



Coach Tom Walter addresses luncheon attendees.

Photos by Todd Luck

WFU coach who donated kidney honored by Dash

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University Baseball Coach Tom Walter received Winston-Salem Dash's Honorary Coaches Award last Thursday at the BB&T Ballpark.

Each year, the Dash names an honorary coach who has made an impact on the community through sports. In its inaugural year in 2010, the honor went to the late Clarence "Big House" Gaines, who was a legendary basketball coach for Winston-Salem State University for 47 years. Walter made international headlines earlier this year when he donated a kidney to one of his players.

The award was given during a luncheon in Ballpark's Womble Carlyle Club, where 100 attendees dined on ballpark fare like hamburgers and hotdogs. Winston-Salem Dash President Geoff Lassiter presented the award to Walter, who attended the event with his son, Chase. Later in the day, Chase had the honor of throwing out the first pitch at a Dash home game.

On Feb. 7, Walter donated his kidney to WFU Freshman Outfielder Kevin Jordan, who had been ill since January 2010, two months after he committed to play at Wake. He needed extensive dialysis that lasted 18 to 20 hours a day as he attended Wake. With his kidney's functioning at only a eight percent capacity, doctors determined he needed a transplant as soon as possible. None of his family members were suitable donors, but when Walter volunteered to be tested, he ended up being a match.

"He is a part of my family," Walter said of Jordan. "I would do it for Chase. I would do it for any one of my teammates. When you have a chance to help one of your family members, that's what you do."

Walter said Jordan is recovering well, while taking part in batting practice, lifting weights and running sprints in preparation for playing with the Deacons this Fall.

He said the support he received after his donation was "staggering." He's had many people come up to him and tell him they became organ donors because of his story.

"The recognition part of this is not what it's about, but if it can help organ donation and get people off the organ donation list, then it's a wonderful thing," said Walter, who said he was "honored to even be mentioned in the same sentence" as last year's recipient, Big House Gaines.

Also at the luncheon, it was announced that The Centers for Exceptional Children will be the recipient of proceeds from this season's Dash Community Commemorative Brick Program, which allows fans to buy a brick outside the ballpark's main gate to cele-



Tom Walter accepts his award from Winston-Salem Dash President Geoff Lassiter.



Mike Britt speaks.



Manager Julio Vinas

brate or honor a loved one or special event. Last year, the program raised more than \$10,000 for Brenner's Children's Hospital.

The Centers for Exceptional Children was formed when the Special Children's School and The Children's Center for the Physically Disabled merged. The Centers exist thanks to

a unique partnership between Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, United Way of Forsyth County and Smart Start of Forsyth County. The Centers, which still operate as two separate schools, provide programs for 220 children with a wide variety of special needs.

"The staff across the board at both schools believes in their heart of hearts that every child is a miracle and that every child has a miraculous potential, and that's why these organizations do such great work every day," said Mike Britt, executive director for the Centers.

The Dash also used the luncheon to introduce its new manager, Julio Vinas, a former White Sox minor leaguer and coach in the Orioles minor league system. Vinas says the community should expect a lot from the Dash this season.

"We have a real strong team that has a little bit of everything," said Vinas. "We hope you guys keep coming out and watching us."

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News Clips

FTCC to take part in Cardboard Boat Regatta
Mechanical Engineering Technology students from Forsyth Tech will compete in their annual Cardboard Boat Regatta on Friday, April 29 from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. at the Piney Bluff Boat Launch Ramp at Belevs Creek.

Seven teams of two students each will compete in the event, which has been a Forsyth Tech tradition for more than 30 years. Participation in the regatta is a requirement of the Strength of Materials course. Students apply what they have learned in their program of study to designing, engineering and building seaworthy craft that can withstand a quarter-mile water course, arriving back at shore safe and dry. Students have the option to use a small motor to propel their craft through the water.

This event will be held rain or shine on Friday, April 29. The public is invited to attend.

Food Bank awarded grant
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina has been awarded a grant of \$30,000 from Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation to support transportation costs associated with food distribution throughout an 18 county service area.

Last year, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 15.6 million pounds of food (an increase of almost 100% in the past two years) through 355 partner agencies to approximately 300,000 individuals. Partner agencies distributed food to those in need through emergency food pantries, shelters, schools and soup kitchens.

Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation is a Supporting Organization and

Sponsored Ministry of the Americas South Central Community, providing support for its charitable, religious and educational mission.

Since announcing in October 1996, that it was ready to begin receiving grant applications, the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation has awarded 1,140 grants on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community, totaling more than \$51,100,000 to organizations serving underserved or underserved populations.

Verrett named to A&T athletics post

Katreshia Louis Verrett has been named the new associate director of athletics for compliance/senior woman administrator at North Carolina A&T State University.

Verrett comes to A&T after a five-year stint with the Georgia Tech Department of Athletics, where she began her career as an administrative and compliance intern and was promoted to compliance coordinator seven months later.

She is a 2000 graduate of the University of Miami, where she was a four-year letter winner in track and field. She has a Juris Doctorate from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, La.

N.C. Symphony hires new president

The North Carolina Symphony has hired Sandi Macdonald as president and CEO of the organization.

Macdonald brings more than 20 years of experience in orchestra management to her position at the North Carolina Symphony. In her current role as Miami Residency Director for The Cleveland Orchestra, she is responsible for fund and board

development, community engagement and education programs and marketing and sales campaigns that support the orchestra's innovative annual residency in Miami, Fla.

The appointment of Macdonald ends a six-month international search conducted by a committee led by long-time trustee Robert Eby.

"I am honored to accept this position with the North Carolina Symphony," says Macdonald. "It's a privilege to join the North Carolina Symphony and I look forward to being part of the special relationship the Symphony has with the people of this state, and to engage and inspire as many people as possible with the Symphony's music-making."

Women's Fund to hold grant sessions

Following on last year's research report "Through a Gender Lens: The Economic Security of Women and Girls in Forsyth County," The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem has issued its 2011 Grant Guidelines and Request for Proposals that address the challenges women face in achieving economic security. Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to organizations creating social change in the community. Smaller organizations have an opportunity to compete for up to \$10,000 in funding through The Fund's Grassroots Grants Program.

Organizations wishing to learn more about The Women's Fund of Winston-Salem's 2011 Grant Guidelines and the application process are invited to attend one of two community workshops on either Tuesday, May 10, 2011 from 3 - 4:30 p.m. or Wednesday, May 11 from 9-10:30 a.m. Both workshops will take place at Senior Services, 2895 Shorefair Drive. Organizations may register to attend online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2011grantworkshops>.



Macdonald

Two special days for women only.

Girl's Night Out: Ask the Doctor

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30-8:00 p.m. FREE

Forsyth Medical Center Conference Center, 3300 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Bring every question you've ever wanted to ask a doctor and we'll have a primary care doctor, cardiologist, oncologist, gynecologist and pediatrician there to provide an answer. If you don't have a doctor, we can find one for you and schedule an appointment.

From stress to pediatrics to menopause, we'll cover it all - accompanied by refreshments and giveaways. **Seating is limited, so call 336-718-7000 to reserve your place(s).**

Mammograms for Uninsured Women

Thursday, May 12, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. FREE

In front of Forsyth Medical Center, 3300 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem, NC 27103

This is a wonderful opportunity to receive a free, high-quality breast screening - performed in a private, comfortable setting by experienced, registered female technologists. Each mammogram will also be evaluated by an experienced, accredited radiologist.

If you're a woman over the age of 40 living in Forsyth County - with no insurance and limited income - **please call us today at 336-397-6805 to register for this very important event. Space is limited.**

Forsyth MEDICAL CENTER

Remarkable People. Remarkable Medicine.