

SPORTS WEEK

AUGUST 30, 2012

AG Hall to lead Lady Rams

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Antrelius Gartrell "AG" Hall has been tapped to lead the Winston-Salem State University Lady Rams basketball program.

He joins the Rams family after spending two years as associate head coach at Bethune-Cookman. He also served for two seasons as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Clemson University and at Providence (R.I.) College, where he spent six seasons as an assistant coach with the school's women's basketball program. Hall served as an assistant women's basketball coach at North Carolina Central University for two seasons, 2000-2002.

"I would like to thank Chancellor Donald Reaves and Athletic Director Bill Hayes for having faith in me to lead Winston Salem State University Women's Basketball," said Hall. "There is a winning culture within the athletic department and we will work diligently in our day to day preparation with the goal of earning championships."



Hall

While at Providence, Hall coached Mi-Khida Hankins to the Big East All-Freshman Team honors as the rookie averaged 10.4 points per game with a 4.0 rebounds per game figure. He helped Providence to nearly triple its win total from his first three seasons in the final three years of his tenure.

"I was very impressed with his coaching background and experience," says WSSU Director of Athletics William "Bill" Hayes. "He is a great fit for our women's program. Two team members on the committee endorsed him and felt good about his leadership skills, and I am excited and looking forward to helping him build a winner."

A native of Jacksonville, Fla. and the brother of the late, great J.D. Hall (a legendary quarterback at Bethune-Cookman in the late 80s and early 90s), Hall was a four-year letterwinner (1994-98) at North Carolina Central University, where he helped guide his squad to two divisional titles and two at-large bids to the NCAA. He and his wife, Donna, have three sons, Jalen, Kamran and Benjamin.

Anderson and his JCSU teammates look to defy skeptics

BY CRAIG T. GREENLEE
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dedrick Anderson and his Johnson C. Smith teammates didn't get any love from the CIAA football coaches' preseason poll. The Golden Bulls were picked to finish next-to-last in the conference's six-team Southern Division.

Anderson, a senior tailback from Winston-Salem, admits being baffled as to why league coaches have such low expectations for his team. J.C. Smith closed out last season with a heart-thumping victory over SIAC champ Miles College (Ala.) in the Pioneer Bowl and they appear to be in good shape with 12 returning starters from that team.

"That's a lack of respect," said Anderson, who played at West Forsyth. "Teams might look past us, but that's OK. When we hit them in the mouth, then they'll know better and they'll definitely take us more seriously. Commitment, leadership and focus - those are the keys for us."

At 5-foot-4, 150 pounds, Anderson has big-play skills as a double threat. A year ago, he ran for 558 yards and five touchdowns (6.2 yards per carry) and he caught 26 passes for 190 yards and two scores.

Despite his lack of bulk, Anderson has shown surprising durability, having missed only two games during his college career. Speed is his chief asset (he runs 4.4 seconds in the 40-yard dash) and he's mastered the art of dodging the big hits.

"I know how to hide behind the offensive line, I run hard and stay low," he explained. "I've always been the smallest guy on the field, so I know how to run in such a way where tacklers can't get a clean shot at me."

J.C. Smith football has not served as a model of winning consistency. Last year's bowl victory gave the Golden Bulls their first winning season (6-5) since 2006, when Anderson

was a 10th grader. Considering the school's football history, there's no evidence to support any hopes for a break-out season. The last time the Golden Bulls posted back-to-back winning seasons (1973), the price of gas was 40 cents a gallon.

Anderson, a three-year starter, is convinced that the Bulls are ready and able to establish winning consistency in his final season, which begins on Saturday at West Virginia State.

"When I came in as a freshman, things were tough," he recalled. "We were in a system where everybody was used to losing and they accepted it. But the new people that came in with me that year kept fighting against that. We wanted to win so badly. Then last year, things started coming together."

J.C. Smith finally pushed past the break-even point to assure itself of a winning season by winning its season finale, which just happened to be the Pioneer Bowl. Anderson did his part by scoring the game-clinching touchdown with less than 90 seconds left to play in the game.

Leading 28-27 in the fourth quarter, the Golden Bulls put together a time-consuming drive that stalled when they got inside Miles' 30-yard line. Faced with a third-and-10, J.C. Smith desperately needed a first down. Anderson took the handoff and sprinted up the middle for a 24-yard touchdown. Miles scored in the waning seconds, but missed the conversion and the Golden Bulls won 35-33. Anderson rushed for 104 yards on 15 carries.

"What I remember most is how badly we needed that first down," said Anderson, who served as a ball boy for Winston-Salem State's football team as a 12-year old. "The offensive line did a great job to make it happen. They opened a hole, I saw the end zone and I just went for it. When we got the bid to play in the Pioneer Bowl, we all felt that it was not our destiny to get that far and lose. It was a great win, not only for us, but for our fans."



Johnson C. Smith Athletics Photos

Dedrick Anderson

Fresh, new WSSU gear now available

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University Athletics and Texas-based Advanced-Online have partnered to offer a new, exciting line of WSSU apparel online and in the school's gift store.

WWW.GoRamsGear.com is now the official online store for the school's Department of Athletics, a new home for parents, students and alumni to purchase all their branded merchandise.



The store features hundreds of products and will continue to add new merchandise. Shoppers can expect monthly promotions like 10 percent off personalized football jerseys, tailgating gear, championship merchandise, office/school supplies and one-of-a-kind WSSU athletic event items.

The web site is operated by Advanced-Online, a unique provider of more than 100 online stores for the collegiate and corporate markets. The company's clients include Lockheed Martin, Bell Helicopter, Ambit Energy, Marshall University, Dartmouth University, Denver University, Arkansas State, the Big South Conference and the Southland Conference.

Rec League crowns champions

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE



Submitted Photo

League MVPs Marcus Caldwell and Isiah Huffin (third and fourth from right on the back row) pose with their teammates and Rec Center officials.

The Hanes Hosiery 11-14 Summer League Basketball championship game pitted the Heat against the Thunder.

Though the Thunder put on a respectable effort despite missing several players due to the approaching season's high school football practices, it was not enough. They fell to the Heat 46-29.

Thunder Star Jamon Brown had to carry his team on his shoulders. He had help from the Crippen brothers, both of whom contributed eight points apiece.

Heat standouts Isiah Huffin and Marcus Caldwell put on a show with a combined 38 points. Joshua Landingham and Amari Hatcher both made big three-pointers to give the Heat momentum late in the game. Gianni Smith led the defense. Caldwell and Huffin were named summer league MVPs by Hanes Hosiery Director Art Blevins.

Former UNC star gives back to alma mater

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Former University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill football star Julius Peppers has donated \$250,000 to the Light on the Hill Society Scholarship fund that supports African-American students. He donated \$100,000 to the same scholarship three years ago.

The scholarship program is a tribute to Carolina's earliest African-American graduates and a vehicle for alumni and friends to support African-American first-year students who exhibit academic excellence and the potential to contribute while at Carolina and after graduation.

In a statement issued by Peppers, he thanked University academic and athletic staff for their help and guidance while he charted a course for his life and expressed gratitude for the role the campus played in his growth and development. He also said he was "thinking of ways that I can use my experiences and resources" to help support students early in their college career.

"After considering the ways that I might be able to help young college students, I decided to continue my support of the Light on the Hill scholarship," Peppers said. "I would like to endorse this particular fund and encourage other former UNC students who have found success to reach back and assist the efforts of current and future Tar Heels."

At UNC, Peppers starred as a defensive end and won the Lombardi Award, given to the country's top college lineman. He was a unanimous All-American in 2001. He also lettered in basketball at Carolina and helped the Tar Heels reach the 2000 Final Four. Peppers was picked No. 2 overall in the 2002 NFL draft by the Carolina Panthers, where he played eight seasons. He is entering his third season with the Chicago Bears. He has been selected for seven Pro Bowls.

"This gift is indicative of the kind of man Julius Peppers has become," said Richard "Stick" Williams, chair of the Light on the Hill Society board. "I am very proud that he credits his experiences at Chapel Hill for helping to shape him. He has really thought deeply about his life, opportunities taken, opportunities lost, his legacy. With this generous gift he wants to help young people make good decisions during their college years."



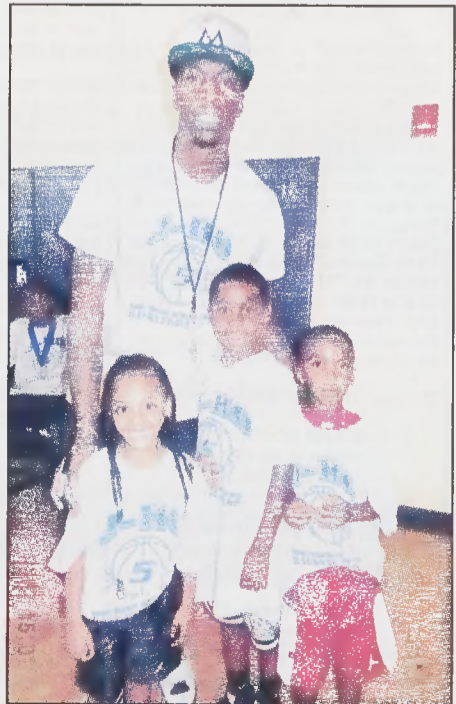
UNC Photo

Julius Peppers (left) presents the check to Richard "Stick" Williams and Robyn Hadley, chair of the LOTH scholarship selection committee.

A Stand-up Guy

Submitted Photo

Josh Howard hosted a free basketball camp for 114 kids earlier this month at the Hanes Hosiery Recreation Center. The camp is among several events that the NBA star Howard hosts each year to give back to his hometown. Here, he poses with three of the youngsters who took part in the three-day camp.



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