

Chris McNeil, Wilmont Perry among Younger Trophy finalists at Spirit Awards

The Spirit Awards ceremony will be held on January 9 at the Regal Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

The Spirit Awards recognizes and acknowledges six of the most outstanding athletes from Historically Black Colleges.

Actress Jada Pinkett, Actor Andy Garcia, Singer/Actress Brandy, television producer Don Cornelius, Hall of Fame football

player Jim Brown, New York Liberty forward Kym Hamilton and MSNBC anchor Ed Gordon are some of the celebrities and guests who will come together to honor some of the finest football athletes from the Historically Black Colleges.

The finalists for the Paul "Tank" Younger Trophy, known as the "Heisman trophy for black college football", include

Livingstone's Wilmont Perry and Chris McNeil of North Carolina A&T.

Perry set CIAA single-season records for scoring during the 1997 season and also led Livingstone to its first ever CIAA football championship.

Livingstone played Kentucky State in the First Annual Pioneer Bowl in Atlanta last Saturday. McNeil, who played his high

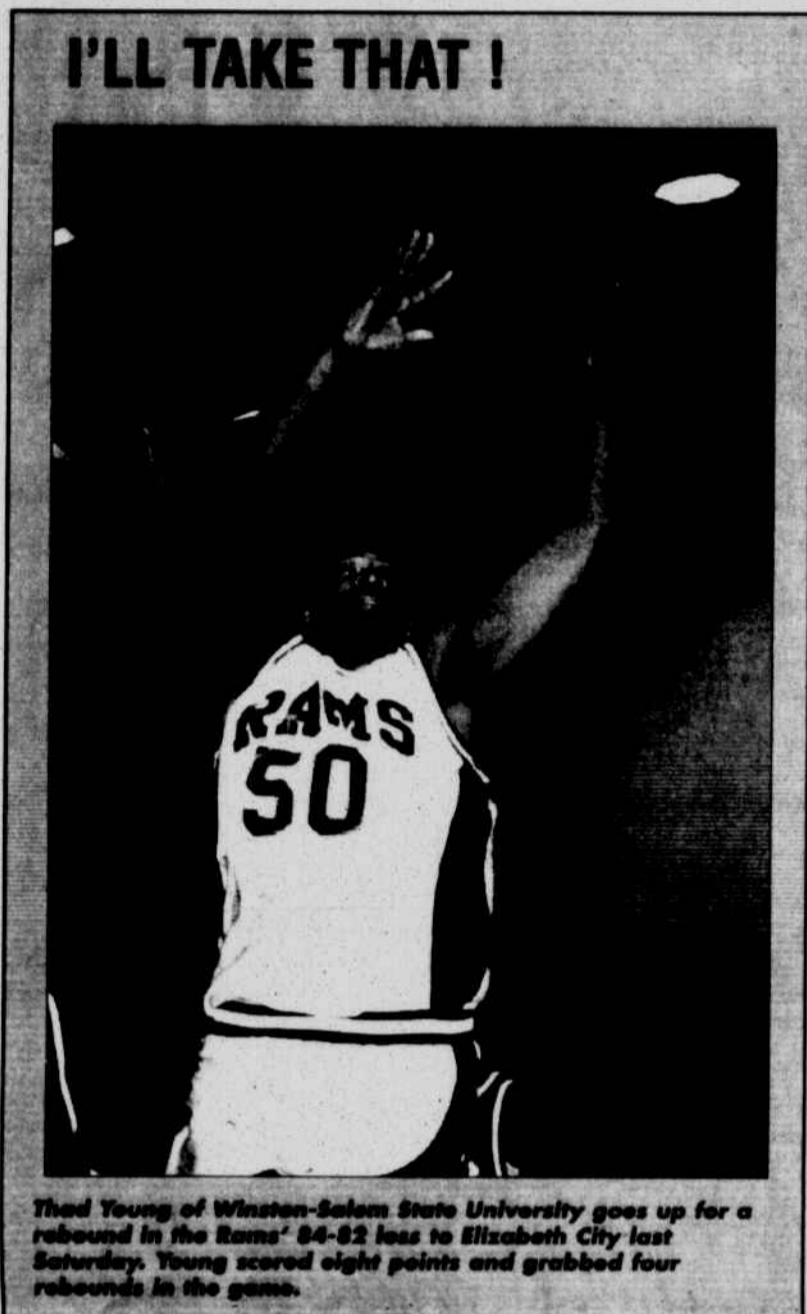
school football at Thomasville High, led the NCAA Division I-AA in sacks. McNeil, a defensive end, had 22 sacks during the season and A&T compiled a 7-4 overall record.

The other finalists include Jermaine Derricott and Chartric Darby of South Carolina State, Toby Miles of Jackson State and James Adderly of Bethune-Cookman.

John Green of Norfolk State captured last year's award. The other winners were James-Roe of Norfolk State in 1995 and Steve McNair of Alcorn State in 1994.

Also during the ceremony, Jerry Rice, wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers will receive this year's Special Achievement Award and Ken Griffey Jr., center fielder with the Seattle Mariners,

will receive the Spirit Award. Roy Firestone, sportscaster and host of a sports show on ESPN, will be the keynote speaker for the evening.



Thad Young of Winston-Salem State University goes up for a rebound in the Rams' 84-62 loss to Elizabeth City last Saturday. Young scored eight points and grabbed four rebounds in the game.

Livingstone falls just short in inaugural Pioneer Bowl Δ Blue Bears dealt 30-26 loss in game's final minutes

ATLANTA (AP) - Livingstone's bid for victory in the First Annual Pioneer Bowl came up short when quarterback Parnell Wilder was stopped twice on quarterback sneaks on the final two plays of the game and the Blue Bears dropped a 30-26 loss to Kentucky State.

Mike Volarvich passed for 268 yards and two touchdowns to lead Kentucky State of the SIAC (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) over the CIAA's Livingstone College.

Volarvich, who completed 16 of 38 passes, connected with Tommy Wilson on a 74-yard scoring play in the second quarter and hit Dan Troger with a 1-yarder in the third quarter.

Trailing 30-20, Livingstone scored with 1:15 remaining on a 2-yard run by Wilmont Perry, who had 161 yards on 21 carries.

Livingstone (8-3) then recovered the on-side kick at its 47 and drove to the Kentucky State 1, helped by Parnell Wilder's 37-yard pass to Shawn Foster.

Chris Williams ran to the 2 on first down, but Wilder was stopped for losses of 1 and 2 yards on keepers on the final two plays of the game, with Sidney

Levarity making the last tackle.

Kentucky State (7-5) also got scores from Maurice Hunter on a 7-yard run, Jay Parks on a 6-yard run and Tim Duncan with a 38-yard field goal.

Chris Williams, who had 139 yards on 18 carries, opened the scoring for Livingstone with 4:08 left in the opening period on a 58-yard run. Zeth Douglas scored on a 3-yard run in the second quarter and Perry on an 8-yard run in the third.

The Pioneer Bowl annually matches the champion of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference against the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's titlist.

Glenn JVs hold off East Forsyth, hold on to take 51-44 victory

Glenn held off a late fourth-quarter rally by East Forsyth to take a 51-44 victory in a boys junior varsity game last Friday night at Glenn.

Glenn took a 15-point lead at the end of the third quarter. But East Forsyth fought back in the final period and reduced the margin to only two points. However, Glenn regrouped in time to hold off the Eagles and record the victory.

The Bobcats' defense set the

tone in the first quarter. Glenn forced the Eagles into numerous turnovers en route to a 7-2 lead.

Glenn's second unit came on in the second period and extended its lead behind the play of Jeremy Witherspoon, Steve Nivens and Mike Davis. Glenn's improved offensive output enabled the Bobcats to stretch their lead to 26-12 at the half. In the third quarter Glenn continued to extend its lead before finally holding off the

Eagles down the stretch.

Charles Sanders, Rayvon Squires and Witherspoon led the way on the defensive end. Offensively, Davis scored 10 points to lead the Bobcats' scorers. Witherspoon had nine points, Sanders added eight and Nivens chipped in with seven.

Glenn begins play in the David Lash/Chronicle Tournament on Jan. 2 at 4:30 when it squares off against North Forsyth at 4:30.

PARKER

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that it has students from more than 100 countries and every state in the union in its enrollment.

"I met a lot of people," he said. "They have a real positive African-American community out there. They have a lot of support systems to help blacks in the university to succeed. But you really have to work hard."

Also during last spring he worked up enough nerve to go talk with one of the track coaches and request a tryout.

"I went to Coach John Smith, the sprint coach and he said he would give me a chance if I came back ready this year," Parker said.

Parker was ready for the challenge went he went back to start his sophomore year. He worked out with the school's sprinters for about four weeks.

"One day he came up to me and said 'you've earned yourself a uniform,'" Parker said. "I felt good about making the team."

The daily practice routine is rigorous, according to Parker. "They don't time you a lot, but they make sure you run your intervals in a certain time. We do a lot of 300's,

600's and 800's. You might do eight or ten of all of them in one day."

Parker didn't decide on UCLA because of its sports program. He chose the school because of its diversity and its academic reputation. When he chose the school during his senior year at Parkland, he thought he would be attending on a Regents or Jackie Robinson Scholarship.

"I don't know what happened, but for some reason they thought I was from California," he said. "You have to be a native of the state to qualify for an academic scholarship. But they sent me the papers saying that I had qualified for a scholarship. Then later, they wrote me and told me that I didn't meet the qualifications."

It didn't deter Parker from following through, however.

"I was able to get some private scholarships and things to help me out," he said.

That was enough for Parker and his mother to scrape together enough funds for him to get to UCLA.

He plans to make the most of it, including a track scholarship if things work out that way.

"The season will be coming up

soon and I plan to be ready," he said. "I'll just have to see how things work out from there."

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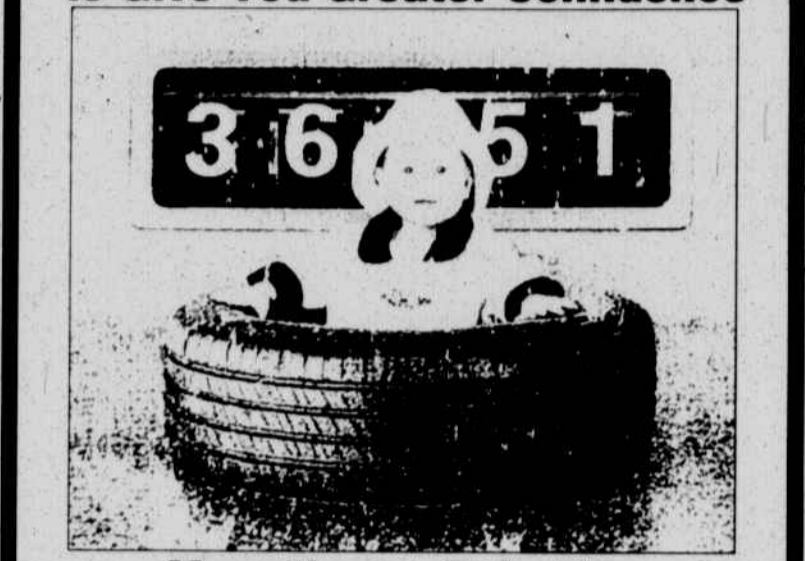
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