

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

Also Religion, Obituaries, Classifieds

MAY 3, 2007

Atkins will welcome second hall of fame class

Ceremony to take place June 2

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

William Butler, who's a graduate of the old Anderson High School, put in much of the ground work to help create the Atkins High School Hall of Fame last year. His older sisters graduated from Atkins High, so he was well aware of the history the school possessed.

"This school has a lot of history in it," Butler said. "Our kids need to know about some of this school's history. We thought it was very important to create a hall of fame last year.

It was just in my heart to help come up with the Atkins Hall of Fame. We wanted to bring back the pride of this school. I had this vision way back when I was the athletic director at North. Like I told you before, the Lord put me in the right spot to do this. W-S Prep principal, Dennis Walker, gave me the OK last year, and we've been running with it since. It's getting bigger. The interest has definitely grown. This year is going to be big."

The Atkins High Hall of Fame is presently located in the George Green and Robert Moore Gymnasium, on the campus of W-S Prep at Atkins.

Last year's hall of fame ceremony turned into a

reunion, as several Atkins High alumni from years back came to honor the first hall of fame class. More than 450 people packed the old gym last year. This year's ceremony will take on June 2, in the Benton Convention Center, at 6 p.m.

The hall of fame will welcome 17 former Camels this summer — six of which were a part of the city's first state championship team (1951 hoops). The following individuals will officially be inducted in June: Ruth Carter (Basketball, 1939-43), Willie Carter (Basketball, 1938-42), Joe Foster (1948-49),

William Griffin (Basketball, 1951-55), David Harris (Basketball, 1950-53), Leo Hughes (Basketball, 1952-53), James Sligh (Basketball, 1949-53), Lillie Jackson Vanlandingham (Basketball, 1949-53).

Also, Booker Williams (Basketball, 1950-54), Donald Young (Basketball, 1949-53), Sam Cary (Coach, 1943-53), Ben Warren (Coach, 1951-55), Joe Adams (Football, 1951-55), John Cuthrell (Football, 1949-53), Rueben Gilliam (Football, 1948-52), Vic Johnson (Football, 1951-52) and Nicholas Thompson (Football, 1951-55) are among the newest Camel hall of famers.

William Griffin, David Harris, Leo Hughes, James

See Atkins on B5



Butler



Photo by Anthony Hill

(Top) North senior track and field performer Michaela McGriff has battled back from severe knee injury.

Photo by Charle Pfaff (Below) Here, McGriff prepares to launch a discus during an earlier track and field meet.

ANOTHER 'SHOT'

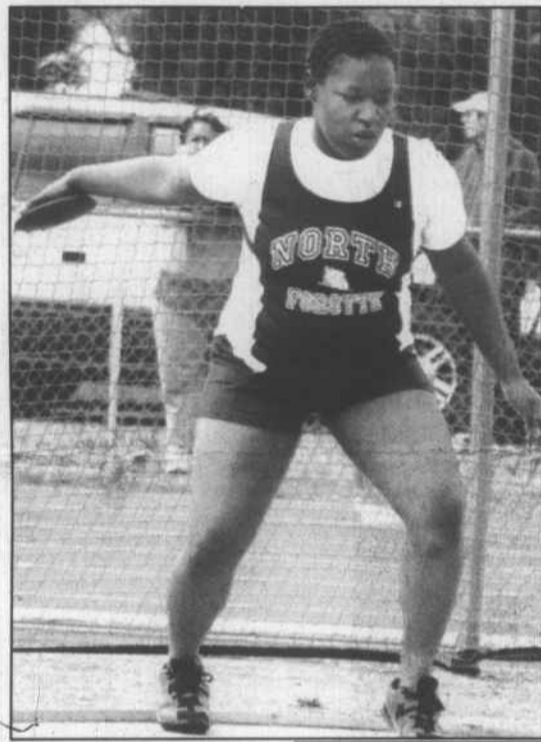
North's McGriff returns after third ACL tear

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Last spring, North senior track and field performer Michaela McGriff didn't know if she'd ever execute the shot put and discus as effectively as she's done throughout her career. Last March McGriff, who's competed since 8 years old, tore her ACL for the third time after doing a routine drill at practice.

"I knew exactly what was wrong," McGriff said. "It felt the same as it did the last time I tore my ACL. I knew exactly what it was."

The feeling of the severe injury wasn't new to McGriff, as she last had ACL surgery in 2003. She rehabbed herself well enough to return to the championship form



prior to her latest injury. Still, she doubted that she'd make it back to form after the third setback.

"Initially, I really didn't want to come back and do it," McGriff said. "I just didn't feel up to it because I had already gone through it two other times."

Her father and coach, Travis McGriff, added: "I had a little doubt at first, but I didn't want to let her know that. I knew that she had to believe she could come back. But I honestly didn't know if she could come back — to be honest with you. I mean, she got injured right as she was peaking. It couldn't have come at a worse time. I thought to myself, 'This is going to be a long road to get back to where she was.' But I knew it was possible. She only had one more year, and you just never know."

Apparently, McGriff's efforts have propelled her back into form. She began to

See McGriff on B3

RAM RELAY

Photo by Jeff Heighan

Javonna Brown, Sandy Harrison, Wykeitha Barnett, Gerri-Lena White, who run the 4x200 for WSSU, ran well at their first Penn Relay. The group finished 38th out of 50 at the 113th annual Penn Relays in Philadelphia, Pa., last week.



Reyshawn's Stock up

FROM THE HUDDLE
Anthony Hill

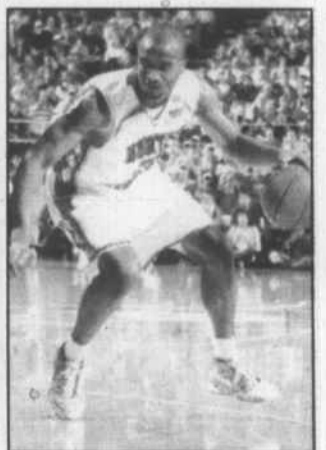


I know the NFL Draft just took over for a weekend. But my mind has been on this summer's NBA Draft, and some of the guys that might be drafted.

Everyone knows that either Ohio State's Greg Oden or Texas' Kevin Durant will go first in the draft. Then, my man Brandon Wright (UNC) should get picked third. But it's kind of up in the air who will follow. Earlier this week I was on a few NBA Draft sites, trying to get familiar with some of the guys from overseas that will come out of nowhere and be drafted in the first round.

There were names like Yi Jianlian (China), Marc Gasol (Spain), Tiago Splitter (Brazil), Rudy Fernandez (Spain) and Marco Bellinell (Italy). Those guys are predicted to show up on some teams draft board in the first round. I also saw some familiar names like Roy Hibbert (Georgetown), Acie Law (Texas A&M), Josh McRoberts (Duke), Corey Brewer (Florida) and a few more. As I compared a few different projected draft boards, I began to see a name I was very familiar with — Reyshawn Terry.

I even heard a couple NBA analyst say Terry might be the



Reyshawn Terry

Former Glenn standout Beatty is top A&T rookie

Rush, Mitchell take home three awards apiece

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

North Carolina A&T Athletics honored its own on Monday night at the Annual All-Sports Award Banquet held at the Alumni-Foundation Event Center.

Volleyball senior Arlene Mitchell and men's basketball junior Steven Rush walked away with three trophies apiece. Rush took home two of the biggest awards of the night as he took home the N.C. A&T Aggie Club, Inc. Award and he was named the N.C. A&T Department of

Athletics Male Athlete of the Year. Rush was also named Men's Basketball Team MVP.

Rush led the Aggies in scoring and became the first first-team All-MEAC member from Aggies men's basketball since the 2000-2001 season. He was one of the best sixth men in the country as he averaged better than 17 points per game. Rush, who is familiar with the Aggie basketball tradition having grown up around N.C. A&T Athletics because his mother played for the women's team, said he transferred from UNC-Asheville for one important reason.



Beatty

"I want to help bring A&T back to the top," said Rush. "It means a lot to me to wear an A&T jersey. My mother always told me

when you come to play and work hard, eventually good things will happen, and a lot of great things happened for me and my teammates this year."

Mitchell's biggest accomplishment of the night came when the N.C. A&T Sports Hall of Fame awarded her their prestigious Hall of Famers Educational Foundation, Inc., Player of the Year Award. She also received the Department of Athletics' Senior Female of the Year Award and Volleyball Team MVP.

The big female prize, however, went to women's basketball player Amber

See Aggies on B3

See Hill on B4