

Wake's Smith named to AFCA All-America team

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest senior cornerback Alphonso Smith was named to the American Football Coaches Association All-America team last week.

Smith joins a select group of Wake Forest players to earn AFCA All-America honors. He is just the seventh Deacon ever honored by the organization. Other Wake Forest players named to the AFCA All-America team include running back Brian Piccolo (1964), defensive back Bill Armstrong (1975, 1976), offensive lineman Ben Coleman (1992), defensive end Calvin Pace (2002) and center Steve Justice (2007).

The AFCA has picked an All-America team each year since 1945. The Football Bowl Subdivision head coaches select the team members.

Smith, a 5-9, 190-pound senior from Pahokee, Fla. (Pahokee), led Wake Forest with six interceptions on the season and tied the ACC record with 20 for his career. He finished the year with 36 tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, two forced fumbles and a blocked punt. Smith currently leads the nation with 19



Wake's Alphonso Smith became the seventh Demon Deacon to be named a AFCA All American.

passes defended including 13 pass breakups and six interceptions. He set the school record with 60 career passes

defended. The only other Atlantic Coast Conference player selected was defensive line-

man Michael Johnson of Georgia Tech.

Smith turned in one of the finest performances of his career in a 33-30 overtime win over Duke on Nov. 1. Smith blocked a punt for a safety, and recorded two interceptions including one in overtime that sealed Wake Forest's win.

Note: Wake Forest recently landed five players on the All-ACC football team. The Deacons landed three players on the first team and two garnered honorable mention honors.

Linebacker Aaron Curry and cornerback Alphonso Smith were each first team selections while wide receiver D.J. Boldin earned first team honors on offense. Quarterback Riley Skinner and defensive tackle Boo Robinson were each honorable mention selections.

For Smith, this marks his second consecutive year as a first team selection. Curry earned first team All-ACC for the first time after being a second team selection in 2007. Skinner was the second team quarterback in 2006 as a redshirt freshman.

Hill

from page B1

fact that he could play an entire 10-game season of football. Then, he went down after taking one 3-point shot during a basketball game."

"But that puts life into perspective for a lot of people," Griffin continued. "As coaches we try to use life as a platform. We tell the kids to play every down as if it's their last. You never know what the future may hold. This is just very tragic. I definitely didn't see it coming after the year he had on the football field. His future was right in front of him. We really lost a special kid."

No one saw this coming. Certain things really make me question things. Most of us have dealt with situations in our lives that had us wondering why someone had to leave. I definitely have.

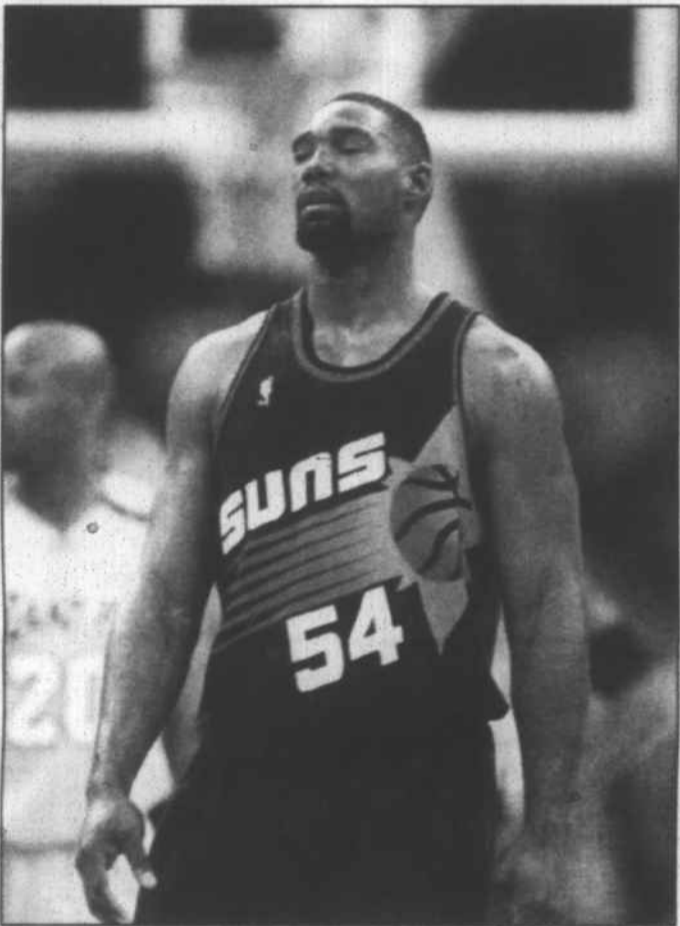
One of my favorite quotes comes from an old rap song by UGK. It says, "When I got down on my knees that night to pray I asked God why You let these killers live and take my homeboy's son away. Man, if you've got kids show that you love 'em. God just might call 'em home. 'Cause one day they're here and the next, baby, they're gone."

That's the truth. It's sad, though. I feel so bad for the Prince family. I feel bad for Khalid's fellow students. I feel bad for all of his friends. This is a tragedy that has everyone around the area thinking, talking and grieving.

"It's been sad around school," concluded Parkland's Nick James. "But he's in a better place now. He's not in anymore pain."

NCHSAA makes changes

The NCHSAA Board approved the sanctioning of both men's lacrosse and women's lacrosse as an NCHSAA championship sport starting with the academic



Rodney Rogers was paralyzed from the shoulders down after falling off his ATV a couple weeks ago.

year 2009-10. I didn't realize lacrosse wasn't recognized until now.

The board also changed the start of basketball for the 2009-2010 academic year, delaying the start by a week; the first practice may be Nov. 9, first contest Nov. 16; in two different weeks of the season, a school would be able to play four games in a week if the fourth is on a non-school day.

Also, student-athletes, coaches and administrators will be required to complete a STAR Sportsmanship program after being ejected or disqualified from a contest before he or she returns to play, starting with the 2009-10 academic year.

Another rule that was changed was the fighting policy. The policy was changed to "a team whose players or coaches accumulate three indi-

vidual ejections for fighting (note: if a situation occurs where four players on one team are ejected during one fighting incident, then those four individual ejections will cause the team to lose its play-off privileges)."

Rodney Rogers paralyzed

Some of you may have heard about former Wake Forest and NBA star Rodney Rogers, who's paralyzed from the shoulder down after falling off his all-terrain vehicle (ATV) accident a couple weeks ago.

News of the accident got out after Rogers' former college coach, Dave Odom, told Raleigh's News & Observer last week.

Rogers, 37, who had a 12-year NBA career and won the league's sixth man award in

1999-2000, was riding in the woods in rural Vance County (near Durham) last week when he fell off the vehicle, according to the North Carolina Highway Patrol, the newspaper reported. He was recently transferred from Duke Hospital to the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, which specializes in rehabilitation for people with catastrophic injuries.

That's a sad chapter to Rodney's life. I don't know him personally. But I know quite a few people that do know him well. What sticks out to me is the fact that he moved back to Durham and took a job working for the city — using heavy machinery. He was also a volunteer coach of a middle school girl's basketball team. And, we all know he's financially straight. So, he was doing those things simply to keep busy. That's pretty sad.

Anthony Hill is the sports editor for The Chronicle. He can be reached at 722-8624 (ext. 111) or ahill@wchronicle.com.

WANT TO APPLY FOR STUDENT LOANS?

WANT TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS?

WANT TO RENEW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Want to know where to get all this information?

From Social Security benefits to buying surplus government property, all kinds of government information are just a click or call away.

FIRSTGOV.gov

1 (800) FED-INFO

Multiply your results with

Get your 2 column by 2-inch advertisement in more than 75 N.C. newspapers for \$1,400!

Call this newspaper for details.

Regional buys also available

Two Brands. Endless Options.

\$8,000

dutchway.com

\$12,300

www.dutchwaypolebarns.com

\$22,750

20th Anniversary!

www.conestogabuildings.com

1-877-434-3133

Northside Ink

NOW OPEN!

TATTOOS & Piercings

Walk-ins Welcome

We Offer Student Discounts!

Call For Appointment

767-0355

3559 N. Patterson Ave.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27105

Located At Northside Shopping Center

SHELTON'S

Auto Service Center

Discount Auto Service & Repairs

- 50% OFF All City-Wide Towing
- NC Inspections
- Lubrication/Oil/Oil Filter \$19.95
- With 5 qts of None Blended Oils
- FREE Antifreeze Testing
- FREE Check Engine Light Scanning
- FREE Brake Inspection with Oil Change
- FREE Brake Inspection with Tire Rotation

3000 Ivy Ave. • Winston-Salem, NC 27105
Phone (336) 725-6665
Major & Minor Repairs

Community Care Center

Volunteers working together to provide free medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured families.

You must be approved as a patient before seeing a doctor or dentist. We accept applications for new patients on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1:30-4:30 PM.** We suggest you pick up a brochure about our requirements to prepare for the interview. Applications are taken on "first come, first served" basis. We accept only 40 applications per week.

- We are not able to provide care for pregnant women
- We are not a walk-in clinic.
- We can't handle emergencies.
- We can not accept patients with Medicaid, Medicare, Veterans' Administration Benefits or private health insurance.

Volunteers and our small staff provide medical and dental care for our patients. We are supported with donations from churches, individuals, businesses, foundations and the United Way. We do not receive government funds.

2135 New Walkertown Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(across from Evergreen Cemetery)
More Information: 336-723-7904