

Lakers Undergo Changes

SWAN QUARTER — Jim Bennington, the first-year Mattamuskeet football head coach, has had to scramble in the weeks since August started.

He had to move from Princeton to Swan Quarter and he had to get the Mattamuskeet football team off and rolling on its preseason practices.

He managed.

He has instituted some changes — getting things going in the direction he wants.

"When I got here, we had two (game) tapes," he said. "Starting this week, we will have all our practices taped."

Taking over a 1-A program that has recorded four wins in the last four seasons, Bennington has his work cut out.

But, the former assistant coach at Princeton, is a fountain of confidence and optimism.

"We've got the overall talent, if they are all here and all healthy, to compete in the (Tobacco Belt) conference," he said. "We are sound defensively. Offensively, if we don't give the ball away, we can use a lot of the clock."

Bennington said the Lakers will play a pure power I — lining up with two tight ends.

"We'll send three people into the off-tackle hole and the defense will come a runnin'. If they stop that, then we'll just have to get ready for next week. We will pass ... once in a blue moon," he said. "If someone is flipping through the paper and they see a score of a Mattamuskeet game with 30's and 40's in it, we get beat."

"We're going to have to keep the scores in the 20's."

"The kids are hungry. Last year, they went 0-10 and got beat pretty soundly with only one close game."

"But, their attitudes have been good. I've talked to the kids about being dedicated. They have a lot of heart."

Bennington said he has had as many as 23 players working out.

But, the average has been around 20 at each practice, he said.

He lists 17 lettermen returning — seven starters and five seniors. Reggie Blount, a junior, is slated to quarterback.

"He's never played football," Bennington said. "He is a great athlete but he has to get used to playing football. We've been working with him on handoffs and reads. He's been practicing every day steady."

Bernardo Murray, a 5-9, 180-



Members of the 1988 Mattamuskeet Laker football team are: front row, from left, Lawrence Blount, Jerel Johnson, Mario Barber, James Spencer and Todd Mason; on the second row, from left, James Topping, Gyno Topping, Leondus Farrow, Michael Whitney, Antowion Whitney, James Blount and Eddie Collins; on the third row, from left, Mitchell Gibbs, Edwin Spencer, Bernardo Murray, Jason Mayo, Kevin Lloyd, Reggie Blount, Shannon Swindell and Roy Cotton.

pound junior, will be the fullback while James Spencer, a junior varsity performer last season, will handle blocking-back duties. Leondus Farrow and Jerel Johnson will alternate at the tailback, bringing in plays from the bench.

Wallace Gibbs, a 169-pound sophomore, is the only sure thing on the line, Bennington said.

"We're still moving people around — we won't have the line settled until the first game."

Defensively, Gyno Topping and Art Whitley are slated at end while Roy Cotton and Lawrence Blount will play tackles. Wallace Murray will play at nose guard.

Eddie Collins, James Toppings and Leondas Farrow have the inside track for the linebacker positions, Bennington said.

Edwin Spencer has nailed down one secondary position — the others are still in contention.

The Lakers had but one scrimmage in which to prepare for the season opener against Acme-Delco.

And, that was a harried affair. Originally slated for Mattamuskeet, Princeton's team bus broke down. So, early Saturday morning, the Lakers made a several hour road trip for a mid-afternoon scrimmage in the heat of the day.

"They had 35 to 38 kids dressed out," Bennington said. "For the first 10 minutes we held our own. Then we had a couple of players go down because of the heat."

Fumbles were a problem. Ben-

nington said. The Lakers bobbled the ball four times, losing one.

But, Bennington noted, once the exchange was made, the offense clicked.

The defense held Princeton's offense to one touchdown.

In assessing the upcoming season, Bennington was frank.

"We might take our lumps," he said. "Next year, if I don't run all the kids off, things will be different."

MATTAMUSKEET	
28	at Acme-Delco
September	
2	Marion
9	at Chocowinity*
16	Open
23	at Columbia
30	Open
October	
7	Jamesville*
14	at Crosswell*
21	Belhaven*
28	Bath*
November	
4	at North Edgemore*

1988 Mattamuskeet Roster

NO.	Player	CLASS	HGT.	WGT.	POS.
81	Edwin Spencer	Jr.	5-8	147	Back
10	Reginald Blount	Jr.	5-10	126	Back
32	Leondus Farrow	Jr.	5-10	159	Back
61	Mitchell Gibbs	Jr.	5-11	172	End
80	Edward Collins	Jr.	6-3	160	Back
66	Roy E. Cotton	Sr.	5-10	219	Line
40	James Burrus	So.	5-8	167	Back
50	Antowion Whitney	Sr.	6-2	195	End
55	Michael Whitney	So.	5-5	133	Line
60	Wallace Gibbs	So.	5-6	169	Line
82	Gyno Topping	Sr.	5-11	154	End
30	Jerel Johnson	Sr.	5-6	132	Back
70	Todd Mason	Fr.	5-11	231	Line
62	Shannon Swindell	So.	5-10	210	Line
44	Bernardo Murray	Jr.	5-9	183	Back
71	Kevin Lloyd	So.	6-0	191	Line
	Spencer Swindler	So.	5-9	150	End
41	Jason Mayo	So.	5-7	147	Back
42	James Topping	Sr.	5-10	168	Back
72	Lawrence Blount	Fr.	5-7	248	Line
20	Mario Barber	So.	5-11	167	Back
	Chris Spencer	Fr.	5-2	145	Back
	Leon Green	Fr.	5-6	130	Back
88	James Blount	Jr.	5-10	167	End

Patriots' Outlook Not Good

MOREHEAD CITY — West Carteret head football coach Edsel Hiatt was rather blunt when assessing his team's outlook for the 1988 season.

"We hope to do better, but with the talent and other problems we have, there's not a whole lot you can say," Hiatt, a 27-year veteran of coaching, said. "The players on this team have good attitudes, but as a whole we are small and inexperienced and we don't have any depth, strength or quickness."

Hiatt is in his second year at the helm. In his first year, the Patriots finished at the bottom of the Coastal Conference at 0-6 and ended with a 1-9 record. Hiatt came to Morehead City from Richmond County, where he had been head coach for four years.

"We were supposed to have nine starters back on offense but only six showed up," Hiatt said. "On defense, we were scheduled to have five back, now it's two. We only have one senior on each side of the ball."

Jeff Blessing (5-7, 155) is the lone senior starter to return. Blessing is the team captain and will play wideout this season. A trio of juniors return: quarterback Mike Haman (6-0, 160), tackle David Donovan (6-1, 235) and split end Nick Kukilinski (6-4, 215). Kukilinski will also play linebacker on defense.

In addition, Mark Lewis (5-7, 160), the team's projected tailback, should help the Patriots with his speed (4.7 in the 40-yard dash).

West Carteret will carry 29 players this season, Hiatt said.

1987

WEST CARTERET

6	Pamlico County	22
6	Southwest Onslow	7
20	Jones Senior	14
8	Lejeune	7
8	West Craven	45
8	D.H. Conley	49
12	Washington	42
8	East Carteret	48
8	Havelock	55
8	North Lenoir	28

EAST CARTERET

15	Lejeune	14
10	Southwest Onslow	8
14	Plymouth	13
16	Washington	7
0	Wallace Rose-Hill	33
17	Havelock	20
49	West Carteret	0
31	North Lenoir	6
13	West Craven	14
8	D.H. Conley	23

Injury-Free Jackets Could Surprise

ROANOKE RAPIDS — If the Roanoke Rapids football team can avoid injuries on the offensive and defensive lines and avoid the turnovers that plagued it throughout the 1987 season, it may be in for a surprisingly successful 1988 season, head coach Ed Nelson said.

The major loss the Yellow Jackets face is the graduation of wide receiver Walter Jones, an all-Northeastern Conference performer and a second team All-East performer who is attending Duke University this fall on a full athletic scholarship.

Four senior returnees head the offensive line: Charles Hudson (5-10, 180), Jeff Baird (5-10, 185), Stan

Dalton (5-10, 175) and Brent Massey (6-0, 260).

Charlie Ludlam, who was a wide receiver and backup quarterback last season, returns as the Jackets' starting quarterback. Ludlam (5-10, 165, Sr.) is joined in the backfield of the I-split back offense by fullback John Lowe (5-10, 150, Sr.) and tailbacks Johnny B. Harrison (5-10, 260, Jr.) and Chad Matta (5-11, 170, Jr.). The wide receivers are Ashley Parker (5-7, 150, Jr.), Bob Wilson (6-0, 155, Jr.) and Stuart Chambers (6-1, 170, Jr.).

Four starters — Massey (tackle), Baird and Dalton (linebackers) and Scott Harris (tackle, 6-1, 235, Sr.) lead the Yellow Jacket de-

fense. Competing for defensive end spots are Matta, Jeffrey White (6-0, 170, Jr.) and Tripp Elias (6-0, 165, Sr.). Brent Manning (5-7, 165, Jr.), Parker, Wilson and Casey Gregory (5-10, 155, Jr.) are competing for the cornerback slots. Chambers and Brian Smith (5-10, 155, Jr.) will be the safeties in the Jackets' 4-4 defense. The defensive backfield will be totally restructured.

To be in the thick of the NEAC race, Nelson said Ludlam and Smith will have to be effective quarterbacks and the younger players would have to learn through valuable game experience early in the season.



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