

# UT'S CHARLTON ROLLE LEAPS INQUIRIES

University of Tennessee freshman Charlton Rolle is the type of athlete that coaches talk about for years.

He's a kid that shows that you don't have to be the best from the time you start a sport. When Charlton first began to run competitively in middle school there were a number of kids that performed better on the track. But he's worked toward being the best ever since those younger days. Charlton is probably outside running — working to get better right now.

Rolle's work ethic and drive are simply two of many things you have to like about him. He's also a very determined young man. He's determined to make it, whether it be in track or business. There's almost no-doubt that Rolle will hurdle any obstacle in his way of success. He and I talked about what he wanted to do, as well as how things are going in college earlier this week.

We also discussed Hunter Furr, steroids, track scholarships and his social life. Take a look at some of the other topics Rolle and I cleared on Tuesday evening.

**Anthony:** What's going on, Charlton?

**Charlton:** Nothing much. I'm chillin'.

**Anthony:** Cool. I know you did very well at the Sea Relays. You also finished in the top 15 at the national meet. Kind of characterize your freshman season for me.

**Charlton:** It was kind of bumpy. I had a bumpy start. I battled a few injuries early on. It kind of took all of indoor (season) to recover from that. The pace got a little quicker once outdoor started. You have to get in tuned with things, or get left behind. So I had to come with it.

**Anthony:** What has been the biggest adjustment for you since going to Tennessee?

**Charlton:** Actually, the weight lifting. I have always kind of liked to lift weights, but it's different when they make you lift weights and you can't leave until you do it. The coaching style is different too. I'm used to a strict, but laid back coach. My coaches now are like, "Do this and do that." No more laid back.

**Anthony:** How did you do in the SEC championship meet?

**Charlton:** I did OK.



Charlton Rolle, who's a former Reynolds star, recorded his personal best time (13.68) in the 110 hurdles during the Sea Ray Relays this year. That finish put Rolle in 10th place on UT's all-time performance list in that race.

That's when the hard part from the coaches really came. It was either do or die. That's when they told me that it's not about the national meet. They said they recruited me for the SEC meet. That kind of bothered me at first. I didn't think they cared about me and my injury. I toughed it out, and got eighth place. I think the top four in the nation came from the SEC.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) I know that's right. What do you wish you could've done more in high school that would've benefited you now?

**Charlton:** Technique work. I've always had a speed coach, but I wish I could've worked more on my technique.

**Anthony:** What kind of advice do you have for some of the high school hurdlers out there?

**Charlton:** Just have a tight core, and work on technique.

**Anthony:** OK. How do they treat track athletes at Tennessee?

**Charlton:** Behind football and basketball, great.

**Anthony:** How are you enjoying that cold weather?

**Charlton:** It doesn't get too bad. It hasn't been too hot so far this summer.

**Anthony:** How's your social life?

**Charlton:** I have a great

social life. I'm loving it. I haven't found a girlfriend, but I have a couple of friends. (Both laugh.) I'm not looking for a girlfriend right now.

**Anthony:** I hear that. Have you declared a major yet?

**Charlton:** Right now it's business administration. I'm also interested in physical therapy. It would be tough for me to get that degree, and do athletics. That's kind of

investigated in Justin Gatlin?

**Charlton:** Yeah, you know I had to ask. I asked the coaches if they had anything to do with that. They denied it. (Both laugh.) But I had to ask.

**Anthony:** Do you speculate on guys that do something amazing on the track, or do you simply assume that things were done the right way?

**Charlton:** You try not to. But sometimes you have guys

How do you feel after hearing something like that?

**Charlton:** It makes me feel great. I wish other Winston-Salem athletes would work to use athletics to get them away, as well. I mean, I come home and I see people I went to school with and see that things haven't changed for them.

They had the same opportunity I had. I have to admit that the school work gets overwhelming at times, and you want to come back home. But once I get here I'm ready to go back after three days.

**Anthony:** (Both laugh.) How are your little brother (Curtis Miller) and sister (Kamaria Miller)?

**Charlton:** Oh, great. My little brother is doing well. My sister is doing well. Everybody else is doing good right now too. But you know how that is.

**Anthony:** Definitely. Hunter Furr just won the 100 at the Nike. What do you think about that?

**Charlton:** Hey, I hear he's been putting in the work. I actually went down to watch his race, and I haven't seen him run like that. Whatever he's doing is working for him. I wish him luck. That's great for Winston guys. It's always been the guys from Charlotte, Texas and Florida that had all the speed. Now we have guys



Charlton Rolle

like T.J. Graham and Hunter Furr. Bryce Sherman is even trying to show back up.

**Anthony:** Do you think that track scholarships are the toughest to maintain?

**Charlton:** Yeah. Definitely. You are always under the scope, and you don't have much time. I basically go to class from 9 until 12 o'clock. I have to squeeze in lunch. I have to go to practice at 1. From 1 until 2:30 I have hurdle practice. And, 3 until 4:30 I have sprint practice. Then, I have to lift weights for about an hour. By the time I get home, it's time for study hall. We have to get eight hours of study hall a week. That's my day.

**Anthony:** Yeah, it's definitely time consuming. OK. Let's finish with free association.

**Charlton:** All right.

**Anthony:** Charlton Rolle.

**Charlton:** Uh, one of the best hurdlers to come from Winston-Salem.

**Anthony:** University of Tennessee.

**Charlton:** Great program. Hopefully one of the top four in the country next year.

**Anthony:** Reynolds track.

**Charlton:** One of the best programs in Winston-Salem.

**Anthony:** Best track athlete you've seen.

**Charlton:** I would have to say Archie Barrow.

**Anthony:** Coach Derrick Speas.

**Charlton:** Probably the best speed coach in North Carolina.

**Anthony:** Thurmond Street. (Where Charlton grew up.)

**Charlton:** Motivation.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) I hear that. Well, good luck to you with everything.



tough.

**Anthony:** True. There's been a lot of track athletes busted for steroids this year. Do you and your teammates ever talk about the steroid issue?

**Charlton:** All the time, especially with so many professional athletes training at the university. They kind of started this program. "Test me I'm clean." The awareness has gone up a lot. It's big talk.

**Anthony:** What about the fact that a UT alum is being

that come into college as high school all-stars. Then, they kind of disappear before coming back to do some amazing things their senior year. They're posting these world record times. That kind of makes you wonder. But I try not to think that way. They could be putting in the work I'm putting in.

**Anthony:** I was talking with one of your former coaches (coach Speas). He told me how much he wishes his guys had your work ethic.

## Storm Coming: Local team ready to begin operation

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The American Basketball Association (ABA) announced that it has added Winston-Salem to its roster of expansion teams for the 2008-2009 season.

"We are very pleased to be back in North Carolina — a great basketball state and we have an excellent, well-qualified group of individuals leading the way. This will be a very successful organization," said Joe Newman, ABA CEO.

Wesley E. Mason, III will serve as co-owner of the team. He is currently Chief Executive Officer at Old Vineyard Behavioral Health Services in Winston-Salem. LaToya Camille Shine Mason is the other co-owner.

Currently she owns and operates Edible Arrangements in North Little Rock, AR and successfully manages several real estate properties.

"My vision is to bring a quality basketball team to Winston-Salem that will be entertaining and affordable to the community," said LaToya Mason.

Bryan Short has been appointed team General Manager. He is currently Director of Player Personnel at Alliance Sports Management. Bryan attended Kentucky Christian University and Florida Christian College, playing

both baseball and basketball.

The Triad Community chose the name Winston-Salem Storm through the "Name Your Team" contest that began last fall and concluded in January 2008. Community members voted online and at 12 local businesses.

"This is the community's team" said Wes Mason. "It was important to have the community involved in the beginning."

An overwhelming response to the name contest led to designing the brand identity. The Winston-Salem Storm partnered with One Hero Creative, a Winston-Salem

based advertising agency, for this effort. The logo embodies the essence of the ABA and the strength and passion of basketball within the community. The mascot, a local species of owl, was chosen because it is a fierce hunter that storms its prey.

Community support is instrumental for the basketball team to be successful for years to come. The Winston-Salem Storm is primed and ready to go according to team General Manager, Bryan Short. In addition to bringing one of the most exciting professional sports to Winston-Salem, the Winston-Salem Storm plans to provide employment opportunities and internships, raise funds for local charities and create scholarship funds.

Try-outs, internships, dance team and other team opportunities will be announced and posted on the website and through local media. Currently there are negotiations with the Joel Coliseum to play at the Annex.

"Winston-Salem is already in the running for the 2009 ABA All-Star game," concluded Wesley Mason. "I have discussed this with the CEO of the ABA. This is basketball country and there isn't a better choice than Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to hold such an event."

For more information, email or call Wes Mason at (336) 409-1936 or visit [www.winston-salemstorm.com](http://www.winston-salemstorm.com) or the ABA website [www.abalive.com](http://www.abalive.com).



Mason

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