to let them experience game-type-situations. His squad appeared as if they were more than ready for the crash course as they executed like veterans en route to a 70-54 victory over a talented Mustangs squad earlier this week.

"I was really happy to get into a game situation," Wiley said. "... to let the guys see what I had been blowing my whistle about for weeks. They saw it live, and realized that I wasn't making stuff up. They really responded well. They all gave it 100 percent on both ends of the court. Everything played out for us tonight."

Reynolds began the game with some very solid guard play out of Cha'Von Young and Zachery Jenkins. They both penetrated through the Parkland perimeter at will, while Brandon Sloan and Austin Welch slipped past the Mustang post. Reynolds received solid play from Sloan, Kevin Simmons, Jenkins, Young and Tommy Carpenter most of the first half. Reynolds even went up 23-12 with under six minutes to go in the first half.

But that's when Parkland applied a dangerous press that caused numerous RJR turnovers. Parkland closed the gap to 25-22 with 4:11 to go in the first half. Kierree McCray, Dennis Allyenne, Tyler Boon and Chris Gilchrist led the charge.

"Overall, I thought we gave a great defensive effort," said Parkland head JV coach Xavier McCarter. McCarter made his high school coaching debut on Tuesday at Parkland. "We executed fairly well on offense. We simply need to take care of the basketball. We need to finish. We missed some lay-ups early too. You have to make shots to even get into your press. Reynolds did a great job of transition on both sides. Their guards did a great job. Zach and Cha'Von did a solid job pushing the ball for them."



Wiley



Photo by Tim Wilson
Reynolds JV guard Cha'Von Young shoots over Dennis Allyenne on Tuesday night.

See JV on B5

Moore living dream through cheering

Winston-Salem native enjoying first year with Washington Redskins

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Jaqui Moore, 27, is living a dream she would rather not awaken from.

Moore, who's a former Salem Academy student, is now in her first year as a Washington Redskin Cheerleader. She's wanted to cheer for the Redskins ever since she was a little girl in Winston-Salem. Moore even used to put on shows during commercial breaks and timeouts.

"My love for the Redskins started when I was very young," Moore said. "Growing up in North Carolina, before there were Carolina Panthers, there were only the Redskins. My father and several people that we knew were diehard fans. Me and my dad watched the games together and I performed during TV commercials. But I had no idea those moments would lead to cheering. Every Sunday feels like a dream-come-true."

Former N.C. State basketball star Scooter Sherrill, who's Moore's boyfriend, added: "I'm excited that she made the team. This is a lifelong dream of hers. She's

worked so hard to reach this level. I'm so happy that everything worked out. She's been a Redskins fan forever. It's just exciting for me to see her actually represent the organization. This is very exciting."

Moore and the rest of the Redskin cheerleaders do more than simply cheer for the team on Sundays. They also make more than 300 appearances throughout the year at corporate, community and charity events. Moore and the Redskin cheerleaders have also provided exciting NFL entertainment for corporate sales meetings and events for companies such as Sketchers, the Washington Auto Show, the Norfolk Tides, Frito Lay, and more. They have even helped raise money for organizations such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Fight for Children — among others.

"All in all, I cannot put into words how amazing this opportunity has been to be part of the Redskins organization," Moore said. "I look forward to traveling the world to support our military, dancing like no one is watching and meeting more of the best fans in the NFL."

Moore recently visited injured soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, which is located in Washington. While there she spent time with various soldiers in wheelchairs and simply tried to make their day by listening, interacting and willingly communicating



Sherrill



Photo courtesy of Jaqui Moore

Moore, right, who's from Winston-Salem, has been enjoying her first season with the Washington Redskins.

See Moore on B5