

THE GOAL POST



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The Electronic Newsletter of
Game Committee of the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas

www.shrine-bowl.com

SHRINE BOWL PLAYERS SELECTED FOR PARADE ALL-AMERICAN

They're tough, they're fast and they're the best! For 48 years running *Parade Magazine* has picked the top high school football players in America. This year working with *Sporting News*, they chose 53 seniors from 22 states, whose on the field performances represented the best of the high school football. Of those 55 players, six were from our 2010 Shrine Bowl squads.



JaDeveon Clowney DL
South Point High School
Committed to South Carolina



Lateek Townsend, OLB
Marlboro County High School
Committed to Clemson



Brandon Shell, OL
Goose Creek High School
Committed to South Carolina



Justin Worley, QB
Northwestern High School
Committed to Tennessee



Marquise Williams, QB
Mallard Creek High School
Committed to UNC



Stephone Anthony, LB
Anson County High School
Committed to Clemson



CLOWNEY SIGNS WITH SOUTH CAROLINA

Rock Hill's South Point High School star, nation's top prep football prospect, JaDevon Clowney announced on his birthday, February 14, live on ESPN that he decided to attend University of South Carolina. Clowney, who was also the Shrine Bowl's South Carolina Defensive Player of the game, kept the entire nation waiting for his decision. He had been on the cover of *ESPN the magazine*, was featured in the *New York Times*, and had countless stories written about him. A film crew followed him daily for a documentary. Blogs and websites logged his decision-making process. Clowney was also named "Mr. South Carolina Football" the weekend before the Shrine Bowl game.



Clowney, a defensive end prospect from Rock Hill (S.C.) South Pointe, chose the home-state Gamecocks in part because of how close the school is to his hometown.

"I've got a lot of friends there. It's close to home and my mom can come see me play all the time," Clowney said. "I've got some friends playing there like (former South Pointe teammate Gerald Dixon), and I want to play with them boys."

South Carolina was considered the longtime frontrunner for Clowney's signature. His mother, Josenna, played a key role in the decision.

"My mom would say she didn't care, but she didn't want me to go far," Clowney added. "So that's really why I didn't go to Alabama."

Recruiting services had projected Clowney as an ideal fit for the "Jack" linebacker role in Alabama's defensive scheme, a hybrid defensive end/linebacker role that is primarily a pass rusher. Clowney was credited with 29.5 sacks as a senior and was considered the nation's top pass rusher among prep recruits. Alabama's current starter at the Jack position as well as its top backup, Courtney Upshaw and Alex Watkins, respectively, both have just one season of eligibility remaining.

A New York Times report suggested Clowney's academic record may prevent him from qualifying for freshman eligibility. If he must attend a two-year college or a prep school in order to meet NCAA eligibility requirements, he could be re-recruited by four-year schools again. Clowney has said he expects to qualify.

Clowney was the last of potential signees known to still be considering the Crimson Tide, which finished ranked No.1 in the Rivals.com recruiting rankings with a 24-man signing class.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SPARTANBURG SUPPORTS SHRINE BOWL

By Rev. SETH BUCKLEY, Minister of Students, First Baptist Church Spartanburg, SC

It is a privilege and an honor for First Baptist Spartanburg to partner with the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas in the fundraising effort for the Shriner's Hospital! My father-in-law was a Shriner and so I have been aware of the ministry that this organization has led for many years. When the Shrine Bowl moved to Spartanburg, I saw it as an opportunity to honor my father-in-law and to minister to some special young men at the same time. When I presented the idea of the church to come along side the Shrine Bowl to adopt the players and provide some meals, our church jumped at the opportunity because we saw this as an opportunity to have a long lasting impact on the lives of 88 of the most outstanding young men in North and South Carolina as well as their coaches. Some of our church members, Dick Conn and Ron Hewitt, immediately came forward and said, "Seth, how can we help?" Ron's son, Andrew, was a former Shrine Bowl QB who played football at Dorman and so Ron was fully aware of what happened during Shrine Bowl week. I immediately stepped aside and allowed these guys to "run with it!" Ron is now our point man who leads this Adopt-a-Player ministry and he truly has a heart of a servant. During this week...our church collects almost \$7500 to cover three meals, and some gift bags for each player, trainer, and coach. We want the Shrine Bowlers to know that while they are away from home, there are folks right here who are



praying for them and are willing to help in anyway. I will have to say that one of the most precious things that we experience is to see these young men file in to our worship service. It gives everyone there a great sense of hope that the future of America is bright. We appreciate The Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas allowing First Baptist Spartanburg to be part of this ministry, and on behalf of our pastor, Dr. Don Wilton, we pray that this relationship will continue for years to come! God bless you guys!!

Editor's note: The Shrine Bowl is indebted to the outstanding support from the First Baptist Church. The church plans three functions that feed the team and coaching staff. Below are three articles that our student correspondents wrote and appeared in the Game Week News. They are being re-printed as an evidence of the involvement of the church and an example of the community support from the citizens of Spartanburg.

Players Meet Their Sponsors at Adopt-A-Player Dinner

By Katie Casteel

On the night of the player's arrival, the teams suited up in either green or red jumpsuits and headed to First Baptist Church in Spartanburg for the Adopt-A-Player Program. The players were seated in designated tables mixed in with individuals of the community who were sponsoring them for the week.

Minister Seth Buckley said a few words before dinner reminding the players that the upcoming game was not about them. Although the boys were the best of the best athletes of North and South Carolina, Minister Buckley expressed to them that Saturday's game was for the many children at the Shriner's Hospital who will be affected by the money raised for the game.

The coordinator for the Shrine Ministry, Ron Hewitt, then spoke about the sponsors who had taken the time to help out these boys for the week. The people who came out to support the players ranged from lawyers to teachers to even the Secretary of State for South Carolina. Everyone in attendance applauded the honored guests who have all accomplished much in their lives. For Saturday's Adopt-A-Player Program, Hewitt not only found the sponsors and speaker and organized the event, he also decorated. Hewitt and his wife, Runette, took the time to make the room look nice and festive for the program.

Hewitt is not a Shriner, unlike the many Shrine Bowl volunteers. He is, however, passionate about devoting time to helping his church and the Shrine Bowl teams. He truly enjoys working with the Shrine Bowl staff and coordinating with them to make the events at First Baptist of Spartanburg enjoyable for the teams.

Even though the Shrine Bowl events at First Baptist Church require a lot of planning and effort, Hewitt is happy to volunteer. "I really just enjoy seeing the players. Every year, there is always one that just kind of stands out to me," Hewitt said. This year's stand out player? "Zack Cole," Hewitt answered. Hewitt feels Cole is a perfect example of "anything is possible."

Following dinner, the teams were introduced to the speaker for the night Sam Wyche. Coach Wyche was a former NFL player, assistant coach, and head coach. He is also one of four individuals who have been all three of those positions during a Superbowl game. In his free time, Wyche volunteers at Pickens High School in Pickens, South Carolina. Coach Wyche wanted to inspire the players to not only be the best athletes they could be, but the best people they could be in everyday life.

Wyche told many stories about his football career and his biggest accomplish-



First Baptist volunteer, Ron Hewitt coordinated the events at FBC Spartanburg.





ments as a coach. One story was about Wyche's experience with his first NFL coach Paul Brown of the Cincinnati Bengals. Brown taught Wyche a lesson about being excited and enthusiastic in everything he does. Coach Wyche told the players there are three things they need to do in life and on the football field: be physical, keep your poise, and finish everything you start. Throughout the speech, the players and sponsors all paid close attention, mesmerized by the coach's words. Everyone in the room was inspired.



"They pay me a lot of money to do this," Wyche jokes. "Every chance I get to talk to young people, especially ones who will be a big influence to others like all of these guys, I want it to be positive not negative. I've been around both and tons of influences go so far, they go beyond their lifetime and even through to their kids. I want to be a part of that."

When asked about the Adopt-A-Player Program that was held on Saturday evening, Hewitt expressed some remorse for not telling more about Sam Wyche's history before Wyche spoke to the teams. Hewitt wished he shared that Wyche was a walk-on at Furman University, and a free agent in the NFL draft. "The point I wish I had made better was that all things are possible. Anything is possible. Look what he [Wyche] did," Hewitt says about the information he regretted not sharing.

After listening to Coach Wyche speak, the teams headed back to the hotel for their team meetings and wrap up the first day of what is promised to be an amazing week for everyone involved and have their first chance to grab snacks at the country store. The players wrapped up the first day of what is promised to be an amazing week for everyone involved.

Shrine Bowlers Welcomed by First Baptist

By Katie Casteel

Sunday morning Shrine Bowl players and staff headed over to First Baptist Church of Spartanburg bright and early to attend their church service. When the players and coaches arrived, they were supplied an immense breakfast, compliments of the church.

After breakfast, the teams moved into the sanctuary to begin with the service. They enjoyed a number of songs performed by the church choir and orchestra before Pastor Dr. Don Wilton began his sermon. As Pastor Wilton commenced, he announced to the members of the church of the Shrine Bowl team's participation at their ministry for the morning and named them special guests of the service.

Services of First Baptist of Spartanburg are broadcasted on Channel 7 CW every Sunday morning. It was an honor for the teams to be considered special guest to such a large number of people.

Pastor Wilton's service was phenomenal. He introduced the church to the Gouge's, a family who survived being stranded in the ocean off the coast of Charleston for 22 hours after their boat had filled with water. The story was inspirational and touching to everyone in attendance of the church, including the players. After the amazing sermon, the teams loaded back on the buses to start their day at the Shriners Hospital. The boys were elated to be a part of something bigger than themselves.

As Pastor Wilton closed his sermon, he reminded the teams to get close with the children of the Shriners Hospital as they traveled to Greenville later that



morning. "Don't make them look up at you," he told them. "Get on their level and let them touch you."

Teams Unwind at FBC's Hangar

By Katie Casteel

After a third day of tough and cold practices, the players were able to let loose and enjoy a meal and games at Shrine Bowl Night at the Hangar sponsored by First Baptist Church in Spartanburg.

Following supper at the church, the teams made their way to the game rooms of the Hangar. There they were able to compete with each other in a less serious manner than they do on the football field. The teams played various games like ping pong, foosball, pool, and other video games.

Members of the church were excited to interact and speak with the all-stars of the Carolinas, and the youngest members asked them for autographs. Stephen Grommer, an offensive tackle for South Carolina, even autographed someone's forehead.

The teams were then invited to join the Wednesday service at the Hangar led by Pastor Seth Buckley. Pastor Buckley began the service by singing *Lean on Me* by Bill Withers with Coach Lowery. Some of the players then had the opportunity to have a little fun and accompany the men on stage.

Joel Bell was introduced as the guest speaker for the night. Bell was an All-American from Furman University and is currently a football player for the Canadian Football League. He wanted to inspire the boys in a way they could understand by relating his testimony to football.

Spending time at the Hangar service was a way the players could relax from their tough schedule of practices. The boys will have another opportunity to unwind as they travel to USC Upstate for a basketball game on Thursday night.



Photographs in this issue were taken by the Shrine Bowl Photography Committee, John Burney and Stan Seigla; and by French Harvey. Photographs taken during game week and during the game by our photography committee are available at www.shrine-bowl.com/digibug.

SHRINE BOWL COACH HONORED AS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

(Reprinted from Charlotte Observer, February 20, 2011)

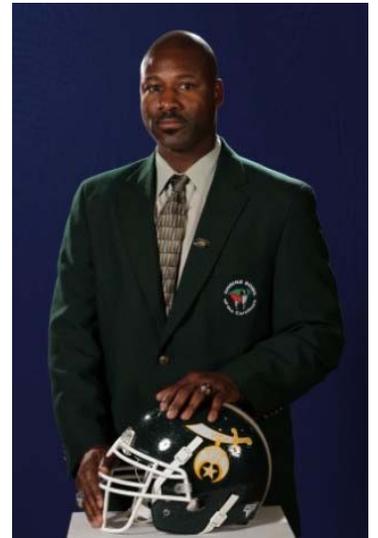
As the youngest of nine children, Johnny Sowell quickly learned how important it is to recognize - and seize - opportunities.

Now the Monroe native provides as many opportunities as he can to students in the community. The guidance and leadership he has provided to hundreds (if not thousands) of young people has earned him the 2010 Citizen of the Year Award from A Few Good Men, Inc. He will receive the award at a banquet March 19 at Wingate University.

Much - but not all - of Sowell's mentoring has been as a football, basketball and track coach at Monroe High School, where he graduated in 1981 after competing in all three sports. He earned a criminal justice degree at Appalachian State University, where he played football for four years, and then had the opportunity to work in Charlotte with an adult probation program.

"But that wasn't an area I wanted to go into," he says. "I wanted to work with juveniles."

He was offered a job overseeing the in-school suspension program at Walter Bickett Elementary School



and seized the opportunity. He later became attendance officer at Monroe High School, and now works there as an administrative assistant and coach.

"He was chosen to be assistant coach at the Shrine Bowl this year, and he coached the state champion basketball team last year," says Doreen Dotalo, principal of Monroe High School. "But more important than that, he does a great deal for the community in helping to raise its children."

Sowell says one of the greatest challenges he faces is helping students recognize their talents. "Sometimes it takes time to realize what your gifts are," he said.

He also tries to make sure students "have goals" and a plan for reaching those goals. "That's my focus, to see how many we can get into college," he said.

His son, Jalen, a quarterback from Monroe High School, just accepted a scholarship to play football at Fayetteville State University. The pride is evident in his voice when he shares the news.

"As the youngest of nine in my family, I know the responsibility of working hard," he said. "You have to work hard to get what you want. If you do that, good things will come to you."

He says school officials gave him opportunities, and that's what he's trying to give the students.

"The kids here love and respect him, as do the adults," Dotalo said. "There are so many individuals who come in who know Johnny Sowell either because they went to school with him, go to church with him or are involved in some community activity with him.

"I think the most interesting thing I've heard him say to a student is, 'I knew you before you were you,'" she continues.

He laughs when he learns she has shared this observation.

He said this means he knew their parents as fellow students, as former players on sports teams or in some other capacity. Sometimes the face of a student will look so familiar that he can almost guess the family connection.

He's honored by the recognition he's receiving from A Few Good Men and grateful for their work in the community.

"I just know that I love what I do," he said.

Jane Duckwall is a freelance writer. Send story ideas to her by e-mail to jduckwall@gmail.com.

Read more: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/02/20/2070586/sowell-to-be-honored-as-citizen.html#ixzz1EWBW1vgZ>

2011 SHRINE BOWL HALL OF FAME

Spartanburg radio personality and long-time Shrine Bowl game announcer, Joe Sessoms, joined four others including Chairman of the Board Billy Benfield and Shrine Bowl Chaplain Bob Jordan, as the newest members of the Shrine Bowl Hall of Fame. Illustrious Sir Ray Fields, Past President of the Shrine Bowl, Past Potentate of Amran Shrine and Chairman of the Shrine Bowl Hall of Fame committee inducted the three Shrine Bowl volunteers into the 2010 Class at the Shrine Bowl Volunteer Awards banquet. The third recipient will be inducted in May.

Joe Sessoms has been working with the Shrine Bowl for more than 15 years, serving as a radio play-by-play announcer. In addition he serves as the game committee public relations chairman and is a member-at-large on the board of governors representing Hejaz Shrine. When the game was moved to Spartanburg, SC in 2004 he has been instrumental in gaining local support for the game. Joe has earned the moniker "voice of the Shrine Bowl" because of his announcer duties and his contributions to Shrine Bowl radio and television advertising.



Joe Sessoms being presented his Hall of Fame crystal by Game Chairman Connie Altman, PP, and Hall of Fame Chairman Ray Fields, PP

Noble Bob Jorden is an active member of Jamil Shrine in Columbia. He has served as the Shrine Bowl Chaplain since 2001. He also serves as the Shrine Bowl liaison with the South Carolina Football Coaches Association.

Illustrious Sir Billy Benfield, PP, from Rock Hill, SC, has been the Chairman of the Board of the Shrine Bowl board of governors since 2007. He is the Past Potentate of Hejaz Shrine in the upstate of South Carolina and has been on the board of governors since 2003, serving as the President of the Shrine Bowl in 2006. Due to a work conflict Benfield could not attend but his wife Pat accepted the award for him.

The Hall of Fame was created by the Board of Governors in 2005 in recognition of outstanding service to the Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas with- out whose support this game would not have been played.



Illustrious Sir Fred Sharpe, Potentate Jamil Shrine receives the Hall of Fame crystal on behalf of Noble Bob Jorden by Hall of Fame Chairman Ray Fields, PP

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!
It could not have been done without you!



Pat Benfield receives the Hall of Fame crystal for her husband Billy Benfield

BENFIELD RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF SHRINE BOWL BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Illustrious Sir Billy Benfield

Illustrious Sir Billy Benfield, PP, was elected to a fifth term as Chairman of the Shrine Bowl at the Annual Shrine Bowl Board of Governors meeting and election of officers on Saturday, February 26 at Jamil Shrine Center in Columbia, SC. Benfield served as President of the Shrine Bowl in 2006 and is the Past Potentate of Hejaz Shrine Center, Mauldin, SC. Noble Ronnie Blount was elected as the Shrine Bowl President succeeding Illustrious Sir Allen Elliott, PP, of Hejaz Shrine. Noble Blount, from Hope Mills, NC, is a member of Sudan Shrine and became a Shrine Bowl officer in 2008. He also serves as a vice-game chairman on the game committee.

Joining the officers as the new fourth vice-president representing Hejaz Shrine is Noble Jamie Smith from Newberry, SC. Smith has been serving on the South Carolina player escort committee for several years. Other new members to the board of governors include; Jim Covington, Chief Rabban Amran Shrine; Charlie Miller, Recorder Omar Shrine; and Dennis Cra-



Outgoing President Allen Elliott, PP, presents President Ronnie Blount with his gavel.

ven, Member-At-Large Omar Shrine. Elected to Emeritus Members-At-Large were Noble Lindley Ivey, Amran Shrine, in recognition of eight years service on the board and Allen Elliott, PP, Hejaz Shrine, as Past President of the Shrine Bowl.

President Ronnie Blount also reappointed Connie Altman, Amran Shrine, as General Game Chairman. Connie has been serving as the game chairman since 2005.

An awards banquet, to honor and recognize service of Shrine Bowl volunteers was held the same evening. Award recipients and photographs will appear in next month's edition.



1st Vice-President Don Addyman, PP, presents Allen Elliott, PP, with is Past President's plaque.

INSPIRATIONAL "CREATE A SHRINER"

By French Harvey, Game Day Director

The most memorable image you will come away from the Shrine Bowl pre-game activities is our "Create-A-Shriner" presented by the Hejaz Wheelchair Unit. When I was the circus director for Oasis Shrine in the mid-90's I visited the Hejaz circus one year in Greenville and saw for the first time the Hejaz Wheelchair Unit bringing one of our patients into the center ring as Elvis Presley sings "You'll Never Walk Alone". Now that song, from Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway musical *Carousel*, will bring tears to your eyes anytime it is played but when it is tied to the scene that the Wheelchair Unit portrays it will tug at your heart strings. I will never forget the first time I saw it.

When I became the Shrine Bowl Game Day Director in 2004 and became responsible for creating and directing the pre-game and half-time activities I knew that we had to include the Hejaz Wheelchair Unit somewhere, somehow. The first year we had them in the beginning of the pre-game activities but I found that there were not many fans in the stands and the players were not on the field. The following year and since it immediately precedes the kick-off where everyone, including the players can see it.

For those who have never seen it, let me describe it. Picture four Shriners in white dinner jackets pushing a child in a wheelchair from the goal line towards the center of the field where the Imperial Potentate is standing. As they are slowly pushing the child, the stadium announcer is telling everyone about the Shriners and about our hospitals with Elvis singing softly in the background. Just as the wheelchair reaches mid field the announcer finishes his commentary. The Hejaz shriners in their white coats assist the child getting out of the wheelchair and as the voice of Elvis singing "You'll Never Walk Alone" fills the stadium the child walks to the Imperial Sir who picks the child up and both wave to the crowd. Now let me tell you, if your heart is not in your throat or tears are not in your eyes I don't know what to say. It is the most moving image of what we as Shriners stand for. Thank you, Hejaz Wheelchair Unit for taking the time to be with us the past seven years.



2011 COMBINES

Shrine Bowl Athletic Director, Ron Long, appointed assistant athletic director, Kelly Adams, as the game committee combine coordinator. He will coordinate the scheduling and operation of the combines in the two states conducted by Coach Jim Bob Bryant in North Carolina and Coach Reggie Kennedy in South Carolina. Ron also announced that Carolina Preps Sports Marketing, LLC will be helping the Shrine Bowl to market the combines. Carolina Preps Sports Marketing is a family of networks, through diverse communications mediums, collaborates with academic, corporate, and social stakeholders to offer flagship level endeavors. Carolina Preps Sports Marketing, LLC, integrates journalistic excellence and innovative programming in service to youth and schools of North Carolina.

The 2011 Combine Schedule:

North Carolina:

April 2nd—Eastern Alamance High School, Mebane, NC

April 9th—Rocky River High School, Mint Hill, NC

April 16th—Watauga High School, Boone, NC

April 30th—Riverside High School, Williamston, NC

Coordinator: Coach Jim Bob Bryant (252-717-8681)

South Carolina:

April 23rd—Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg, SC

May 28th—West Florence High School, Florence, SC

June 11th—Blythewood High School, Blythewood, SC

Coordinator: Coach Reggie Kennedy (803-351-0789)



Important Dates:

Sat. March 5, 2011—10:00 am.
2011 Shrine Bowl Coaches
meeting at Plaza Hotel, Fort
Mill, SC.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GREAT
MEDICAL STAFF AND
TRAINERS!**

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