

SPORTS WEEK

APRIL 12, 2012



The WSSU Golf Team walked away with a victory last weekend.

WSSU Photo by Garrett Gurns

Rams win Golf Challenge

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



James Draper

The Winston-Salem State Rams closed out the 2012 Winston-Salem State University Spring Golf Challenge on a high note, winning the two-day tournament with a final score of 608 (+40).

The Challenge was played at Salem Glen Golf and Country Club in Clemmons.

The Rams capped the tournament with four WSSU golfers finishing in the top five of the event. WSSU senior James Draper finished the tournament in second place with a 146 (+4) two-day total. Rams senior Wes Griswold placed fourth in the event with a 150 (+8) while the sophomore tandem of Glendon Mabe and Zachary Sheets both tied for fifth with a 156 (+14).

A Perfect Season



Submitted Photo

The Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy Girls Basketball Team is coming off a perfect season. The squad finished the season 10-0 and was the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools Middle School co-champions for 8th Grade Girls. Here Coach Corey Simmons (far left) and Coach Antonio Crawford (far right) pose with the team (from left): Kristin Gardner, Madison Collins, Kayla Robinson, Kristian Sanders, Marissa King, Mychala Wolfe and Latroya McCrae.

Coach Tom Walter wins Giant Steps award

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest Head Baseball Coach Tom Walter has been named a winner of the National Student-Athlete Day Giant Steps Award, the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) announced Friday.

National Student-Athlete Day is designed to honor the hard work and dedication of high school and college student-athletes nationwide who have excelled in the classroom and on the playing field, while making significant contributions to their schools and communities.

The Giant Steps Awards are not limited to student-athletes but aim to honor professional athletes, athletics administrators,

civic leaders, coaches, parents, organizations and other individuals who exemplify the ideals of balancing academics, athletics, life pursuits and giving back to the community through the spirit of athletics.

Walter was named head baseball coach at Wake Forest on June 16, 2009. In just his second season with the team (2011), he guided the Deacs back to the ACC Tournament for the first time since 2008 after finishing the conference schedule with a 15-15 record.

He made international headlines last year when he donated a kidney to one of his players, Kevin Jordan.

This year's Giant Steps Award Winners will be honored on Thursday, Oct. 4 at the NCAS Banquet in Orlando, Fla.



Coach Tom Walter

Aggies fall after five-straight wins

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The bad news is the North Carolina A&T softball team lost 13-0 on Saturday.

The good news is the Aggies are still near the top of the MEAC Southern Division standings after splitting Saturday's doubleheader at Lady Rattler Complex in Tallahassee to Florida A&M. Sabrina Edmonds hit her fourth home run of the season, and Juanita Jernigan went 3-for-4 with a run scored and an RBI to lead A&T to a 9-5 win in the first game.

Edmonds and Jernigan lead the team in home runs. The Aggies improved to 12-19 overall and 5-1 in the MEAC. They have won five out of their last six games. A two-out rally in the sixth inning helped the Aggies pull away in the first game.

Trailing 4-3, Zabresha Blakeney led off the inning with a single. Tiffany Macklin and Erica Turner popped out to bring



Edmonds

Florida A&M reliever Taylor Thomas closer to getting out of the inning. Dominique Smith ended those plans with a single. Detavia Kenan followed with an RBI double to tie game.

Addie Dozier replaced Thomas, but didn't get help from her defense as Tranea Jones reached on a fielding error by shortstop Alyssa Weaver. The miscue allowed Smith and Kenan to score for a 6-4 A&T lead.

A&T padded its lead in the seventh with three more runs. Blakeney and Tiffany Macklin both drove in runs in the inning. The Aggies scored their third run on another Rattlers error. With two outs, Florida A&M first baseman Genesis Lopez bobbled a groundball hit by Smith. The error allowed Macklin, who reached on a triple, to score for a 9-4 A&T lead.

The Rattlers (16-24, 2-4) were able to score a run off of A&T starter Ashira Dobison in the seventh. Tera Gainer singled through the left side to score Jasmin Donaldson, who reached on a leadoff double. The Rattlers kept the threat going with a double to right center by Dozier. With two runners in scoring position, Dobison (11-11) picked up her fourth straight win by striking out Venica Brown and Kieifi Myrick to end the game.

Tide teams headed to nationals

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

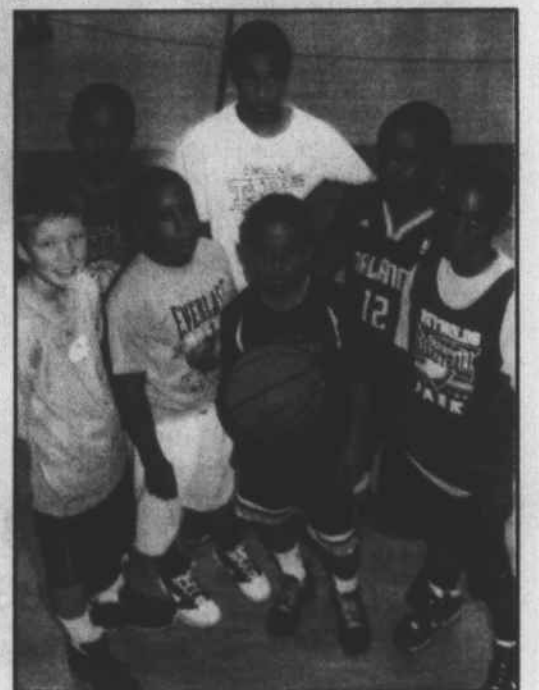
Basketball is the obvious platform for the Carolina Tide, but there's more to this AAU organization than rebounding, running fast breaks and shooting free throws.

To participate, prospective players must maintain a 2.5 grade-point average and they are required to take part in a community service project.

"The whole objective is to help kids get to college so they can make a better future for themselves," said Tonya Woods, Carolina Tide president. "Our organization provides an avenue to help keep kids in a positive environment. We're family-based and family-operated."

Four years ago, the Carolina Tide started off with one team. That total has increased to six teams (fourth grade through eighth grade). So far, four of the Tide's teams have qualified to play in the AAU national championships for their respective grade levels this summer.

The Tide has two 7th grade teams that will travel to Memphis, Tenn. for their national tournament. The 5th grade Tide will play in Cocoa Beach, Fla., and the 4th grade team will go to Orlando, Fla.



Submitted Photo

Fifth grade team members (front row, from left) Reese Cope, Stephon Minor, Ben Williams, Devin Ingram (back row) Mysta Goodloe, Chaz Gwyn and Justin Davis.

Fielding multiple AAU teams that play in national tournaments can be an expensive undertaking. According to Woods, the average cost to send one player to the nationals is around \$1,200 (covers travel, lodging and meals). Due to the cost, the Tide conducts a series of fund-raisers. These events run the gamut from hosting Zumba dance-a-thons and basketball tournaments to selling raffle tickets and fish dinners.

During the course of the year, each team conducts its own fundraisers. But the organization's primary fundraising event is the annual Carolina Tide Golf Tournament, scheduled for May 19 at the Winston Lake Golf Course. A year ago, the golf tournament secured 25 sponsors.

"Fundraising is year-round," Woods said. "Once all of our overhead expenses are paid, we take what's left and we distribute that money among the teams. This helps those players whose families aren't able to pay for all their expenses to go to a national tournament. That's part of what makes our organization unique. All the money we raise (after expenses) goes back to the (Carolina Tide) families."

Just like the Tide's fundraising efforts, the organization's community service projects are conducted year-round.

In recent years, Tide players helped in the construction of a new playground at the Winston Lake YMCA as part of their public service commitment. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, players have collected food items and made donations to the Second Harvest Food Bank. On other occasions, players have donated clothing and household items to Goodwill and have participated in the annual back-to-school drive in which bookbags and school supplies are distributed to children in need.

"Having the players take part in these projects helps them to better understand how important it is to give back to the community," Woods said. "We do family things away from the basketball court, such as going bowling and having sleepovers. And we talk a lot about school, mannerisms and making correct life choices. The Carolina Tide is not just about basketball. It's about helping our players build character."

For more information about the Carolina Tide, contact Woods at 971-1152 or carolinatide@yahoo.com.

Craig T. Greenlee is the author of "November Ever After." Visit <http://NovemberEverAfter.com> for details.



Tiffany Macklin at bat.

A&T Photo