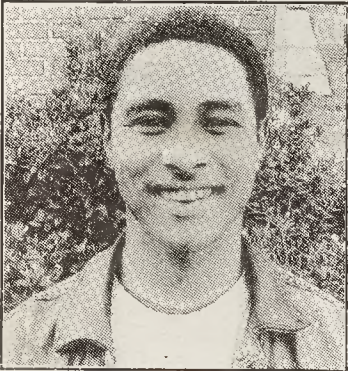


Up close and personal with student athletes

By Mellissa Ellisen
Reporter

Interviews with Joey
Cooper and Aquilla Pennix



Bartow photo

Joey Cooper

Sport: Basketball
Grade: Senior

Position: Point Guard
Sports Accomplishments: Metro 4-A All-Conference (2000-2001), News & Record All-Area Honorable Mention (2000-2001), and Metro 4-A Conference Honorable Mention (1999-2000).

Future Plans: To attend a 4-year university and major in business administration.

Favorite Teacher: Ms. Enright and Dr. Smith (formerly of Grimsley).

Favorite Class: AP Government.

Hardest Class Taken at Grimsley: Honors Physics.

Favorite Sports Memory: Hitting the game-winning free throws his freshman year on varsity in the conference tournament finals vs. Northwest. "It was a great feeling. Irreplaceable."

Favorite Book: "Blindness," by Jose Saramago.

Favorite Music group: Bone Thugs-N-Harmony.

Favorite Movie: "Phenomenon."

Favorite TV Show: Any basketball game (ESPN College Hoops or NBA games).

Coke or Pepsi? Pepsi.

Favorite Foods: Spaghetti and Yam Soufflé.

Favorite Color: Orange.

Duke or Carolina? "Not a particular fan of either, but if I had to choose...Carolina."

Favorite Athlete: Jason Williams (Duke Basketball) and Jalen Rose (Indiana Pacers).

What do you do for luck? Pray.

Most Exciting Sports Event you've played in: Playing in the 14-U AAU National Invitational Championship Game in Cocoa Beach, Fl.

Secret weapon: His smile.



Bartow photo

Aquilla Pennix

Sport: Swimming
Grade: Senior

Best event: Freestyle sprints
Sports Accomplishments: Regional and state meet 9th, 10th, and 11th grade; co-captain 11th and 12th grade; all-conference 10th and 11th grade.

School Success: National Honor Society 12th grade; National Achievement Semi-Finalist.

Future Plans: Attend a 4 year university (hopefully Miami, Colgate or Carolina); medical school; orthopedic surgeon.

Favorite Teacher: Coach Griffin and Coach Pope.

Favorite Class: AP Physics and weight training.

Hardest Class Taken at Grimsley: AP Spanish 4 and 5.

Favorite Sports Memory: Beating an opponent from Page by .03 seconds in the 100 freestyle at the conference meet last year.

Favorite Book: "Night," by Elie Wiesel.

Favorite Music Group: DMX and Linkin Park.

Favorite Movie: "The Fast and the Furious" and "Bad Boys."

Favorite TV Show: "Angel" and "Sportscenter."

Coke or Pepsi? Coke.

Favorite Food: Rib-eye steak grilled medium.

Favorite Color: Purple and blue.

Duke or Carolina: Carolina.

Favorite Sport other Than the Sport You Play: Football and wrestling.

Favorite Athlete: Derek Jeter, Andy Roddick, and Vince Carter.

What do you do for luck?

Eating Soft Batch cookies and Twizzlers before every event.

Most Exciting Sports Event you've watched: This season's Carolina vs. FSU football game.

Secret Weapon: Her "big guns."

Wrestling strives to pin title

Team gets edge over competition through grueling practice and hard work.

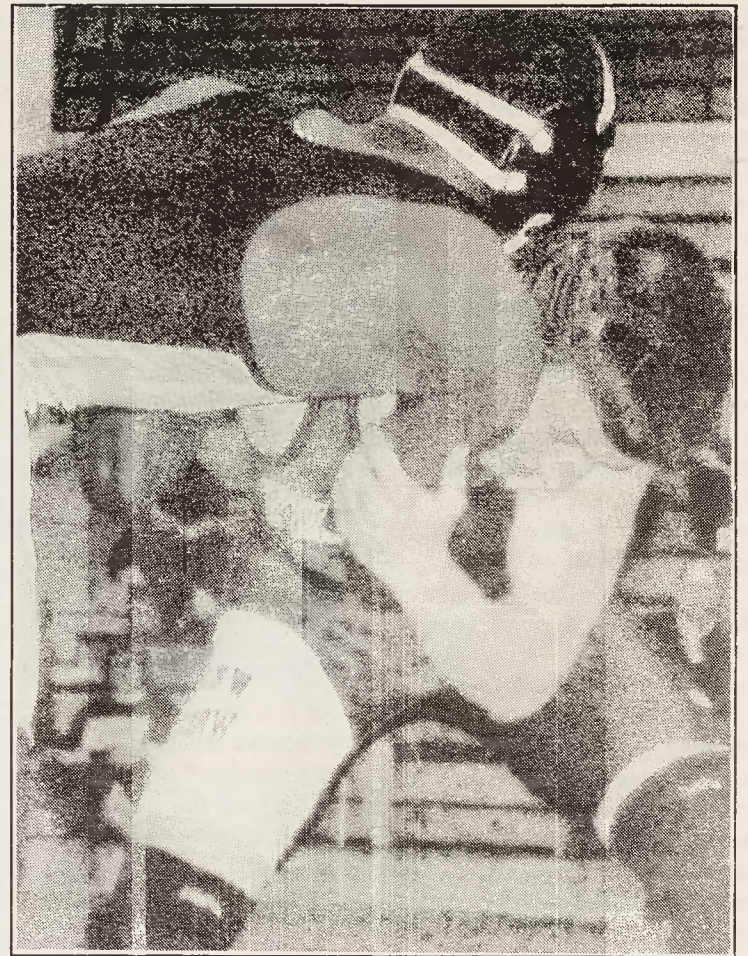
By Ashish Sharda
Reporter

Desire, dedication, and devotion are needed to become a successful wrestler. If the Whirlie wrestlers maintain these qualities then a successful season could be in the making.

The team endures grueling morning runs before school from 7:00 to 7:30 five days a week. This is nothing compared to the vig-

"In wrestling, there is a greater focus on individual success than in football."

-Mikh Gunderman,
junior



Bartow photo

At a recent match against Western Guilford, Austin Tabor, a sophomore, struggles with his opponent.

orous practices everyday after school and on Saturday. Should this not be enough, some of the wrestlers on the team organize yet another run on Sundays to gain an edge on their opponents.

Junior Doug Rozelman is an accomplished wrestler. He wrestled on the USA national team, and is ranked first in North Carolina in a style of wrestling known as Greco-Roman, a style used primarily in Olympic competition. When speaking of the wrestler's training schedule, Rozelman said, "Some critics may call the wrestlers obsessed; however, obsessed is a word that lazy people use for dedicated." His flair on the mat and in the locker room will be instrumental in leading the team to success.

The Whirlies want to improve last year's record of nine wins and seven losses. This year's wrestling team will face some of the state's elite teams. Two of these opponents are Fuquay Varina and Mount Tabor, both of which are champions in their respective conferences. With veteran leadership

of seniors like Jarod LaRue and Luke Myrick, the Whirlies can potentially defeat these teams.

There are many new faces joining the wrestling squad this year. Football players Mikh Gunderman and John Baier, both juniors, are wrestling for the first time. Gunderman spoke of the new challenges that he will face in wrestling

"Some critics may call the wrestlers obsessed; however, obsessed is a word that lazy people use for dedicated."

-Doug Rozelman,
junior

by saying, "In wrestling, there is a greater focus on individual success than in football. However, my main goal is to be an asset to

this team. Also, I will have to learn a variety of new skills and techniques in addition to what I have already learned in football. I hope that my past football experience will help me in wrestling." These two new players feel athletically and physically capable of impacting the improved wrestling team.

These athletes devote much of their time to prepare for their wrestling matches. However, many people do not see their hard work. Attendance is poor for wrestling competitions, and Whirlie wrestlers encourage students and parents to go to matches and show their support for the team.

Wrestling is a craft that few people can master. The mental and physical elements of the sport are tiresome. The discipline and work ethic of Grimsley's wrestling team are going to be the driving force behind this team's quest for success.

Good Luck Winter Sports! Go Whirlies!!!

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