

Haas

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year as the head coach of the Demon Deacons, returning a floundering program to national prominence.

Now Bill, just a sophomore is seemingly on the verge of joining his father on the professional tour before long.

If it weren't for Goalby's insistence and Haddock's faith, however, the Haas tradition at this university could have been nonexistent. According to Jay, recruiting 30 years ago was far different than of the current situation.

"I basically recruited myself," Jay said. "I met Jesse once (before I signed). I met him for a tournament in Greensboro. He didn't even see me play.

"He really signed me on my uncle's say so."

In large part due to Goalby and the Haas family, the program has continued to flourish. But they haven't been solely responsible, and the large Demon Deacon faction within the PGA Tour loop -

Billy Andrade, Curtis Strange and others have offered major contributions both in quality of play and notoriety. And now those players are fully aware of the rebirth of a Deacon program that wasn't even on the map five years ago.

"We get together every year, and we were a little disappointed for a while," Jay said. "The ACC was our ground, and that fell off.

"When Jerry took over, they weren't even in the top 50, and they've steadily moved up," he said. "This year I think they definitely have a legitimate shot at the national title. (The other pros) are very excited to see their school up there again. They can't help but be proud."

All three of the Haas golfers recognize their time in Winston-Salem as more than working on their game, though.

"I remember my brother telling me that if you want to be a professional golfer, go to Wake Forest," Jerry said. "And I asked him why, and he said that there, you have to learn to organize your time, and you have to be disciplined and you have to learn how to say no, you have to learn how to think for yourself. It's just a good envi-



Billie Zito/Old Gold and Black

Head Coach Jerry Haas has the Demon Deacons positioned for a run at their first national title since 1986.

ronment. It's that black and gold blood all the way through."

It's the environment that Jay has the fondest memories of, and that he has advised his son to take advantage of.

"As I've gone around the country and seen different schools," Jay said, "I realized how special

that time was and how fortunate I was to be part of that school. I couldn't imagine a better place to go to school. Every time I go back there's something inside of me that gives me butterflies."

So it was with this type of perspective that Bill viewed the Demon Deacon program. And

when it came time for Bill to take a serious look at his future, that sort of description was all he needed.

"I've always wanted to go to Wake Forest," Bill said, "and with Jerry being the coach, it's a huge plus. He really didn't even have to recruit me; I'd have walked on here. This is what I wanted to do."

Bill does recognize the difficulty in juggling classes and golf, a daunting task considering the high level of mental exertion that each requires.

"It's definitely tough," Bill said. "To come home from a two-day tournament and then start studying is not an easy thing to do. You have to make choices sometimes, because it's very hard to be great at both."

Which doesn't keep both his father and his uncle from keeping tabs on his school work.

"(My wife and I) definitely stressed that school is of the utmost importance," Jay said. "If he slacks off there, we won't be able to play, which is his first love. I know Jerry's on him some, and the team as a whole is pretty conscientious about that."

But for now, Jerry and Bill have

a national title in their sights.

"The ultimate goal is to win the national championship," Bill said. "I think this year is our best chance. (Senior) Jay (Morgan) is a great player and a great leader, and he really knows how to win. We're going to be good for the next couple years, but I think this is our shot."

The fact of the matter is, though, that it may not be long before Bill makes golf more of a full-time commitment, and truly joins the family business, making tournament victories and large paychecks objectives instead of national titles. It's a circumstance that his father anxiously awaits.

"It would be unbelievable to play with him," Jay said. "I love playing with both my boys. Just to watch them do well is enough, they've already exceeded my expectations of them."

"If we got to play together in a tournament in the future, I'd be the proudest guy out there."

It probably won't be long before Jay has that privilege. But not after a third Haas will have left an indelible mark on the program, setting the stage for a future of national prominence.

Averill

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more competition and more scholarships. She also wanted a turf field for her team to play on since turf is the playing surface of choice in field hockey. She found the administration willing to listen and ready to act.

With these things in place, Averill set out to make the field hockey program the best it could be. Of course, building a successful program in any sport is not an easy thing to do.

"(It took) a lot of sleepless nights," Averill said, only half-jokingly.

"I'm a very passionate person. I had a tremendous vision as a collegiate player to believe in the product and the university I played for. It's just a matter of the resources and the players surrounding you to make it happen - I envisioned the same thing happening at Wake Forest."

"I had tremendous administrative sup-

port, a great foundation, and a great philosophy to work from," she said.

Surely, however, she encountered difficulties along the way. "I don't think I was the most patient coach at first," she said. "But I really felt the potential here was unlimited. In the early years, though, I probably wanted it a little sooner than my players and myself were ready for it to happen."

"The foundation is critical. Before you can move forward you need to make sure that no process has been bypassed. Each season, there's a different process that both the kids and the staff need to accomplish. Those were some growing pains early on, but with the help of the administration and the quality kids we had here, it couldn't help but happen."

Averill's success as a coach likely began during her playing days at Northwestern, where she was named an All-American in all four years that she played.

As a senior in 1987, she received the Honda Broderick Award, naming her the best field hockey player in the country. In that year, she also earned the Big Ten's Medal of Honor for academic excellence,

in addition to the Jesse Owens Award, given yearly to the best athlete in the entire conference across all sports.

During her time at Northwestern Averill was fortunate to play on some very good teams in addition to her own personal success, making two Final Four appearances. She also played on the U.S. National Team from 1983 to 1987.

After graduation, Averill spent two years as an assistant at Dartmouth before leaving to become the head coach at Bucknell. After a short but successful three-year stint, which included Patriot League Coach of the Year honors, she came to the university in 1992, and as she says, "The rest is history."

According to Averill, she never dreamed she would be in Winston-Salem for so long. "I was a Yankee and I was naive," she said. "I was fast-paced and I didn't like to slow down. But I began to appreciate the finer aspects of North Carolina, the institution, and the feeling of pride associated with this university."

As for her remarkable success here, Averill says much of it traces back to her experience as a player.

"The best lesson I learned as a player," she said, "was to make sure you surround yourself with quality people throughout. That means everybody. We have what we call 'The team around the team.' It's not only our hockey team, but also the support staff, from game day management to equipment to training staff - even the people who drive our buses. If you surround yourself with great people great things will happen."

"The best thing a coach can do is to empower players and make sure they have fun on a consistent basis."

Without a doubt, Averill's philosophy has brought success, something she is very proud of.

"The consistency the last four years is what I'm most proud of," she said. "I knew we could get here but I didn't know if we could maintain it as long as we have. We have been able to accomplish some huge milestones."

"I have envisioned Wake winning an ACC championship from the day I took this job. I envisioned us going to the Final Four. Now that we've gotten that I've gotten greedier. I'd still like to have the

ACC championship but now I think it's fair to say we can win a national championship."

"As nice as it is now (to be No. 1), I'd give it all up to have that honor Nov. 19."

Averill insists that there isn't more pressure associated with being No. 1.

"We are not that naïve," she said. "We aren't going to change anything. We're the same team we were before we had this honor."

"The same principles apply as a week ago. If anything, it only makes us work a little harder."

Averill will also tell you that with all she and her team have accomplished, there is always room to grow and improve.

"The day there's no more room for us to grow and improve is the day I'm no longer the Wake Forest hockey coach. Each new team, each new recruit, as much as you offer to your players they give it back to you."

"When you have a shared, mutual respect, I think you have championship teams."

Great coaching usually has something to do with it, too.

Pressbox

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"Here's what you have to understand," Cole explains.

"When you go to kindergarten in the state of Alabama, first, you're a boy or girl, and second, you're an Alabama fan or an Auburn fan. And if you're neither of those two, you're less of a human being."

It's the same in Tennessee, as far as I understand. "In Tennessee, you're either a Tennessee Vol, or you're not," Cole continued, speaking for Ogle, and for effectively all of the Volunteer State. "And if you're not, you're less of a human being."

"The success of your football team is so closely tied to your personal identity that your self-esteem from week to week is based on the performance of your team."

"And after seven straight losses to Tennessee," Ogle chimed in, "Alabama's self-esteem is at an all-time low."

Such is the state of SEC football, and more specifically, the Alabama/Tennessee rivalry.

Beyond poorly-veiled jabs at one another and general disputes over bad officiating, there is some basis for the Hatfields-and-McCoys type hostility between the two schools and their constituents.

For one, familiarity breeds contempt, and Tennessee and Alabama see far too much of each other for their own good.

Separated by but one color in the rainbow and an arbitrary line drawn on a map in the early 1800s, the two schools actually have quite a bit in common.

Recruiting grounds overlap, making for year-round clashes. Not to mention the pending NCAA allegations that will likely plunge the Tide deeper into their current slump, with its second probationary stint in a decade all but a sure thing.

It's Tennessee's fault, they say, claiming that a Volunteer has been ratting them out. Note that they don't exactly deny said allegations.

"Cheating is a way of life in the SEC," Cole notes, and they leave it at that.

More than anything else, though, the two "cultures," so to speak, are essentially one.

"There's really not that much difference between Tennessee and Alabama - both have really delusional fans who have lost touch with reality," Ogle says, interestingly enough condemning the both of them.

"We joke around, but we know that there's more to life than football," he continued. Mmmhmm.

"But there are these guys - little Junior can't afford shoes, but Daddy's got season tickets and the latest recruiting info," Ogle said. And then he can't resist. "These people down in Tuscaloosa are nuts."

Really, though. "That's all there is in Alabama and Tennessee - just football," Cole added.

"I mean, what else is there to be proud of in Alabama or Tennessee? We have a wretched history, we have the worst education systems in the country, we have pitiful economies, but we kick everybody's butt in football."

"I mean, what else is there to be proud of in Alabama or Tennessee?" Cole asks. "We have a wretched history, we have the worst education systems in the country, we have pitiful economies, but we kick everybody's butt in football." At least they have something to latch onto.

At least they have something to latch onto.

And for the record, Ogle submits that Tennessee is not completely without value. It has Graceland.

The bottom line is this: football is an obsession with these people, remnants of which can be found in our experts.

Case in point: any Tennessee/Bama game in the last 15 years, and they can darn near give you a play-by-play.

1996. Discuss ...

"20-13, Tennessee," Cole says. "In Knoxville," Ogle adds. "You want us to give you the major plays of the game?" Cole asks.

I'm already in over my head, so what the hell. Hit me.

"Ralph Staton (of the Tide) sacks - blindsides - Peyton Manning, and Manning fumbles the ball," Cole starts.

"Chris Hood, our defensive end, picks it up. Chris Hood is blind in his left eye. He thinks he's in the end zone, but he dives across the five (yard-line) and lands on the three. 'Bama can't get into the end zone in three plays."

They keep rambling, but I've lost it.

I'm doubled over in laughter.

Breathing becomes a chore.

I've heard all I need to hear.

But if you're wondering where Cole and Ogle developed their passion for their respective favorite teams, look no further than ... their mothers?

"I bleed orange," said Mrs. Ogle, an appellate court judge in Knoxville, who incidentally grew a little too close to the Alabama border, so close that she nearly became a Tide student. "There's nothing like the third Saturday in October.

"You get these nice professional people like me who lose all their dignity on Saturdays in the fall."

"I'm physically sick when we lose," said Mrs. Cole, who incidentally spent a year at UT undergrad before "seeing the light."

"These are very strong feelings," she says.

No kidding.

So ... SEC football, the abridged version?

"It's a religion, it really is," Ogle says.

"That's what these people do with their Saturday afternoons. These football stadiums - these are the cathedrals.

"It is your identity. If your team loses on Saturday, you have to hear about it all week."

I'm still not sure what to make of it, but an invitation has been extended.

"Anytime you want to come share a religious experience with us," Mrs. Ogle offered, "You're more than welcome."

They're trying to convert me.

G. Early



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