

GARDNER-WEBB

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THE MAGAZINE



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GWU Alumnus, Two-time Big South Champion, Creates Endowment

C.J. Brown Establishes Legacy Football Endowment to Provide Operations Assistance

From 2001 to 2005, C.J. Brown was an offensive lineman on back-to-back Big South Championship Football teams (2002 and 2003). The life-changing experience provided the skills he needed to build his career, and he wants to ensure that future student-athletes have the same chance to succeed.

“The institution of Gardner-Webb football prepared me for life’s hard lessons, fostered a can-do work ethic, and most of all gave me a rock-solid foundation of brotherhood and friendships that I cherish very deeply,” Brown asserted. “My hope is that through the Legacy Football Endowment, and future contributions from myself and others, that we can help elevate the experience for all who are lucky enough to get the opportunity to join this football family.”

He continued, “Dr. Downs has breathed new life into all of Gardner-Webb’s athletics, and with Coach (Tre) Lamb’s energy, there are great things in the future at GWU Football.”

Raised in historic Edgefield County, S.C., Brown graduated from Gardner-Webb in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in business and in 2007 with his MBA. He met his wife, Megan, while at the University, and they have two children. Family is important to him, as well as passing on the traditions of the outdoor lifestyle and conservation.

“Football is a hard game,” Brown shared. “I was an offensive lineman, and in the trenches there’s a battle every snap. Like so many who play the game, I had to fight to win a starting spot, fight to get healthy from injuries, learn how to play through pain, adhere to a strict schedule, follow orders, accept when you’re not the best and learn from those who are better



C.J. Brown

than you. Football teaches you a get-right-back-up mentality. You learn how to deal with failure and success pretty quickly, or you just don’t make it. I’ve failed far more times in business than I’ve succeeded.”

He noted that his professors and courses in the Godbold School of Business gave him the basic foundation he needed to try—new ideas, concepts and opportunities. After graduating with his bachelor’s degree,

he earned a graduate assistant position in the GWU Operations Department. “That was an absolutely wonderful experience,” he reflected. “I learned so much about the inner workings of the school, and the people were fabulous. The staff there treated me like family and I’m so thankful they gave me a shot.”

With his background in conservation and business education, Brown established a real estate company that specializes in the sale and marketing of land, plantations, estates, timberlands, and high-quality recreational properties. “My father taught me best practices of land stewardship at an early age, and I grew up shadowing his national efforts for wildlife conservation,” Brown said. “My foundation gave me a deep connection and love of land and wildlife, and of the stewards that take care of it.”

The Legacy Football Endowment will provide operations assistance to the Gardner-Webb University football program. For more information about the endowment, contact Wes Cogdill at wcogdill@gardner-webb.edu.



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Legacy Football Endowment

Gardner-Webb University's football program is grateful for the support of an alumnus, who helped establish the Legacy Football Endowment. This fund provides operational assistance to the program and invests in its future. As the fund grows, so does the support it generates, allowing the football program at Gardner-Webb University to continue competing for championships. All gifts to the Legacy Football Endowment will support the football program.

Endowed Support:

Endowments exist in perpetuity to provide financial support for student scholarships and academic programs. Gifts to an endowment are never spent, rather they are added to the principal and invested. GWU determines an annual spending distribution from the endowment's earnings, which is spent on the purpose of the endowment (currently 5%). Additional earnings are used to grow the endowment's market value. Gifts may be given outright or pledged over a period of 3-5 years. A supplemental fund has been established to make annual gifts that will be used for the same purpose as the endowment while the endowment is building and to supplement the annual award from the endowment.

Gift Example:

A \$25,000 pledge over a period of five years would be an annual commitment of \$5,000 each year. Donors have the option to designate the full amount to the Legacy Football Endowment or split the amount between the endowment and the Supplemental Fund. By splitting the funds, you can support the immediate needs while also investing in the future of the program.

Sample Payment Schedule:

Total Commitment \$25,000

Sample Balance to be paid as follows:

Month December Year 2024 Amount \$5000
Month December Year 2025 Amount \$5000
Month December Year 2026 Amount \$5000
Month December Year 2027 Amount \$5000

Can we count on you?

By donating to the Legacy Football Funds, you help provide the resources our team needs to win. All donations made will support the football program to provide resources that include equipment for our coaches and gear for our players. These resources allow us to compete at a higher level by allowing us to recruit, develop and retain our top athletes. This support will ultimately lead to championships. Can we count on you?

To make a gift to the Legacy Football Endowment or supplemental fund, you can send a check made payable to Gardner-Webb University, noting the Legacy Football Endowment, to PO Box 997, Boiling Springs, NC 28017, attn: Wes Cogdill. Additionally, you can commit to a pledge by completing the enclosed form and returning it. We appreciate your support and any contribution you can make to help us achieve our goals.

Champions in Christ and for His Service

By God's grace, our university has experienced a historic year of athletic victories on the fields, on the courts, and in the arena. We have also experienced spiritual victories as students have professed faith in Christ and grown in their love for God and neighbor. We have even celebrated individuals around the globe who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, have professed faith in Christ through the efforts of our various university mission teams.

Athletics can teach us words like “champion” and “victory.” Biblically, we understand that these words also have spiritual and eternal significance. Within the context of Scripture, we find that a “champion of faith” is someone who has victoriously run life's race with discipline, determination, endurance, and perseverance while having their eyes fixed on Jesus (Heb 12:1-2).

The champions listed in the famous “Hall of Faith” of Hebrews 11 had suffered personally and experienced losses, yet they were ultimately victorious because they completely trusted in Christ, our crucified and resurrected Redeemer. These champions are “commended by God” (Heb 11:2) for their faith.

On our campus, “champions of faith” can be found throughout the student body and within the offices of our faculty, staff, administrators, and coaches. Across the nation and around the globe, thousands of Gardner-Webb alumni serve as “champions of faith” in their communities. There are four qualities consistent among these champions. First, these individuals help to strip away distractions and encourage us to run life's race with discipline, determination, endurance, and perseverance (Heb 12:1). Second, they exhort us to keep our “eyes on Jesus” (Heb

12:2) and to become more like Him. Third, they direct our hearts toward God by encouraging us to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength (Mark 12:30). Fourth, they direct our hands toward humanity by encouraging us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

Our victories excite us, and they fill us with anticipation and hunger for more. Why is that? It's because the human heart longs for victory. We ache for a champion, and we desire for rivals to be defeated. This is the testimony of Scripture. Throughout the Bible we find stories of God's people longing for and anticipating God's final victory. The Israelites in Egypt cry out in their bondage, and God raises up a champion named Moses who steps forward to lead them to freedom. Later in their history, the Israelites fight the Philistine giant named Goliath and they yet again need a champion to step forward to fight for them to lead them to victory. The young man named David answers that call. On another occasion when God's people face annihilation, a beautiful queen named Esther risks her own life for the freedom and victory of others.

Finally, humanity is faced with its ultimate foe and rival—sin and death. In that moment of need, by God's grace, a new champion runs on to the field to fight for us. Jesus mightily wins the victory over sin and death for us, and now His banner as King of kings and Lord of lords hangs in the rafters of Heaven for eternity. One day all “champions of faith” will worship our Victor there and celebrate with Him forever!

Josh Parrott, *Vice President and University Chaplain for Christian Life and Service, GWU*





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BORN TO FIGHT BORN TO RUN BORN TO WIN

Now is the time to join the Bulldog Club! The Club empowers over 600 Runnin' Bulldog student-athletes to be champions both on and off the field at Gardner-Webb University.

CHAMPIONSHIPS BEGIN WITH SCHOLARSHIPS.

Scholarships begin with your support of the Bulldog Club. Join us as we continue to build the *Campus of Champions!*

For more information on the Bulldog Club visit gardner-webb.edu/bulldog-club



BULLDOG CLUB

Be sure to follow the Bulldog Club on social media to keep up with the Runnin' Bulldogs! ▶

