

## Richard Sherman, Passionate athlete or arrogant 'Thug'?

Posted At : February 3, 2014 2:06 PM | Posted By : Mavis Carr

Related Categories: Events, Sports

*By Jordan E. Grice*

Richard Sherman, the starting cornerback for the Seattle Seahawks, became a lightning rod over a **post-game interview**. After his game-winning interception to send the Seahawks to the 2014 Super Bowl, the cornerback gave a very passionate and, what critics say is, an aggressive interview claiming to be the "best corner in the league."

After his interview, many people had harsh words of their own about Sherman, some calling him a "**thug**" which he openly **expressed offense** over the term.

Some members of the Hampton University community were asked, if the Stanford graduate is an arrogant "thug" or simply a passionate athlete that was caught at bad time?

"I believe he's a passionate athlete," state Michael Crockett, a freshman computer science major from Alexandria, Va., and member of the track and field team. "Given the circumstances he was in, the emotions are bound to come out in the interview."

"It was a big game and the emotions were high," added Torry Tillman, a sophomore recreation and tourism major from Charlotte, N.C., and also member of the track and field team.

"He had just won a championship game for his team. No one is going to be calm after that."

Aarian Lassalle, a senior marketing major from Bermuda, showed understanding for Sherman's demeanor in his interview.

"I can see why some may feel like he was overly aggressive in that interview because not everybody is usually that hype after a game, but he and his team had just won a spot in the Super Bowl and people express passion and emotion in different ways."

Even after Sherman's rants and interviews, the Hampton students who were interviewed seemed not to agree with the negative comments made about the Seahawk player.

Michael J. Smith, a senior marketing major from New Jersey and also a linebacker for the Hampton University football team said this about Sherman



and his post-game interview: "He was showing his passion. The way that the interviews are scheduled the reporters talk to the players right after the game, which really doesn't give them much time to get their thoughts together and make a politically correct statement."

Smith also said this about Sherman's character: "Just because the media wants to portray him as a 'thug' that doesn't mean he is one. He is a well spoken and intellectual man that does a lot to give back to his community."

*The writer is a student at the **Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications**.*