

# SPORTS WEEK

MAY 1, 2014



Isis Brooks is looking to race her way to the top.

Photo by Charles E. Leftwich Jr.

## BROOKS LOOKS TO FURTHER ASCEND ON THE TRACK

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

In her second year of high school track, Isis Brooks of East Forsyth has firmly established herself as an up-and-coming talent. There's no way to predict if she'll challenge for a top-three finish at the Class 4-A State Outdoor Track Championships on May 17. What is abundantly clear is that she has a promising future in the 100 and 200-meter sprints.

Brooks put on a noteworthy display at the Scott Brent Invitational in April. She won both races convincingly in a meet that serves as the City-County Track and Field Championships. Brooks, however, quickly acknowledged that some of the top sprinters in the county did not compete. Parkland's girls were no-shows because the Mustangs opted to run in the prestigious Arcadia Invitational (Calif.) on the day that the Brent event was held.

"I realized that some of the top people weren't there," said Brooks, who ran 12.24 seconds in the 100 and 25.10 seconds in the 200. "But at the same time, it was still good competition and I was happy with my times for that day. Winning those races gave me a lot of confidence. It proves that as long as I put my mind to it, I can do whatever it is that I set out to do."

Brooks, a sophomore who runs with the Tri-City

Relays during the summer months, admittedly has a way to go in her development. The prime focus of her training, explained Coach James Studevent, is to build strength and stamina.

"Isis was skilled when she came to East Forsyth," he said. "So now it's a matter of enhancing what she's already developed. In order for her to be at her best, she has to be durable so she can consistently run strong in the prelims and finals of her events. Staying injury free is the key."

Earlier this year, Brooks served notice that she would be a factor. In the 55-meter dash at the state indoor track championships, she ran 7.26 seconds, which was good enough for sixth place. In that race, the third, fourth, fifth and sixth-place runners were separated by only .15 seconds. With that finish, Brooks made good on her goal to make the 55-meter finals at the state championships.

Brooks, who stands 5-feet 3 1/2 and weighs 115 pounds, is on course to earn a trip to the outdoor championships. She's already met the qualifying standards for the Midwest 4-A Regional Championships in her events (12.14 seconds in the 100 and 25.10 seconds in the 200). With a top-four regional finish, she advances to the state.

"There's some great talent in the sprints around the state," she said. "My goal for outdoor state is the same as I had for indoors. I want that opportunity to compete (in the finals) so I can see where I stand against the best."



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garna

Tajanel McNeil soars.

## Rams handout annual awards

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State University Athletics Department celebrated another successful year last week at its annual banquet.

The Wednesday, April 23 event was held at the Benton Convention Center. Alan L. Caldwell, director of Community & Civic Engagement at Reynolds American, delivered the keynote address.

WXII's Cameron Kent served as emcee. Student-athletes were feted for their good work on the field and court, in the classroom and the community.

The top honors went to senior linebacker Carlos Fields Jr. and junior jumper Tajanel McNeil, who were named the Mary Garber WSSU Male and Female Student-Athletes of the Year.



Fields

Fields earned the honor after being named the CIAA Co-Defensive Player of the Year and earning first team All-Super Region 1 Honors from the Don Hansen Football Gazette. McNeil earned the honor after being named the field events MVP at the 2014 CIAA Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field Championships and earning All-American honors in her second straight trip to the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championships.

Senior offensive lineman Nathaniel Hartung took home the Chancellor's Cup after building a 4.0 GPA, the highest GPA for all WSSU student-athletes. The Lady Rams Softball team took home several honors, including the Athletic Director's Cup for the having the highest team GPA, as well as the Cameron Kent Community Service Award for logging the most community service hours.

WSSU Head Baseball Coach Kevin Ritsche was honored as the C.E. "Big House" Gaines Coach of the Year after leading the Rams to their fourth straight CIAA Championship and a fourth straight trip to the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Tournament. WSSU supporter Carolyn Anderson won the Ultimate Ram Award, an honor given to top supporters of WSSU Athletics. Assistant Athletic Trainer Theodora Scott won the Weston Spirit Award for exemplifying the spirit of Rams Athletics by showing support for all athletic teams.

## EAGLES SWOOP INTO GOVERNOR'S MANSION

NCCU Photo

Gov. Pat McCrory congratulates the M E A C Championship-winning N.C. Central Men's Basketball Team at the Governor's Mansion in Raleigh last week. The team presented the governor with his own Eagles jersey. McCrory presented the team with a resolution honoring their big win.



## Top Aggie bowler is an All-American

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The most decorated bowler in North Carolina A&T history has done it again.

Sophomore Emily Strombeck added another accolade to her flourishing career last week as she was named a 2013-14 honorable mention All-American by the National Tenpin Coaches Association.

The All-American teams are selected based on votes from collegiate head coaches who are members of the NTCA.

"She earned it," Head Coach James Williams said. "Emily improved her game from last year and the coaches recognized her hard work."

Strombeck, who received the program's first ever All-American honor, helped take the Aggies to a remarkable year.

A&T saw its program reach its first national ranking when it entered the NTCA poll ranked 20th in January. The Aggies' progression throughout the season included defeating several other ranked teams, which allowed them to finish 13th in the nation.

Strombeck turned in A&T's highest average throughout the season and was named the MEAC Player of the Year, which was the first time an Aggie had earned that honor.

The sophomore totaled a pinfall of 8,889 and averaged 202.0 in 44 games. She bowled a season-high 254, and was selected MEAC Bowler of the Week four times. Strombeck, who was named MEAC Rookie of the Year last season, earned tournament MVP honors at the Aggie Master's Challenge and was selected to four all-tournament teams this season.



Williams



Bowling standout Emily Strombeck.

A&T Photo

# Let's do it again!

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