

# Fall season Wachovia Cup leaders are announced

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The standings for the fall sports in the Wachovia Cup competitions for the 2007-2008 academic year were announced last week.

The Wachovia Cup award, sponsored by Wachovia Bank, N.A., and the NCHSAA, recognizes the high schools that achieve the best overall interscholastic athletic performance within each of the state's four competitive classifications. The Wachovia Cup program is in its 29th year.

Charlotte Myers Park sits atop the 4-A standings with Chapel Hill in second place, while Charlotte Catholic paces the 3-A classification ahead of Asheville. Raleigh Cardinal Gibbons holds the top spot among 2-A schools, and Kernersville Bishop McGuinness has the lead in the 1-A classification standings.

Bishop McGuinness teams did not win a single state team championship in the fall but had a pair of state runner-up finishes to forge a 12.5-point lead over Durham's North Carolina School of Science and Math. NCSSM won state titles in both men's soccer and women's tennis. East Wilkes and Hampstead Topsail are deadlocked in third at 145 points.

Myers Park, also didn't win a fall sports state title, but fin-

ished second in both volleyball and women's cross-country and scored a total of 202.5 points. Chapel Hill tallied playoff points in five different sports, including a state title in women's cross country, to amass a 190 total, 12.5

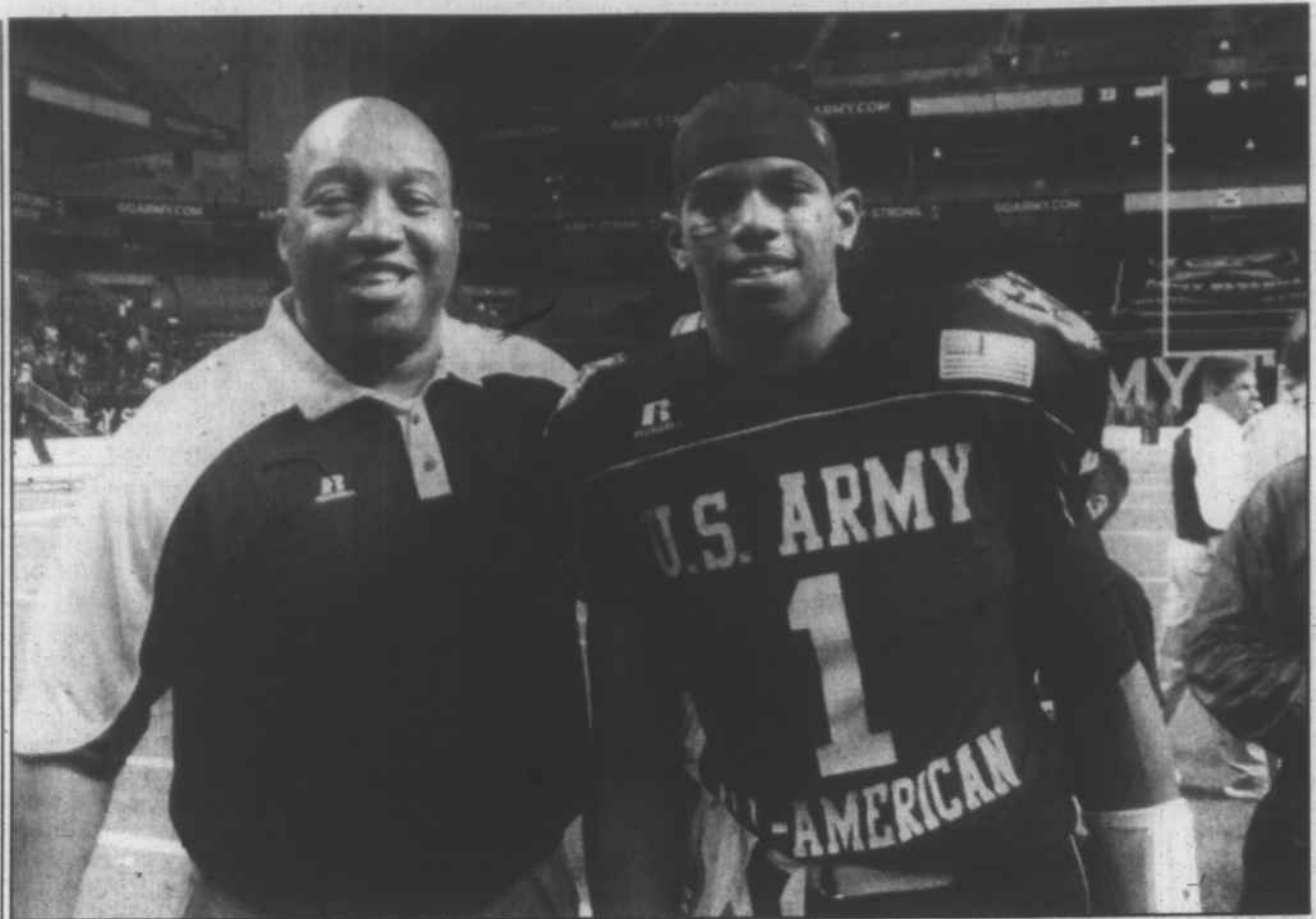
points off the pace. Raleigh Broughton, with state championships in men's soccer and men's cross country, is in third at 172.5 points.

In the 3-A classification, Charlotte Catholic has 227.5 points, keyed by a state championship in women's dual team tennis and runner-up finish in football. That puts Catholic 47.5 points ahead of Asheville, which was second and third in the state in men's and women's cross country,

respectively. Wilson Fike and Asheville T.C. Roberson are knotted in fourth with 147.5 points. Reagan finished fifth.

Cardinal Gibbons paced the 2-A standings by virtue of state titles in volleyball, and women's cross country, and a second-place finish in men's soccer.

Wachovia Cup standings are announced three times each school year: once after the fall and winter sports, and concluding with the winner after the spring sports season ends in June. The engraved silver cups are presented during NCHSAA Day activities at UNC-Chapel Hill each fall.



Photos by Lou Walls  
Pictured are the winning 2008 U.S. Army All-American Bowl East team Coach Robert Prunty (Hargrave Military Academy) and game MVP, quarterback Terrelle Pryor.

Below: Pryor with his Most Valuable Player award.

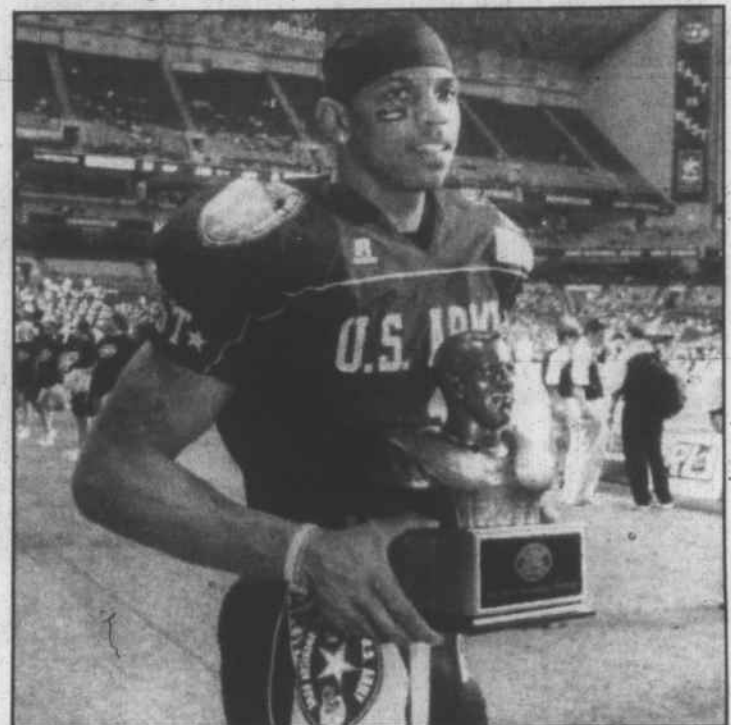
## Black coach, player shine in Army All-American game

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

At the beginning of a week-long series of practice sessions, coach Robert Prunty (Hargrave Military Academy, Chatham, VA) told his East U.S. Army All-American Bowl players that "When the pupil is ready, the teacher will appear. If you are willing to accept who you are as a player, you will be who you are." His team listened and responded by giving Coach

Prunty a 33-23 victory over the West squad. Prunty became only the second African American head coach to win the prestigious game in its eight-year existence.

The game featured a stellar performance by quarterback Terrelle Pryor (Jeannette Senior High School, Jeannette, PA). Pryor was named the game's Most Valuable Player after running six yards for one touchdown and throwing for 25 yards for another TD. Pryor finished the game with 76 yards passing and his 79 yards rushing rank him third all-time in the eight-year history of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Pryor was also selected for the Player of the Year award. He was presented the award during a pre-game awards dinner held on Friday, January 4, 2008 in San Antonio, TX.



The eighth annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl is the premier high school football game that connects the strengths of the nation's top players with those of Army Strong Soldiers, emphasizing the skills and values learned on the football field and in the Army.

This classic East vs. West match-up was played at the Alamodome in San Antonio and was televised live, nationwide on NBC.

Since its inception, the U.S. Army All-American Bowl has been considered the nation's most prestigious All-American game by high school football players, coaches, and fans from across the country, as it's the preeminent launching pad for America's future college and

NFL stars. Reggie Bush (New Orleans Saints), Vince Young (Tennessee Titans), Adrian Peterson (Minnesota Vikings), Teddy Ginn, Jr. (Miami Dolphins) and Kevin Jones (Detroit Lions) all made their national debuts as U.S. Army All-Americans. Current college standouts DeSean Jackson (California wide receiver/kick returner) and Chris Wells (Ohio State running back) are also among this elite group.

More than 400 players are initially nominated nationally for U.S. Army All-American honors. That group is ultimately refined to 96 players by the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee consisting of Tom Lemming, Scout.com and

SportsLink. 78 players played in the game.

"A U.S. Army All-American selection is a very important honor; it is a testament to the hard work, dedication and team work that they've demonstrated over so many years," said Colonel David Lee, Director of Strategic Communications, Marketing and Outreach for the U.S. Army Accessions Command. "These players truly embody the characteristics of an Army Strong Soldier—demonstrating Strength through Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage on a daily basis. I'm proud that these young men are members of the nation's premier high school football team."

### Hill

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issue. But Big Ced said it was over.

"It's over, man," Hickman said. "My record is as clean as it was before this happened. There's still things that need to be cleared. But the criminal part is over. I just want to clear my name of this."

Big Ced told me his entire holiday break was tough because he was forced to stay inside to stay away from people.

"I just stayed at home the whole time," Hickman said. "A lot of people were saying this and that. I knew I was innocent the whole time, but you can't convince everyone. Plus, I was just feeling bad. I didn't want my dreams to come to an end because of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. I've seen some situations like this that didn't quite work out for some people that were in the wrong place at the wrong time. I was very scared."

"I even went to coach O'Brien when all of this first happened to let him know everything," Hickman continued. "I let him know that I didn't do anything. And, that I was in the wrong place at the wrong time. I told him I was willing to do anything to stay on the team."

That's good news. I am definitely glad to see things starting to look better for Hickman. He's a really good kid. He's no thief, criminal or thug. He's apparently just a kid that got mixed up in something he really didn't do. Let's hope things continue to progress, after all, the DA did say the case was still pending. I'm no lawyer, but that sounds like everything isn't complete.

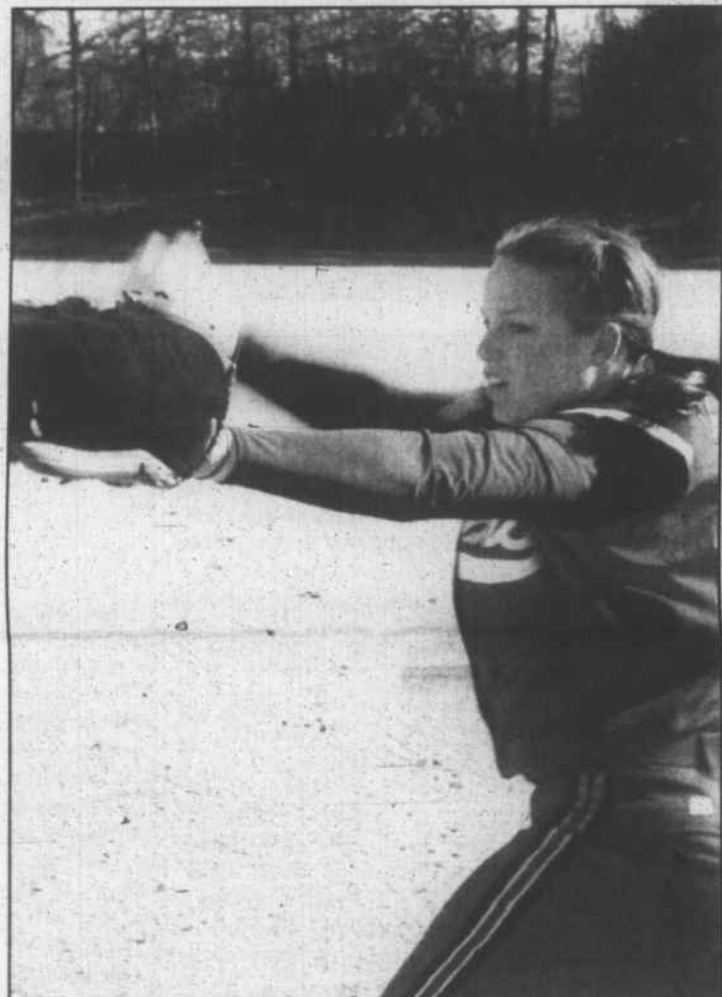
### WSSU to hold softball clinic on Saturday

Winston-Salem State University head women's softball coach LaTaya Hilliard-Gray announced last week that the Lady Rams will hold a skills clinic on Jan. 19, from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. at South Park Field.

According to a release, the clinic will focus on building team chemistry and sportsmanship as well as centering on the improvement of offensive and defensive fundamentals with position-specific skills-building. Emphasis will be placed on sportsmanship and team play and will seek to develop participants' individual performances while at bat as well as while on defense.

Coach Hilliard-Gray said the camp will be open to all females ages 6-18 with participants to be grouped according to age and skill level.

The cost for the clinic is a non-refundable \$45 per participant. While lunch will not



File photo

### WSSU will host softball clinic on Saturday.

be provided to participants, opportunities to purchase small snacks and liquid refreshments will be made available to all attendees.

Deadline to register was Tuesday. But I am sure some people can still try to register if they didn't know about the event until now. What do you think? For additional informa-

tion on the WSSU Softball Skills Clinic, contact WSSU head softball coach LaTaya Hilliard-Gray at 750-2598.

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