

Forsyth Country Day School tennis director receives honor

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Denard McClendon, Forsyth Country Day School director of tennis and owner of the Maximum Tennis Academy, continues to do his thing in the world of tennis.

McClendon was one of only 12 coaches in the country to be invited to attend a High Performance Coaching program in Atlanta for the development of America's top junior and professional tennis players. He was given the opportunity to analyze and review a number of professional players and compare their play with a few rising tennis stars.

McClendon was also one of four coaches selected by the Southern Tennis Association to coach in the USTA Boys and Girls 12-and-under Zone Team championships a few weeks ago.

"That was big-time right there," McClendon said. "That was really huge for me. I'm definitely proud about being selected. There's probably 200 high performance coaches in the country. I'm one of 12 coaches throughout the United States who was chosen."

"I went up there to analyze some of the pros up there, as well as compare notes with some of the international coaches. I wanted to see what they were doing with their top kids. There is great value as a tennis player in bene-

fitting from an analysis of your form and play by more than one coach."

McClendon already is making his vision for tennis at Forsyth Country Day School a reality with the establishment of the Maximum Tennis Academy, where junior players of all ages can train. He also will be implementing a



McClendon

pee-wee tennis program for ages 4-8 to introduce young children to tennis. McClendon also is working hard with his varsity tennis teams at Forsyth Country Day School.

"We've been working hard out here at Forsyth Country Day," McClendon said. "The camp has been going well. We're just finishing up. We're going to start getting ready for the fall program next Monday. Things are going pretty good. The kids are improving."

"I think we'll have a nice season this year. The boys are going to be real good. Hopefully, in the spring we'll be able to compete for a state championship. Our guys are going to smash a lot of people. Teams won't be able to touch us, especially after we get

this kid from Germany."

The one team who McClendon views as a real challenge for his team is 10-time state champion Charlotte Country Day.

"Charlotte Country Day will be our toughest competition...But I think we'll be ready for them this year. We're going to demolish a lot of teams. I'm telling you, we're going for state this year."

Footnote:

McClendon is a graduate of Delaware State University, where he played tennis for four years. He's working toward a master's degree in education from Lincoln University. He is also a member of the U.S. Professional Tennis Registry and holds certifications from Van Der Meer Tennis University in group and individual teaching, tennis coaching and teaching children. McClendon is certified by the USTA in sports science - level one.

McClendon, a native of Winston-Salem, returned to the city after coaching at the Arthur Ashe Tennis Center in Philadelphia, Pa. He also served as director of junior development at Frog Hollow Racquet Club in Worcester, Pa. He recently coached tennis at Salem College while developing his Maximum Tennis Academy for training junior players to reach their potential in tennis.



Photo by Anthony Hill
Earl Ladson practices his swing during a punching drill earlier this week.

Boxing

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The boxing matches at the Joel should definitely be great for fans to watch. Tiwon Taylor from Las Vegas will take on New York's Mike Williams in an eight-round cruiserweight bout. Also appearing will be Francisco Figueroa against Lavelle McClurkin. Local fighters Derek Edwards and Oliver McCall were originally on the card, but injuries forced both fighters to sit out. A fight featuring Mexican amateur champ Edson Aguirre-Ortiz has been added, as well as fights with local standouts Ladson and Wilson.

Ladson and Wilson both seem ready to show what types of boxers they are in front of family and friends for the first time. Both fighters are also hungry for a win.

"I'm very hungry," Ladson said. "I've been here, training with Will Lowry for nine months, getting ready. I've rededicated myself to the sport."



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I feel like I'm in the best shape of my life, but there's always room for improvement. I'm gonna keep getting better. So all the heavyweights need to move

out of the way. I believe that I'll make a name for myself after Saturday night."

Wilson also feels confident about his chances of winning this weekend.

"I'm definitely ready," Wilson said. "I'm just trying to keep the energy flowing. There's going to be a lot of energy in that ring. That's what it's all about. I'm in great shape. I'm just ready. My family and friends are going to be there, and I want to represent to the fullest. I'm ready to get it on. I think that it might be an early night for my opponent."

Wilson is confident that he'll not only knock his opponent out, but do him in early. He said that there's a good chance this fight won't go the distance.

"There's a very good chance," Wilson said. "If he opens up and lets me in, I'll catch him with a straight right. I'm telling you, he won't last after a few of those."

Tickets are on sale at the Coliseum Box Office, Ticketmaster centers, including Hecht's and FYE. To order by telephone, call 722-6400 or 852-1100. General admission tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Ringside seats are \$25. VIP tables seating eight are \$350 and include light snacks and drinks. Group discounts are available.

For information, call Chris Semmens at 725-5635, ext. 411, or call Chuck Webster, marketing director at the Joel Coliseum Box Office, at 725-5635, ext. 455.

Hill

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football needs something like Sammy Sosa versus Mark McGuire, the home-run race that got baseball fans over a nasty players strike.

You have to admit that the off-season was pretty horrible in college football. Let's see: We've seen one major conference (ACC) completely take apart another. We've seen a major-college coach (Mike Price) skip town without so much as a face-to-face farewell with his players. He

got his face-to-face with some stripper in a club in Florida. We've seen a major-college coach (Rick Neuheisel) gamble his way past his athletics director's breaking point, and then lie about it. We've probably seen a Parade All-American's major-college career (Auburn's Lemarcus Rowell) go up in misdemeanors - this after he hit the arrest trifecta.

We've also heard that even the national champion may yet have a blemish on its unblemished record. Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett received questionable help in passing a course. They also say

that he's been talking with NFL scouts about his projection in next year's draft.

And the NCAA has begun turning over rocks at Mississippi State.

Oh yeah, on the positive side of things, former FSU quarterback Adrian McPherson got away with minimal scars after his gambling case was declared a mistrial in June.

And those are just some of the scandals I've kept up with throughout the off-season. I believe college football needs a special 2003 season, and it's not looking good so far. How

does a team (Georgia) finish the season at No. 3, beat Florida State in the Sugar Bowl and get placed at No. 9 in the pre-season poll? Or what about a team that finished at No. 16 (Auburn) being picked to win not only the conference, but the national title by some. That's crazy. And what about a top-25 poll without Nebraska?

And the pollsters might as well simply hand Oklahoma the national championship at the beginning of the season. Oklahoma is one of the top three teams every year, according to preseason polls. I guess pollsters know that someone in

the Big 12 is gonna make a run at the title and it might as well be Oklahoma over Texas, Nebraska or Kansas State. I don't know. What I do know is we as fans need some excitement. We need something great to happen. We need a wonderful year in college football.

For now, it seems, the best odds lie on a miracle season, though.

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