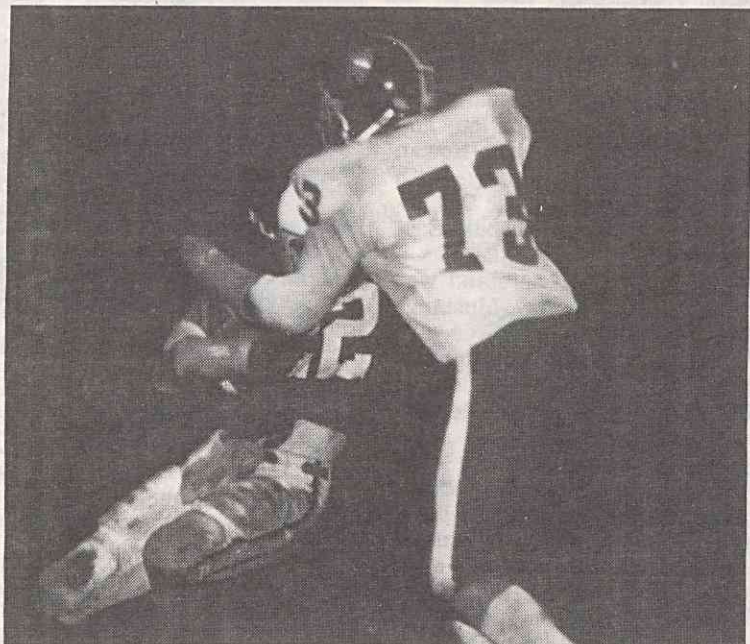


Bulldogs Pick Up Steam

Something new has happened at Albemarle Senior High this fall: the football team has already won 2 games and the year is only halfway over. After winning their first game over West Stanly, the Bulldogs dropped 3 consecutive games, losing to South Stanly, Central Cabarrus and South Rowan. The Bulldogs, however, did snap this losing streak in a dramatic victory over East Rowan bringing their record to 2 wins and 3 losses.



Lacey Crump carries the ball against East Rowan

An aggressively played defensive battle from the start best describes the Bulldog-Rebel clash. The game, played at South Stanly, was tough and hard hitting for both teams. The Rebels prevailed in the end, coming out on top with a final score of 7-0. In the early stages of the game, the Bulldogs found themselves playing in their own end of the field with relatively poor field position. Throughout the first half South Stanly had several excellent opportunities to push the ball into the end-zone for a score, but each time the "Dog" defense forced a turnover or stopped them short of the goal line. Finally, after a long punt return, the Rebels did put 7 points on the board with a short touchdown pass just minutes before the half ended. The second half was almost a repeat of the first, being a bold defensive struggle. The Bulldogs just could not put together any type of an offensive threat and ended up with a disappointing 7-0 loss. Losing this game was especially disheartening, for many of the players felt the team not only could but should have won.

Next, the Bulldogs faced a tough opponent, the Central Cabarrus Vikings. As in the previous game, the Bulldogs fell behind early with the Vikings grabbing a quick 14-0 lead. The tough Bulldog squad, however, would not give up, eventually scoring on a touchdown pass from David Rush to Lacey Crump. Although the Bulldogs scored, the Vikings dominated the remainder of the game and went on to win by a lopsided score of 35-6.

The following Friday night the team traveled to China Grove for a clash with the South Rowan Raiders, a team that had never lost a game in the conference. Once again the Bulldogs found themselves falling behind 14-0 early in the game, a result of two costly Bulldog mistakes. Even though the Dogs trailed, the defense did not waver, but kept tough and contained South Rowan until the final seconds of the half. With less than one minute to play, South scored on a 40-yard pass play. This play seemed to kill the Bulldogs morally as the Raiders dominated the second half en route to a 42-7 trouncing of the Bulldogs.

Although Albemarle did lose three games in a row, the team bounced back with a victory in a well played game against the East Rowan Mustangs. The game, which was played at home, was the best performance by the Bulldogs up to this point of the season. The upset startled the Mustangs who were considered the favorites by 20 points. After taking the opening kickoff, East Rowan made a costly error when Chico Lilly intercepted a key

(Continued on Page 4)

J.V.'s Gain Experience

After the opening season tie with West Stanly, the JV football team has lost four consecutive games. In their first home game the JV's fell to South Stanly by the score of 18-6. At the end of the first half the team was behind 18-0, yet they refused to quit. In the third quarter "Meatball" Brooks broke loose on a spectacular run of 75 yards. The team continued to play hard but was unable to generate any type of offensive threat.

Thursday, September 20, the Albemarle JV's hosted the South Rowan Raiders. The Bulldogs came close to scoring several times but could not keep up the pace. The game ended with the score of 50-0.

The following Thursday, October 4, in a downpour of rain the

team met the East Rowan Mustangs. In the first half the Bulldogs fumbled on their 11 and 14, each time being a first down. At the end of the half the score stood 0-0. The Mustangs made mistakes, but unfortunately the Dogs failed to take advantage. The game ended 28-0 with East Rowan the victor.

The JV's played again Monday, October 8, against Central Cabarrus, but failed to capture the lead, falling behind 48-12.

Coach Talbert says some changes will be made, mainly concerning defense. He says the experience they have gained will help them in the future as varsity players. "After all," he stated, "the true purpose of a JV team is to prepare the players for their varsity years."

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"Always A Step Ahead"



Feature:

It's that time again



By TONY HINSON and MITZI MORRIS

In the fall of 1967, today's seniors were entering kindergarten, Lyndon Johnson was president, and the Albemarle Bulldogs played the North Stanly Comets for the first time. Now 12 grades, three Presidents and 12 games later, Albemarle and North Stanly are preparing to meet again. The Albemarle-North Stanly game has turned into one of the biggest rivalries in this area. The series has been very close with Albemarle holding a slight edge. Albemarle has won six games, North Stanly has won five, and in 1971 the two teams battled to a 0-0 tie. Despite their bitter rivalry, Albemarle and North Stanly had never met each other in a conference game until two years ago. The Bulldogs and the Comets were placed in the South Piedmont Conference, after both teams joined the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

In their first conference game held at Albemarle, the teams battled to a 7-7 tie at the end of regulation play. Each team took the ball for four plays in an overtime period. The Bulldogs scored on their possession but the extra point was no good. The defense held, and Albemarle claimed a 13-7 victory.

At the end of the third quarter of last year's game the score was 13-6 with Albemarle holding a slight lead. In the fourth quarter both teams unleashed all their fighting power. In the remaining minutes of the game the Comets scored, making the score 13-12. North recovered the on-side kick and drove into the end zone again, taking a 18-13 lead. With less than a minute to go, Albemarle took the ball and drove deep into Comet territory behind the passing of Artis Sellers. But the Bulldogs' hopes of a last second victory were dashed when North Stanly intercepted their pass.

This year's game promises to be another thriller. The Comets were highly regarded by many observers in pre-season. They have one of the biggest lines in the conference, and their backfield possesses excellent speed. The Comets, however, have not lived up to their pre-season expectations. The Bulldogs, on the other hand, are one of the smaller teams in the conference, but they do have exceptional quickness and a tough defense. Under the guidance of new head coach Dave Holcomb, the Dogs are greatly improved over last year and they seem to be surprising a lot of people. This year's game

promises to be another exciting clash between Albemarle and North Stanly.

However, the game is not the only excitement surrounding the rivalry. Any morning of the week one can expect to arrive at school and see "Comet" toilet paper hanging from the trees, leaving the Albemarle students no choice but to retaliate in some manner. Another known tradition is North Stanly's annual bonfire, where they burn the likeness of Albemarle players. There are several pre-game rituals but the most exciting moment is the night of the game.

On November 2, as the cries of "Plough Jock" and "City Slicker" fill the air, nothing else will matter except the battle between the Bulldogs and the Comets.



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