

THE DECREE

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NORTH CAROLINA WESLEYAN COLLEGE, ROCKY MOUNT, NORTH CAROLINA 27804

MH-Baylor Chills Bishops After First Round Upset

By Jenna Davis
Decree Staff Writer

It's been four years in the making, but NC Wesleyan's football team has reached "unprecedented heights." It all started in 2004 when head coach Jack Ginn was at the helm of 186 fresh faces.

Now, four years later, with a squad of about 140 men, Ginn and his team won their first ever conference championship and the memory of their first ever playoff appearances. Senior linebacker Brian Binkley summed it up best, "In only our fourth year, I believe we have reached unprecedented heights."

The Bishops had a rocky start this season, tallying two losses to Wesley College and Widener University. But the Bishops would find their groove after their win over Emory and Henry College.

The Bishops took their momentum and carried it all the way through the USA South Conference, becoming the first team ever in USA South Conference history to be the undefeated champions. There has never before been an outright champion in the USA South Conference.

Coach Ginn described his team's season as "a very exciting year. (It was) a lot of new steps for our program. I couldn't be happier with the progress we've had over the last four years."

The Bishops continued on to receive their first playoff bid. The team traveled to Washington, Pennsylvania to take on Washington and Jefferson College, the number-one seed in the Bishops' division. The Bishops received an eighth-seed.

The game was close all the way to overtime. W&J struck first with a 24-yard pass from quarterback Bobby Swallow. The Bishops would answer right back, though, tying the game at the beginning of the second 7-7.

Again it was W&J with another touchdown pass, but this time the extra point was blocked by defensive back Davon Collins, who would block yet another extra point and a field goal in the second half.

Late in the fourth quarter W&J returned a fumbled field goal but wasn't able to complete the drive and had to settle for a blocked field goal instead. The Bishops had the opportunity to win the game

when they drove the field and attempted a 29-yard field goal. The kick was no good and Wesleyan went into overtime.

Wesleyan received the ball first in overtime, racking up a touchdown and bouncing in the extra point. W&J would answer right back, though, with a touchdown. But they faked the kick on the extra point and tried to run the ball. Senior Justin Augustine wasn't fooled, though, and stopped the run four yards from the goal line. This gave the Bishops a 35-34 win.

With their win, Wesleyan made history again. The Bishops became the first ever 8th-seeded team to knock off a number one seed in the first round of NCAA National Playoffs. According to Coach Ginn, "The playoffs are a unique experience and opportunity. To win your first playoff game is a big deal. I'm proud of the way they performed."

The Bishops then moved on to the second round to face Mary-Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas.

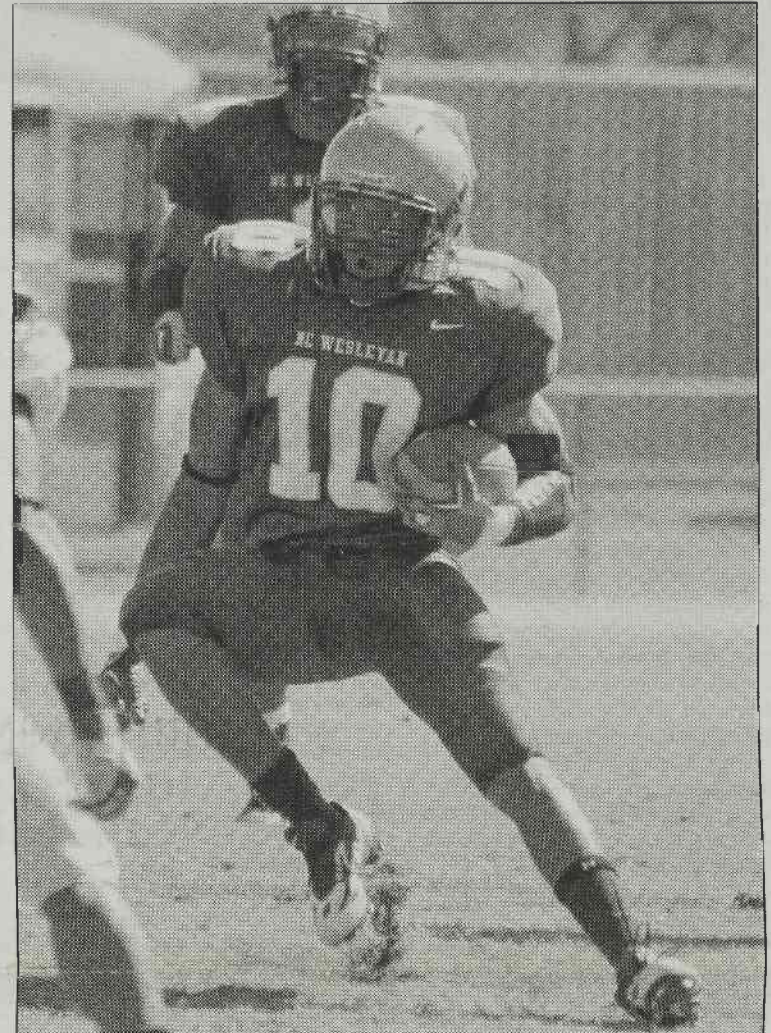
This game was probably not the way the Bishops were looking to end their season. Amid the wind, rain, and freezing cold, the Bishops suffered a

64-0 loss. This was the first time the Bishops had ever been shut out during their four-year history.

When asked about the loss, Coach Ginn stated his only regret was that they didn't learn anything from it. "I wish we knew more about where we

stood with Mary-Hardin Baylor. I don't believe they are a team that's 64 points better than us."

Despite their loss, the Bishops have made USA South Conference history and school history, setting the tone for years to come.



North Carolina Wesleyan defensive back Jezreel Davis was selected to play for the American Football Coaches Association's Division III all-star team. Davis was one of 50 NCAA Division III seniors from around the country who made the team, which represented the United States against the Mexican National Team in the 2007 Aztec Bowl on December 8th in Chihuahua, Mexico. Davis was a first team All-USA South selection for the Bishops in 2007 after tying NCWC's single-season record for interceptions (four) and setting the career mark with 11. Courtesy of Sports Information

Trustee to New Grads: Be Adaptable in New Economy

By Ken Kornegay
Decree Staff Writer

Donna Sylver, Trustee Board Member and 1990 NCWC alum, stressed the "necessity of adaptability" in an animated commencement speech to fall Wesleyan graduates about to enter the fast-changing global economy.

She is the Senior Vice President and Chief of Finance Officer at Mutual Community Savings in Durham. After graduation from Wesleyan, she became a certified public accountant and obtained her MBA from UNC-Chapel Hill. She has been in the banking industry for eight years.

Sylver addressed the graduates and their families during the 10 a.m. ceremony at Minges Auditorium. The ceremony included 175 students from the adult degree and traditional day programs who had registered to graduate.

"The dynamics of our global market and the rapid shift in technology, competition,

culture, and industry dictates that you constantly read the tea leaves, predict where things are headed, and be ahead of the game," said Sylver. "What you know today may be useless tomorrow unless you constantly retool and stay current with emerging issues and changes. Economic globalization—and especially the increasing tendency for goods and services consumed in the U.S., to be produced offshore in countries like Mexico, India, and China—is probably one of the greatest threats to our current and future well-being."

Given the global dynamics, she offered advice for survival in the changing environment. "How do you adapt, or position yourself at the crest of the information age, and the dawn of the creative age?" Sylver suggested a threefold strategy:

1. Brand yourself and develop your value proposition,
2. Become a voracious consumer of

contextual intelligence, and

3. Embrace diversity.

Of the 175 graduates, more than half came from business and accounting. The majors break down as follows: business (84), justice studies (33), accounting (20), computer information systems (14), psychology (15), exercise science (7), history (3), biology (3), elementary education (3), English (3), sociology (2), chemistry (1), pre-med (1), math (1), and theatre (1). Thirty students graduated with double-majors.

The Baccalaureate Service, featuring an address by Wesleyan Chaplain Barry Drum, was held Friday night in conjunction with the Senior Dinner at the Dunn Center for the Performing Arts.

The Senior Class Dinner was held in the Garner Lobby following a reception. In a new feature of the dinner, attendees heard a speech by a student from each of the three Wesleyan campuses: Dinah Uzzell-Tootle (Goldsboro), Courtney Avery (Triangle) and Kelvin Clark (Rocky Mount). Entertainment included a brief performance by the Wesleyan Players.

Earlier in the day, the Alumni Association sponsored a Senior Brunch in the Blue and Gold Café.

In the days leading up to weekend ceremonies, seniors were finishing up their final assignments, and a little too busy to contemplate graduation.

Jessica Jones, an English major, stated, "I hope to God that it is over." Jones said that she still had a paper to finish and presentations to prepare before she could sit back and reflect on her years at Wesleyan.

Shonecia Williams, a history major, said, "I got to get through the next few days before I'm going to get excited." Like Jones, Williams has an upcoming senior seminar presentation that she has to give, amongst other grueling tasks she must complete before the big day. She also said that she would miss Dr. Finney's stories, her friends, and running back and forth to the writing lab to check Facebook.

While Jones and Williams still have assignments to complete, Cornelius Grimsley, a computer information systems major, displayed his feelings regarding graduation. "Right now, I'm hyped but I'm still in disbelief that it is almost over," he said. He added that he would be fine by graduation day. Grimsley referred back to the times when he was an RA. He stated, "I'm going to miss the days of chilling with friends in the café, my SAAB brothers, and creating fun when there was none."

There are many different emotions for the graduating seniors. Some still have a tremendous amount of pressure to meet deadlines, while others are sad that their undergraduate careers are almost ended.

NCWC Axes Women's LAX

By Decree Staff

Team members reacted with shock and dismay on hearing the news that the Wesleyan lacrosse program has been eliminated after just two years in existence.

"It's not fair," said senior Allie Style, last year's leading scorer with 46 goals and 9 assists.

Mikey Case was so frustrated by the college's decision that she initiated a one-woman protest. During the last month of the semester, she tied her lacrosse stick to her back and kept it on all day as she strolled around campus.

In announcing their decision, college officials cited the low number of athletes who came to Wesleyan to play lacrosse and noted that several team members were recruited from other sports such as soccer.

The team was comprised of 16 players during both the 2006 and 2007 seasons, according to the athletic department. Last season, there were 13 players who appeared in at least half of the lacrosse team's 16 games. Three others played in four or fewer.

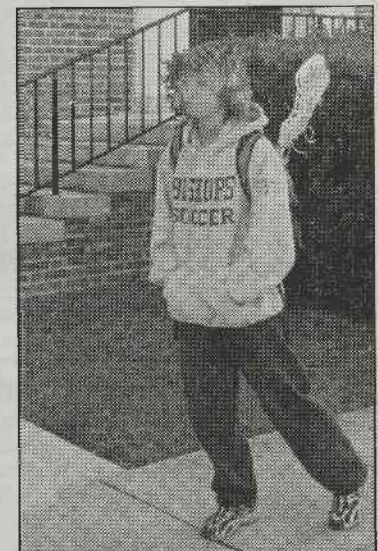
Kathleen Penrod, a Houston native, entered Wesleyan last year as a lacrosse recruit and played in eight games during the spring season before a back injury sidelined her. She said that she and her teammates were angered by the college's decision. "Some were recruited to play and others found the sport in college and fell in love with it, only to have it disappear," she said. "I feel betrayed."

Cary Trump, a dual athlete in soccer and lacrosse, said the decision

to eliminate the lacrosse program and dismiss Coach Lorin Smith-Titus had hit the team hard. Trump noted that she planned to transfer to East Carolina University, in part because of the recent moves.

"It was all very surprising. We just got the sport" in 2005, said Trump, adding that many lacrosse players were among the top students on campus and that the team was a strong participant in volunteer efforts such as "Cans across America." Like Case and Penrod, Trump is a member of the Honors Program.

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Mikey Case protested the elimination of the lacrosse team by wearing her lacrosse stick on her back during the last month of the semester. Decree Staff Photo

NC Wesleyan Negotiating Sale of Carlton House

By Joyce Collins
Decree Staff Writer

There is some good and bad news for students who are interested in rooming at the Carlton House. Good news: Some of the CH rooms will be available to students who would like to room there. Bad news: You will have to pay for the room like other apartment complexes around town, not from your room and board fees.

The college is considering an offer from a group headed by local basketball hero and businessman Phil Ford.

Since fall 2005, the Carlton House has been used by NCWC as an off-campus student residence, though it was closed this past fall, due in part to an effort to help the city conserve water during this year's severe drought.

According to officials, the Carlton House did not go as well as planned. "We only had limited success with it," said Dr. Ian Newbould, Wesleyan's President. "We put more into it than we were getting out of it."

He said that the Carlton House still needs more investment and that it was supposed to attract students who were planning on moving off campus, as well as bring back students who were already living off campus.

When local newspapers revealed that the Carlton House was for sale, it attracted the interest of several possible buyers.

Senior Ashley Harris said that NCWC can find money to support the athletic department but cannot invest in revamping the Carlton House. "Our

school can afford to send the football team to different places, but they can't even renovate the dorms or give deserving students a decent place to live. They should have kept the Carlton House open for seniors and students who know how to act. I wouldn't mind living back over there."

Dr. Newbould could not disclose the amount that the property will fetch for the college. But he said that the monies are going to be set aside rather than put into the general operating budget. "We have not decided what to do with the funds," said Dr. Newbould.

One student felt that because the student body did not have a choice in determining whether the Carlton House is sold, then students should at least have input in how the proceeds are distributed.

"I understand that school officials have to make business decisions like this," said senior Sureka Barnes.

"But because the CH was donated to Wesleyan and was supposed to be an alternative housing for on campus students, I feel that we should have had some say-so in determining the future of the money. And since it is being sold, maybe officials should ask students where some of the money should go. Perhaps funds could go to lowering the prices of books, increasing campus activities, or reinvesting it into the residence halls we have now."

Junior Jessica Daniel, a former resident advisor for the Carlton

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