

Former Deac Parkhurst wins MLS Fair Play Award

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Former Wake Forest men's soccer player and current member of the New England Revolution Michael Parkhurst won the MLS Fair Play Award, the Major League Soccer office recently announced. The Revolution also earned the MLS Team Fair Play Award.



Michael Parkhurst was a first round pick during the 2005 MLS Draft.

A defender for the New England Revolution, Parkhurst claimed the MLS Fair Play Award for the second straight year. Parkhurst started in 28 games and played 2,520 minutes, while committing only nine fouls on the season.

The Cranston, R.I., native did not receive a caution or red card for the second straight season. The 2007 Visa MLS Defense of the Year, Parkhurst was a member of the 2007 MLS Best XI and is a three-time MLS All-Star.

The Revolution, which features three former Wake Forest players in Parkhurst, Wells Thompson and Pat Phelan, earned the Team Fair Play award for accumulating the fewest disciplinary points (300) of any team during the 2008 regular season. A team receives four disciplinary points for each caution received, 10 points for each red card, 0.50 points for each foul committed and a reduction of 15 points for each game that a team competes without receiving any red cards or action from the MLS Disciplinary Committee.

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Carver could win 3A state championships. Parkland would have the tougher road after having to face schools like Dudley (11-0) and Ragsdale (11-0) along the way.

East Forsyth would have to face West to make it to the title game in one of the 4A brackets, while Mt. Tabor would probably have to face Reynolds to get to the title if everything worked out for both teams. I actually feel bad for East and West. They have to see teams like Independence (11-0), Butler (10-1) and Providence to even entertain a title run. Also, No. 7 seed Andrews (coached by Rodney McCoy) will host No. 10 seed Western Alamance (8-3).

It should be interesting to see which teams survive and advance. I'm looking forward to seeing how far Reynolds can extend their season. They seem to play better when it's all or nothing. Look at the way they concluded the year. I'm also looking forward to seeing how far Parkland, led by D.J. Adams, will make it this year. Some guys become household names during the playoffs. I remember then Andre Brown and Greenville Rose ran through Mt. Tabor in 2004. My point is: I remember that guy even today.

Carver should do what they do. Those boys always seem to do well in the playoffs. I would like to wish all of the local teams the best of luck this year. Let's bring a state football title to the city. Guys love to talk about how this area has the best football. Well, let's win some hardware to prove it. Good luck.

Reagan JV concludes season with shocker

I wasn't at the JV game between Carver and Reagan last week. But I received calls and emails about what happened. I even asked Carver's coach (Sam Davis) about it at a Pop Warner game over the weekend.

Well, Reagan (9-1) defeated Carver to win the conference title last Thursday. I knew the Reagan JV squad (which has only lost to Mt. Tabor) was talented. I brag about them all the time. But I didn't even think they could pull the upset.

"Upset..." asked Reagan head JV coach Josh McGee. "We didn't feel like that was an upset. We believed we could win. We knew we could win. We have a good team. And we go into every game feeling like we're supposed to win."

I told coach McGee that he's supposed to feel like that. But I was shocked when I heard that Reagan won. I was even more shocked when I heard how the game ended.

Reagan was clinging onto a slim lead with under eight minutes to go. Then,

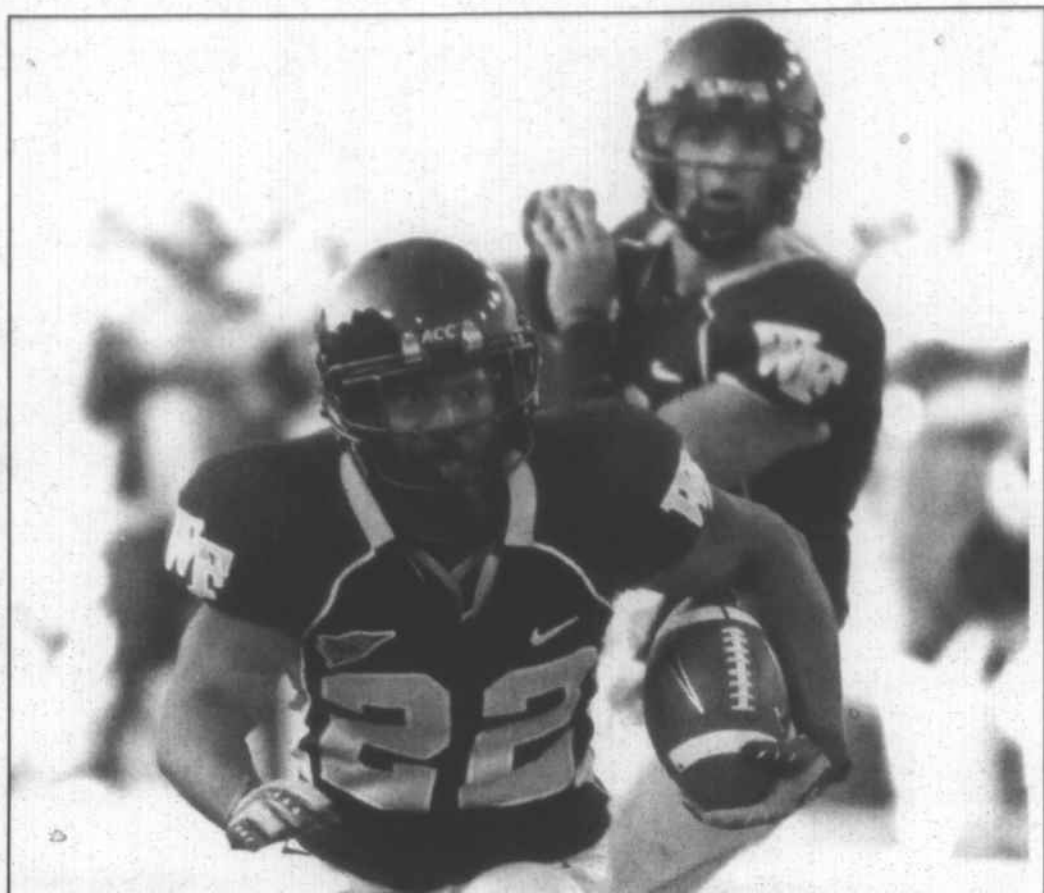


Reagan's Dakota Raymond is one of many players that helped the Raiders (9-1) enjoy a great season.

Carver scored to get the lead. But Reagan ran the ensuing kickoff back. Carver scored again. But Reagan ran another kickoff back for a score. Carver then looked to score again, but the Reagan defense stopped the Yellowjackets to preserve the win and title. That's what's up. Congrats to those guys at

Reagan. Don't be surprised to see quite a few of those guys on the All-County JV team, which will be released next Thursday.

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Wake's Brandon Pendergrass picked up ACC Rookie honors on Monday.

Wake ranked No. 24 in BCS poll

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Wake Forest may be in the "also receiving votes" category of both the Associated Press and USA Today polls but among the Bowl Championship Series standings, the Deacons are ranked 24th.

The Demon Deacons are making their first appearance of the year in the BCS Standings this week. Alabama is No. 1 according to the BCS followed by Texas Tech, Texas, Florida and Oklahoma. Wake is just behind No. 23 Tulsa and a notch ahead of South Carolina. The only other ranked ACC school is Florida State at No. 19.

Wake Forest has been ranked as high as No. 16 by the Associated Press on Sept. 21 and No. 15 in the USA Today Coaches poll on the same date.

In other Wake football news, Brandon Pendergrass, a 5-9, 200-pound redshirt freshman, from Royal Palm Beach, FL (Royal Palm Beach HS) was named the ACC Rookie of the Week on Monday.

Pendergrass posted his first career 100-yard rushing game with 110 yards on 27 carries. Both marks were career highs. Pendergrass rushed for a 1-yard touchdown run that put the Deacons ahead 21-3 late in the second quarter. During his touchdown drive, Pendergrass rushed for 59 yards including a 19-yard gain to the Virginia nine-yard line.

Pendergrass is second on the team in rushing with 344 yards this season while leading the club with four rushing touchdowns. He also tops all players with 111 carries.

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