



Throughout the two-day camp, more than 150 kids attended the first Chris Hairston foundation camp.

Camp

from page B1

was really high. He told them that because of his grades the Clemson coaches knew academics would not be a problem and they could focus on getting him better at his craft.

Fellow Carver grad and Philadelphia Eagles defensive back Denzel Rice joined Hairston for the camp to show kids the importance of working hard. After leaving Carver, Rice went to Coastal Carolina and joined the Eagles as an undrafted rookie in 2015.

"I wanted to come out here and tell the kids to work hard. It's not about self because this is a team sport and you have to pick one another up," Rice said. "I want them to just win. By getting good grades in the class-

room is a win. By making your parents proud is a win. Coming out to the field and competing is a win and if you do that, you can't fail."

Rice wanted to let the kids know that they have to be smart in all of the decisions they make going forward. He said that any wrong decision can lead you down the wrong path and put you in a bad situation. He said for those who have aspirations of making it to the NFL level, the biggest tip is to continue to work on your craft and trust the process.

After the camp concluded, Hairston gave out signed footballs to campers who showed skill, listened to the counselors and exhibited great sportsmanship. Jason Wall was one of the winners of the signed footballs. His father was very happy for him.

"I am just proud of him because

he is growing and maturing and doing the right things," said Wall's father, David Covington. "I think this stems from learning and being more into sports; he knows academics come first and sports come second. Discipline is the main thing I hope he took from this camp. Listening to your coaches and following directions is what it's all about."

Hairston plans to bring more NFL players in the following years along with motivational speakers. He wanted the campers to know that the road to the NFL is not all "glitz and glamour" and it's very hard work to make it.

His advice to them was to understand that it becomes very lonely sometimes to make it to that level because it's just you working to get better, and it's all about what you do when no one is watching.



Jason Wall, left, poses with his father David Covington after receiving a signed ball from Chris Hairston for his excellent performance and sportsmanship throughout the camp.



Jada Dowd, who won the Region 25 high jump finals, will try to top her personal best of 5 feet.

Track

from page B1

she is able to travel and spend time with her friends and teammates. Outside of running track she enjoys swimming and skating. She stated her favorite subject in school is math and she knows that the books come before sports.

Athletic Director for the track club Chris Joines said Dowd epitomizes what the track club wants from their athletes by performing on the track as well as in the classroom.

"She has been in our program for a number of years and from an academic standpoint, she is top notch," Joines said. "She has a good attitude and a good work ethic so it tran-

sitions into the classroom from that standpoint. We are really proud of her for her achievements on the track and our mission is to develop student athletes."

Dowd has a strong family foundation at home with her grandparents Robert and Della Dowd, along with her parents Angela Dowd and Jermain Marlin cheering her every step of the way.

Della Dowd said, "I am very, very proud of Jada. She has worked very hard all year long. We can't say enough about her. She has done very, very well."

Her coaches feel the sky's the limit for Dowd. They said if she continues on this path, a Division I scholarship is in her future.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

Assistant Coach Jarrell Elliott thinks with her versatility, the sky is the limit for young Jada Dowd.

(On the right) Dowd practices her footwork in preparation for the Junior Olympics in Texas at the end of this month.

