

BULLDOG SPORTS

By STEVE CROUSE



FOOTBALL FORECAST

Last season Gardner-Webb experienced its first winning football season since it became a senior college in 1969. Head Coach George Litton has led the Bulldogs through these transitional years and last season his efforts were richly rewarded when they finished with a regular season mark of seven wins and three losses, defeating many perennial NAIA powers, and earning the right to play in the league sanctioned Poultry Bowl. If the 'Dogs can begin the 1974 season with the enthusiasm that marked the 1973 season, this could very well be another successful year for G-W football.

This season the Bulldogs will have to find replacements for the two All-Americans who will not be returning. Despite these losses the team has thirty-five returning lettermen. The coaching staff will be looking to incoming freshmen and red shirted freshmen to add depth to the lineup.

The offensive backfield should be one of the Bulldogs' strongest points as the entire backfield of a year ago returns. The backfield will be led by sophomore, Frank Taylor, who gained over a thousand yards last season as a freshman. Taylor will be supported by the senior quarterback Doc Davis, junior running back, George Gilliam, and senior running backs Dennis Dukes and Scott Thompson.

The defensive line looks solid for the '74 season with returning defensive end Billy Warnock; defensive tackle, Arnold Smith; nose man, Steve Klinger; end, Steve Preattave; and end, Marlin Newell. Two juniors will be counted on heavily at the linebacker positions. They are Wayne Henderson and Marcus Trivette. The defensive backfield will be headed by juniors, Billy Peppers, Mike Starnes, and senior Steve Cherry.

The offensive line will be anchored by junior, Bob Bolic, and seniors, Greg Taylor (center), Danny Hudson (guard), Rick Chapman (end), and Terry Wilder (end).

The kicking game looks good for the Bulldogs. Mike Stephens will be handling the place kicking chores. He connected on field goals for 46 and 47 yards in the Bulldogs' 22-20 victory over Lenior Rhyme last season. Rick Chapman returns to handle the punting.

Top Freshmen recruits are Robbie Barger, Charles Carlton, Jr., Jeff Carter, Jody Douglas, Mike Evenson, Bryan Florence, John Hargrove, Tim Hendrick, Gary Laughter, Richard Mack, David Mullis, Napoleon Rogers, Johnny Walker, Monte Walker, Elvin Webber, and Jim Wellem.

The big key to the success of the Bulldogs this year will be the continuation of excellent senior leadership. All in all it looks like another good year for Gardner-Webb football.



Left to right - Coach Fitzsimmons of the Hawks, John Drew and Coach Holbrook of the Runnin' Bulldogs smile for the camera, or was it for other reasons.

Indiana Players Sign With Holbrook

Gene Bowen, of Lafayette Indiana, has signed a grant-in-aid with the Gardner-Webb Runnin' Bulldogs. Bowen was one of the most sought after basketball players in his state. The 6-6, 190 pound Bowen averaged 22 points and 14 rebounds per game his senior season. Bowen played the high post position for the Lafayette-Jefferson High School Broncos.

The new Bulldog recruit received numerous honors while

playing for the Broncos. He was selected as all-region, all-semi state and was chosen as an honorable mention all-state player.

The signing of Bowen gives Coach Holbrook three real fine freshmen recruits from Indiana. Earlier the Bulldogs signed John Pait, a 5-11, 160 pound all-state guard from Jeffersonville. The Bulldogs also signed Norman Mukes, a 6-5 1/2, 194 pound honorable mention all-state guard, from New Albany, Indiana.

Former Bulldog Signs With Hawks

John Drew, former Gardner-Webb All-American signed with the Atlanta Hawks this summer. In the signing of his five year, no cut contract with the Hawks of the National Basketball Association, Drew became the second youngest player to ever sign a professional basketball contract.

The nineteen year old former Bulldog had just completed his sophomore season at Gardner-Webb. Drew a 6-4, 205 pound forward was a first team NAIA All-American as a sophomore. He was also an Associated Press-Honorable Mention All-American and a Universal Sports first team All-American selection.

Last year as a Bulldog cager, Drew averaged 25.9 points and 13 rebounds per game while making 52.4 percent of his field goal attempts.

Atlanta Hawk coach, Cotton Fitzsimmons had much praise for the former Bulldog. "We believe Drew was the wisest of this year's college draft," said Fitzsimmons. "We were fortunate to get him in the second round. He was the best player in the NAIA and the best small college player available in the draft."

"We really hate to lose John," said Gardner-Webb head coach, Eddie Holbrook. "But being realistic about the situation we feel that it was in the best interest of John that he sign. Although John was a vital cog in our plans for next season we felt his future was the most important thing at stake."

Drew joins former Gardner-Webb standouts Artis Gilmore of the Kentucky Colonels and the Bulldogs' all-time leading scorer, George Adams of the San Diego Conquistadors.

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1974 G-W Football Schedule			
Date	Opponent	Place	Time
September 14	Lenoir Rhyne	Hickory	7:30
September 21	Newberry	Newberry, S.C.	7:30
September 28	Wofford	Boiling Springs	7:30
October 5	Guilford	Boiling Springs	7:30
October 12	Georgetown	Georgetown, Ky	2:00
October 19	Catawba (Homecoming)	Boiling Springs	2:30
October 26	Carson Newman	Jefferson City, Tenn.	7:30
November 2	Mars Hill	Boiling Springs	7:30
November 9	Presbyterian	Clinton, S.C.	2:00

Blanks Selected For NAIA All-Stars

Gardner-Webb's Jim Blanks, a senior basketball star, was selected for the NAIA All-Star Team which participated in the Cup of the Nations Tournament in Cali and Bogota, Colombia, August 23-31.

Blanks, a native of Kansas City, has averaged better than 24 points per game during his two years as a Bulldog. He has also pulled down more than 11 rebounds per game. He played his first year of collegiate ball with Moberly (Mo.) Junior College.

This past season he made the NAIA District 26 all-star team as he helped lead the Bulldogs to the district title and a trip to the na-

tionals in Kansas City. The Bulldogs closed out the season with a 25-3 record including a 22-game winning streak which was broken in the nationals by the NAIA title holders, West Georgia.

The NAIA team was one of the 10 teams in the tournament. Others included all-star squads from the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Panama, Argentina, Peru, and Colombia.

The final 12 men were announced at the close of the try-out camp August 19. It was held on the campus of Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois.



New sport at Gardner-Webb. (The making of an All-American team.)