

Heart of the game in the summer

Often times when we think about football, our minds immediately invoke images of cool fall weather for tailgating, huge swarms of screaming fans cheering under the bright lights, and our favorite team logos carefully stitched onto colorful mesh jerseys.

The United States' passion for football has exploded over the past 30 years and now many American football fans patiently wait out the summer in anticipation of the season's first kick-off.

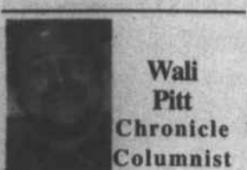
Even in the sweltering heat of late June, on a middle school football field in rural Statesville, North Carolina, the collective passion for football was on full display during a semi-pro game between the Statesville Warriors and The Carolina Jaguars.

Devoid of all the typical pomp and circumstance of college and pro football, you can see the pureness of the love for the game that many of us share, physically manifested through the intensity of players on the field.

While this was a semi-pro football contest, there was nothing semi-serious about it. Dozens of former high-school and collegiate standouts, as well as current and former high school and college coaches poured their hearts out during the hour-plus contest.

The Statesville Warriors, reigning champions of the league, came out scoring early touchdowns on offense side forcing turnovers on the defensive side end of the ball, frustrating the Jaguars from Winston-Salem. After a couple scores by the home team, the Jags began to come undone and turn their frustrations inward at themselves. Teammates began to vocally challenge one another leading to a brief spat over some substitution confusion on one particular defensive package.

To the casual onlooker this may have



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seemed a bit excessive for a semi-pro football game, played in early summer, at a middle school field. But to me it served as a reminder of the importance of the game of football to African-American males.

When you grow up with football success meaning a possible improvement of you and your family's quality of life, the game itself becomes a fight. Not just against the opponent on the field but against the tides of oppression that can keep African-Americans in disadvantaged situations.

What starts out as fun and games in Pop Warner quickly turns into serious business, with a chance to get a free college education or in the rare circumstances, the opportunity to accrue generational wealth by playing in the NFL.

Most athletes land somewhere in the middle, reliving their own personal glory days through exaggerated stories or by playing in annual Thanksgiving day pick-up games.

Shawn Moore, a 29-year-old Winston-Salem native and father of two, has embodied this fighting spirit since he was a teenager and he continues to live out his dream at the snap of every play.

As a star high school running back at Glenn High in Winston-Salem, Shawn once rushed for 313 yards and six touchdowns in his first ever playoff game as a sophomore. Shawn then "took his talents to East Winston" where he went on to Star at Carver High School and parlayed his skills into a full scholarship to play at the collegiate level.

For Shawn, his love of the game wouldn't allow his playing career to become an antidote in a story about his glory days.

"I'm 29, I got two kids and I come out here just because I love the game. I'm not getting paid right now, I gotta go to work on Monday morning, I'm just doing this for the love of the game and to develop some film from this and hopefully get paid for my talents."

I first met Shawn during his junior year at Carver High, his first year at the school. I can remember the hype behind the highly rated D-1 running back prospect changing schools to bolster a Yellow Jacket team that had just won the Class 3A State Championship the previous year.

We at Carver Nation automatically assumed that the addition of Shawn Moore would equal back-to-back state titles. This was not the case, as expectations did not meet reality. This is a common theme in the Black American Football experience, as many athletes are burdened by expectations that WE as fans saddle them with, and when the reality that comes to fruition doesn't match these lofty expectations, we often see a downward spiral back into the same negativity that the game of football had once helped shield them from.

For Shawn, receiving his full ride to play at North Carolina A&T was only the first chapter in a college career that would span almost 10 years.

"I had a full ride at A&T. I went down there with two high school teammates and I actually just kinda fell off. First semester [I was] just chasing girls and ended up getting put on academic probation. After that I just left school and started working."

For most of our athletes, this is where the glory days end and the infinite string of regrets begin. We are trained to think that there is only one path to football greatness

and once diverged from that path, that there are no other options available, aside from hanging up the cleats.

This is where the wisdom and leadership of those who have come before is paramount. Positive reinforcement from older and respected former athletes and coaches can take the defeated mentality of a late teen, early 20s athlete and reinvigorate their mindset into not only a focused "never say die" athlete, but also into a dedicated and driven adult, using the same skills that helped them on the field of play, in the game of life. A conversation with one of his former coaches at Carver High School seemingly had this same impact on Shawn at a low point in his career.

"Coach McKoy came and paid me a visit, and I'm so thankful for this. He asked me if I still wanted to play and I said yeah, He got me on at Shaw U and the rest is history, [I] played at Shaw, graduated with honors, went on to state [Winston Salem State University] having one year of eligibility left, graduating with honors again and [I'm] still just chasing the dream."

The unfinished story of Shawn Moore's football career should serve as a reminder that the heart of the game beats not in between the lines or as a derivative of stats, championships, or money earned, but is the steady pulse of courage, dedication and the never-give-up mentality that it takes to make it in life as well as on fourth and long.

Stay tuned to *The Chronicle* throughout the summer for coverage and highlights of the Carolina Jaguars and continued updates on Shawn Moore's inspiring journey to professional football.

Summer program to stem aggression kicks off locally

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Gentleman's Quorum Inc. recently launched its PLAAY (Preventing Long-Term Anger & Aggression in Youth) summer program. Participants in the program are joining forces with Union Baptist Church's Youth Character Football League (YCFL) for a two-hour session each Sunday at Winston-Salem Prep Academy.

Participants in the program will go through a battery of conditioning drills designed to prepare them for the upcoming football season.

Gentleman's Quorum Inc. has sponsored programs featuring PLAAY at Elementary Academy and The Kingswood School. The program uses sports and group counseling as the media of research and intervention and highlights the importance of parental support.

The program is modeled after one run by Dr. Howard Stevenson at the University of Pennsylvania, who works with inner city youth in Philadelphia. In its five years of operation, the PLAAY Project yielded a dramatic decline in aggressive behavior among its "high-risk" participants — all of the boys in the program had committed disciplinary infractions in school, ranging from carrying a penknife to violent assault on a fellow student.

Stevenson has used sports — which offers a setting in which conflicts arise naturally and can be addressed in the moment.

Sam Davis and Elliot Miley initially introduced the program locally during the 2014-15 school year, while working as counselors in an afterschool enrichment program at Elementary School Academy. The program

was successful. A DVD was made of one of the group's sessions and it eventually made it all the way to the office of President Barack Obama.

Davis said he decided to offer the program through the YCFL this summer and this coming fall after he was named head coach of the program's 12-and-under football team.

"I believe it will be a great collaboration," he said. "I have worked with Rev. Dr. Sir Walter Mack and the YCFL since its inception. This year I decided to take a more active role in the program and try to reach these kids through the concept of PLAAY. This is really important in today's local climate because of all the violence that is happening. I believe this can head off some of these problems before they begin to spiral out of control."

"Gentleman's Quorum Inc. understands the importance of having an organization of strong male mentors to provide positive reinforcement by building self-esteem and confidence in our young gentlemen," Davis added. "These traits will transfer from the classroom to the real world to the home. Through the efforts of dedicated positive male mentors, family/community support, and the commitment of our young gentlemen, we will help to take them to new heights, academically, socially, economically and help them to succeed. We will accomplish this through teaching and exposure."

Gentleman's Quorum Inc., formed in September 2013, was incorporated in April 2014 and achieved its nonprofit status 501(c)(3) status in March 2015.



Tyrone Campbell leads participation in PLAAY.

Livingstone names new head women's basketball coach

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

SALISBURY, N.C. — A woman who said she scheduled games against CIAA teams because of her respect for the conference is the new head women's basketball coach at Livingstone College.

Tiffany Silver, former head coach at Wilmington University in Delaware, was announced Friday, June 10, by Livingstone Athletic Director Andre Springs during a press conference. She becomes the ninth head women's basketball coach for the Blue Bears.

In her brief remarks, Silver thanked Livingstone College President Dr. Jimmy R. Jenkins Sr., Springs and Dr. State W. Alexander III, executive assistant to the president and vice president for communications & public relations, for their support.

"I appreciate you for entrusting me with the responsibility of fostering this program of young women, as athletes and more important as young women," Silver said. Jenkins said after the press conference that he's glad Silver accepted the institution's offer to join the Livingstone family.

"I am excited about Coach Silver," Jenkins said. "I was very impressed with her during the interview."

Silver replaces Anita Howard, who left Livingstone after two seasons for another coaching position. Howard resigned in

early June to take the head coaching position at Columbus State University in Georgia. She lived in Winston-Salem while she was coach at Livingstone.

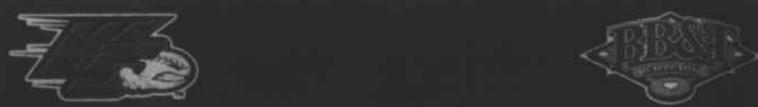
Silver comes to Livingstone after four seasons at Wilmington University, which competes in the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference. Her overall record at Wilmington was 32-76; however, to her credit the team had won only three games in the season before she became the head coach. And last season, her Wildcats finished 14-14 overall. Before assuming the head job at Wilmington, Silver worked as an assistant coach at NCAA Division III Johns Hopkins University, where she helped the Blue Jays to a stellar 24-5 record and a berth in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

From 2005 to 2011, Silver was the head coach at Western High School in her native Baltimore.

Silver boasted perfect graduation and college-acceptance rates during her time at Western. Silver is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and played on the women's basketball squad.



Silver



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