

75TH SHRINE BOWL

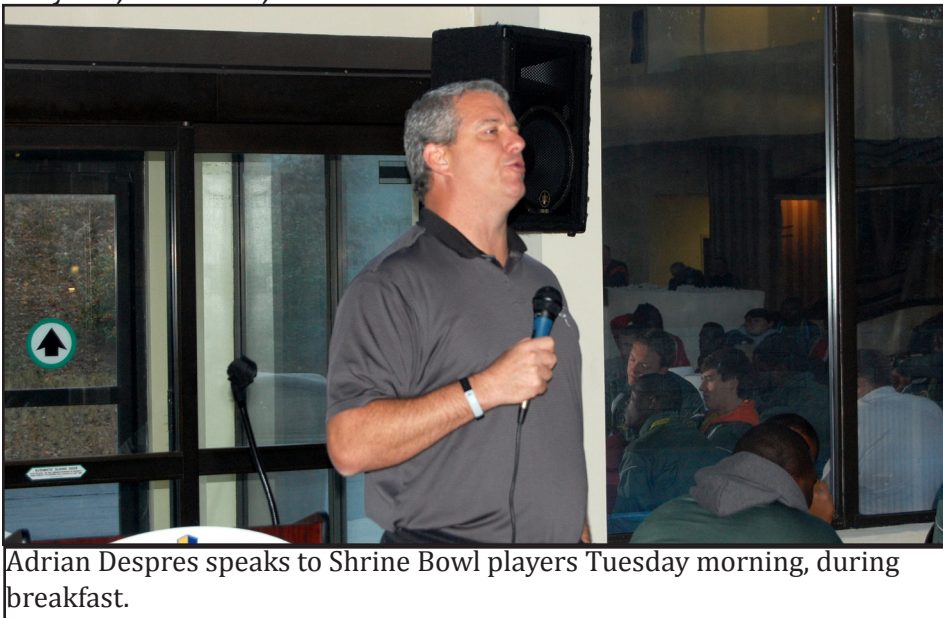
of the Carolinas

Vol. 6 Issue 4

"Strong Legs Run So Weak Legs May Walk" Wednesday, December 14, 2011

NEW IDENTITY: GAMECHANGER

Players, coaches, and Shriners attend 2011 FCA breakfast



Adrian Despres speaks to Shrine Bowl players Tuesday morning, during breakfast.

Brianna Nowak

N.C. Student Correspondent

"We want y'all to be a role model, not a parole model," preached FCA Multi-Area Director (Columbia) David Gray.

According to www.fca.org, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes encourages athletes "to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through coaches and other athletes' influences."

On Tuesday morning, a breakfast was held by the FCA. Meeting leader David Gray has been working with the FCA and the Shrine Bowl for over twenty years. "We preach a positive Gos-

pel and give the chance for players to hear it in a sports context," stated Gray.

The FCA's edition of the GameChanger, which players received last Saturday, is just one tool the organization uses to relate to the players.

Former defensive lineman for Furman University, Justin Brown, retold his story to the hungry breakfast crowd. "Write the vision and make a plan," emphasized Brown. He served as an inspiration being a 5' 10" NCAA football athlete. He was the freshman of the year in 2006 and 2007 as well as a one time All-Ameri-

can. His testimony proved him to be the true "role model" Gray was speaking of.

The now Presbyterian Coach, Brown, introduced the most memorable speaker of all - Adrian Despres.

Similar to Brown, Despres was DL at Furman, during his college years. Now as the University of South Carolina's Chaplain, Despres has led a infinite amount of players to define their relationship with Christ.

Despres used an interesting metaphor comparing fear of making your relationship with the Lord public to boasting about one's wife. "I am sick of men being 'sissys' when talking about Jesus Christ," yelled Despres. This was only the beginning.

Thank goodness for the digestion time allowance because players were soon awoken by Despres' style of public speaking. Despres called players out on sex, lying, and stealing. All of which he admitted to participating in.

While he did not go into full detail of his personal encounters with the three topics, he was able to relate to the players in a simple manner. **(Cntd. page 2)**

FOLLOW THE LEADERS

North Carolina team escorts show support for Shriner's organization

Brianna Nowak

N.C. Student Correspondent

The term "escorts" is just the beginning of Grier Stanford's, Chris Norman's, and Del Dawkins' story. All three men have been working for the Shrine Bowl for a while now. Dawkins is the longest, with ten years of service.

Lake Wylie, South Carolina native, Del Dawkins, keeps returning to Spartanburg because, "I enjoy the atmosphere and the people," stated Dawkins. "The reason for the game brings me back every year."

Even though Dawkins may not have a ring on his left finger, Stanford and Norman are his family. "These are my brothers," explained Dawkins.

Regarding his green and yellow Tarheels, "They are fast and can hold their own this year," said Dawkins.

Along with Dawkins, Grier Stanford has been an avid member of the Shrine Bowl game for about five years. "I enjoy helping the Shriners," commented Stanford. Before escorting, Stanford



North Carolina team escorts (L to R) Chris Norman, Del Dawkins, and Grier Stanford show their love for each other before AM practice.

assisted in stadium decoration and the logistics group.

Stanford has travelled to game weeks held in Rock Hill, Spartanburg, and his hometown Charlotte, North Carolina. Although Stanford has seen his fair share of players, "They are the same even though they are different, but bigger all the time," stated Stanford.

The caboose of the group, Chris Norman, has also been working with the Shrine Bowl for about five years. "I love the people and making a contribution to the hospital," responded Norman.

In 2004, Norman, a Shelby, NC resident, was the assistant coach and linebacker coach for the North Carolina team. His extreme dedication led him to return after the sandlappers walked away with the "W" in the '04 matchup.

Dawkins, Stanford, and Norman not only pay tribute to the hospital every year, but also to the players and coaches. Their impressive organization and time management keeps game week stress free. All three men plan to return for the 2012 game next December.

Relationship with Christ

(Cntd. pg 1)

His ministry is not only powerful, but also exciting and energetic. "Shut your face," was the ending comment after several tales of Despres. However, he did ask who has found Christ and who is willing to rededicate themselves to our lord and savior. Players, coaches, and Shriners stood up when their association with their Jesus Christ

was called.

The FCA's mission deals with presenting the importance of a relationship with the Lord, which is exactly what Gray, Brown, and Despres executed. "One day these athletes will be parents and leaders," stated Gray. With this FCA experience, players are on the direct path to becoming the "role model" that everyone knows they can be.



Get to Know Your Fellow Teammates...



Virgil Smalls (Goose Creek) S.C. running back

Gettys Brannon

S.C. Student Correspondent

Virgil Smalls

6'0" 260 lbs

RB Goose Creek (S.C.)

Did you know people say the Notorious B.I.G. is alive on an exotic island called Zanzibar? Do you see any water surrounding Spartanburg?

Did Biggie play football?

Play Running back? Wear the number 46?

Selected to the Shrine Bowl?

No, despite rumors, that's just Virgil Smalls. 260 lbs of laughter and quite the goof on the bus and out of the pads, Smalls is a bowling ball on the gridiron. The South

Carolina commit led the state of South Carolina with 40 rushing touchdowns and ironed defenses all season accumulating 1,500 yards.

Smalls capped off his high school career with a win at Clemson's Death Valley, crowning the Goose Creek Gators Division II-4A State Champions. "It's been great going to the hospital and learning what the Shrine Bowl is all about," Smalls stated.



Javarius Leamon (Woodruff) S.C. offensive lineman

Gettys Brannon

S.C. Student Correspondent

Javarius Leamon
6'7" 295 lbs
OL Woodruff (S.C.)

For Javarius Leamon criticism is welcome. "It just makes me want to work harder and prove the critics wrong," Leamon said following the opening practice rivals head recruiting coordinator Mike Farrell ripped at the South Carolina O-line.

But this, friends, has made Leamon and the "nasty, physical lineman" set out to make a point.

Leamon, a Clemson commit, has enjoyed "going to all of the different places" while at the Shrine Bowl. Leamon also led Woodruff to the state championship game earlier this month.



T.J. Burrell (Goose Creek) S.C. outside linebackers

Gettys Brannon

S.C. Student Correspondent

TJ Burrell
6'1" 205 lb
OLB Goose Creek (S.C.)

"Winning state most definitely was my most memorable moment in my high school career," Burrell, beside Virgil Smalls (Goose Creek), emphasizes how much the ring means.

Burrell ended the year with 115 tackles, 2 interceptions, 17 tackles for a loss, 4

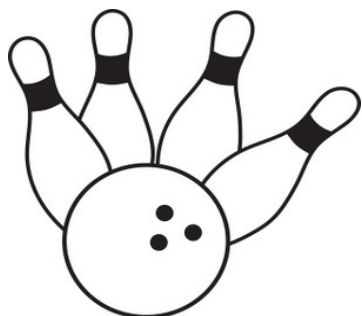
sacks, 3 forced fumbles, and one defensive touchdown.

Burrell will attend Clemson in the fall and play under defensive coordinator Kevin Steele, assuming no offseason changes.



Above Right: Jamel Harbison, North Carolina RB, bowls on Tuesday night.

Below Left: South Carolina's Marvin Lauderdale gets ready for the intense game of bowling with his teammates.



Weather: Wednesday, 12.14.11

6 AM: 42 F

9 AM: 48 F

12 PM: 58 F

3 PM: 64 F

6 PM: 58 F

9 PM: 52 F



PARTLY CLOUDY

High: 66 F
Precip: 20%

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

- 7:00 AM: Breakfast at the Clarion
- 7:00 AM: Training room open for AM practice
- 8:30 AM: Teams leave for Spartanburg HS
- 9:30 AM: Morning practice (2 hrs)
- 12:00 PM: Lunch at Spartanburg Shrine Club
Compliments of Mcdonalds
- 1:30 PM: Training room open for PM practice
- 2:30 PM: Afternoon practice (2 hrs)
- 4:30 PM: Teams leave fields, return to hotel
- 6:00 PM: Board buses for Dinner at
First Baptist Church/Hangar
250 E. Main Street
- 6:30 PM: Dinner, Games, & Movie at
the Hangar
- 9:00 PM: Board buses for the hotel
- 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM: Country Store Open
- 11:00 PM: Lights Out