

Oakley, Carter get honors

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

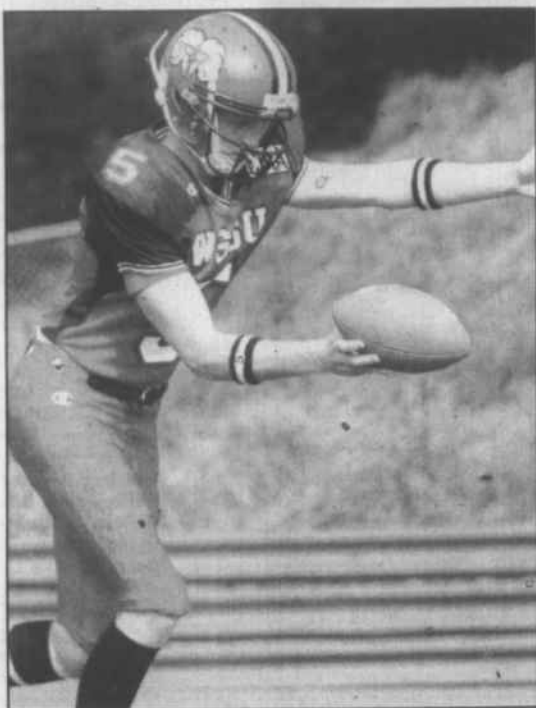
Winston-Salem State University women's basketball senior forward Shalonda Carter (Fayetteville) and senior punter Chad Oakley (Haw River, NC) were named as the 2006-07 Mary Garber WSSU Student-Athletes of the Year last Thursday evening at the annual WSSU Athletic Awards Banquet at Tanglewood Park.

Both Carter and Oakley received their Athlete of the Year Awards at the banquet, in which all of WSSU's 200-plus student-athletes, athletic administrators, and staff members were honored for their tireless service as they continue in the Rams' and Lady Rams' move to the Division I level.

Carter, a senior forward on the WSSU women's basketball team capped a four-year career in which she tallied 1,451 points and pulled down 1,005 rebounds as she played in 111 games for WSSU making 105 starts. A four-year starter for the Lady Rams, Carter turned in a stellar senior season as she averaged 13.2 points and 10.1 rebounds per game for the Lady Rams en route to posting rebounding numbers that placed her 25th in the nation in rebounds per game.

A member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and active community service member, Carter, who will graduate in May of 2007 was named the 2006-07 Mary Garber WSSU Female Student-Athlete of the Year.

Joining Carter in earning Student-Athlete of the Year honors was senior punter Chad Oakley. Oakley, a five-year



WSSU's Chad Oakley received top male student-athlete honors.

member of the WSSU football program as a punter for the Rams caps an athletic career that sees him atop every statistical punting record in the history of the WSSU football program.

Oakley, a 6'0", 185-pound punter and placekicker for the Rams who, as the upcoming NFL draft nears closer, is receiving serious consideration from many National Football League

teams is a four-year starter for the Rams who returned this past year from a 2005 season-ending injury to serve as a team captain for WSSU in their first

season of Division I-AA play. A two-time First-Team All-Conference selection, Oakley averaged better than 46 yards per kick in 2006 as he capped a season in which he missed only one field goal attempt and did not have a kick blocked.

An active member of the Winston-Salem community, and a very active community service advocate, Oakley, a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee who graduated with honors with a 3.93 GPA and is a five-time member of the WSSU Academic All-Stars Team (for those students with a GPA of 3.0 or better) was named the 2006-07 Mary Garber WSSU Male Student-Athlete of the Year.



Carter

Hill

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sleeper of the draft. I've also already heard rumors of teams that may show interest in Ray-Ray. They're saying Terry would be a good fit for either Houston or Phoenix. What I know at this point is that Terry and Steve Nash share the same agent. Of course, that doesn't mean they might share the same locker room next year. That's just what I know.

On NBADraft.net, Terry is projected to be the 45th pick to the Los Angeles Clippers. Hoopshype.com projects Terry to be the 49th pick to the Chicago Bulls. Ironically, he

flew to Chi-town to train on Tuesday night. One fan poll on FansIQ.com had Terry going in the second round, between 41-50. Then again, someone told me that Terry was a projected first round pick on MSNBC earlier this week.

It's not hard to tell why some scouts and fans think Ray will be drafted into the NBA. You can't sleep on his ridiculous dimensions. Look at Terry. He's a 6-8 small forward with the athleticism of a super talented shooting guard. I know, some of you are saying that he didn't show that athleticism much for the Tarheels. Well, he didn't get that much of a chance either. I

got mad a Roy Williams almost every time I watched a UNC game because of the way he seemingly did Terry. You all know Terry got pulled way too early every game you saw. That's all I will say about that.

I simply hope the best for Ray. I hope he gets a chance in the league. I wouldn't be surprised if Ray became a better professional than a lot of the guys that are projected before him. No one really saw how good Ray really is while he was at Carolina, seriously. I have no doubt the NBA scouts will be impressed, and someone will take a chance with him based on his crazy potential. Isn't that what the NBA

Wake's Gattis, Vallos drafted by NFL teams

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Two former Wake Forest standouts had their dreams come true over the weekend, during the 2007 NFL Draft at Radio City Music Hall in New York on Sunday.

Wake senior safety Josh Gattis was selected by the Jacksonville Jaguars in the fifth round (150th overall), while senior offensive lineman Steve Vallos was drafted in the seventh round (232nd overall) by Seattle.

This marks the first time since 2003 that multiple Demon Deacons were taken in the draft. That year, Calvin Pace, Ovie Mughelli and Montique Sharpe were selected in the first, fourth and seventh rounds, respectively.

Gattis became the third Wake Forest player to become a Jacksonville Jaguar, following offensive guard Ben Coleman (1995-99) and long snapper Joe Zelenka (2001-present). Gattis is the highest Wake Forest draft pick since fullback Ovie Mughelli was taken in the fourth round of the 2003 draft by Baltimore. Gattis' former secondary teammate Eric King was also a fifth-round pick (154th overall) in 2005.

Gattis is familiar with Jacksonville Municipal Stadium, the Jaguars' home field. Wake Forest won the 2006 ACC Championship in Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 2. Gattis made three tackles in that game and broke up a pass. A 2006 honorable mention Sports Illustrated All-American, Gattis was the second-leading vote-getter for the All-ACC team behind only first round pick Gaines Adams.

A native of Durham, N.C., Gattis was a vocal and emotional leader of Wake Forest's championship team. Gattis was the only player in the ACC with



Wake's Gattis (left) and Vallos were drafted over the weekend.

both five interceptions and 70 tackles. He tied for third in the ACC with five interceptions and tied for sixth in the ACC with 12 passes defended.

For the second straight year, the Seahawks used their seventh-round pick on a Demon Deacon. Last year, it was punter Ryan Plackemeier. This year, it was Vallos. Vallos became the fifth former Demon Deacon to play for the Seahawks, joining Ed Bradley (1976), Ricky Proehl (1995-96), McCrary (1993-96) and Plackemeier (2006-current).

Vallos, a native of Boardman, Ohio, was the vocal and emotional leaders of Wake Forest's offense. Vallos was named a first team All-American by Sports Illustrated and The Sporting News. He was a first team All-ACC pick and one website even selected him as the conference's Player of the Year. He had 92.5 knockdown blocks, 23 more

than any other teammate.

Vallos enjoyed one of his best career games with an ACC Championship game berth on the line at Maryland when he earned a career-best 96 percent to go with 10 knockdown blocks. Vallos had eight 90 percent performances as a senior.

Vallos played both tackle and both guard sports during his four years. He started all 48 games in his career, the most by a Wake Forest player in history.

Note: Six other Deacs signed free agent contracts with NFL teams earlier this week. Bryan Andrews (Cincinnati) signed with the Bengals on Monday.

Jon Abbate (Houston), Patrick Ghee (Seattle), Willie Idlette (Browns), Nate Morton (St. Louis) and Jyles Tucker (San Diego) signed with squads on Sunday.

The win gave the squad an automatic bid to the 17 & U National Tournament this summer.

Last year, the squad finished third in 17U D-II tournament. The Magic only loss was to the Charlotte Royals on Saturday night. I look to see this team do big things this summer. Good luck to coach Lacardo Means and his talented bunch of ballers.

AND 1 Open Tour hits Carver on Saturday

This Saturday fans can check out AND 1 stars, Air Up there, Posterboy, Sik Wit It, 50, Big Swool and Go Get It — to name a few. The group

will be showing off at Carver during the Streetball Unleashed Tour.

All interested ballers for the Open Run will need to be ready to play at 2 p.m. The game will begin at 6 p.m.

Not only will the action be exciting, proceeds will go to worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds will go to Carver athletics, toward the purchase of the girl's basketball state championship rings.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door.

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