



## It's Time For Football - Yahoo!!

**By Elson Armstrong, Jr.**  
Forget baseball (major league style, anyway), I could care less now if they never play another game because it's now time for football. Yes, August 1 signals the opening for American football for sports nuts like myself and I must say that it's about time!

Yes, even though they are only exhibition games, I have been waiting for what seems like an eternity for that game opening, whistle to blow.

From now until the bowl games, my virtual undivided attention will center around that rough and tumble game where players clamor for possession of that all-important pigskin.

If you enjoy this sport as much as I do, then you may follow a ritual that is similar to mine.

First, in July it's time to check out all the national publications to see what predictions they're making for the pros and colleges.

When August rolls in, that means it's time for the NFL Hall of Fame Game. While I'll be the first to admit that this game is usually about as exciting as watching the grocery truck unload, it gets us football crazies in to the correct atmosphere for the coming season.

For the next month, we grab a cold one and watch the NFL pre-season on the tube. When the colleges begin their drills in the middle of the month, we then hit the local campuses to view the workouts and see just what "Coach" thinks his squad will accomplish this season.

With August on its last legs, there is usually a local high school game. Amid all the heat and humidity of a late summer night, it's fun to watch the kids go at it while their parents yell from the stands.

When September rolls in, then we football fans are in "Hog Heaven". There's all sorts of football, ranging from junior highs to the NFL and yours truly tries to catch it all, if that's possible.

### Thursday School Football

In Durham, these games are usually played at 4 p.m., thus the crowds are usually small, but enthusiastic. While many fans may consider themselves too "sophisticated" for junior high ball, I say that this is where it all begins. Who knows, a future college or pro super star may be earning his spurs here.

The games are usually played at makeshift "stadiums" behind the schools which seat, at

most, a couple of hundred persons. Parents and teachers operate the concessions, and while the youngsters are learning the fundamentals of blocking and tackling, other kids are learning what it's like to play in the band and still others become yell leaders.

The games, divided into eight minute quarters, go quickly, but they are usually hard fought.

### Friday Nights The High Schools

A step up from the junior highs, by now the players are more polished and the crowds are really into the contests.

In some towns this is the biggest level of football and the entire area backs the high schoolers. In most of North Carolina's larger cities, (i.e., Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro) some attendance has suffered because there are other activities that compete for the entertainment dollar, but I maintain that there's quite a bit of enjoyment at a high school game.

The games usually begin at 7:30 p.m., and they signal the end of the school week — the kids are ready to blow off steam. Often the Durham County Stadium (one of the finest high school facilities anywhere) rocks with every play as the battle takes place. It's fun watching the bands perform and the yell leaders

## Lucas, Shaffer Put On Show Two Durham Stars Capture Awards

**By Elson Armstrong, Jr.**  
It may have been Royal Wedding Week in England, but 4505 fans in the Greensboro Coliseum left the recent East/West boys and girls all-star games buzzing about the "Royal" performances put on by two Durham youngsters.

In the girls game, Candy Lucas of Northern Durham was a one-woman dynamo as she shredded the West's defense for 18 points, 14 in the first half as she outscored the entire West squad as the East blew to an insurmountable 44-13 lead at the break.

In the second stanza, Lucas only scored 4, but her playmaking still brought raves from the crowd. She captured the women's MVP award and her team walked to a 69-40 victory.

In the second game, any Clemson scouts on hand must have been grinning as David Shaffer of Durham Jordan brought

urging their heroes on. Two of the better games that I witnessed last year were the two contests between Northern Durham and Chapel Hill.

### Saturday The Colleges

This is my favorite level of football. College football is not just a game, it's a happening in every sense of the word.

On game day in the morning, it's time to get with friends and map out your strategy. If you partake of the "spirits", then you go by your favorite outlet and pick some up. If you're like me, then you leave for the stadium as much as two hours before kickoff — which means that you will pack a lunch, so you stop by a chicken place or whatever and take care of that.

Then, in the stadium parking lot, you join thousands of other fans in a giant tailgate party. Once in the stadium, you find your favorite spot with your favorite group of friends and for the next three hours or so, you yell your ever loving head off.

If the girl sitting next to you isn't watching closely, you "scope" the cheer leaders. It's also important for your school's band to show up the opponent.

If you're lucky, your team wins when it's time to adjourn to the inevitable parties to

the East squad from and early 19-point deficit and helped them rally back to a heart-stopping 88-87 win.

Shaffer who helped Durham Jordan capture the State 3-A Title on this same Coliseum floor last March, at times seemed to be every where his team needed him.

The game, of which the West took quick control and ran out to a 39-20 margin before the East could get untracked, turned out to be one of the most exciting All-Star tilts ever.

By half-time the East had cut the margin to 50-44.

In the second half, the East quickly tied the score and then went ahead briefly. With Shaffer burning things up on the baseline, the West had to counter with a balanced attack which saw the lead see-saw for awhile.

The West seemed to put things away with an 87-84 (Continued On Page 8)

celebrate. As they say on ABC-TV, "Saturday afternoons in the fall - there's nothing better than collegiate football."

If you're like me, among the most important things to do as Saturday comes to a close, is to listen for as many scores of other games as possible.

### Sunday-Monday The NFL

Most pro action is viewed on the tube with other crazies like myself. We all just love to get on each other when the other fellow's team is having problems. The conversation may be some like, "Hey, your Steelers are biting the dust" which gets this reply, "Oh, year, well the Raiders aren't doing so hot either!"

Finally around midnight (EST) on Monday night, it all comes to an end as Howard and Company sign off. But then, in a few days, it will be Thursday, and time to start the ritual all over again!



### Supremes End Regular Season Unbeaten

The N.C. Mutual Supremes capped an unbeaten season last week by winning the tournament championship of the Durham Recreation Department's Women's "C" Softball League. The Supremes, who won the regular season crown with a 15-0 record, beat B&G Grill, 14-5, in the tournament final. Team members are, front row, l-r: Goldie Evans, Vera Hodge, Edna Waddell, Vertella Solomon, Christine Perry, Darlene Thomas and Donnetta Wall. Second row: Greg Harper, assistant coach; Tonya Agerston, Deborah Nicholson, Vivian Caudle, Rosa Mason, Richalean Tucker, Priscilla Judd, Kathy McAdams, Sheila Stone, Debbie Wilkins, Bobbie Wall, Janie Williams and Larry Porter, head coach.

## For Lack of Funds, Only Five Striders Make National Meet

**By B. Dawson**  
Head coach Frank Davis and five members of the Durham Striders are in Lincoln, Nebraska this weekend (July 31-August 1) competing in this season's final National Track and Field Meet.

Eleven Striders qualified to participate in the national meet, but due to limited funds, only five members and Coach Davis attended, according to assistant coach James Dillard.

One strider member in Lincoln is Mamie Wilson (17-18 girls) who is expected to perform exceptionally well in the 100

meters, Dillard said. (Wilson recorded an 11.3-100 meters in Towson, Maryland on July 18.) She will compete in two other running events in Lincoln, the 200 meters and the 4x100 relay.

The other four Strider participants are Bobby Leek (17-18 girls), 4x100 relay, javelin; Mary McNeil (17-18 girls), 4x100 relay; Aleta Brown (17-18 girls), 4x100 relay; Kenneth Hamilton (17-18 boys), high jump. Hamilton's best recorded leap during the season is 6'6".

The Durham Striders, organized in 1975 to pro-

vide a planned and supervised track and field program for the youth of Durham, last season had only two members to qualify for the U.S. National Track and Field meet.

The eleven Strider members with qualifying times and inches to go to the 1981 national meet was a large increase over previous years, admitted Coach Dillard. Dillard said, because of limited traveling funds for out of town meets, its unfortunate that all qualifiers for the meet could not at-

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WILSON

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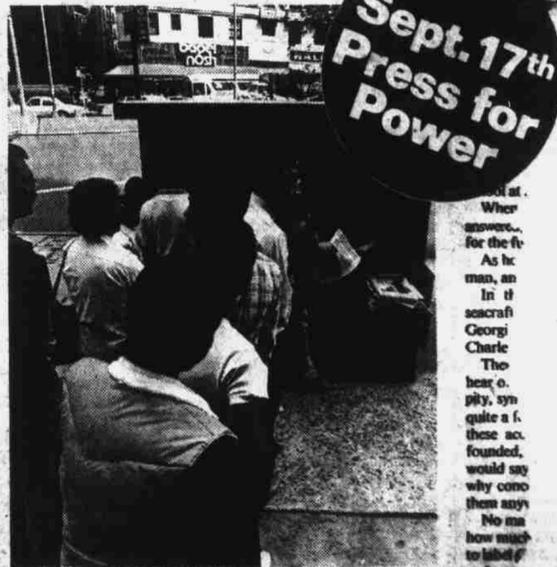
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