

Spruill To Lead Youthful Tigers

Senior Guy Spruill appears to be the starting quarterback for the Williamston football team going into the season opener at home against non-conference 1-A opponent Manteo.

Spruill (5-8, 165) will be leading a relatively inexperienced squad which returns minus 19 starters from last year's 7-4 edition.

Spruill performed at tailback for the 1987 Tiger gridgers, gaining 900 yards rushing.

For head coach Harold Robinson, in his 15th year at Williamston and his 11th year as head coach, the on-field strength of the Tigers will be the offensive backs and linebackers.

There is an intangible dimension for Williamston too.

"Good attitudes and work habits have always been a trait of a Williamston High School football team," he said. "We have a strong commitment and a lot of pride."

And a large amount of community support. In fact, this year, opponents heading into the Tiger's sparkling clean and green stadium will be greeted by a large billboard listing a group of athletic sponsors.

Robinson's program is also a sparkling model. His practices are efficient. He is a whirling non-stop dynamo of action.

He sets the example for his players.

This year, the intangibles may be the spark that ignites the Tigers into the playoffs.

Last year, Williamston advanced to the first round, losing a squeaker to Clayton, 14-13.

The Tigers will go into this season searching for the fifth-straight winning season.

The key Robinson said would be how fast his youngsters can mature.

Williamston's roster lists 32 varsity performers — 17 seniors, 10 juniors and five sophomores.

On the offensive line, three-year performer Steven Clifford is the only returner. Clifford (6-2, 249) earned all-conference honors as a junior. He is the strongest player on the team with a bench-press of 390 pounds.

Tyrone Bland, a 4.5 speedster, will be looking to follow Clifford into the line. Bland (5-9, 180) rushed for close to 800 yards last season and was a threat on kickoff



Members of the 1988 Williamston Tiger football team are, from left, front row: Charlie Russell, Chris Peaks, Chris Coudreit, Tyrone Bland, Tony Williams, Guy Spruill and Morris Warren; second row: Chris Hardison, Gary Manning, Chris Miles, Tony Bland, Noel Matthewson, Jim Carter, Tommy Taylor and Toby Goss; back row: John Ogleby, William Everett, Steve Clifford, Bart Revels, Pierre Jones, Ryan Phelps, Murdock Bullock, Ted Biggs and John Sparrow. Not pictured are Ricky Griffin, Jamie Roberson, Tim Lassiter, Marcus Freeman, David Wallace, Lamont Moore, Edon Rodgers and Mike York.

returns. Bland is also a strong physical specimen, benching 320 pounds.

The Williamston offense will be oriented to the run.

Defense has always been Robinson's emphasis — he is quick to remind he started his career at Williamston as the defensive coordinator.

This year, Williamston will have a young and inexperienced defensive unit.

Senior defensive end Jim Carter

(5-9, 170), sophomore Tony Bland (5-9, 180), Ricky Griffin (6-0, 190) and senior Bart Revels (6-0 195) have the inside track on the linebacker positions.

Senior Jamie Roberson (5-10, 225) is a leader for one of the slots on the line.

Overall, Robinson said his team needs to remain healthy because of a lack of depth — especially in the offensive line.

"We will be small but quick."

WILLIAMSTON August

26	Manteo
September	
2	at Perquimans
9	Bertie
16	at Greene Central
23	at Northampton East*
30	Plymouth*
October	
7	at Edenton*
14	Hertford County*
21	Open
28	at Roanoke Rapids*
November	
4	Roanoke*

1988 Williamston Roster

NO.	Player	CLASS	HGT.	WGT.	POS.
1	Guy Spruill	Sr.	5- 8	165	Back
2	Tyrone Bland	Sr.	5- 9	180	Back
3	Tony Williams	Sr.	5- 8	160	Back
4	Chris Coudreit	Sr.	5- 8	135	Kick
5	Ted Biggs	Jr.	5-10	160	End
6	Morris Warren	Sr.	5-10	160	End
7	Pierre Jones	Jr.	6- 0	155	End
10	Chris Miles	Jr.	5- 9	150	End
12	John Sparrow	Sr.	6- 2	175	Back
15	Charlie Russell	Jr.	5- 8	145	End
20	Ryan Phelps	Sr.	6- 1	170	Back
24	Toby Goss	Sr.	6- 0	195	Back
30	William Everett	Jr.	6- 1	205	Back
40	Tony Bland	So.	5- 9	180	Back
52	Tommy Taylor	Jr.	5- 9	195	Line
55	Chris Peaks	Jr.	5- 9	210	Line
64	Jim Carter	Sr.	5- 9	170	Line
65	Chris Hardison	Sr.	5- 8	190	Line
66	Gary Manning	Sr.	5- 9	165	Line
72	Steve Clifford	Sr.	6- 0	249	Line
76	Murdock Bullock	Sr.	6- 0	180	Line
77	Noel Matthewson	Jr.	5-11	252	Line
80	John Ogleby	Jr.	6- 1	185	End
84	Bart Revels	Sr.	6- 0	195	End
86	Ricky Griffin	Sr.	6- 0	170	End
75	Jamie Roberson	Sr.	5-10	225	Line
60	Tim Lassiter	Jr.	5- 9	160	Line
78	Marcus Freeman	So.	6- 0	220	Line
62	David Wallace	So.	6- 1	170	Line
50	Lamont Moore	So.	6- 0	160	Line
25	Edon Rodgers	So.	5- 8	160	Back
88	Mike York	Sr.	6- 0	185	End

Records Teams Would Like To Forget

Several area teams enter the 1988 high school football seasons with some distinction — some good distinction and come not-so-good distinction.

Columbia, now dressing 14 players and taking a week-by-week look at the season, was runner-up in the 1-A classification last year. The Tigers have an eight-game at-home winning streak to protect.

Edenton has a consecutive home-game winning streak of six games, followed by Bath with five consecutive home wins.

Aurora, when it had football teams, lost 12 consecutive away games. But that's not as bad as Parkton's 23 consecutive away games lost. Mattamuskeet's Lakers have lost their last eight consecutive away games and Belhaven's John A. Wilkinson High School's Bulldogs have lost seven straight away games.

Aurora also lost eight consecutive home games when it fielded teams, but Charlotte's Garinger High School leads the list with 17-

straight losses at home. Mattamuskeet is on the consecutive home-loss list with six losses and Creswell is on the list with five

consecutive losses at home. Mattamuskeet is tenth on the list of longest losing streaks with 12 straight losses.



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NCHSAA From Page 12

michael Auditorium drew a record number of fans.

The move to bigger and nicer facilities is the most visible change in the organization under Adams' leadership. That has been easy compared with the difficulty of changing the association's image.

There was — and still is, to some degree — a feeling among many of the 330 member schools that the NCHSAA sits in Chapel Hill as police, prosecutor, judge and jury. Some coaches say Adams sits in his office in Chapel Hill and dictates policy to the state.

Adams said he could understand the feeling — to a point.

"I know when I was coaching, I

felt that the association was in Chapel Hill waiting to pounce. We've tried to let more people be involved.

"Here is an organization that provides state tournaments, helps provide regular-season play and is devoted to the betterment of boys' and girls' athletic programs, and people think of it as a policing organization.

"There is always going to be that feeling, I suppose, but we do listen. Sometimes coaches have tunnel vision, and if we don't implement what they suggest, they believe we didn't hear. But we have 21 sports and 332 schools. We know that everyone isn't going to be happy with every decision."

Adams said committees, advisory councils and ad hoc groups consisting of superintendents, principals, coaches and athletic directors have become more important in the NCHSAA in recent years.

Perhaps the biggest criticism of the association is an outgrowth of Adams' success in attracting corporate sponsors. Some coaches wonder where all the money goes.

"I might have the same problem if I was coaching," Adams said. "I would see all that money coming in (the association took in \$991,350 during the '87 season) and would wonder where it all goes. But what we take in goes right backout."