

Sports Club honors athletes

Wake Forest's Jim Grobe cites 'character'

BY JOHN MCCANN

jmccann@heraldsun.com; 419-6601

DURHAM — Character counts.

"Nothing's more important than your character," Wake Forest University football coach Jim Grobe said Thursday evening at the Durham Sports Club Scholar-Athlete Awards Night.

Character counts on the ball fields and playing courts, Grobe explained to the crowd at Croasdaile Country Club, and the trait especially is key in the classroom, as exemplified by Durham students Camille Morgan and Sam Selig, recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the Durham Sports Club.

Morgan, a senior at Trinity School of Durham and Chapel Hill, was awarded the first Mildred Barnes Scholar-Athlete Award. She played soccer, basketball, tennis and volleyball and still carries a 4.59 grade-point average. She'll study at UNC Chapel Hill this fall.

Selig, a senior at Jordan High School, was awarded the first Harold Strawbridge Scholar-Athlete Award. He's going to Duke University and has a 4.85 GPA at Jordan, where he played football, basketball and lacrosse.

Honors

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Mildred Barnes and Harold Strawbridge have been generous contributors toward the efforts of the Durham Sports Club.

Durham School of the Arts' Theresa Meyer was awarded a \$500 scholarship. She ran cross country and is taking her 5.02 GPA to Princeton University.

Elliot Cartee, who ran cross country and track at the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. He's going to Cornell University with a 5.639 GPA.

There were more scholar-athletes where those came from. Sports Club program chairman Tommy Hunt introduced them all:

■ Cresset Christian Academy's Brittany White played volleyball. She has a 4.58 grade-point average and is going to UNC.

■ Cresset's Thomas Aiken played football, basketball, baseball and ran cross country. His GPA is 4.3. Aiken's headed to Vance-Granville Community College.

■ Sarah Kearney played field hockey, basketball and softball for Durham Academy. Her GPA is 5.03 GPA. She's going to UNC.

■ Durham Academy's Andrew Kuo, who has a 5.11 GPA and played soccer and lacrosse, is going to the U.S. Naval Academy.

■ Charles Realubit played tennis and soccer for DSA, where his GPA is 4.5. He's headed to UNC.

■ Hillside High School's Courtney Hodges is going to East Carolina University.



Camille Morgan and Sam Selig receive \$1,000 scholarships from the Durham Sports Club. Morgan, a senior at Trinity School, will be going to UNC Chapel Hill in the fall. Selig, a senior at Jordan High School, is headed to Duke University.

sity. Her GPA is 4.2. She played softball and basketball at Hillside.

■ Zachary Giles played football and ran track for Hillside, where his GPA is 4.1. He will study at N.C. Central University.

■ Jordan's Kathryn Greenwell has a 4.7 GPA. She ran cross country and track, and is headed to UNC.

■ Brooke McKenna played volleyball and was on the track-and-field team at NCSSM, where her GPA is 4.963. She's going to UNC.

■ Northern High School's Alison Gerepka played tennis and has a 4.964 GPA. UNC is where she'll hit the books this fall.

■ Golfer Casey Ellis has a 4.65 GPA at Northern. He's going to High Point University.

■ Bennett Sasser played tennis, soccer and was a diver for Riverside, where her GPA is 4.7. She's going to UNC.

■ Riverside's Jared Rist, a soccer player with a 5.09 GPA, is headed to Georgetown University.

■ Trinity's Todd Eckstein played basketball and baseball. His GPA is 4.21. He is going to Davidson College.

"These students have done so much, not only in school but in the community," Hunt said. "They're good citizens. They're gonna make us all proud."

Coach Grobe said he'd pass on a player who merely was a five-star athlete to get one with five-star character traits. In fact, before arriving at Wake Forest, Grobe said he was coaching at a university where he explained to his assistant coaches he wanted players with solid character who possessed the ability to actually earn a degree while helping the school win football games. And Grobe said he told those assistant coaches — who had these long lists of names of potential recruits — their jobs depended on it.

"They started marking off names like there's no tomorrow," said Grobe, emphasizing character.

"They started marking off names like there's no tomorrow," said Grobe, emphasizing character.

Character is not what people see when they look at you but what you really are on the inside, Grobe said. The coach told the Durham athletes to surround themselves with good people and to never quit just because stuff gets tough.

DPS athletics director Larry McDonald said the honorees have put on display what it means to be student-athletes.

Durham school board member Frederick Davis said parental guidance was key to the students' success.

The Rev. Ernie Mills, co-founder of Durham Rescue Mission, prayed the student athletes would be fierce enough to give opponents their best shots but gracious enough to help them off the ground when the whistle blows.

The athletic departments of the schools represented received \$250 each.

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