



September 3, 1975
Hero Worship Has Limits;
Pro Wins Respect Anyway

75-136

By Phil Royce

MURFREESBORO, N.C. (BP)--Even the American tradition of hero worship of pro athletes has its limits, as basketball's all-pro guard Dave Twardzik of the Virginia Squires learned at a Concerned Athletes in Action All-sports (CAIA) Camp for boys on the Chowan College campus here.

But before Twardzik completed his stay at the Baptist junior college, the boys, ages 9-14, received a lesson that unselfishness and a strong desire to succeed are just as important as natural talent in molding an all-pro--and a boy's life.

Other pros who gave instruction during the week-long camp were Ray Jarvis, defensive back of the Detroit Lions, Wali Jones of the Utah Stars, and Sonny Hill, CBS analyst for the National Basketball Association (NBA) games. The event was a joint effort of Chowan College and the CAIA.

Twardzik isn't likely to forget his debut with the camp. He's one of the smallest players in the ABA. Just as he does on the basketball court, he had to earn the boys' respect. Most of the 30 campers were from black middle class families from the Tidewater area of Virginia, centered in Norfolk. When Sonny Hill spoke, the 30 boys were joined by 40 disadvantaged youths from Portsmouth, Va.

One of his first encounters was with an eager eleven-year-old who spotted Dave and proudly announced he had won three trophies in basketball.

"Hey, that's good," replied Dave.

"How many have you won?", asked the youngster.

"A few," Dave answered.

"How many?", the lad persisted.

"A couple."

"Many as I have?", the youth responded.

"Maybe a few more."

"Many as five?", the boy challenged.

"Twenty-five," Dave finally revealed.

Then Twardzik encouraged the youth. "But I'm a lot older than you are. Just give yourself time, you'll win some more."

"Come on," interrupted a coach. "It's time for shooting practice," he said.

"Well you need it," the boy retorted. Then turning to Twardzik, the boy told on his coach, "He can't shoot."

Twardzik, who played in the ABA all-star game last season, answered, "Neither can I."

"You're not kidding," the boy replied. "I remember last year. The Squires were ahead of the Nets by 17 points." As he trotted off he said, "You blew it."

But if the ribbing bothered Twardzik, he didn't show it. He brushed it aside with a laugh. He enjoys working with boys. The former Old Dominion University star who has played guard three years with the Squires recalled the thrill of meeting a pro athlete when he was a boy.

"I always enjoyed talking to them. I think I learned a lot by watching them. If I can relate a little something to the boys, it's worth it for me."

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Later, on Chowan's court, the smallest of the Squires took command. He sent the boys through a brisk ball-handling drill. Twardzik offered tips on dribbling, then went one-on-one with several of the young athletes.

Foul shooting followed. Twardzik gave hints as each boy shot ten. Then the all-pro was urged to step to the line. Fifteen times he shot. Fifteen times the ball swished through.

Outside, Twardzik posed in the noon heat as each boy had his picture taken with the Squire--a souvenir along with an autographed photo of Jarvis. Then he ate lunch with the boys.

During a rap session with the campers, Twardzik emphasized teamwork.

"After a game, I sit at my locker and ask myself, 'Did I play my best game?' 'Did I help the Squires?' Then I look at the game statistics. The first thing I look at is my assists, then my errors. I want more assists than errors. Then I look at the scoring."

Twardzik told the boys he likes to make assists. "I'm happy because I've helped someone else. And he's happy because he scored. So that's two of us happy."

But Twardzik's concern for teamwork and assists masks another important statistic. Known as one of the league's best drivers, the Pennsylvania native averaged over 14 points last season.

Tony Anderson, a high school senior and one of the camp's coaches, said Twardzik's appearance meant a lot to the boys.

"He admits he doesn't have the natural talent and size of the other players," Anderson said, "But he shows you can still make it on desire. The boys can identify with him. It's a good lesson for them."

During his visit, Sonny Hill told the boys that life is a matter of priorities. Noting that basketball and other sports are often a route to a better life, Hill challenged the boys to set goals and use their talent and initiative to enter the "mainstream" of American life.

Camp Anderson, camp director, said the appearance of Twardzik and the other pros had given the boys inspiration.

"These boys are going to look up to somebody--they're going to have their heroes. Dave and the other concerned athletes are the kind of heroes I want my own son to look up to.

"They are genuinely interested in the boys. They have time for each boy, to show him something he didn't know before," Anderson noted.

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(BP) Photo mailed to Baptist state papers

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Bicentennial Feature

Prison Bars Can't Prevent
Baptists From Preaching

Baptist Press
9/3/75

FREDERICKSBURG, Va., August, 1768 (BP)--Five Baptists imprisoned because they refused to quit preaching the gospel were apparently released for the same reason. Even behind bars the Baptists continued to preach to any on the outside who would listen.

Long ignored here as bothersome but insignificant, observers say, Baptists are now being persecuted because they present a threat to the state church of Virginia. But the civil and religious hierarchy is discovering that the dissenters merely thrive on persecution.

The prisoners--Lewis Craig, John Waller, James Reid and James Childs, ministers, and William Mash, a layman--were seized by a sheriff on June 4 and hauled before magistrates who required them to post appearance bonds of one thousand pounds. While there is no law in Virginia against preaching the "Baptist gospel," the defendants were charged with "disturbing the peace."

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Two days later, the court charged that the Baptists were "great disturbers of the peace," the prosecuting attorney declaring they were guilty of the crime of not being able to meet a man in the road without trying to "ram a text of scripture down his throat."

Waller made an able defense for the prisoners, however, and the court was not quite sure how to dispose of the case. Finally the accused were told they would be released on their pledge that they would not preach again for a year and a day. When each one promptly refused to make such a promise they were ordered held as prisoners indefinitely.

Authorities were forewarned of events to come when the prisoners sang hymns as they were led from the courthouse to the jail. Bystanders noted that the willingness of the Baptists to suffer for their convictions made a deep impression on many witnessing the event.

Four weeks later Lewis Craig was released and immediately set out for Williamsburg to appeal to the governor in behalf of his fellow Baptists. He was granted an audience by John Blair, deputy governor, and won him completely, reports indicate.

"You may not molest these conscientious people so long as they behave themselves in a manner becoming pious Christians and in obedience to the laws," Blair said in a letter to the prosecuting attorney. The deputy governor also pointed out that experience has taught that "persecuting dissenters only increases their numbers."

Blair also had been persuaded that the Baptists were like the established church in many respects and even had some strong points. Some of their practices, he told the attorney in his letter, had been of such good effect that "it might be wished that we had more of them among us."

While the deputy governor's letter had its effect, the subsequent discharge of Waller, Reed, Mash and Childs probably was due to their continued evangelizing as much as anything else. As they preached from their cells to those on the outside, many tried to shout them down, but others listened and were converted.

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SBC Cooperative Program
Ahead Through 11 Months

Baptist Press
9/3/75

NASHVILLE (BP)-- With one month to go in the 1974-75 fiscal year, national Cooperative Program unified budget receipts remained ahead of last year's 11-month total, showing a more than \$2.9 million increase.

Undesignated Cooperative Program contributions from 33 state conventions covering 50 states amounted to \$37,942,639, some 8.40 percent ahead of the 1973-74 total of \$35,002,040.

The undesignated Cooperative Program receipts, combined with another \$35,146,648 in designated gifts, totaled \$73,089,286 in total gifts on the national level during the first 11 months. That is an 8.52 percent or more than \$5.7 million increase.

The continued financial growth was shored up by strong giving in August. Total undesignated Cooperative Program receipts for the month totaled \$3,642,789--a 10.82 percent or \$355,696 increase over August, 1974.

Another \$579,036 in designated contributions in August brought the total for the month to \$4,221,825. That's a 14.25 percent jump over August, 1974. Designated contributions alone jumped 41.86 percent, rising from \$408,177 last August to the \$579,036 figure.

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