

Peace

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minds of children from violent activities into peaceful activities. The program also serves as a community reminder of the number of persons that have lost their lives due to gun violence.

The Winston-Salem Police and Fire Departments have been working with and donating to the charity for years, so they decided to start a basketball game as the first drop off for the toys. Once all collected, the toys will be given away on Dec. 17 at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds education building from 1 to 4 pm.

"I'm excited because the whole thing started with my brother being killed but every time I see a kid get a toy, I see him live," said Piggott. "And not just for my brother, but any kid that's killed because of senseless violence. I get joy from seeing a kid smile and pick up the toy and say, 'I got this from somebody who loves me outside of my family.'"

With this being the second year of the basketball game and a healthy rivalry between the Fire and Police departments, the game had the makings of a good one. From the onset both teams appeared to play a little tight. There were many missed shots and some unforced turnovers initially.

The Police Department was leading during the opening minutes of the game, capitalizing on the Fire Department's miscues and turning them into layups. Once everyone got into the groove of the

game, the Fire Department settled down and began to run their offense efficiently hitting clutch threes and playing solid defense. At the half, the firemen led the police 33-25.

The firemen began the second half just as they ended the first. The police attempted to close the gap but the firemen thwarted most attempts. Later in the second half, the Police Department closed the margin to within four points. The police inched even closer when they were within two points with 9:42 left in the game. That would be the closest they came because the fireman stretched the lead to seven points to lead 47-40. The fireman would be victorious by the score of 53-46.

"It's a good thing to see cops and firemen working together and actually have the community see that as well," said one fireman. "It's good for them to see us from a different vantage point and not just in gear or uniforms but to see us do things they do, like play basketball, laugh and joke with each other and just have fun."

"If it's important to Ben, it's important to all of us, and I've been doing this with him for over 20 years," said a policeman. "I had the pleasure of working foot patrol in Happy Hill when Ben was the director over there, and the fact that we can get some of these violent games off the street is great."

Another fireman commented, "It's always good to give back in any capacity that you can. I think it's good to give back in multiple ways."



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

The players from each team pose with the recreation center employees after the game.



A player from the firemen team dribbles past the defender from the Police Department.



The Winston-Salem State University football team shows awards after the team captured the 2016 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship on Saturday, Nov. 12.

WSSU

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down. Walton scored with 11:30 remaining in the first quarter. Bowie State stalled on offense their next two possessions. WSSU tacked on another TD in the opening quarter. Senior running back Justus Pickett found a wide open running hole for a 42-yard TD with 3:17 left in the first.

Before the end of the opening quarter, Hall connected with redshirt freshman wide receiver

Geordan Clark for a 39-yard touchdown reception. Bowie State trailed 14-7 at the end of the first quarter. The Bulldogs tied the game 14-14 off a three-yard score from sophomore running back Robert Chesson.

On the ensuing kickoff, junior wide receiver Canard Brown returned the kick 87 yards for the score. Later in the second, the Rams added to their advantage with a 39 yard TD reception from Tinsley to Walton again. Winston-

Salem led 28-14 at half-time.

In the third quarter, both teams scored with a touchdown throw. Hall completed a 27-yard pass to redshirt senior tight end Jordan Garrison with 3:10 on the clock in the third. Tinsley answered with a 36 yard scoring pass to senior wide receiver Reggie Wilkins on the following drive. WSSU recorded a safety earlier in the quarter due to a BSU holding penalty on the goal line. Bowie State trailed 37-21

at the end of the third.

In the fourth, BSU capped a 16 play drive that last over five minutes with a three yard pass from Hall to Chesson. The Bulldogs only faced a 37-27 deficit with 11:08 left to play. However, WSSU produced a back-breaking 68-yard TD run by redshirt sophomore running back Kerrion Moore.

Moore rushed for 177 yards off 22 carries with one TD. He set a new CIAA Championship game rushing record and was

named Championship Game MVP.

Bowie State scored another touchdown with less than two minutes remaining. The Rams ran out the clock on the next possession and claimed their 12th CIAA title in school history.

Tinsley completed 11-of-25 passes for 194 yards, three touchdowns, and no interceptions for WSSU. Walton had two catches for 89 yards and two TDs. Defensively, Flemming finished with three inter-

ceptions and two tackles. Xavier Gregory had a team-high 11 tackles (8 solo).

Hall ended the evening with 348 yards off 27-46 passing with three touchdowns and four interceptions. Chesson had 107 yards and one TD. Manns caught 10 passes for 176 yards, followed by Garrison with six catches for 111 yards and one score. Senior defensive lineman Rahsaan Moore had four solo tackles, including two sacks.

Punt

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started with the recreation department decades ago. He stated in previous years, the winners would move on to state and national competitions when the centers were a part of Statewide Athletics Committee.

"Seeing the kids smile is the biggest satisfaction for me," said Blevins. "Some of the kids who are out here are athletes and others are just average kids that don't play ball a lot, so it just tickles them to death to be able to win a trophy. Just seeing these kids shine is the main thing."

Blevins went on to say that with many of the kids who would normally participate in the competition, playing Pop Warner football it gives others a chance to show off their athletic abilities. He says events

such as this is for all kids, not just the athletically elite.

The kids seemed to have a really good time showcasing their skills. All who received a trophy had a huge smile on his or her face as if they had won the Super Bowl.

"I like it and I do it every year. I like doing this with Coach Art because he inspired me, because he is my role model," said Sierra Samuels. "The best thing I like about it is the competition."

The parents of the kids attended, rooting them on along the way.

One parent stated, "The fact that I was able to come out and see my child compete and play with others is truly a blessing. I think it's great they have this kind of event for the kids who aren't part of a team but can still feel like winners."



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Some of the kids show off their trophies after the event.