

Five Deacs make All-Conference

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest junior running back Chris Barclay and junior punter Ryan Plackemeier were selected All-Atlantic Coast Conference first team in a vote by the league's media, the conference announced on Tuesday. Senior cornerback Eric King and sophomore offensive guard Steve Vallos were chosen to the second team, while freshman linebacker Jonathan Abbate earned honorable mention.

Barclay led the ACC in rushing with 1,010 yards on 243 carries to lead the league in both categories. It marked the second straight year that Barclay has led the conference in rushing during the regular season. He was a second team selection last year. The native of Louisville, Ky., finished his junior year with nine touchdowns and rushed for 100 yards against ACC opponents on four occasions. Barclay tied the Wake Forest career rushing touchdown record of 30 and vaulted into third place on the Wake Forest career rushing yards chart. He stands an excellent chance at breaking those records next season as a senior.

For Plackemeier, it was his second consecutive first-team selection. The native of Bonsall, Calif., led the ACC in punting for the second consecutive year. He punted 64 times for an average of 43.9 yards per attempt. He dropped 17 punts inside the 20-

yard line and booted 18 punts of at least 50 yards. Four of his punts went for at least 60 yards.

King, a first-team selection as a junior, made the second team as a senior. King ranked among the league leaders in a number of categories, including forced fumbles, pass break-ups and passes defensed.

Vallos, a native of Boardman, Ohio, made the second team as a sophomore and was the third-leading vote-getter at offensive guard. Abbate became only the sec-

ond Wake Forest freshman to earn All-ACC honors of any kind, after all-time rushing leader James McDougald did it in 1976. Abbate was 10 points short of making the second team. The native of Powder Springs, Ga., led the Deacons with 101 tackles, 30 more than any other player and 49 more than any other ACC freshman. He was one of only two freshmen nationally to register at least 100 tackles this season.

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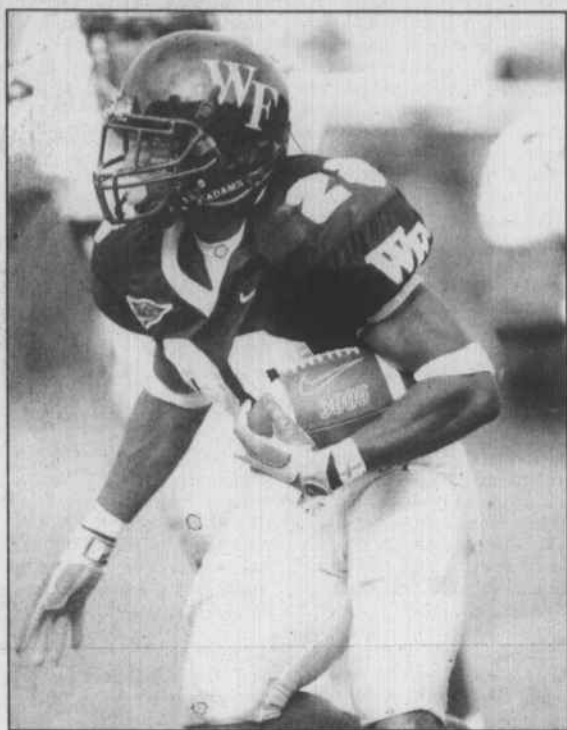
way of thinking around here because of C.J. I've got to thank him and give him a lot of credit for providing that leadership." Paul added: "I love Spartanburg. It's not somewhere that I want to live, but I love it as a school. And, I love playing for coach Payne. I've had a great time in college." So what's next? "Hopefully, I can coach somewhere," Paul concluded. "If the opportunity presented itself to coach back here (Winston-Salem), I'd love it. I'm also kind of waiting around to see what Chris is gonna do. He and I talk about a lot of things all the time. So we'll see."

Paul said it's about more than basketball with Paul. He said that Paul has done a lot more for the Spartan program than most people outside of South Carolina would even know. "It's about more than just the way he plays," Payne said. "It's how he conducts himself, recruits and works. He just sets a great example as a student and a worker. He's been perfect for our younger kids. Now we've got a positive

involved more now too. I'm also more aggressive on the court too. Coach brought me in during the off-season and told me that I would need to score more. I used to be more of a distributor and defensive oriented guy. It was good to be back here to show my game to people that may not have seen me play in a while."

And it was difficult to determine whether or not Paul was playing an away game over the weekend when he and his Spartans participated in the C.E. Gaines Classic. Sure, Winston-Salem State was the host team, but Paul had a large portion of the 3,150 fans in attendance cheering for him. It almost seemed like a home game for Paul. "That's what I was telling the guys before the game," Paul said. "I told the fellas that this feels like a home game to me. There's nothin' like home. This was a great feeling to be here tonight."

The crowd and the play of Paul helped the Spartans (7-1) go 2-0 in the Classic, after beating Winston-Salem State 49-46 and Johnson C. Smith 70-67. Paul also earned a spot on the all-tournament team. He finished the final game of the tournament with five points, four assists and one steal. In the opening round game against Winston-Salem State, Paul finished with seven points, six assists and two steals. He admitted that he wasn't exactly feeling the magic touch on the court, but he still felt good playing in the city again.



Wake junior running back Chris Barclay was one of five Deacs to make the All-ACC team.

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"I'm not used to shooting in that type of gym, or those type of rims," Paul said of the Gaines Center. "I thought I was gonna get used to it early, but I didn't. I had to adjust my shot. I really didn't make the shots I wanted to make tonight. But I still felt good playing out there. It was also great to get the win."

Payne added: "Although he didn't shoot well tonight, he still hit a big three for us late in the game. And, that's just a fraction of how important he is to this team and program. He's playing at his best right now. And the team has been better because of it."

The big 3-pointer that Paul hit came with 4:26 to go in the game with WSSU. The Spartans were clinging to a one-point lead after the Rams had made a strong push late in the game. Paul then hit a 3-pointer to put the Spartans up for good. He also connected with a three-point play and a free throw to help the Spartans maintain the lead late in the game.

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Plackemeier

All-ACC selections, including five offensive line selections, three at running back, three defensive ends, two at punter, two cornerbacks, two return specialists and one at linebacker. Wake Forest's five selections this year were tied for the third-most in school history. In 1970 and 1992, the Deacons had six selections. Wake Forest also had five honorees in 1971, 2001 and 2003.

The Deacons had four players on the first or second team, ahead of North Carolina's two, N.C. State's two and Duke's one. Clemson also had four selections in the top two teams.

Women's football team to hold tryouts

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Attention all females with a desire to do a little more than simply watch a good football game on television.

The Carolina Cardinals, a women's football team, will hold tryouts on Saturday at the Sportsplex in Greensboro. The Sportsplex is at 2400 16th Street, in Greensboro. Team representatives will be evaluating players to fill all positions. The cost to tryout is \$75 at the door. Candidates who register online can register for \$35.

Candidates will be evaluated through a series of football drills, such as the 40-yard dash, bench-press drills and other individual drills. The athletes will also have to perform the broad jump, offensive and defensive drills as well as group and one-on-one drills. The drills will be performed on the artificial turf of the Sportsplex. Metal cleats will not be permitted. Athletes without proper gear will not be allowed to try out. A medical release and a liability form are also needed to try out.

Contact Tracey Williams, general manager, (336) 253-0895, with any questions about the weekend tryouts.

Sting earns top draft pick

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

WNBA President Val Ackerman announced last week that the Charlotte Sting won the WNBA Draft Lottery, earning the rights to the top pick in the 2005 WNBA Draft next April.

The Sting participated in the fourth annual draft lottery by virtue of its 16-18 record last season. The team had a 97-in-1,000 chance of winning the No. 1 pick, the fourth-longest odds among the five eligible teams.

"This is great for us and hopefully will generate some excitement for our fans," said Trudi Lacey, Sting general manager and head coach. "It may open the door to begin the rebuilding process."

Although the Sting sat in second place in the Eastern Conference with a week remaining in the 2004 regular season, the team's race to the playoffs fell short and the Sting did not advance to the post-season for just the second time in franchise history. San Antonio (9-25), Houston (13-21)

and Indiana (15-19) all had better chances of winning this year's lottery. The Phoenix Mercury (17-17), who won the top pick last year and selected UConn's Diana Taurasi, rounded out the field of five teams eligible for this year's lottery.

The WNBA Draft Lottery assigns the draft order to nonplayoff teams from the previous season. The Indiana Fever will select second followed by Phoenix, San Antonio and Houston. The remaining selections are based on inverse order of the teams' respective 2004 regular season records.

Last season, Lacey orchestrated a trade with the Indiana Fever to move up in the draft, selecting Stanford's Nicole Powell with the third overall pick. The Sting also selected Penn State's Kelly Mazzante (18th), Vanderbilt's Jenni Benningfield (22nd) and Texas Tech's Jia Perkins (35th) in the 2004 WNBA Draft.

The Charlotte Sting will open its ninth season of WNBA action next spring at the Charlotte Coliseum.



Lacey

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