

Chet "White Golden Bull" Grimsley continues to inspire by sharing his faith

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Professional football, sharing a wrestling ring with the legendary Sylvester Ritter (better known as: The Junkyard Dog), becoming a Groove Phi Groove member, an All American at an Historic Black College during the racially charged 1970's, celebrity bodyguard, and US Army veteran are just a few of Chet Grimsley's accomplishments during his 60-plus years on this earth.

It's safe to say that Grimsley has pretty much done it all.

And has seen it all. But the one thing that still astonishes him, each and every day, is the love and mercy of Almighty God.

Upon meeting Chet Grimsley, it becomes clear that his faith in God is first and foremost in his life.

The college football All American, former professional athlete and professional wrestler, and Blairsville resident recently added "author" to his already impressive resume.

"The White Golden Bull - How Faith in Transcended Racial Barriers" is the title of his autobiography that follows the path of Grimsley as he comes of age in the post-segregation South of the 1970's where racial tensions remained high during final years of the controversial and racially-polarizing Vietnam War.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called Vietnam, a "white man's war, a black man's fight," and according to King, African Americans represented a disproportionate share of draftees and faced a greater risk of seeing combat.

However, for Grimsley and his Golden Bull teammates at Johnson C. Smith



University in Charlotte, NC, football offered an alternative to war after growing up in the 1960s and early 70s.

JCSU is an Historical Black College and when Grimsley arrived on campus his father, who played football at the University of Alabama, offered him \$20 and told him he wouldn't last a day.

That first night on campus was one that Grimsley, one of three white incoming freshmen, will never forget. And when he awoke the next morning, Grimsley was the only white remaining on the team.

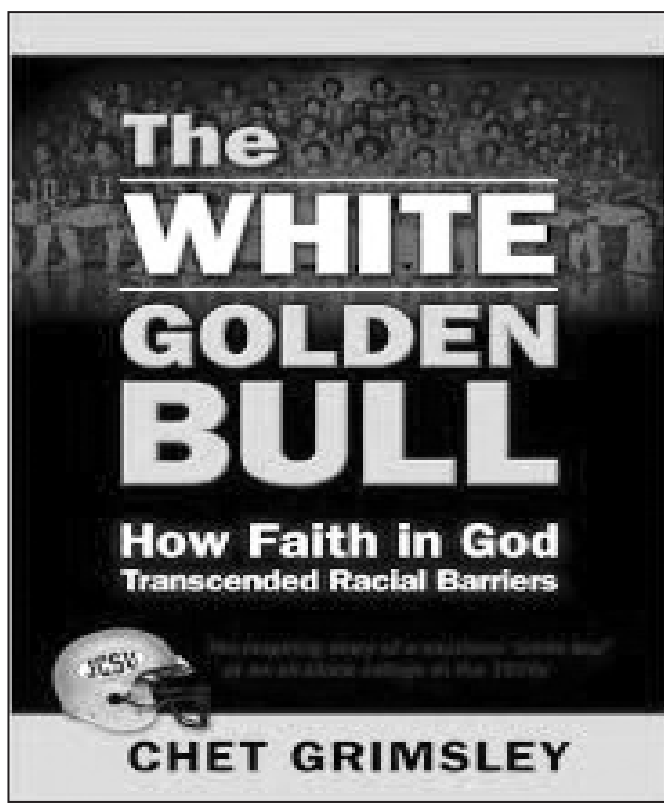
"The other two white guys went home and didn't even last the night," he said. "A bunch of the players jumped up and I was the only one who fought back. After they realized that I'd stand up for myself, they left me alone. But the other two whites didn't want any part of it."

Attending a historic

black college wasn't a culture shock for Grimsley due to attending Therrell High School in southwest Atlanta, where he was also the only white on the football team.

"When I was in high school, there were other all-black teams that were afraid to come play us, Grimsley said. "Growing up in Atlanta in the 1960s and playing with those guys at Therrell really prepared me for Johnson C. Smith. But I didn't tell anyone where I played high school ball when I was at college, but when they found out, they weren't surprised at all.

"But I just stayed focused on football and was constantly working out. I turned my dorm room into a weight room and all we did was lift weights, study and read the Bible. I was on the Dean's List and I didn't get into drugs. Although they were available. I just stayed focused on becoming the best



person I could be, both on and off the field.

"I'm 6-foot-5 but I was the smallest guy on the offensive line. Our line averaged 6-foot-8. You've got to realize that back in those days, a lot of the colleges remained all white, so black college football was some of the best, most competitive football in the country."

During his junior season in 1976, Grimsley's skills on the gridiron began to attract attention from the media and the opposition. He was named the Eastern Airlines Player of the Year, a 1976 All-American, 1976 Mr. Football, All Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association 1st Team.

"One thing I learned was, never allow another player to help you up when you're on the field because you'll end up with broken ribs from getting kicked. But I always helped people up and showed good sportsmanship on the field. I

wanted to prove that being nice wasn't a sign of weakness. You know, God is the reason why I made it in college. I wouldn't have made it without him, and now I go around to different high schools speaking at Fellowship of Christian Athletes events, telling my story, and sharing God's love."

Grimsley also became a member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Inc. as a sophomore at JCSU.

"The hazing that I went through was intense," he said with a laugh. "I wound up in the hospital on several occasions.

"It wasn't just the college kids, it was the older guys that hung around the campus. A lot of those guys just came home from Vietnam with a chip on their shoulder, and didn't like the fact that a white guy was at a Historic Black College, and a member of the football team. They took out a lot of their frustrations on me.

The hazing went on for days at a time."

However, Grimsley was quick to point out that he became close friends with many of the same guys that were violent towards him in the early days.

"We became good buddies and still are to this day," he said. "I still go to reunions and keep in touch with many of my former team mates and Groove brothers, including College Football Hall of Famer and former Pittsburgh Steeler Donnie Shell, who remains one of Grimsley's dearest friends to this day.

Following his senior season, Grimsley chose to remain at JCSU as an assistant coach in 1978 but in 1979 he made the practice squad of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL.

In 1979, he joined the Army and for the first time in his life, Grimsley was somewhere that whites weren't the minority.

"I had a ball in the army getting to meet all different types of people," he said. "The army is where I first experienced diversity. It was a blast."

Now, he and his wife Donna Dillard Grimsley, originally from Blue Ridge, reside in Blairsville with their two dogs - Dukes and Daisy.

He has also served on the board of the Humane Society.

Grimsley remains busy sharing his testimony through speaking engagements.

"My speeches come from both the heart and my head in hopes that it will help people of all origins to know the love of Jesus Christ."

Some of his most recent speaking engagements were at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Rock Hill, SC last year and more recently, to the FCA of Chester County, SC on Jan. 30.

Hot Start... continued from 1C

Candler Colwell swiped three bags, and Dyer took one as the Panthers wreaked havoc on the base paths, as well as the batters box.

The Bobcats touched up Natchtrieb early with a two-run bomb over the left field fence before the senior right-hander ended the first inning with a swing-and-miss strike three.

Union cut the lead in half when Davis doubled home Ruff with two outs in the second. Natchtrieb struck out the side in the bottom half of the inning despite allowing an unearned run and walking two.

Groves tied the game in the fourth with an infield single after a balk had trimmed the Bobcats lead to 3-2. Crawford Colwell made it 4-2 when he scored Banton with an RBI sacrifice bunt. A Candler Colwell RBI single scored Jonathon Everett, then with two down, Thompson lined a two-run double to center - making it 7-3 midway through the fourth.

Davis worked a 1-2-3 bottom half of the fourth before RBI singles from both Crawford and Candler Colwell gave Union a 9-3 advantage.

A pick-off at first and two strikeouts by Davis kept Gilmer off the board in the fourth and Ruff made it a 10-3 game with a sacrifice fly that scored Dyer.

The Bobcats would pull within five after five but Candler Colwell walked and scored, Baggett singled and scored, Dyer walked and came home on a base hit by Groves to extend the Union lead back to eight at 13-5.

A fielder's choice led to a Gilmer run in the bottom of the sixth but Davis drove in Candler Colwell, then a two-out RBI triple by Baggett scored Davis to make it 15-6.

Gilmer opened the seventh with back-to-back base hits that resulted in a run but they wouldn't get any closer



Patrick Baggett leads off the game with a triple. Photo/Todd Forrest



Dawson Groves is batting .444 with 5 RBIs after the first two games. Photo/Todd Forrest

as a double-play ended the threat.

On Monday, Union traveled to Robbinsville, NC and are scheduled to visit Commerce on Friday before the

Tigers make return trip to Blairsville on Saturday.

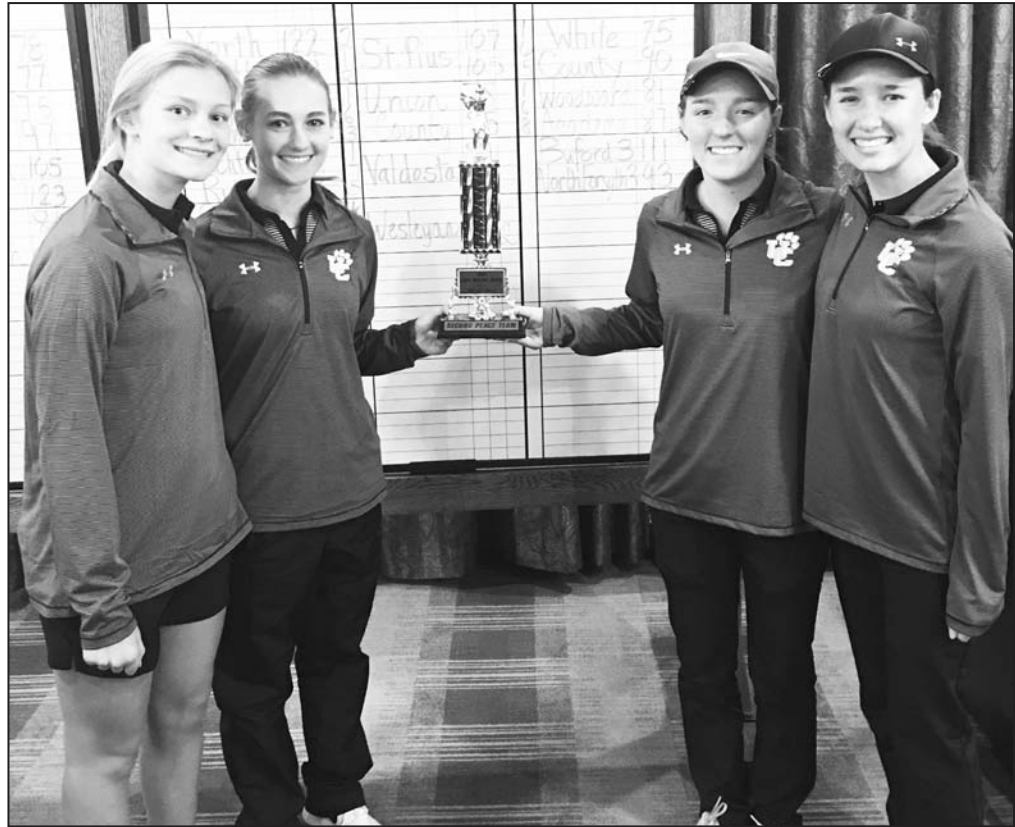
First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday and 6 p.m. Friday.

Bowling scores

Monday Night Men: Bonnell Thomas 222, Tim McVey 223, 214, Curtis Corn 205, Andrew Haire 212, Stanley Tyler 220, 265, Series 677, Branden Hartness 213, 203, Jay Burrell 213, Bryan Cuthbert 214, 211, John Delphino 204, Doug Tanner 239, 203, Randy Jones 215, Joe Teague 227, 234, 206, Series 667, Derick Rice 212, 279, 179, Series 670.

Young @ Heart Seniors: Gordon Stanton 200, Gene Langford 226, Ron Wingate 212, Larry Snyder 215, Jim Boone 202, Mo Rodgers 209, Stanley Tyler 209, 202, Bob Landis 226, 202, Del Neiffer 268, 211, Series 662, Bryan Cuthbert 206, John Delphino 223, 230, Bill Cox 202, 211.

Lady Panthers golf takes second at Buford



Member of the Lady Panthers golf team pose with their second place trophy after an impressive showing at the Buford Invitational held at Bear's Best Golf Course on Feb. 25. They competed against 26 schools from across the state in all classifications and bested 25 of them. Photo/submitted

Rising Georgia Star Race Car Driver with family ties in Blairsville, Young Harris and Murphy areas

Kyle Plott has won another prestigious, high paying race in his young career. Several years ago, Kyle won the largest grass roots Legends race at Charlotte Motor Speedway collecting a \$25,000 payday. Last weekend Kyle, now 20 years old, struck another huge payday at the historic Greenville Pickens Speedway in South Carolina in a Asphalt Super Late Model.

The connection Kyle has to Union County and the Murphy area, is that both his grandparents were born and raised in the North Georgia Mountains. Kyle still has many cousins and relatives in Union County, including Plotts, Whitmores, Dyers, Spivas, Kellys, Hendersons, Underwoods, Rogers, Whites, Stiles, Scroggins and Morrrows. His grandfather, Bobby Plott was a resident of Blairsville, before moving to the Atlanta area at a young age. His grandmother, Louise Whitmore Plott, was raised off Hwy. 129 near the Georgia/North Carolina line and attended Union County High School.

Kyle said, "I love visiting Blairsville anytime I get a chance. We have property there and I really feel a great connection to the area. I have been to a couple of the reunions in Young Harris, and really had a great time. My racing schedule does not allow me to get up there as much as I would like to, but I am extremely proud of my family name and where my family originated".

Kyle and his younger



Kyle Plott (right)

brother Kason, started competitive racing when they were only 5 years old. Now at 18 and 20 years old, they both have laps around race tracks all over the country. "My brother and myself dream of getting a shot to drive in NASCAR's top 3 series one day. Our marketing partner, Rolfe Schnur and ourselves are constantly pursuing sponsorship opportunities to achieve this goal. Both of us know that it will take a great partner or sponsorship for this to happen, but we are not going to give up. It only takes one major break for the opportunity to happen. We both love racing and we will keep digging until we get our opportunity".

Kyle was born in Atlanta, raised in Marietta and now

lives in Easley, SC working for Elite Performance Motorsports. EPM is the team that prepares the fast race cars. Up next, Kason will be racing at Greenville Pickens Speedway on March 4th in a EPM prepared Late Model Stock. Kyle will be back behind the wheel at South Alabama Speedway on March 19th.

Please keep up with Kyle and Kason's success on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and their own website at www.plottboyz.net; Facebook Feeds- Kyle Plott, Kason Plott, Alan Plott, Donna Dickson Plott; Twitter Feeds- @kyleplott, @kasonplott, @alanplott; Instagram Feeds- kyleplott, kasonplott, alan_plott4; Snapchat Feeds- kyleplott, kasonplott.

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