

# SPORTS WEEK

OCTOBER 11, 2012



Cullen Jones accepts his award from Al Buehler.

## N.C. Olympic heroes honored

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Five prestigious awards were presented by the Triangle Sports Commission to Olympic athletes and coaches at a North Carolina Olympic Celebration held in Cary late last month.

The LeRoy Walker Outstanding North Carolina Male and Female Olympian Awards went to Cullen Jones, who won one gold and two silver medals at the London 2012 Olympic Games, and Abby Johnston, a 2012 Summer Games silver medalist, respectively.

Jones, a former NC State University varsity swimmer and current Charlotte resident, was North Carolina's most decorated Olympian at the London Games. He won gold on the Men's 4x100 Medley Relay, silver on the Men's 4x100 Freestyle Relay and an individual silver medal in the Men's 50 Freestyle. This was Jones' second LeRoy Walker Award, having captured the same trophy for his outstanding performance in the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008. Jones' second-place finish in the 50 unofficially makes him the world's second fastest man on water. A versatile performer, Jones also gave the keynote address at the Olympic & Paralympic Athlete Reception & Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 29.

Johnston competes for the Duke Diving Team under Coach Drew Johansen, who also served as head coach for the U.S. Olympic Diving Team in London. Johnston captured the silver medal in the 10-meter Synchronized Diving event. Together with her diving partner, Johnston became the first American(s) ever to win an Olympic Synchronized Diving medal. Coach Johansen accepted the award on Johnston's behalf.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski was awarded the first-ever Al Buehler Coaching Excellence Award. Coach K has had an unprecedented run by leading two consecutive Olympic Gold medal-winning basketball teams (Beijing and London).

Buehler, a coaching legend and the main subject of a recent film and book, "The Timeless Wisdom of Al Buehler," told the audience that Coach K represented the United States at the highest level and in the finest way possible.

The Kay Yow Courage Award was presented by Nora Lynn Finch, associate commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference and a longtime associate and friend of the former N.C. State basketball coach who died of breast cancer. Finch indicated that this year's award winner, Western Carolina University Assistant Track Coach Manteo Mitchell, was especially deserving, considering he ran his leg of the men's silver-medal-winning 4x400 Relay with a broken leg but refused to stop or give up. The Hill Carrow Regional Sports Leadership Award was presented to Bridge 2 Sports, the Triangle region's Paralympic organization and to Ashley Thomas, the organization's executive director.

## Alum to fund Reynolds Gym makeover

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest University alumnus Ben Sutton and his family have committed to a leadership gift to his alma mater to launch a major health and wellness initiative on campus. The centerpiece will be the renovation of historic Reynolds Gym that includes a major new addition, creating a facility with more than 250,000 square feet of space dedicated to fitness and well-being.

The facility will bring together the elements of campus life, student health, academics, student recreation and NCAA Division I athletics under one roof. In honor of four generations of the Sutton's family who have attended Wake Forest University, the facility will be named the Sutton Wellness and Recreation Center at historic Reynolds Gym.

Although Sutton and University officials declined to announce the exact amount of the gift, it is the second largest ever received from an alumnus, according to Wake Forest President Nathan Hatch. According to President Hatch, the state-of-the-art fitness, health and wellness center for students, faculty and staff will

be the first and most visible sign of Wake Forest University's renewed commitment to a culture of wellness. Officials said that early plans for the new center include an expanded space for research and teaching in Health and Exercise Science, modernized space for fitness and recreational sports, a revitalized health clinic, a new volleyball venue and spaces for fitness activity, ranging from free weights to weight machines, group fitness classes, a swimming pool and basketball courts. Additionally, the facility will house new state-of-the-art strength, conditioning, sports medicine and nutrition components for all of Wake Forest's student-athletes that Head Football Coach Jim Grobe, Athletics Director Ron Wellman and Sutton say will be on par with the finest athletic programs in the country.

Sutton, who is president of the sports marketing company IMG College, has a long relationship with Wake Forest. His parents, Ben Sutton Sr. and Minnie Branch; and his maternal grandfather, former Trustee Dr. Douglas M. Branch; all attended Wake Forest, and his daughter is currently a junior. He is considered a "Double Deac," with Wake Forest undergraduate and law degrees.



Ben Sutton Jr.

## Raiders near-perfect this season

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

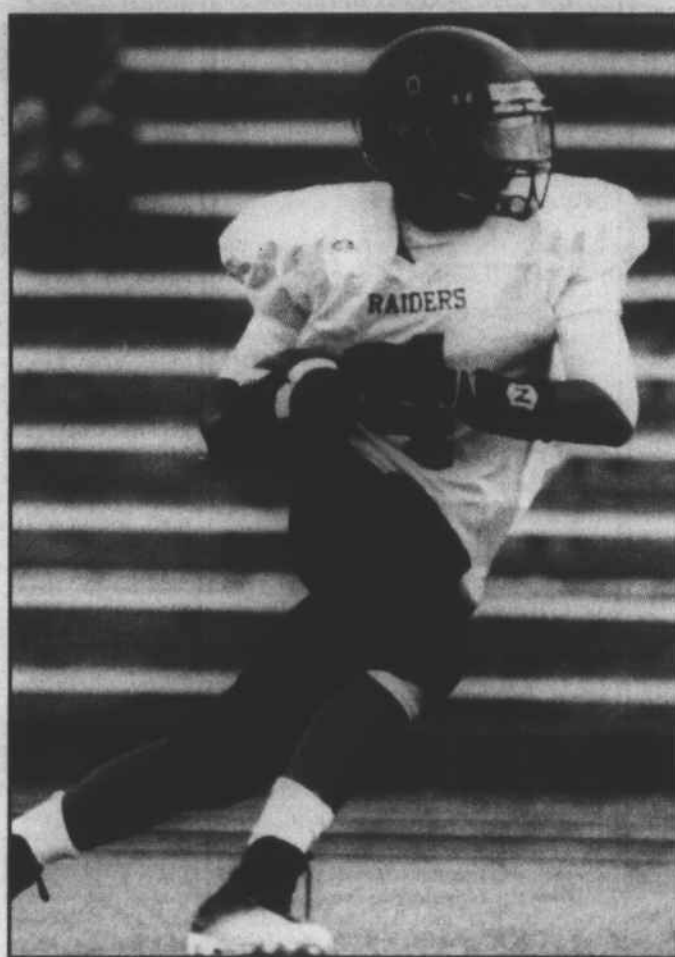
Reagan's junior varsity went through an awful 30-minute stretch in last week's match-up against North Davidson. The Raiders were flagged for five personal fouls in the first half and two players were ejected from the game.

Given all those misdeeds, coach Josh McGee's team was fortunate to be tied 7-7 at halftime. The Raiders, though, reasserted themselves in the second half and the end result was a 24-14 victory.

Trailing by a field goal late in the third quarter, Reagan took the lead for good on Jake Easter's 46-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Anthony. The Raiders put the game away early in the fourth quarter. Bryson Harrison dashed past North Davidson's kick coverage on a 50-yard punt return and four plays later, Easter scored on a quarterback keeper from two yards out.

"At halftime, we had a long conversation about self-discipline and self-control," said McGee. "I'm proud of the way they bounced back and how they got better in the second half. That's exactly what we needed."

Reagan (6-1) could easily be undefeated at this point in the season. The only blemish is a 28-27 home loss to East Forsyth in late August.



Jahni Glenn is one of Reagan's key offensive players.

In that contest, Reagan missed a PAT kick that would have tied the game with less than four minutes left to play. The Raiders offense launched another potential game-winning drive with time running out. But the comeback effort fell short when Anthony barely missed a 25-yard field goal that would have won the game.

"There were other things that we should've done against East Forsyth but didn't," said McGee. "But I'm happy about where we are right now. Our kids play hard and they've bought into our system. We're excited about the future."

Easter, a strong-armed passer who can also beat opponents with his running ability, is the centerpiece for Reagan. But that doesn't mean the Raiders are a one-player team. Running back Jahni Glenn has game-

breaking skills as an elusive runner and capable receiver. At the wide-out positions, Bryson Harrison, Darriel Brown and Chandler Belk are dependable and productive.

Defensively, the Raiders rank among the top JV units in the county. Alex Purviance is one of the key performers at linebacker. In the North Davidson game, Purviance recovered a fumble and ran it back 69 yards for Reagan's first score of the game.

Purviance gets plenty of help from Paul Rader and Rick Harrison. Up front, Garland Wallace, Leroy Scales and Tim Jordan are formidable and they continue to improve with every game.

Even though Easter feels good about the Raiders having a superlative season, he's far from being satisfied. With three weeks left in the season, Reagan has Central Piedmont 4-A Conference games against Reynolds (tonight), Davie County (Oct. 18) and Mount Tabor (Oct. 25). Entering tonight's junior varsity games, Reagan is locked in a three-way tie with Reynolds and Mount Tabor for first place in the conference standings.

"Sure, we've only lost one game, but there's still so much work for this team to do," Easter said. "There are still more games for us to play. And we take things game by game. That's why we have to go back to work and get ourselves ready for the next opponent on our schedule."

## Rams dominate at Wilbur Ross Invitational

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University Rams and Lady Rams Cross Country teams took home their third straight title at the 2012 Wilbur Ross Cross Country Invitational on Saturday morning. WSSU hosts the annual run.

The WSSU men's cross country team got things started when they took the men's 5K run title with a team total of 23 points while the Lady Rams totaled 16 points to take the win.

The WSSU cross country teams had a great day against Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) foes as well as local rival Salem College.

The Rams had a great day with six top ten finishes at the meet, including three of the top five. WSSU senior Andrew Chebii led the way for the Rams with a 16:20.10 to win the men's 5K run. He won the meet by over a full minute. Sophomore Lewis Benjamin finished fourth with an 18:07.23 while fellow sophomore Jaquan Dupree added a fifth place finish in 18:31.61.

Winston-Salem State remained dominant in the women's 5K run with



The speedy Lady Rams runners.

the Lady Rams taking the win. The Lady Rams took the top four finishes with sophomore Aquila Jones leading the way. She finished the women's 5K run in a 20:58.13 while junior Kristi Baptiste added a second place finish with a 20:59.39. Freshman Danisha Wiggins placed third with a 20:59.92 while senior Tyrah Winfrey added a

fourth place finish at 21:33.01. Overall, the Lady Rams placed six runners in the top ten.

With the win, the Rams and Lady Rams will next take to the course in the 2012 CIAA Cross Country Championship at the WakeMed Soccer Park in Cary, on Friday, Oct. 20.

## Renegades extend win streak

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem-based Carolina Renegades triumphed over the Rowan Ramage in Salisbury on Saturday with a 37-6 victory.

The Ramage scored first in the second quarter. The Renegades came back as Jeremiah Marable pitched out to DeFonz Willis, who completed a pass to Sammy Henderson for 22 yards. Marable then completed a 45-yard pass to Cory Ingram. DeFonz Willis intercepted a 40-yard pass and returned it for a touchdown. Andrew Tuttle completed three yards for an extra point conversion leaving the game 22-6 going into the first half.

In the last half, Marable ran three yards on a quarterback sneak. Evan Selman kicked a 50-yard field goal.

Marable completed a 60 yard pass to Ray Montford for the final score.

The Renegades play in the Central Carolina Football League (CCFL), which is made up of a number of semi-pro teams.

The game brings the Renegades 9-1 for the season. The next Renegades game will be in Newton on Saturday against the other top team in the Central Carolina Football League, the Catabwa Hornets, the only team to have defeated the Renegades so far this season.



Ray Montford celebrates his touchdown.