



Carver's sophomore tailback Rodney McCoy, 32, finds a hole in the West Forsyth defense in the Yellow Jackets' scrimmage against the Titans last week (photo by James Parker).

Prep Football Preview

Carver, Mt. Tabor face J.V. schedules

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

One thing is certain about the local high school football season - Carver won't win a title in the 1984 season. But that's not because the Yellow Jackets do not have the talent to be one of the better teams in Winston-Salem.

Rather, Carver will not become a member of a conference until next season. Therefore, the upcoming season is a preparation for the '85 season.

"It's unfortunate that we won't play a conference schedule," said Carver Coach Jim Bovender. "We have several outstanding prospects on our team that won't get the recognition they deserve because we'll play mostly J.V. teams."

Despite the fact that the Yellow Jackets will not become eligible for the playoffs until next year, Bovender and his team are still approaching the season optimistically. They return some 30 players who were members of their 9-10 league championship squad.

"We'll be as big as most high schools," said Bovender. "We just don't have the leadership that seniors normally provide."

Instead of looking at the lack of seniors on the Yellow Jackets roster as a detriment, Bovender is excited about it.

"One good thing about it is that next year we'll have all of our players back," he said. "We look at this season as a learning process and then next year we'll be in a position to challenge the other high schools."

The Yellow Jackets will be best on defense this year. They return nine starters from their '83 championship team. Included in the returns are at least three possible major-college recruits.

"Right now our defense is ready to play on the 4-A level," said Bovender.

Junior Ray Agnew will spearhead the Yellow Jackets defense. The 6-foot-3-inch junior has excellent agility and is a good hitter. Tackle Fernando Horn is also one of Carver's top defensive players, as is end Derrick Debnam.

If Bovender has a concern it is on the offensive line of scrimmage. While the Yellow Jackets have good size along their line, they lack the overall skills to compete on the high school level.

"Our offensive unit is going to be young," said Bovender. "We're going to bring them along slowly. I don't think we have the level of experience as you find in high school ball. The techniques our players have used are not the same as those on the 4-A level."

Center Eric Hampton and Mike Mabe will be the leaders on the young Carver offensive line.

They are the most experienced of the Yellow Jackets trenchmen.

Quarterback Chris Hairston, the starter on the team last year, will trigger the Yellow Jackets offensive attack. Hairston, despite his size (5 feet 9 inches 160 pounds) is a proven leader.

"Chris has played for us before and he knows what we expect," says Bovender. "He's way ahead of someone who would be new to our system."

The Yellow Jackets' problem area looks to be at the running back positions. They lost both starters to other schools as a result of district realignment. The two, Maurice Roberson, who will start at fullback for East Forsyth and Charles Baldwin, who will see considerable action at North, got the bulk of the Yellow Jackets carries in '83.

Sophomores Rodney McCoy and Mickey Chandler will man the running back slots to start the season. Newcomer Richard Daniels will be at flanker.

At Mt. Tabor, first-year head coach Ed McDonald, who was an assistant to Homer Thompson at Parkland, is faced with totally rebuilding the Spartans program.

Unlike Bovender, McDonald is happy his team will not face 4-A competition until the '85 season.

"It's the best thing that could have happened for our team this

year," McDonald said of the fact that his team will face a J.V. schedule. "It gives us a chance to experiment and get experience as we learn and make mistakes."

McDonald said his team will not be concerned with the number of wins or losses, but rather the progress of its young players.

"The only thing we want from our team this year is improvement," said McDonald. "If we can show progress then we will have accomplished a lot by the end of the season."

The Spartans will rely on the passing of quarterback Tyrone Lewis this season. Lewis, a sophomore has a good arm and can also run. Another reason Mt. Tabor will depend heavily on the pass is due to its excellent receiving corp.

Phil Kelly and Ed Reese both run good routes and have good hands. Operating out of a pro set, the duo should be on the end of a number of pass plays, according to McDonald.

At the running back positions will be Kedrick Lowery and Boysis Cunningham. Of the two, Lowery has been most impressive. "Lowery has great speed and give us a break-away threat," said McDonald.

The offensive line will be led by Please see page B10

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