

# Bulldogs Meet Jays, Rams At Weldon

The Bulldogs travel to Littleton Friday night in search of a win after dropping two games by a single point to Scotland Neck and Ayden here at home. The locals will also be looking to avenge last year's loss to the Blue Jays.

Littleton came to Louisburg having won only one game last year and humbled the Bulldogs before the home folks, 26-7. The Jays had won only three games the year before and were supposed to be patsies for the stronger Louisburg eleven.

This year, the Jays are stronger. They have won 3 and lost four. Their losses have come at the hands of Weldon, (36-12) ranked No. 1 in the state and already Roanoke Conference champs; Murfreesboro (3-0) on a field goal; Franklinton (31-0) and William R. Davie (18-6).

Littleton downed Midway, a weak independent class A squad, 56-14; Gaston, 38-8 and Norlina, 14-6.

Louisburg defeated Norlina, 50-0 and Franklinton,

20-12 and Franklinton downed Norlina, 47-0 and Gaston 12-6. This comparison makes Louisburg the favorite for Friday's contest.

The Bulldogs played at Littleton in 1957 dropping the decision, 59-7 and the two schools did not meet again until last year, so the locals are winless against the Blue Jays.

The Jays are heavy. They list ends at 170 and 165 and carry four tackles over 200 pounds with the biggest hitting the scales at 245. Two guards top 200 and a third weighs 195. They have a 195 pound center and a fullback listed at 213 pounds. Their other backs are smaller at 140 to 156.

Little coach Jim Harvey says, "We have good size in the line and pretty good speed in the backfield and at the ends. We also have experience."

The Jays have Buddy Isles, 140-pound back who has

spearheaded their offense all year. Isles scored four touchdowns against Midway and was named Linesman of the Week for defensive play against the Murfreesboro Red Devils. Steve Atkins, the heavyweight fullback is averaging 6.1 yard per carry. Against Franklinton, two 15-yard penalties in the first part of the game took the steam out of the Jays but in the loss Isles caught four passes from quarterback Jimmy Kearney and ran four kickoffs back for 96 yards.

The Jays have a passing threat in halfback Vince Carter, who threw three TD passes and two passes for extra points against Gaston. One of the tosses was for sixty yards. The Jays lost to Davie, 18-6 but had quarterback Kearney and first string guard Steve Hamill out with injuries. Carter tossed a TD pass to end Butch Hale against Norlina and Isles ran from the six for the other TD.

The Bulldogs cannot take the Jays too lightly. Their record is somewhat deceiving as they are an explosive team and given the momentum, like Scotland Neck, they can tear a team apart. Their size will be of concern to Louisburg. But, the Bulldogs, rated No. 10 will be wanting an impressive win so as to move up in the ratings. They'll need a good effort to accomplish this.

The rampaging Franklinton Rams get a crack at glory Friday night when they travel to Weldon to take on the No. 1 ranked Class A team in the state. Weldon, naturally will be favored, but don't count the Rams out.

After losing to Oxford Orphanage, 28-0 and Louisburg, 20-12, Franklinton has won four straight, three of which have been by very impressive scores. Having their best year, the Rams, now 6-2 have wins over Gaston in the opener, 12-6; Garner "B", 33-12 and in the last four outings they have downed a tough Wakelon eleven, 8-0; Littleton, 31-0; Elm City 40-6 and Norlina, 47-0. In their six wins, the Rams have allowed only four touchdowns.

Franklinton has a potent attack with quarterback Jerry Simmons, halfback Bobby Kearney and fullback Cliff Williams. The defense speaks for itself.

The two teams have not met since 1962 and Franklinton failed to win any of the five games with the old Tornadoes ranging from 1958 through 1962. A 39-0 dubbing in 1958 was the worst beating taken by Franklinton at the hands of Weldon.

The three opponents faced by both the Weldon Chargers and the Rams show Weldon with a slight scoring edge. Neither allowed Norlina to score against them and Wel-

don won, 52-0 while the Rams won, 47-0. Much could depend here on at what point in the game the Chargers and Rams began substitutions. Against Gaston, the Rams al-

lowed one touchdown while winning, 12-6 in the season opener. Weldon hit Gaston for a 46-0 win. Littleton scored two TD's against Weldon but was unable to tally

against the Rams. Weldon won 36-12 while Franklinton beat Littleton, 31-0.

Weldon lost its first game to Franklin, Va., a larger school but has gone undefeated the rest of the season and has been rated No. 1 in the East since their second game, a 20-6 win over Warrenton. Following their loss to Franklin, the Chargers were rated No. 6.

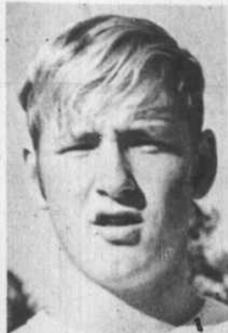
In addition to the wins over Franklinton opponents, the Chargers hold a 16-12 decision over Murfreesboro, a 30-0 win over Davie and a come-from-behind 22-20 decision over Ayden. They copied the Roanoke championship with their win over Gaston in their sixth game.

Franklinton is perhaps the best unrated Class A team in the state. The Rams were rated No. 10 in the East last week after having placed 15th the week before.

Friday night, the Rams get the chance to do something about it. They may not, but don't be surprised if they do. We won't be.

## Rampaging Rams

Photos by Cindy Secor.



DAVID THOMPSON



EVERETT FRYE



BOBBY AYSCUE



STUART EAKES



WARREN COLLINS



AL SANDLING



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Seaman: Well, I've been torpedooed four times.

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## SPORTS In Our Opinion

By CLINT FULLER

It is difficult to reconcile this week's State Class A ratings. The Greensboro Daily News places Oxford Orphanage in fifth place and drops Louisburg to No. 10. That the Bulldogs fell is not surprising. They did lose. What is surprising is that Oxford is rated five positions higher than the only Class A team to beat them this year.

Oxford lost one game—to Hope Mills by 22 points—and to Louisburg, 8-6. Louisburg, on the other hand lost two games, both by a single point. One of the losses, like Oxford's, came at the hands of a higher classified school. Granted Scotland Neck may not be as strong as Hope Mills, there is still a decided difference between being beaten by 22 points and losing by only one.

Oxford has a good ball club and except for a safety by Louisburg, could well have been conference champs. But then, except for a couple of PAT kicks, the Bulldogs could be 8-0 right now.

Neither do we agree that Red Springs, St. Pauls and Rowland are better than Louisburg. All are scrapping for the Cape Fear title against five have-not teams. Manteo, rated six, has only a two-point win over Ayden as its claim to fame. The Redskins have beaten such squads as Knapp, Barry Robinson, Frederick, Camden and Mattamuskeet, none of which have a strong program. They lost to Plymouth. North Duplin is another squad that would have a difficult time facing Franklinton, Oxford, Louisburg and, yes, Wakelon. They have won from Acme-Delco, Roseboro-Salemberg and Midway among others.

The raters, of course, could not know that Louisburg bested Scotland Neck and Ayden in statistics and these don't count anyway, but the Bulldogs are stronger than many of the teams rated above them and some teams left off completely, such as Robersonville, Grifton, Belhaven and Franklinton, show the fallacy of such ratings.

Not being critical of the rating because they serve a useful purpose, we just simply note the difficulty in making them accurate. Needless to say, the Bulldogs and Rams are our personal favorites and this could easily make us somewhat prejudiced. Even so, both with impressive 6-2 records deserve recognition.

The biggest game in the state will be played Friday night between No. 2 ranked Robbinsville of the Smoky Mountain Conference and Mars Hill of the Appalachian Conference. By agreement these two conferences will use their final game of the season as a play-off game. By so doing, they allow the Class A teams in the state to have a state champion. If these two conferences had to participate in a regular elimination play-off, there could only be regional champs.

The winner will meet the Mid-Carolina Conference champion probably Lillington—on November 14 in the regular playoffs. Robbinsville, rated No. 2 in the state all year, takes a 7-2 record into the game against the Mars Hill Wildcats, rated No. 3 with a 7-2 record. It should be a whale of a ball game.

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