

Sports

WSSU's first All-American freshman

Willie Mouzon says to put God first

By William Carter

Willie Mouzon, a sophomore at Winston-Salem State University, was born in Fayetteville to Willie and Betty Mouzon. Little did his parents know that they had given birth to what was to become an All-American wrestler.

As a youngster, Willie was always very active in sports. He attended Fayetteville Seventy-First High School, where he was on the football, track and wrestling teams. Willie helped the football team win the NCHSAA Metro-4A Championship. He played outside linebacker and was considered by the opposing team to be a major nuisance because of his great performance and ability.

The 5-7 stocky All-American gives his mother credit for his getting involved in wrestling.

"It was because of my size while young that my mother didn't allow me to play football and suggested that I try wrestling," said Mouzon. As a result of his mother's advice, Willie went from a mere participant in his sophomore year to a 23-5 respected junior wrestler.

In his senior year he achieved what every high school wrestler dreams of -- a perfect undefeated season of 30-0. Better yet, he won the NCHSAA Metro-4A State Championship in the 148-pound weight class.

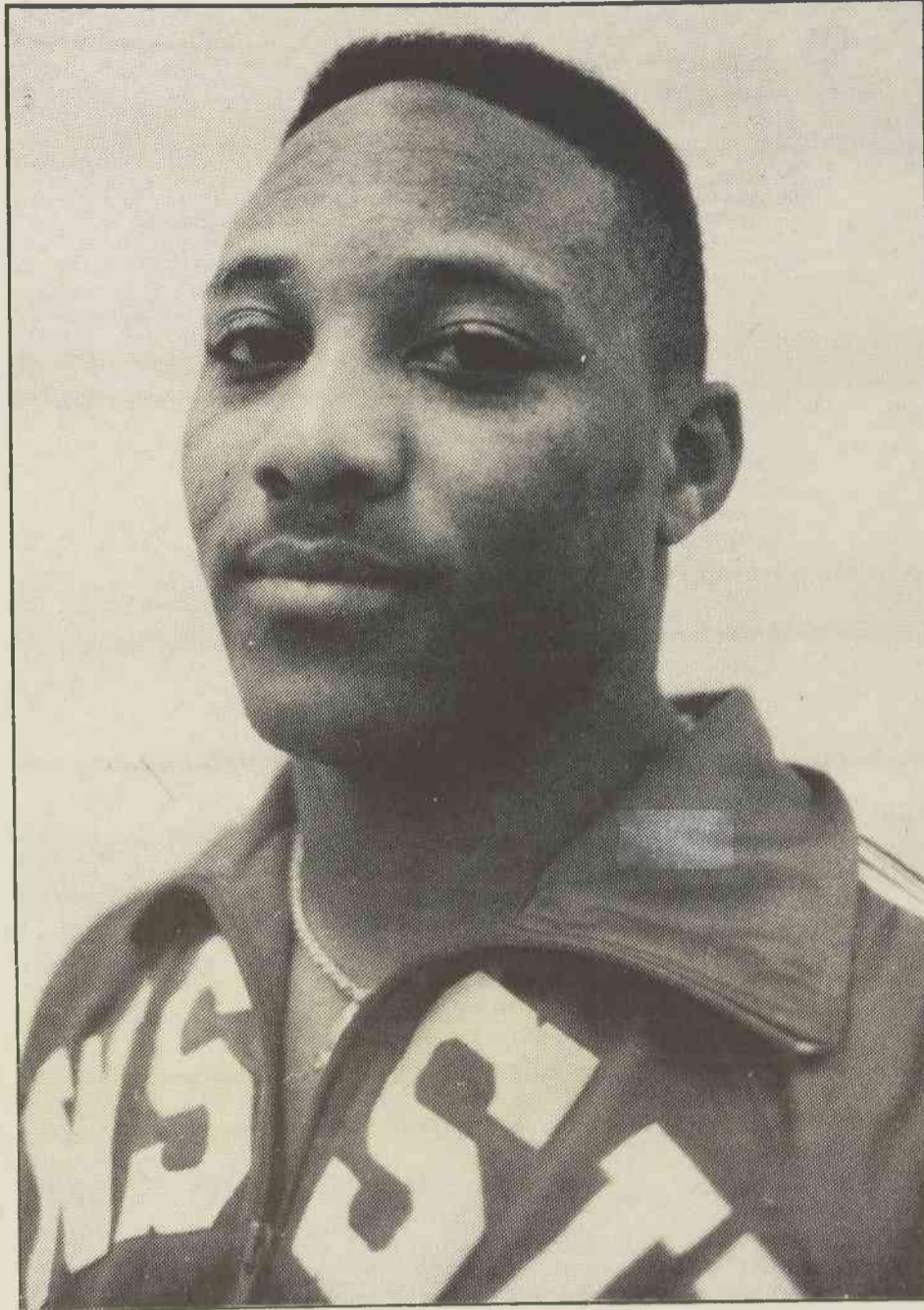
Willie's secret to success is his awesome ability to use the high crotch series of wrestling moves, which he has mastered.

"Once I get your legs, get ready to go airborne, or get ready to be taken down," said the All-American.

Mouzon's lower body is tremendously powerful. Because he has massive tree-trunk legs and a 500-pound squat, it is easy to see why few can say that they have taken him down.

Willie was scouted by many different wrestling coaches after winning the state championship title. He chose WSSU because some of his old school friends were doing very well with the wrestling program here and received lots of news attention, he said. He was impressed by the Ram's wrestling coach, Mel Fair, who wanted Willie badly but was more interested in Willie's academic future first.

"Every other coach talked about how I could



Willie Mouzon's mother suggested he try wrestling.

help the program and how the program could help me. However, Coach Fair cared more about me graduating in four years and getting my degree," said Mouzon, a physical education major.

"Wrestling for college and wrestling for high school is like seeing day and night change. In high school, you might wrestle a fish or learn one particular move to use on a guy to put them

away early, but in college, when you see a person step on the mat, he knows how to wrestle. Strength is not the major factor in college as it was more or less in high school."

"Sometimes in high school, you really didn't have to know how to wrestle if you were very strong and could win a match, but you try being Mr. Muscle with no technique in college, and you

will see yourself on film getting hit with a lateral or landing on your neck and back at the same time for five points so fast, you won't believe it."

Willie's over-all record his freshman year in college was 16-8. Seven of the eight losses were only by one point, and the other, by two.

Willie admits that he was very nervous as he took the mat for the first time ever in the Division II National Finals in Omaha, Neb., which was the biggest tournament that he had ever participated in. Getting there was the reward for winning the CIAA Championship in the 158-pound weight class.

After losing his first match of the tournament, Willie said, "I asked myself several questions, like what was I doing here, what was this freshman doing competing against national champions and other top wrestlers in the country?"

After regaining his composure and confidence, he said to himself, "I'll give it all I got, no matter what it takes."

Willie then went on to win three straight matches, soundly defeating the No. 6, 8 and 4 nationally ranked competitors, before bowing down gracefully to the No. 2 seed wrestler in the last 30 seconds of the quarter-finals match.

To give you an idea of how hard the competition was, there were well over 300 competitors, and Willie finished the tournament ranking No. 8 in the nation, giving him All-American honors.

Willie will also go down in history as Winston-Salem State University's very first student to receive All-American honors as a freshman.

Now considered a major threat in college wrestling, the heat is on Willie.

If at any time he is defeated by anyone less than a nationally ranked competitor, then it will be considered a major upset in wrestling.

"I want to place in the top three in my upcoming year and by my junior year I want to win the Division II Nationals. I also want to be the first four-time All-American at WSSU," said Mouzon.

Willie advises every athlete in school to put God first, schoolwork second, then whatever your sport is last. "If you do it like that, then you will always win top honors."

With his priorities together, hard work in practice, help from the other guys and under the leadership of Coach Fair (who is a graduate of N.C. A&T, a three-time Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion, captain of the wrestling squad for four years straight, two-time All-American and a former 1976 Olympic competitor), Willie's goals and other dreams just might come true.

1988-89 RAMS BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Nov. 25	Thanksgiving Classic	Home
Nov. 26	Thanksgiving Classic	Home
Dec. 30	St. Paul's	Away
Dec. 6	N.C. A&T	Away
Dec. 10	Norfolk	Home
Jan. 15	Virginia Union	Home
Jan. 7	Elizabeth City	Away
Jan. 10	St. Augustine's	Home
Jan. 14	U D C	Away
Jan. 16	Fayetteville	Home
Jan. 19	St. Augustine's	Away
Jan. 21	N. C. Central	Away
Jan. 24	Livingstone	Away
Jan. 26	Virginia State	Home
Jan. 28	J. C. Smith	Away
Jan. 29	Fayetteville	Away
Feb. 2	U D C	Home
Feb. 4	Hampton	Away
Feb. 6	Paine	Away
Feb. 8	N. C. A&T	Home
Feb. 11	J. C. Smith	Home
Feb. 13	Livingstone	Home
Feb. 15	Shaw	Away
Feb. 17	N. C. Central	Home
Mar. 22-25	CIAA Tournament	Norfolk
Mar. 17-18	N C A A	TBA
Mar. 23-25	N C A A	Springfield, MA

Athletic Director: C. E. Gaines Tel.: 750-2582
Head Coach: C. E. Gaines Asst. Coach: Tim Grant

1988-89 "LADY RAMS" BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Nov. 18	Bennett College	A	7:00
Nov. 25	Bowie State	H	5:00
Nov. 30	St. Paul's	A	6:00
Dec. 3	N. C. A&T	A	5:30
Dec. 5	Bennett College	H	7:00
Dec. 8	Shaw	H	6:00
Dec. 10	Norfolk	H	6:00
Jan. 15	Virginia Union	H	6:00
Jan. 7	Elizabeth City State	A	6:00
Jan. 10	St. Augustine's	H	6:00
Jan. 14	U D C	A	6:00
Jan. 16	Fayetteville State	H	6:00
Jan. 19	St. Augustine's	A	6:00
Jan. 21	N C C U	A	6:00
Jan. 24	Livingstone	A	6:00
Jan. 26	Virginia State	H	6:00
Jan. 28	J. C. Smith	A	6:00
Jan. 29	Fayetteville State	A	5:00
Feb. 1	U D C	H	6:00
Feb. 4	Hampton	A	6:00
Feb. 6	Paine	A	6:00
Feb. 8	N. C. A&T	H	6:00
Feb. 11	J. C. Smith	H	6:00
Feb. 13	Livingstone	H	6:00
Feb. 15	Shaw	A	6:00
Feb. 17	N C C U	H	6:00
Mar. 22-25	CIAA Tournament	Norfolk	TBA

Head Coach: Stenson Conley
Manager: John Haynes

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

1988-89 WRESTLING SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE
Nov. 4-5	WSSU Classic	HOME
Nov. 4-5	TBA Eastern National	Norfolk, Va.
Nov. 11-12	Pembroke Classic	Pembroke, N.C.
Nov. 19	Livingstone Classic	Salisbury, N.C.
Dec. 3	CIAA Duals	TBA
Dec. 6	UNC-Chapel Hill	HOME
Dec. 8	Appalachian	Boone, N.C.
Dec. 10	N.C. State	Raleigh, N.C.
Jan. 10	Appalachian	HOME
Jan. 12	Carson Newman	HOME
Jan. 13	Liberty	Lynchburg, Va.
Jan. 14	Citadel	Charleston, S.C.
Jan. 17	(Tri) Wilkes Comm./ Elizabeth City	HOME
Jan. 24	Campbell	HOME
Jan. 27-28	Mid-South (Carson Newman)	Jefferson City, Tenn.
Jan. 31	Livingstone	Salisbury, N.C.
Feb. 1	Davidson	HOME
Feb. 4	Gardner Webb	Boiling Springs, N.C.
Feb. 7	Pembroke State	Pembroke, N.C.
Feb. 9	Carson Newman	Jefferson City, Tenn.
Feb. 18	CIAA	Salisbury, N.C.
Mar. 5-6	TBA	NCAA Division II Nationals