

S W.S.S.U. Sports

Big Leagues

Two WSSU seniors will enter the ranks of the NFL

COURTESY OF WSSU WEB SITE

Despite not getting selected in the NFL Draft, Winston-Salem State University seniors Stephon Kelly and Robert Mackey will still have a chance to prove they can play at the next level, as they both signed three-year, free-agent contracts.

STEPHON KELLY

Kelly, a free safety and the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) 2001 Defensive Player of the Year, has signed a three-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals.

Kelly finished the 2001 season second in the

league with eight interceptions and first in passes defended with 25. In 2000, he led the CIAA with seven interceptions, giving him an impressive career total of 15 while playing in just 22 games since transferring from I-AA South Carolina State University.

"I expected to go before I did," said Kelly, who helped his status by playing in the Blue Gray Game and the Cactus Bowl.

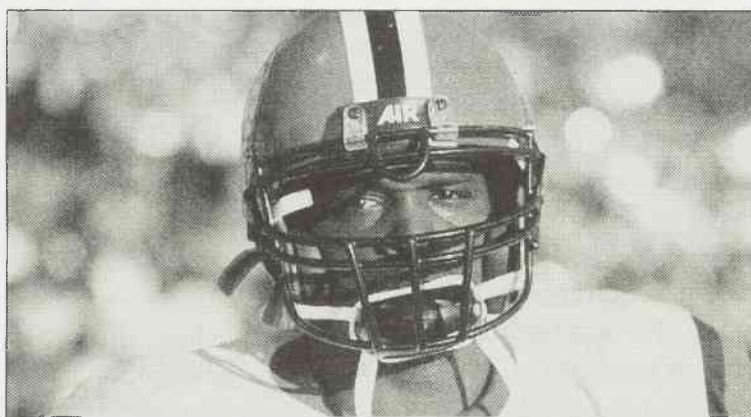
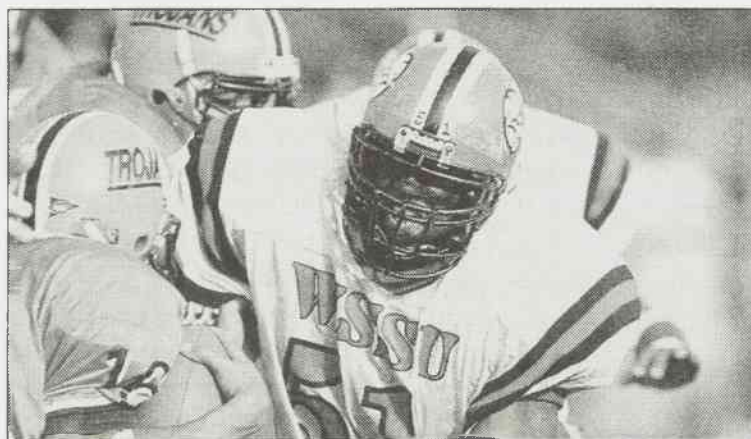
"Now all I can do is make the best of this situation. Cincinnati has a young team with a solid nucleus and a new stadium, and I see it as a place

where I can establish myself."

ROBERT MACKEY

An all-conference selection the past two seasons at defensive end, Mackey was acquired late that night by the Houston Texans. The native of Fort Mill, S.C., led the CIAA in sacks in 2001 with 12 and also added 18 tackles for losses.

Kelly and Mackey become the second and third players from WSSU to make the jump to the NFL in the past two seasons, joining former Ram quarterback Tory Woodbury who was acquired by the New York Jets last season.



Photos courtesy of Media Relations
Robert Mackey (top) and Stephon Kelly will both have a shot in the NFL.

Drum majors retire capes

By Maria Singleton
ARGUS REPORTER

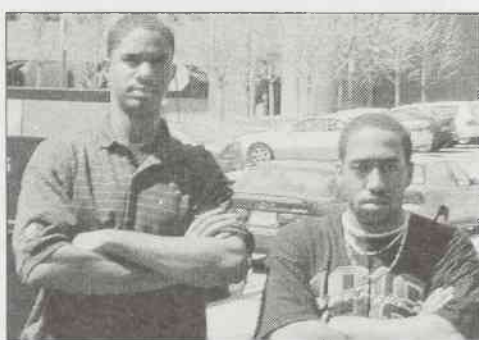
Next year, WSSU students will see new faces leading the band, because Horatio Jones will be studying abroad next semester and Johnnathen Hamilton will be focusing strictly on his academic career.

The two made a pact that if one of them retired his cape, the other would follow.

Of the times that the two shared together as drum majors in the band, Jones said, "meeting the Brothers of Stone Funk Inc. [or the drummers] and marching with Johnnathen Hamilton will be memories that I always keep close to my heart."

"[I will miss] just talking with Horatio," said Hamilton. "Or the last few seconds before marching onto the field. Me and Horatio would lock up and pray, after that the excitement began. But the prayer and moments after are times that I'll never forget."

Both have over seven years of experience in bands between



Argus photo by Maria Singleton
Horatio Jones and Johnnathen Hamilton made a pact to stick together.

them. The two have been drum majors for the WSSU marching band for the past two years.

Besides their work with the band, their studies, being members of fraternities and a job for Jones, the two set aside time to tutor students if necessary. Hamilton plays the saxophone, and Jones plays the drums.

As far as game performances with the band goes, Hamilton said he and Jones "feed off of each other. It's like we have an understanding. I tell Horatio to just do his thing, and I'll follow, or vice versa."

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