

# Experienced Pirates Aim For TBC Title

BATH — Bath is in its last season as a Class 1-A football team. Next year, a consolidation with Belhaven Wilkinson will place the new school, Northside, in the Class 2-A ranks.

Pirate head football coach Walt Davis has made the point plain and simple: he wants the 1988 team to be remembered as one of the best teams ever to wear the maroon and gold of the Pirates.

Davis has good reason to feel this year's team might accomplish that feat. The Pirates were 6-3 last season and only a loss to Jamesville kept them from making the state playoffs. Seventeen starters — nine on offense, eight on defense — return to lead an experienced and depth-laden team at several key positions.

"I definitely feel that (depth) will be one of our advantages going into the season," Davis, who has posted the winningest record in the area (63-31, a .669 percentage) during the last nine years, said. "Some schools go from a senior to a freshman in terms of backups. In our case, we'll be replacing seniors with juniors and maybe a sophomore here and there."

One player that will not play for the Pirates this season is John Paul, a projected starter at offensive tackle. Paul, a 6-1, 196-pound senior, suffered torn ligaments in his knee in a freak accident suffered while the team was en route to Manteo Aug. 19 for a scrimmage.

"We're still not sure exactly what happened, but we were told that John was changing seats on the bus and his knee locked," said



Members of the 1988 Bath Pirate football team are, from left, front row: Wayne Jefferson, Scott McGowan, Stephen Waters, Marcus Lacy, Jay Evans, Jeff Frazier, Jay Shively, Brad Alligood and Mitchell Ransall; second row: head coach Walt Davis, assistant coach Dwayne Lanier, Boyd Woolard, Bill Ambrose, Jerome Bailey, Gray Woolard, Ernie Cornelius, Neil Woolard, Butch Oliver, Bryan Tuten,

Davis. "But we do know he's out for the season."

"We just hope whoever we put in can get the job done," Davis said.

Leading Bath's wishbone offense for a second straight season will be Bryan Tuten (5-11, 173, Sr.), who passed for 476 yards and threw just six interceptions last season.

"Bryan will have to be able to read the defenses and then make quick decisions," Davis said. "A lot of offensive success will depend on him."

All five running backs return for

the Pirates, led by 1,000-yard rusher Jay Evans (5-9, 154, Sr.) at one halfback spot. The other halfback position will be manned by either Marcus Lacy (5-7, 142, So.) or Lauris Joyner (6-0, 187, Sr.). Bill Ambrose (5-9, 208, Sr.) and Jeff Frazier (5-9, 155, Sr.) will be the fullbacks.

For Bath to have continued success running the ball, as it did last season when the backs produced 2,094 yards and 26 of the Pirates' 31 touchdowns, three offensive linemen — center B.G. Woolard (6-1, 187, Sr.), tackle Gary Tyer (5-11, 197, Jr.) and guard Ernie Cornelius (5-11, 212, Sr.) will have to have productive seasons blocking, Davis said.

Keith Boyd (6-2, 185, Sr.) and Pooh Woolard (5-10, 163, Sr.) lead the tight ends while Roger Braddy (6-1, 163, Jr.) and Kevin Newman (6-2, 194, Sr.) are also expected to see time at that position.

Another strength is Bath's 6-2 defense which returns seven starters. Neil Woolard (5-10, 171, So.) and B.G. Woolard are the inside linebackers. They will be backed up by Ambrose and Scott McGowan (5-9, 171, Sr.).

The starting outside linebackers are Frazier and Boyd while Jerome Bailey (5-10, 174, So.) and Wayne Fisher (6-3, 191, So.) provide backup help. Joyner and Melvin Bailey (6-0, 184, Sr.) return at defensive ends and Butch Oliver (6-0, 182, Sr.) and Newman will be the backups. A much improved secondary (said Davis) will feature Pooh Woolard at safety and either Evans, Stephen Waters (5-8, 146, Sr.), Gray Woolard (5-10, 147, Jr.) or Jay Shively (5-10, 153, Jr.). Tuten will be the backup safety.

To be a successful football team, Davis said the Pirates had to improve on three areas.

"First, we have to improve our kicking game and our specialty teams," he said. "Second, we have to keep up our enthusiasm and intensity. And third, we have to find out how bad we really want to win."

"I hope the kids think about the fact that this is our last year,"

Gary Tyer, Christopher Peele and assistant coach Brian Swain; back row: assistant coach Horace Miller, Kris Sauls, Gray Moore, B.G. Woolard, Wayne Fisher, Keith Boyd, Kevin Newman, Wally Basnight, Lauris Joyner, Melvin Bailey, Roger Braddy and assistant coach Gerry Klas. Not pictured are John Paul and assistant coach Bing Mitchell.

## 1988 Bath Roster

NO.	Player	CLASS	HGT.	WGT.	POS.
52	Brad Alligood	Sr.	5-9	205	Line
44	Bill Ambrose	Sr.	5-9	208	Back
32	Melvin Bailey	Sr.	6-0	184	Back
60	Wally Basnight	Sr.	6-3	205	Line
88	Keith Boyd	Sr.	6-2	185	End
62	Ernie Cornelius	Sr.	5-11	212	Line
22	Jay Evans	Sr.	5-9	154	Back
40	Jeff Frazier	Sr.	5-9	155	Back
79	Andy Jackson	Sr.	6-1	207	Line
41	Lauris Joyner	Sr.	6-0	187	Back
66	Scott McGowan	Sr.	5-9	171	End
81	Kevin Newman	Sr.	6-2	194	End
51	Butch Oliver	Sr.	6-0	182	Line
72	John Paul	Sr.	6-1	196	Line
85	Gary Satchell	Sr.	5-9	133	Line
11	Bryan Tuten	Sr.	5-11	173	Back
84	Stephen Waters	Sr.	5-8	146	Back
50	B.G. Woolard	Sr.	6-1	187	Line
23	Boyd Woolard	Sr.	5-10	163	End
14	Roger Braddy	Jr.	6-1	163	End
77	Mitchell Randall	Jr.	5-8	241	Line
55	Kris Sauls	Jr.	6-1	192	Line
30	Jay Shively	Jr.	5-10	153	Back
73	Gary Tyer	Jr.	5-11	197	Line
10	Gray Woolard	Jr.	5-10	147	Back
26	Jerome Bailey	So.	5-10	174	Back
63	Wayne Fisher	So.	6-3	191	Line
54	Wayne Jefferson	So.	5-9	170	Line
21	Tommy Jones	So.	5-9	147	Back
24	Marcus Lacy	So.	5-7	142	Back
13	Gray Moore	So.	6-3	158	Back
42	Christopher Peele	So.	6-0	145	Back
15	Neil Woolard	So.	5-10	171	Back

## 1987

### BATH

30	Rosewood	28
16	Jamesville	13
20	Belhaven	0
6	Jamesville	13
44	Creswell	6
6	Columbia	32
28	North Edgecombe	16
42	Mattamuskeet	14
28	Chocowinity	34

Davis said. "I hope it will be a stepping stone (the last season). And if we avoid injuries at key positions early so we won't have to play a lot of people both ways, we could be a good team this year."

## 1988

### BATH

August	September	October	November
26	Rosewood		
2	at Jamesville		
9	at Belhaven*		
16	Jamesville*		
23	Open		
30	at Creswell*		
		October	
7	Columbia*		
14	at North Edgecombe*		
21	Perquimans		
28	at Mattamuskeet*		
		November	
4	Chocowinity*		

\*—Conference games

## Quick Backfield Keys Northampton East

CONWAY — Last season, the Northampton East football team finished 4-6 overall and 1-5 in the Northeastern Conference. This season, Coach Diego Hasty hopes a quick backfield can lead the team to the Class 2-A state playoffs.

The Rams return six starters of offense and six on defense. Three

of the offensive starters are backs: quarterback Dexter Harris (6-1, 188, Sr.) and running backs David Pery (5-9, 170, Jr.) and Doug DeLoatch (5-11, 190, Sr.).

Terry Williams (5-8, 160, Jr.), another back that will push for increased playing time this year, is the fastest player on the team, having been timed at 4.4 seconds

in the 40-yard dash, Hasty said. The team, which has 29 players, will not be deep, especially on the offensive and defensive lines. Players expected to contribute defensively are Matt Howard (6-0, 200, Sr.), Winfred Tann (6-2, 159, Sr.), Greg Peebles (5-10, 170, Sr.), Michael Thompson (6-0, 204, Sr.) and Reggie Lawrence (5-7, 171, Sr.).

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