

# Wedlock comes clean about DVD

I have been talking with former WSSU football player Jonathan Wedlock via e-mail and Myspace for about two months now. I've been looking forward to doing an interview with him because I knew quite a few people wanted to hear about from him.

I ran a story (by Steven Gaither) about his professional football career taking off in the American Indoor Football Association and quite a few readers hit me up about that piece. Some wanted to know if his "So Hard To Be A Ram" DVD was still available. Yes, it's still available. And he's still willing to give out a copy or two.

I wanted to ask him about that infamous YouTube classic, as well as his football career. Wedlock is one of the leading running backs for the Florence (South Carolina) Phantoms. We also discussed a number of other things like Division I, differences in arena leagues, homecoming and late night partying.

Take a look at some of the other things I was able to get out of Dr. Lock on Tuesday evening.

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

**Jonathan:** Nothing much. We just finished the first round of the playoffs last night. We beat the Huntington Heroes. I scored two touchdowns, and we beat them 55-9.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) OK. That's what's up. It sounds like you're doing your thing in the AIFA.

**Jonathan:** I'm doing my thing. And my phone doesn't stop ringing until about two in the morning. A lot of teams want me to come play for them, especially in the AF2 League. They want me to play for the Florida Firecats. The opportunity presented itself, and I'm just taking it. I gave thought to playing in Canada. But I like playing in front of family. I'd rather be here.

**Anthony:** What's the difference between the AIFA and the arena league we see on television?

**Jonathan:** The main difference is the wide receiver motion. They can only put one wide receiver in motion. We can put two receivers in motion in our league. The AFL is like the NFL of the indoor game. There's also AF2, which is like a developmental league. The league I am in is right in between, as far as pay.

**Anthony:** What is the pay like? No, don't put your business out there like that. Just tell me what's the most you've heard of someone getting paid in your league?

**Jonathan:** Well, you can get endorsements. I don't want to put anybody out there. Put it this way. You can make a decent living playing in our league.

**Anthony:** What's the living situation like. I read that you all were living in hotels.

**Jonathan:** We were staying in hotels in the beginning of the season. Then my owner liked everything, and the way the season was going. So, she bought some houses in the Florence area. Now, we have some rooms.

**Anthony:** I hear that. Now, I read that you're playing with a big time quarterback.

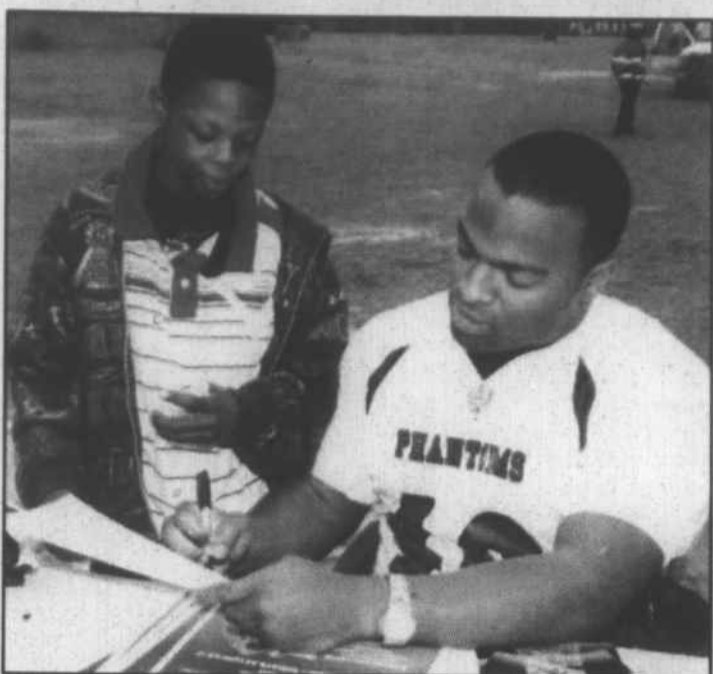
**Jonathan:** Oh yeah. Omar Jacobs, from Bowling Green. He was a Heisman finalist in 2004. And, we've got Reggie Butler. He played with both of the Vick brothers at Virginia Tech. Larry Thompson played at San Diego State. It really makes you step up your level of play. So, I had to show them better than I could tell them.

**Anthony:** No doubt. (Smiles.) Now I've got to ask you about your famous DVD. You have to tell me where that idea came about.

**Jonathan:** (Laughs.) Yeah. Well, I was a mass communication major and I hadn't really done anything to that point. I didn't intern because I had army obligations during the summer. So, I just used everything that I had with mass communication and football and made a movie ("So Hard To Be A Ram").

I wasn't going to hold any punches or sugarcoat anything. That's what we had to go through. We didn't have it like Wake Forest. They put their team in a hotel. We just stayed on campus. We did what we had to do to survive.

**Anthony:** Did you have any idea that you would receive so



Here, former WSSU football player Jon Wedlock signs an autograph for a young football fan in South Carolina.

much attention for the DVD?

**Jonathan:** I never would've imagined that. I never thought that DVD would make me. I don't want to say a celebrity. I guess well known. (Both laugh.) I never would've imagined.

**Anthony:** What did you think about Dr. Caldwell calling your DVD "deplorable and disappointing for college level students?"

**Jonathan:** I think it was deplorable. I can see how it's negative from his position. I could see where he was coming from. At the end of the day it's still what goes on. I mean, kids are going to party when they go off to school. They're going to have fun. They're going to wear revealing clothes. Am I right for putting all of that on youtube?



Wedlock

came in like a stallion. He came in like, "I'm here." He's a good ball player, and a great all-around person.

**Anthony:** Do you think it was a good move for Winston-Salem State to move up to Division I?

**Jonathan:** I think it was. I really do. It was a good move athletically and business wise. We brought fans out every where we went in the CIAA. We drew big crowds, whether we won or

lost. And we were actually losing money because we were bringing in schools like Livingstone and Johnson C. Smith. No one was trying to pay to watch them. They want to see FAMU, Delaware State and teams like that. We had three homecomings in playing A&T, Delaware State

and Central at home. That was a smart business move.

**Anthony:** OK. What are you usually doing when you're not balling?

**Jonathan:** Right now I get up and workout everyday. I work with kids at this high school in Florence, South Carolina. I'm always on the internet looking for grants to get my production company off. I'm always looking for grants. And, I got to practice at six.

**Anthony:** Do you have any nicknames?

**Jonathan:** There will never be any nicknames beside Dr. Lock. That name came from my dad. That was his nickname in the army. He played quarterback in an army league, and they used to call him that because he would go to work on teams. I told B-Daht to start calling me Dr. Lock at the football games. (Both laugh.) And, it just stuck.

**Anthony:** Who's the best football player you've ever seen?

**Jonathan:** Michael Champagne was the best player I saw at Winston-Salem State. He played left tackle. I only saw him take two plays off the entire season our senior year. The best player in the arena league has probably been Omar Jacobs. But that's a tough one. There's so many good players.

**Anthony:** What do you listen to before games?

**Jonathan:** You might think this is funny, but I like Kanye West. I don't really like listening to hype music. It takes me out of my football mentality.

**Anthony:** I got you. Let's close out with free association. Uh, coach Kermit Blount.

**Jonathan:** Leader.

**Anthony:** Jon Wedlock.

**Jonathan:** Dr. Lock.

**Anthony:** Jed Bines.

**Jonathan:** Vision (on the field).

**Anthony:** Winston-Salem.

**Jonathan:** Progressing.

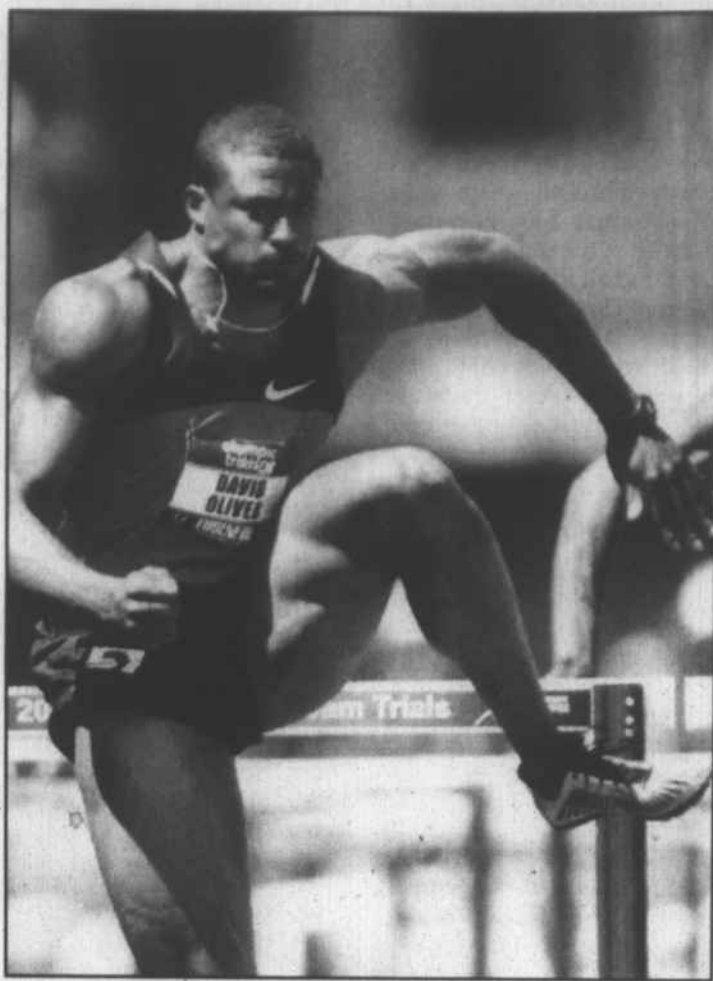
**Anthony:** Dr. Chico Caldwell.

**Jonathan:** Businessman.

**Anthony:** Winston-Salem State Rams.

**Jonathan:** Homecoming. (Both laugh.) That's it.

**Anthony:** We're done.



David Oliver, a former star at Howard, won the 110m hurdles to advance to the Olympics.

## Howard alum Oliver wins 110m hurdles at trials

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Howard alum David Oliver won the 110m hurdles at the U.S. Olympic Trials and earned a berth to the XXIX Summer Games in Beijing. Oliver finished the race in 12.95 and set the Hayward Track record.

"I really don't know what happened," Oliver said. "The gun went off and I just started running. I haven't seen the replay even and I don't even know where I was at."

Oliver, one of the favorites to win the event, had the best mark of the quarterfinals at 13.07 and was the top seed in the first of two semifinals. He went 13.24 to post the best mark in the first round.

"I just wanted to make the top-three in the finals," Oliver added. "I am just happy that I was able to do that and get the win."

Oliver has posted three of the world's top five times in the event this season, including 12.95 seconds in May. That's second to the world record of 12.87 run by Dayron Robles. He also won the U.S. indoor title in February before posting his sub-13 time in Doha, Qatar.

## One-on-One

with Anthony Hill

(Both laugh.) I don't know. At the end of the day I guess I got what I wanted from it. It showed that I have other skills than just football. I can do videos and stuff. People just looked at Winston-Salem State as a nursing school. I think that I've brought attention to our communication department. People see that we can do other things too. Have you seen the whole DVD?

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) I've only seen some of it.

**Jonathan:** Oh, I've got to get you a copy. I have a copy sitting right here.

**Anthony:** No doubt. What have you missed the most since leaving Winston-Salem State?

**Jonathan:** Oh man. That's a tough question because there's just so much to miss. I just miss the struggle. I appreciated the struggle. We worked for everything that we got. I mean, we weren't no slaves or nothing. (Both laugh.) I just remember those nights, going to Greensboro and partying with A&T until four in the morning — knowing we got workouts at six. I miss that. I miss everything about it.

**Anthony:** No doubt. Hey, tell me what motivates you everyday.

**Jonathan:** Realizing that I have a good thing. Sometimes I sit back and think that I'm not supposed to be playing football on the professional level. But my parents continue to pray for me everyday. One day I was like this praying thing really works. I've been going forward ever since. My parents and my little nephew really motivate me.

**Anthony:** Cool. How excited were you to see Bill Hayes drafted?

**Jonathan:** I was real happy to see him drafted in the fourth round by the Titans. I'm not really one that worries about the NFL or NBA. By the time I got to practice on Monday everybody was telling me that a guy from Winston-Salem State was drafted. I was like, "OK." I like the NFL, but I'm more into college sports.

I knew he was going to get drafted. We've known that since he was a freshman. You know freshman usually come in and develop into good players. He

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