

# 75TH SHRINE BOWL

of the Carolinas

Vol. 6 Issue 2

*"Strong Legs Run So Weak Legs May Walk"*

Monday, December 12, 2011

## A Visit of a Lifetime

Carolina players pay tribute to children of the Shriners hospital



Players from both squads made a difference with only signature.

### Gettys Brannon

*S.C. Student Correspondent*

A few months prior to arriving in Spartanburg, the players in the nation's oldest high school all-star game were selected.

To play in a football game many may have thought but, today the teams saw that there is more than just a game. There is the purpose of the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas. That purpose is to raise money for the Shriners Hospital in Greenville, S.C. to create a hospital facility with "the best (doctors) around without financial hardships," describes Vice-

Chairman of the Board George Thompson.

A tour guide of one of the groups of South Carolina was John Beresh, a third year hospital volunteer and a Shriner for over 40 years. Beresh recalled a story of a young girl around Christmas time going into surgery, "I gave the little girl a teddy bear and she asked 'What's your name?' I said 'John,' she says, 'Well that's what I'm gonna name my teddy bear.'" "That's our pay around here, it will really choke you up," Beresh said.

The players took a tour taking them through most every

part of the hospital seeing technology at its best. This included a motion analysis lab that uses the same infrared cameras used on ESPN's "Sports Science," to measure the balance of weight in the child to help them walk better. Players also were able to see how the braces were casted with their individual design unique to each patient. The prosthetics constructed at the hospital have a lightning quick three to one advantage to the human runner's legs. Meaning a prosthetic Usain Bolt would jet 100 meters in approximately 3.2 seconds. Even with technology being paramount there was still a greater mission to be seen.

"There's a Clemson guy right there," Clemson commit, S.C. offensive lineman Patrick DeStefano said with an excitement in his voice. The 6'6" 280 lb lineman (who insists he's gained five pounds since yesterday) crouched down beside a man with a gentleness in his voice and was going to explain to him where he played and where he'll be attending school, but before DeStefano could get a **Cntd. Page 2**

## THE “GREAT GRANDPA OF ATHLETIC TRAINING” WITH A YOUNG HEART

South Carolina AT comes up on thirty-second year with the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas

**Brianna Nowak**

*N.C. Student Correspondent*

The seventy-fifth anniversary for the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas also marks South Carolina athletic trainer Elton Hawley’s thirty-second year with the game. All thanks to athletic director Dave Harris who asked Hawley to participate in the Charlotte, North Carolina game, a while back. “It was a high school game with high school players and high school coaches. The only thing missing was an athletic trainer,” stated Hawley. “This athletic event was truly a high school all-star game.”

At the time of his first invitation, Elton Hawley was the only certified athletic trainer (ATC) in the queen city. However, by 1980, Dave Harris recommended South Mecklenburg’s Scott Douglas to accompany Hawley during game week. Along with Douglas and Hawley, a student trainer was added to the staff. “Over the years, we made a few subtle changes. We now have two adults and two student trainers for each state,” explained Hawley.

Elton Hawley’s love for the game clearly rubbed off on a few people present on the 2011



(L to R) Former student trainer Dan Atkinson with legend Elton Hawley.

staff. Former student trainers, Mike Guerrero and Dr. Pleasant are now lead ATs for game week. “We all are family. We do not like the see players hurt and we give them a chance to succeed,” commented Hawley.

The question still remains, however, what makes the Appalachian State graduate keep returning? “I enjoy the game and the Shriner’s cause. The game has enabled me to learn more about athletic training,” said Hawley. “Without this game I would not have met all of the people I know now.”

## Living inspirations

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word off the man says, “I know who you are, you’re Patrick DeStefano that plays at Dorman and you’ll be a Tiger next year.”

“It was humbling, the entire experience was humbling,” DeStefano described his experience while at the hospital.

The patients were walking up to every player they saw in awe only to ask for an autograph.

“It really put my priorities in order because you realize that you are blessed to be able to play football and none of these kids could ever play.” S.C. wide out Quinshad Davis (Gaffney High) said.

“The kids see the more fortunate but do not feel bad for themselves,” Vice-Chairman Thompson said.

Some Shriners described the kids as inspirational, a smile is never absent from their face.



# Get to Know Your Fellow Teammates...



North Carolina (Ardrey Kell) defensive end Romeo Okwara

**Gettys Brannon**  
S.C. Student Correspondent

Romeo Okwara  
DE 6'5" 235 lb  
Ardrey Kell (Charlotte, N.C.)

Okwara, that's a prototypical defensive lineman last name wouldn't you say?

There's the New York Giants Osi Umenyiora, Chicago defensive tackle Amobi Okoye, and teammate Israel Idonije among others. All three of the NFL linemen all rank in the top

70 in sacks.

Okwara committed to play his college ball in South Bend, Indiana for Brian Kelly and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

"It's been good so far and to see the kids and playing after the season with the best of the best is nice," Okwara said.

Will Okwara make run through the South Carolina line?



South Carolina (Columbia High) wide receiver Casey Gladney

**Gettys Brannon**  
S.C. Student Correspondent

Casey Gladney  
WR 6'1" 182 lb  
Columbia High (Columbia, S.C.)

The speedster out of the capitol of the Palmetto State, Casey Gladney, broke a few records over his high school career including the school marks for most touchdowns and touchdowns in a season.

Gladney said, "The experience of being here with the

top players in South Carolina is really great."

Gladney will take his talents to the "Heart of Dixie" and play for Nick Saban at the University of Alabama.



South Carolina (Gaffney High) wide receiver Quinshad Davis

**Gettys Brannon**  
S.C. Student Correspondent

Quinshad Davis  
WR 6'4" 195 lb  
Gaffney High (Gaffney, S.C.)

Though many here have made commitments to some of the football powerhouses in the south east, Quinshad Davis will wait.

The 6'4" lanky receiver finished the year leading South Carolina by a far margin in receiving yards (2,009) and

receiving touchdowns (25).

Davis is offered by N.C. State, Illinois, South Carolina, Clemson, Tennessee, and is garnering attention from Alabama and Georgia. Davis will seal his lips until early 2012, after official visits.

# “Hey, Meet Virginia”

Former Shriner’s patient gives back through Shrine Bowl experience

**Brianna Nowak**

*N.C. Student Correspondent*

The year of 1999 included Virginia Baker’s sixth birthday and her first admittance to Shriner’s Hospital for Children in Greenville, South Carolina. She went through several clinical appointments prior to three different surgeries. “The people were overly friendly,” said Baker. “They would frequently go out of their way to make my hospital stay enjoyable.”

The now Chapin, South Carolina resident had her first surgery at the age of eleven. She had two plates placed on the inside of her knees to correct her “knock knees” disorder. Four years later, Baker’s right femur was cut and realigned with a six inch metal plate. In 2010, Virginia Baker completed her medical remedies when the plate was completely removed.

During her final hospital visits, Baker decided to apply for the student trainer position for the South Carolina team. “My experience definitely made me more interested in sports medicine. I had a personal encounter with orthopedics, which is involved with the practice of athletic training.”



Sandlapper student trainer, Virginia Baker, revisits her old home.

When Baker was awarded with the position, she told the committee about her personal connection with the Shriner’s hospital. “I am really glad that I can give back to them through this opportunity,” stated Baker. The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas was created so “Strong legs may run, so that weak legs may walk.” The Shrine Bowl games from 1999-2010 allowed strong legs to run so Virginia Baker’s legs could walk. Now she is doing the same thing for future patients in her same condition.

Weather: Monday, 12.12.11

6 AM: 37 F

9 AM: 40 F

12 PM: 45 F

3 PM: 48 F

6 PM: 46 F

9 PM: 42 F



**CLOUDY**

High: 49 F  
Precip: 30%  
(12 PM-6PM)

**Monday, December 12, 2011**

- 7:00 AM: Breakfast at the hotel  
Training room opens
- 7:55 AM: Team Meetings at hotel
- 8:15 AM: Board buses for Spartanburg HS
- 9:30 AM: Morning practice (2 hrs)
- 11:30 AM: Teams leave practice field, Spartanburg HS
- 12:00 PM: Lunch at Spartanburg Shrine Club  
Compliments of Arcadia Masonic Lodge No. 289
- 1:00 PM: Training room opens for PM practice
- 2:30 PM: Afternoon practice (2 hrs)
- 4:30 PM: Teams leave practice field, Spartanburg HS
- 6:00 PM: Board buses for Dinner at Woodruff Shrine Club  
Aiken Road, Woodruff, SC
- 7:30 PM: Return to hotel
- TEAM MEETINGS OPTIONAL
- 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM: Country Store Open
- 11:00 PM: Lights Out