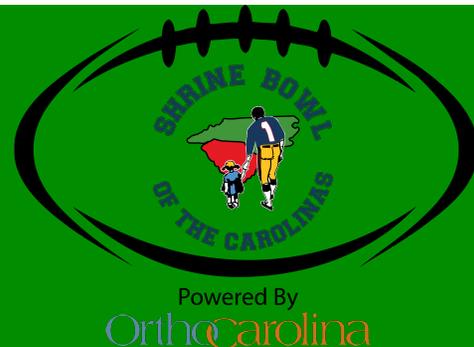


SHRINE BOWL OF THE CAROLINAS

"Strong Legs Run So Weak Legs May Walk"

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Former Clemson QB Tajh Boyd Serves as Guest Speaker



*-Noah Thomas (@iNoahT)
NC Correspondent*

Saturday night found the Tar Heels of North Carolina and South Carolina's Sandlappers traveling by bus to Spartanburg's First Baptist Church for the Shrine Bowl's annual Adopt-a-Player dinner sponsored by the Church itself.

To the surprise of many, including myself, the dinner's guest speaker would be former Clemson University quarterback Tajh Boyd.

Boyd, currently in his first season after being selected in the sixth round of the 2014 NFL Draft, may be the most decorated quarterback in Clemson history.

His list of accomplishments include being an ACC champion, ACC Player of the Year, MVP of both the Chick-fil-A Bowl and the Orange Bowl, and ending his career with the school record for all-time passing touchdowns (107) and passing yards (11,904).

Boyd may not be a South Carolina native or former Shrine Bowl player, but his connections to the Palmetto State are as deep as anyone's.

He began by describing to the audience his experience since (see page 3)

Shrine Bowl Standout Albert Huggins Chooses the Tigers

- Jake Kea (@JakeKea) SC Correspondent

On Friday, Albert Huggins, the number one defensive end/tackle prospect in the state of South Carolina, made his commitment to play for the Clemson Tigers. "It's (Clemson) a family based university, education is top notch and they have the number one defense," Huggins said. In the past week, Huggins has received a large amount of media attention, when asked if all the hype would have an impact on his play on the field, he was quick to respond. "No, I know how to control that, I've been dealing with it for the past four years... I'm going to handle it with professionalism (continued on page 2)

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Huggins had an outstanding season at Orangeburg-Wilkinson, and has earned a spot in the ESPN Top 300. His commitment to Clemson boosts the Tigers to a top-five 2015 recruiting class. As for this week, Albert is more than excited to meet not only his teammates but his opponents as well, "Becoming a family with all these guys, even the players from North Carolina, we are all going to different colleges, but keeping communication with these guys is going to be very important."

Jalen Dalton Discusses Shrine Bowl Week and More

- Noah Thomas (*iNoahT*) NC Correspondent

It didn't take long for the superstar talent to start popping up everywhere in the Spartanburg Marriot. I had barely stepped off the elevator when I ran into Johnny Frasier—a running back who has accumulated an offer from nearly every major college program in the country.

In the next half hour or so I met JaReke Chambers (WR) and Houshun Gaines (OLB/DE), athletes who also have multiple offers from schools across the Southeast.

It wasn't until the North Carolina team meeting that I saw who I had been waiting for more than a month to meet: West Forsyth High School defensive end and North Carolina Tar Heel commit Jalen Dalton.

He granted my request for an interview, and after we started talking I asked him if he was aware that another defensive end and Shrine Bowl alumnus was taken in this past April's NFL Draft as the first overall selection (I was referring to Jadeveon Clowney).

"I actually didn't know that," Dalton said, "knowing that we played the same position it's interesting to realize that I can do the same if I put the work in."

I asked what sold him on North Carolina: "The coaching staff sold me on them. I knew they were struggling on defense (North Carolina allowed a school record 467 points in the regular season)," he continued, "Coach told me if I come in January (as an early enrollee) and join the weight program that I'll be a part of the rotation come next season."



SC Shrine Bowl DE and Clemson Tiger Commit Albert Huggins (Source: 24/7 Sports)

Capps gave an electrifying and engaging opening monologue to start the week off. Dalton said he liked that, “The coaches definitely want to win. They have a plan and we have to execute it. We’ve got some talented players.”

Finally, when I questioned him on what he looked forward to most during Shrine Bowl week, he said, “Looking forward to doing things I don’t get to do on a regular basis like going to the hospital and just seeing how blessed I am to be in the position I’m in. I’m also excited to play with the other great defensive linemen from my state like Shy Tuttle.”



University of North Carolina commit Jalen Dalton smiles for the camera after he tells the world that he will be a Tar Heel (photo by InsideCarolina.com).

Ecton Not Letting a Disappointing Loss Determine His Senior Season

Lane Ecton, Dutch Fork (Irmo, SC) defensive back and Georgia Southern commit is coming off a tough loss to Hillcrest High School. The Silver Foxes were looking to capture their second straight Division-1 state title, but were stunned by the Hillcrest Rams 47-17. "We didn't take their offense very seriously, we took them too lightly," said Ecton. "An injury to our quarterback changed the whole momentum of the game, and we became one dimensional." Lane is looking to end his senior football season on a high note this week. "I'm looking forward to the overall experience, from visiting the kids at the Shriner's Hospital to playing with the best talent in the Carolinas"

- Jake Kea (@JakeKea) SC Correspondent



Photo Courtesy of Chris Record

Boyd - Continued from Page 1

(continued from page 1) leaving the college ranks and becoming a professional, "[After being selected in the draft] I had no doubt in my mind I would be on a roster at this point. Sometimes it doesn't work out that way."

"It was incredibly frustrating," Boyd said of his lack of playing time in training camp and the NFL preseason. "I went from playing all the time from when I was seven years old and then all of a sudden I wasn't able to get reps in practice."

"I felt I did everything I could to put myself in the best position possible."

The New York Jets cut Boyd from the team before the regular season began. "I had been to some dark places in high school, college," he continued, "but this one was a little bit deeper. A little darker."

He spoke more of those dark places, "No matter how many switches you try to flip, no lights will come on until you get that relationship with Jesus."

"[Being a football player] it's not about the parties or celebrity or any of that. Football makes you older. Football makes you wiser. Through football you can develop those relationships that help you grow as a person."

To conclude his speech, Boyd recited Proverbs 22:1.

Schedule for December 14th, 2014

Breakfast and Worship 8:00 - 10:00 Am

Shriners Hospital Visit and Lunch 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Player Medical exams 2:30 - 3:30

Equipment and Team Photos 3:45 - 5:45