

## WSSU recruits N.C. and S.C talent on National Signing Day

**LaTasha Miles**  
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National Signing Day, Feb. 5 is one of the most important days of the year for college football fans, teams, and fans.

It's the day that college-bound high school football players sign letters of intent for the university they will play for in the fall.

Winston-Salem State inked 14 signings -- making the 2010 recruiting class the first since the University decided to pass

on completing the transition and become a Division-I school and remain a member of the Mid-Eastern Atlantic Conference. Thirteen of the 14 Ram recruits are in state.

"I think that this recruiting class is a very high number of recruits to sign at the Division-II level on signing day," said Connell Maynor, first-year head football coach at WSSU, in a recent press release.

"Most people are going to think that this many student-athletes signing is unusual but it was the quality of the athletes that dictated how [many]

young men we signed.

"We usually don't like to sign a lot of guys on National Signing Day.

We usually wait to try to get the guys who don't receive the Division-I offer that they think they will get, but the guys that we have in here have impeccable credentials and we couldn't pass on the opportunity to take these guys.

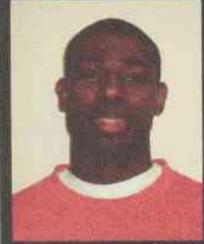
"These young men could all step in and immediately contribute for us. It is a testament

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### COACH'S 'GAME BALL'

#### Awarded to Paul Davis



**LaTasha Miles**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Paul Davis, from Clio, S.C. is a junior on the Rams basketball team. The former student of Marlboro County High School is a forward majoring in physical education recreation.

Rams head coach Bobby Collins selected him as the recipient of the Coach's Game Ball.

Davis, also known by the nickname "Mr. Double Double," averages 10 points and nine rebounds a game.

"There has been a consistent all around effort on his part," Collins said.

"He has achieved that or fallen one point or rebound short. There is consistency given from him every game."

During the Feb. 13 game against Morgan State, Davis scored a WSSU career-high of 32 points. His previous high was 19 points. He also tied with a career-high of 15 rebounds.

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### Other Positions

**Kaleb Carter**

- 6-4, 280-pound offensive lineman from Wilson High School in Florence, S.C.  
- All-Area, All-Region and All-State selection, member of the North-South All-Star team, bench presses 275 pounds, squats over 400 pounds and clocked the 40-yard dash at 4.98 seconds.

**Duvontae Covington**

- 6-2, 285-pound defensive lineman from Dudley High School in Greensboro.  
- Played on both the offensive line as an offensive tackle and on the defensive line as a defensive end.

**Davin Gray**

- 6-3, 310-pound defensive lineman from Glenn High School in Kernersville.  
- 62 total tackles and 10 sacks in his senior season.

**Jermaine Kesler**

- 6-2, 303-pound defensive tackle from Lumberton High School in Lumberton.  
- Started in the 2009 Shrine Bowl, finishing the season with 65 total tackles.  
- Chose WSSU over offers from Wingate, UNC-Pembroke and Duke.

**DeAngelo Johnson**

- 6-1, 280-pound defensive lineman from Mallard Creek High School in Charlotte.  
- Winner of all 20 games over the span of his junior and senior seasons.

**Jalaquon McNeill**

- 6-0, 185-pound linebacker from Lumberton High School in Lumberton.  
- Recorded 114 tackles, three interceptions and four sacks in senior season.

**Thomas Warren**

- 6-2, 280-pound offensive lineman from Mt. Tabor High School in Winston-Salem.  
- An All-Central Piedmont Conference selection; helped Mt. Tabor HS to an 11-2 record.

### Skill Positions

**Vernon Brandon**

- 5-11, 185-pound quarterback, attends Hoke County High School in Raeford.  
- Clocked at 4.6 seconds in the 40 yard dash, and a vertical leap of 36 inches.

**Maurice Lewis**

- 5-11, 190-pound tailback, attends Lumberton High School in Lumberton.  
- Ran for over 2,000 yards as a senior, averaging 150 yards a game.

**Graham Love**

- 6-2, 195-pound wide receiver, attends Panther Creek High School in Cary.  
- A Tri-9 All-Conference selection in his junior and senior seasons.

**Anthony Short**

- 5-8, 175-pound wide receiver from Butler High School in Matthews, N.C.  
- A member of the undefeated 2009 NCHSAA 4AA State Championship team.

**DeShean Townsend**

- 6-3, 210-pound quarterback from South View High School in Fayetteville.  
- Named the 2008 and 2009 Mid-South Conference Offensive Player of the Year, passed for over 2000 yards each season, recorded 45 touchdowns in last two seasons.

**Eric Wolff**

- 6-2, 180-pound wide receiver from Hoke County High School in Raeford.  
- Had 79 catches, 1,219 yards and 17 touchdowns his senior season.  
- A First-Team All-Southeastern Conference, First-Team All-State and a 4A All-State honoree.

**Damontra Yates**

- 6-2, 180-pound wide receiver/free safety from Red Springs High School in Fayetteville, also a star on the basketball court for Red Springs.

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## Stokes dismissed, replaced by Mebane

**LaTasha Miles**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Lady Rams basketball coach Dee Stokes was released Feb. 9 despite in November calling the 2009-2010 season her last at Winston-Salem State to focus on other endeavors.

Stokes, who coached her final game Feb. 8, a 67-26 loss against MEAC rival Hampton, has been involved with coaching for 16 years and head coaching at WSSU since 2006. Stokes finished with less than 20 wins during her four seasons as head coach.

"We are truly grateful for Coach Stokes' service to the University and to our student-athletes," Athletic Director Bill Hayes said.

Hayes also said that he thinks that her resignation in November had a huge impact on the players and that playing quality athletics just was-

n't there.

"I thought that a change was necessary," Hayes said.

"I thought that it [the change] might provide the momentum where we can finish the season off with some energy and excitement."

The Lady Rams have accumulated three wins this season, the last one a 66-65 overtime victory over Presbyterian in Kentucky Nov. 22.

Hayes added that Stokes will not be moved into another position to fulfill her contract.

Stokes was replaced by interim coach Walter Mebane from Durham Feb. 10.

Hayes said that Mebane was selected because of his coaching experience, which spans more than 28 years.

Collegiately, Mebane served

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