

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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Darryl "Pooh" Gregory

Gregory will be missed

FROM THE HUDDLE



Anthony Hill

I couldn't hold back a few subtle tears as I read the (Winston-Salem Journal) guest book for Darryl "Pooh" Gregory Jr.

He was a youth coach that was taken away from us after suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning two weeks ago. Mourners from Winston-Salem, Salisbury, Charlotte, Raleigh, Kernersville, Georgia and Texas — among others places, took time to express their feelings on the guest book, which was on *The Journal's* website.

A lot of us are still sad with the news of his recent passing. I know I am. I just shook my head as I read comment after comment. One of the more memorable comments was placed by one of Pooh's former Pop Warner players, Jakier "Poppa" Austin. I'm not going to re-write his feelings. But I was touched as I read his message to his old coach as if Pooh were still here. Other messages thanked coach Pooh for the many areas that he may have contributed in their lives. Some people expressed how shocked they were that he was no longer here.

That's kind of where I am right now. I couldn't believe the news of him being taken away from us. I still remember how sad I got when I heard the news. And, I wasn't even that close to him. We were cool. I am closer to his older brother, Carlos. I used to always joke with Pooh's son (Third). His sister, Keisha, once beat me in a game of basketball.

I was basically the reporter that wrote about Pooh being

See Hill on B4

Howard helps families enjoy holiday

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

More than 25 families in Winston-Salem were treated to a surprise last week. Several households were greeted with bags full of Thanksgiving food right in time for the special holiday — thanks to the assistance of the Josh Howard Foundation.

The bags of food, which consisted of turkey, dressing, bread, pie, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce and more — were delivered by select members of the Josh Howard Foundation last Thursday. Josh Howard Foundation community relations manager Steve Nevin, foundation public relations manager Tabitha Bailey and volunteer Cheryl Lindsay kept the streets hot as they traveled around the city to deliver the food.

"Josh really wanted to be here, but he couldn't due to the (NBA basketball) season," said Nevin. "This is something that Josh felt very strongly about. He's all about giving back to his community. It's always a blessing to give back. God put him in a position to be able to help those in need during this holiday season."

"He loves doing what he can do," Nevin continued. "I just got off the phone with him this morning. I was telling him about some of the reactions we got after



Photo by Anthony Hill

Josh Howard Foundation public relations manager Tabitha Bailey and Cheryl Lindsay share a laugh during one of their visits last week.

calling some of the families. A couple women started to cry. Some people were surprised the Josh Howard Foundation was doing something like this. They were still thankful and happy. We're just trying to do what we can do for our community. It feels good."

Bailey added: "It's always good to give back to your community. I got per-



Josh Howard

sonal satisfaction by meeting some of the families and touching their lives during this season."

The foundation received the names and addresses of families from Social Services (DSS). But the idea to deliver a complete Thanksgiving meal came about after Howard brainstormed with several members of his foundation earlier

this year.

"This whole idea came about when me, Tab (Tabitha Bailey), OT and Josh got together to talk about some of the things we could do to help families in need for the holidays," Nevin said. "Josh was definitely for it. He wished he could actually be here for this. Anything to do

See Howard on B2



NCCU photo

NCCU senior kicker Brandon Gilbert (left) and quarterback Stadford Brown pose with Eagle head coach Mose Rison.

Duo plants seeds for NCCU football

BY KYLE SERBA
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Nine football student-athletes were honored during NCCU's victory over Savannah State over the weekend. It was their final game of their North Carolina Central University career. Among them were two of the most decorated and accomplished Eagles of all-time, quarterback Stadford Brown and kicker Brandon Gilbert.

Gilbert, a native of Graham, is the Eagles' all-time scoring leader with 275 career points and either holds or shares every kicking record in school history. He resume includes NCCU extra-point kick records for a game (10 vs. Edward Waters on Aug. 27, 2005), a season (48, 2006) and a career (146), as well as consecutive extra-point kicks (103 and counting). He also sets the standard for field goals in a season (16, 2005) and a career (43), while sharing the record for field goals in a game (four vs. Bowie State on Nov. 5, 2005), a mark matched only by Eric Hines in 1978.

"I have amazed myself a little bit," Gilbert admitted. "I never thought I would be a college place-kicker. I thought I'd play soccer. The achievements have surprised me."

Gilbert became a household name to NCCU football fans after drilling the

game-winning 30-yard field goal with three seconds left in the 2005 CIAA Championship Game to cap a dramatic comeback win over Bowie State at O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium. In that game, Gilbert scored 14 points on four field goals and two extra-points to earn the title game's Most Valuable Player award.

Remarkably, a year later on the same field, only going in the other direction, Gilbert blasted a career-long 51-yard field goal on the final play of the 2006 CIAA Championship Game to edge Elizabeth City State and repeat as conference champions.

That 51-yard bomb cemented Gilbert's place in Eagles gridiron history and is easily his most memorable play in Maroon and Gray.

As he looks back on his college football career, he said it has been very exciting.

So in the pre-game ceremony recognizing the Eagle seniors, when Gilbert took the field and was greeted by his mother, Anne, and father, Joe, there was no doubt things got emotional.

"It was definitely sad," Gilbert said. "I have been here so long, put in a lot of hard work and won a lot of games as an Eagle; so it was difficult."

See NCCU on B4



Florida A&M athletic director Bill Hayes poses with friends after being inducted into the N.C. A&T athletic hall of fame last week. Hayes is the school's winningest football coach.

A&T Hall of Fame inducts Bill Hayes and several others

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina A&T Sports Hall of Fame inducted three new members for their accomplishments for N.C. A&T athletics. Five more members were also inducted for their many contributions to athletics over the weekend.

The inductees were honored at dinner banquet at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center over the weekend. They were also honored during halftime of the Aggies football contest against S.C. State last Saturday.

Former N.C. A&T head football coach William "Bill" Hayes, men's basketball standout James Jackson and football and track and field participant Edward Gladden Favors were inducted for their athletic and coaching accomplishments.

Dr. Velma Speight-Buford, John David Haynes, Melvin Swann, Gladys Shipman and Dr. Isaac Barnett were inducted as honorary members.

Hayes, the current Florida A&M athletics director, coached football at N.C. A&T from 1988-02. He won three MEAC Championships, made two Division I FCS (then I-AA) playoff appearances and was awarded MEAC Coach of the Year honor twice. In 1999, he led the Aggies to the Black College National Championship, a school-record 11 wins and the school's first-



See Hayes on B2