



# West Craven Highlights

News From Along The Banks Of The Neuse



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25 CENTS

SIX PAGES



Tending Their Nets

Off to an early start, fishermen get to look at quiet places along the river. They pull nets in the morning peace, before the bustle of the day begins. They see the shoreline before it becomes crowded

with sunbathers. They float on the surface of the water before the wind pushes up a chop. They'll be back on land before the water skiers and speedboats take over. (Ric Carter photo)

## Eagles Shear Rams; Defense Gets Tough

Team	GC	WCR
First Downs	6	4
Rushes-Yards	26-100	48-237
Passing Yards	96	7
Pass-Comp-Int	17-8-0	5-1-1
Punts-Average	6-42	4-35
Fumbles-Lost	3-3	5-2
Penalties-Yards	6-50	6-40

By MIKE VOSS  
Editor

West Craven's defense lit the fuse and sophomore tailback Lee Becton exploded for four touchdowns in a 24-20 win over Greene Central here Friday night.

The Eagles' defense sacked Ram quarterback Kris Radford five times and recovered three fumbles, two leading to touchdowns.

Greene Central, a 2-A competitor, capitalized on two Eagle miscues in scoring two TD's.

Seniors Monte Brown and Chuck Bandy, aided by sophomore linebacker Swindell Flowers, applied pressure all night to the Ram offense. Flowers was credited with 2½ sacks for a total loss of 21 yards. He got to the Ram signal caller two times in a row.

Leading 18-12 with less than two minutes remaining, West Craven, a Class 3-A Coastal Conference competitor, found itself on its 31-yard line with third down. The Eagles had been stymied in their last two possessions and the momentum seemed to be swinging toward Greene Central. But Becton broke loose on a 69-yard scoring jaunt to seal the win for the 1-1 Eagles.

Becton carried the ball 22 times for 232 yards. He scored on runs of 15, 16, 54 and 69 yards. In his first varsity outing last week, Becton rambled 234 yards.

Greene Central put together an 84-yard scoring drive to pull to 24-20 with 28 seconds left in the game. Radford completed four of

five passes for 68 yards in the drive, capping it off with a 35-yard scoring strike to freshman Ken Jones.

West Craven took the opening kickoff but could not move the ball, but Brad Kearney gave the ball to the Eagles on the Ram 15 when he recovered a fumble on the Rams' punt return. Two plays later Becton scored from 15 yards out to give the Eagles a 6-0 lead after the two-point conversion pass from Kevin Holzworth to Adrian Cameron was incomplete.

Bobby Gaddy set up the Eagles' second score when he recovered a Ram fumble at the Rams' 16-yard line. Becton scored on the next play to give the Eagles a 12-0 lead. Gaddy recovered another Ram fumble two plays before the fumble recovery that led to the second Eagle touchdown. Between the Ram fumbles, West Craven turned it back over to the Rams with a fumble.

Greene Central scored with 4:02 left in the first half after Becton fumbled and the Rams took possession on the 7-yard line. Anthony Dupree scored from four yards out two plays later to close the gap to 12-6. The extra-point attempt was wide right.

The Rams threatened to tie the score when Donald Speight intercepted a pass by Holzworth and returned it to the Eagles' 20, but a clipping penalty took the ball back to the 35. The Rams could not move the ball and punted. The Eagles took over at their own 28.

Four plays and four runs later by Becton, he scored on a 46-yard scamper up the left side to boost the Eagle margin to 18-6 with 1:52

(See EAGLES, Page 5)



Brown toughs out injury

## Brown's Leadership Role Earns Flying Eagle Award

Monte Brown was off the field as much as he was on it in West Craven's 24-20 win over Greene Central on Friday night. Plagued with an injury, Brown played his first game of the season. But he paid the price.

Several times during the game, usually after a bone-jarring tackle or other outstanding defensive play, Brown would be forced to the ground where he stood or have just enough strength to make it to the sideline.

Perhaps it was more Brown's leadership and a presence other than physical that led the Eagles' defense to a much-improved showing. In the first game against North Pitt, the defense had its prob-

lems. Brown's presence, both mentally and physically, gave the defense the leadership it needed.

On his back with pain written across his face, Brown showed the younger players that sometimes one has to play with pain. One of his teammates, as Brown limped off the field after one of his injuries, coaxed the team into applauding Brown's efforts. At that point, Brown's lesson to his teammates had made its point.

Joining Brown in teaching the lesson was defense Chuck Bandy, who also was banged up and bruised.

Not only with his attitude,

(See BROWN, Page 5)

## Tg Official Says Permit Is Essential

By MICHAEL ADAMS

The head of the Texasgulf Chemicals Co. operation in Aurora says a permit allowing the company to mine phosphate through wetlands is essential to the operation's survival.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a public meeting Thursday night to gather concerns from the public for inclusion in an environmental impact statement on the permit request from Texasgulf. The company has requested permission to mine through 234 acres of wetlands in the process of mining about 4,300 acres over the next 20 years.

Thomas J. Regan, operations vice president at Texasgulf, said in an interview before the public meeting that the economics of phosphate mining required that the company mine through the wetlands.

"We have to have the ability to mine that phosphate ore or we have no business here," he said.

He said the process by which phosphate was mined made it unfeasible to try to mine around

the wetlands and leave them undisturbed. He said the costs would be so high that Texasgulf would be forced to shut down.

The environmental statement is the document on which the decision on whether to issue the permit will be based. It is will examine the anticipated effects of a variety of alternative actions on natural resources in the area.

At Thursday's meeting, the corps sought to learn what areas the public wanted it to emphasize in preparing the statement and what alternatives to the permit should be studied.

Several people, including representatives of the N.C. Coastal Federation and the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, suggested that the corps study the effect of limiting mining to upland areas or mining in an entirely different area.

Representatives of PTRF handed out prompting sheets before the meeting to remind people to ask that the environmental statement examine wetland

(See TEXASGULF, Page 5)

## Former Eagle Standout Starting For N.C. State

By MO KROCHMAL

Special to the West Craven Highlights

RALEIGH — West Craven product Jesse Campbell, a red-shirt freshman and a sophomore academically, said he was pleased with his first game as a collegiate gridder.

Campbell started as strong safety and performed on the punting team for North Carolina State in its season-opening 45-6 triumph over Western Carolina at Carter-Finley Stadium Saturday night.

Campbell was officially credited with making one unassisted tackle and two assists. He played most of the first, second and fourth quarters.

"I was kind of nervous at first," he said. "A highlight for me was when we first went out on the field. We played one down of defense against Western's offense. We went one-down-and-out. That got me pumped up."

Campbell, the son of Jesse and Lovie Campbell of Vanceboro,

said he was impressed by the crowd of 40,300.

"I've got to used to that (size of the crowd)," Campbell said. "It's a lot different from high school."

Campbell's college position is different from high school too. Instead of lining up at running back, Campbell now plays defense. His job is to react to the play. Many times Saturday night, Campbell would have to sprint to the other side of the field in pursuit of a pass receiver or a runner.

He had a few plays to go his way — once or twice he was able to trot up to the line of scrimmage to feint a blitz. But, mostly he served as containment.

"In my position you have to be patient and disciplined," he said.

"I'll get a chance to make big plays on sweep and options or on passes to the flats."

Saturday night, however, Western Carolina didn't provide the offensive power to require Campbell's services.

(See JESSE, Page 2)

## Blue Bayou Captures Michelob Cup Regatta

By MIKE VOSS

Editor

NEW BERN — Blue Bayou, taking advantage of fair winds and fair skies, captured the 11th annual Michelob Cup Sailing Regatta on the Neuse River on Saturday.

The 36-foot sailing vessel captained by Richard Johnson used a strong final leg in the triangular course to win the dash to the buoy marking the finish line.

Blue Bayou didn't have to worry about lack of wind as it did

Aug. 6 in the Dog Days Regatta.

In that race on the Pamlico River, Blue Bayou had the lead coming up about 200 yards from the finish line and appeared headed for victory, but what wind there was died and left it and Cambria dead in the water. Cambria was able to work itself across the line to take the win.

A celebration broke out on the Blue Bayou's deck when the boat crossed the finish line and the

(See REGATTA, Page 5)

## What's Fishy At South Creek?

### Farmer Diversifies Into Production Of Hybrid Bass

By Michael Adams

AURORA — Lee Brothers gets up every morning, puts on his bathing suit and heads out to the farm.

That's right, a bathing suit. Because Lee's not headed to an ordinary farm but to a fish farm — perhaps the only one of its kind in the world.

Lee, with the assistance of his father, Harvey, is busy raising thousands of hybrid striped bass in 30 acres of ponds near South Creek. He hopes the cross between striped bass and white bass will soon be a staple at some of the finer restaurants and groceries in the Northeast.

And since he spends as much time in the water as on the land, Lee goes to work looking more like a beachcomber than a farmer.

"The bathing suit has replaced blue jeans and

brogans," he said, smiling. He added that people in nearby Aurora, who often see him in town in his trucks, sometimes ask, "Don't you ever work?"

Lee has been farming for years, but only recently became involved in the fish business.

After his graduation from East Carolina University with a business degree, he followed in his father's farming footsteps, raising corn and soybeans.

But in 1985 a drought ravaged farms in eastern North Carolina and Lee lost money. The loss didn't sit well with him and he began to look around for an alternative to "conventional" farming.

His search led him to hybrid striped bass.

Lee said a family friend, Buford "Red" Tatum, who just happens to be an ichthyologist (fish scientist) in Arkansas and just happens to have been one of the developers of hybrid striped bass, encouraged him to attempt commercial production of the fish.

In 1986, Lee went to Arkansas to tour catfish farms run by established producers in that region.

"I didn't learn too much the first time," he said, so he went back three more times in the next two

(See FISH, Page 5)



Brothers says, "You're guaranteed a bite with every cast" in his ponds