

Wesleyan emerges as sports power

By DAVID PAYNE

In 1965, Wesleyan's baseball team had a record of 1-10, the basketball team was 3-9, and the soccer team was 2-2-2. Today, Wesleyan's baseball team is picked number one in a preseason poll, the basketball team is number two in the south, and the soccer team is a major power in country. In just 24 years, North Carolina Wesleyan College has gone from a terrible school in sports to a perennial national contender in almost every sport. How, and why, did this happen?

Coach Don Scalf, who was Athletic Director from 1972 to 1977, says that the major reason

we are so successful is the fact that Wesleyan switched to full-time coaches. "In 1977, John McCarthy became the schools first full-time athletic director and coach." Although the records did not change a great deal — the basketball team coached by McCarthy finished 4-19 — a new generation had been ushered in. The following year, McCarthy hired Rick Helms to coach soccer and Tony Guzzo to coach baseball. Guzzo began to win games immediately and the school's reputation began to grow. "As soon as we hired those three coaches, the attitude towards sports began to change here," states Scalf. Several coaches left,

including McCarthy, but their positive influence on the school remained.

Soon after, Mike Fox became the athletic director of the school, and a new coaching staff came in with him. Bill Chambers became the new basketball coach and Tony Ferrell became the new soccer coach. During Fox's era, Wesleyan has risen to new heights. The baseball team finished third in the nation in 1983, the basketball team finished eighth in the country in 1986, but the soccer team struggled to win games. Today, however, all three teams are national powers. Coach Fox says, "Full-time coaches are the biggest reason Wesleyan became so successful so fast."

But why did the school decide to switch to full-time coaches in the first place? Scalf believes that the school had a "philosophy change." He added, "The school began to offer a physical education major and teachers had to be found to teach the classes." So Scalf, Bauer, and Edge quit coaching and became full-time teachers. Scalf also said that the school could gain a "good reputation through sports." Fox agrees, saying that good sports teams were a "needed way to attract attention to the school and to get students on campus." In 1975, the school almost closed down because of lack of students. By gaining a reputation in sports, the school could fill the dorms.

The athletic department seems to be discriminating against the women's teams here on campus. Womens basketball has a full-time coach in Laura Ferrell and a soccer coach in

Rusty Scarborough. But the softball team and volleyball team have the same coach, Jetanna McClain. Traditionally, the women's teams at Wesleyan have not been as successful as the men's teams. Is it because of the lack of full-time coaches or is it something else? If the school wants to be fully rounded in sports, it would only make sense to hire full-time coaches for all sports.

In contrast to Wesleyan, Methodist College has just two full-time coaches. Methodist might not be on the same national level as Wesleyan, but they are no slouches. So, are full-time coaches necessary to produce winners? It does not appear that this is always the case.

Another angle of Wesleyan's success is the aspect of the price for success. We are a national

power on paper, but is there any toll being paid by the athletes? Their have been conflicting reports on this topic. Fox states that athletes at Wesleyan are "about on the same level with other students here at school." However, sources say that several athletes are in trouble with grades and are not on the same level academically as other students. These statements have yet to be denied or confirmed, but if they are true, is the price of success too great?

North Carolina Wesleyan College is, without a doubt, a national power in sports. Full-time coaches are the major, if not the only reason, for this success. But if the school is sacrificing academics to have good sports teams, maybe Wesleyan should rethink the importance of athletics and concentrate more on academics.

Stranded from I-95 find haven at college

(Continued from Page 1)

tion," he added.

Thomas and Howard, a distribution wholesale company in Rocky Mount, donated a case of paper cups, and coffee for 500 people.

Merita Bakery in Rocky Mount donated 40 loaves of bread, and Red and White, a grocery store in Dortches, donated 24 gallons of milk and 20 loaves of bread.

"Marriott Food Systems spent about \$1,000 on food and drinks," Joyce Bobbitt, food service manager said. "We fed about 500 people at night and 500 people in the morning," she said. "In turn, we hope to receive some money from Red Cross donations."

Bobbitt says, "These students do not know how much they impress me. Without their help, we would have gotten nowhere."

Sixty students helped provide services for the people. Some of the volunteers that worked throughout the entire night were Jo Beasley, Julie Koenecke, Jill Skiles, Eric Schreiber, Jewel Beaman, Stephanie Dennis, Tammy Waters, Lorena Segura, and Barbara Thornton.

As more and more people started coming to Wesleyan, Everett gym was available for the people at 9:30 p.m., after the men's basketball victory against Newport News.

At 10 p.m., cots and mats were set up by the Red Cross in

the gym after athletic director Mike Fox and ten of his baseball players covered the floor with a blue tarp.

"The people are spending the night at Wesleyan because we are anticipating worse road conditions," senior Julie Koenecke said.

"I really appreciate the service that the people at North Carolina Wesleyan College and the Red Cross is providing," a young woman from Tampa, Fl. said.

"I just think it's wonderful that food and drinks are available. They even opened the college bookstore so people can buy souvenirs," she said.

I-95 and 64 were opened at 6 a.m. on Jan. 19. The first people left Wesleyan at 6 a.m., and the last people left at around 11 a.m.

College doubles help to United Way

(Continued from Page 1)

Ray Kirkland, Dr. Joe Marron, Corbitt Rushing, LaRue Elliott, Kathy Smith, Belinda Faulkner, Virgie Morehart, Kim Sparks, Frances Harrison, Dale Stevens, Suzanne Payne, Ginny Wooten, Pam Gourley, Tim Meeks, Teresa Harris, Tracy Sutton, Jane Batts, Pam Derrick, Rachel Dormagen and Don Scalf. Student tips for service were \$123.10, to be part of the college's donation.

Sixteen students in Dr. Mary Lou Steed's social science methodology class designed a survey

to be used by the United Way to identify and prioritize community needs. The survey will be distributed to members of the business and service communities in Nash and Edgecombe counties in January.

Wesleyan's "loaned executive" for the United Way effort in the area was Dale Stevens, director of the Rocky Mount campus Adult Degree Program. She assisted in the coordination, the communication and the "leg-work" which is involved in the campaign. Stevens served as the liaison between the United Way

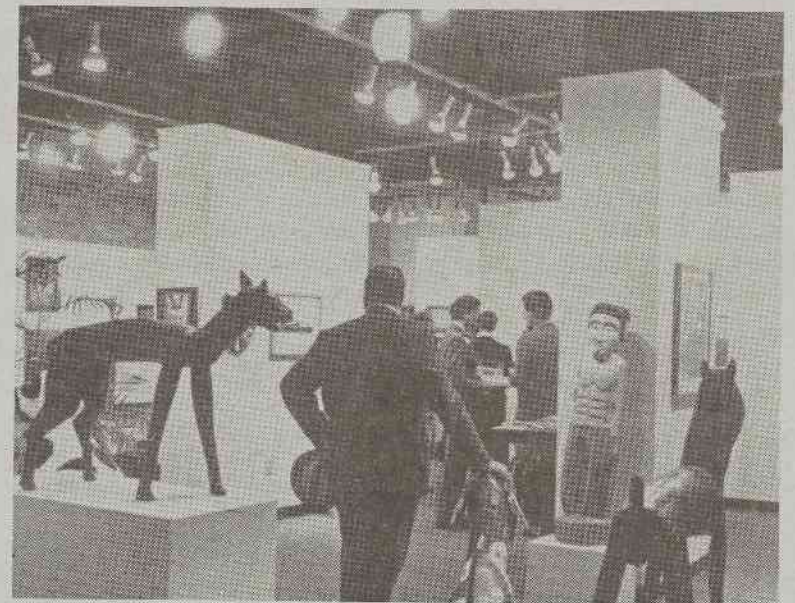


EXHIBIT OPENS — Marshall Brooks was among the faculty, staff, and administrators attending the "Passionate Visions" exhibit of North Carolina Wesleyan College's Outsider Art collection which opened at the Green Hill Art Center in Greensboro earlier this month. See story on Page 3. (Photo by Ron Sowers.)

agency in Rocky Mount and Tar River Cable, Belk Stores, Abbott Laboratories, Tar River Communications and Wesleyan.

At the conclusion of the campaign, Ivy Richardson, executive director of the Rocky Mount Area United Way, was present to congratulate the Wesleyan community. He also conducted the drawing for prizes. Three staff members were awarded prizes donated by the College. Jane Batts received a sweatshirt from the College Bookstore, Rachel Dormagen won the right to be the proud "employer" of Dr.

Garner for one work/study hour, and Kim Sparks gained the title to a reserved parking space for the year.

Dr. Garner congratulated the faculty and staff for its unified effort, "You have done it yet again. The assistance provided to the victims of the recent tornados by the local and national Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and other members of the United Way demonstrates close to home that "it does work — for all of us."

(Courtesy of NCWC Public Information.)