

THE WEEK

The CIAA

Dale Browder's 30-yard field goal with 3:38 left provided the margin of victory as Norfolk State took a scintillating 20-19 win over Winston-Salem State in the CIAA championship game last Saturday. Tyrone Smith's 35-yard attempt for WSSU in the final seconds hit the upright, preserving the win for the Spartans. Norfolk moved on to the Division II playoffs, taking on Towson State this week.

Standings

Norfolk Division	Conference	All
Norfolk State	6-1-0	10-1-0
Hampton Institute	4-2-1	5-3-2
Virginia State	4-3-0	5-5-0
Virginia Union	3-3-1	5-3-2
Elizabeth City	2-4-1	4-5-1
N. Paul's	0-7-0	3-7-0

Southern Division	Conference	All
Winston-Salem State	7-0-0	9-2-0
North Carolina Central	5-2-0	7-3-0
Fayetteville State	3-3-1	4-4-1
Johnson C. Smith	3-4-0	3-7-0
Livingstone	2-5-0	3-7-0
Bowie State	0-7-0	0-10-0

Saturday's Scores

CIAA
Norfolk State 20, Winston-Salem State 19, CIAA Championship Game

MEAC
Appalachian State 24, South Carolina State 0
Howard University 47, Morgan St.
Livingstone State 44

The MEAC

The MEAC concluded its season on a down note, losing two non-conference games -- one it might have been expected to lose, the other yet another disappointment in a rare off season for conference power South Carolina State. The Bulldogs were drubbed 24-0 by Appalachian State, while North Carolina A&T was thumped by powerful Tennessee State 44-14. In the conference's only win, Howard pulverized Morgan 47-13, finishing strong in Willie Jeffries' first year at the helm.

Standings

Conference	All
Bethune-Cookman	4-0-0 7-3-0
Delaware State	3-1-0 5-2-0
South Carolina State	2-2-0 4-6-1
North Carolina A&T	1-3-0 2-3-0
Howard University	0-4-0 2-3-0
Morgan State	1-9-0

Eligible for MEAC Title

This Week's Games

Norfolk State at Towson State

Noted and Quoted

CIAA Commissioner Bob Moorman on the CIAA championship game between Winston-Salem State and Norfolk State: "It's a shame that someone had to lose. The attendance was great, the enthusiasm was there -- it was just a great game."

South Carolina State Coach Bill Davis, on the Bulldogs' first losing season since 1972 and their season-ending loss to Appalachian State: "If someone had told me in August that we'd go 4-6-1, I would have given them an argument... The injury to (Charles) Glaze (S.C. State's starting quarterback) was a big blow to us because he can do so many more things than Ruston Darnell. When you have eight turnovers, you really don't help yourself..."

North Carolina A&T Coach Mo Forte, on the Aggies' 44-14 loss to Tennessee State: "You have to give our guys credit. I thought (Herbert) Harrison and (Alan) Hooker both had excellent football games. But we only forced Tennessee State to punt one time. You just can't do much with an offense like theirs..."

Rams lose heartbreaker in championship game

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

NORFOLK, Va. -- By even the most conservative appraisal, it was CIAA football's finest hour.

Last Saturday's league championship game between Winston-Salem State and Norfolk State was everything it was built up to be -- and more. The hitting was intense, the drama nerve-rendering and the enthusiasm high.

The 17,000 or so fans that flocked to the game definitely got their money's worth.

When the dust had settled and post-game honors had been bestowed, Norfolk State had notched its first CIAA title since 1976 while the Rams had been dealt a 20-19 loss that ended their season and broke their hearts.

If football is a game of inches, the Rams lost by

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-- Willard Bailey

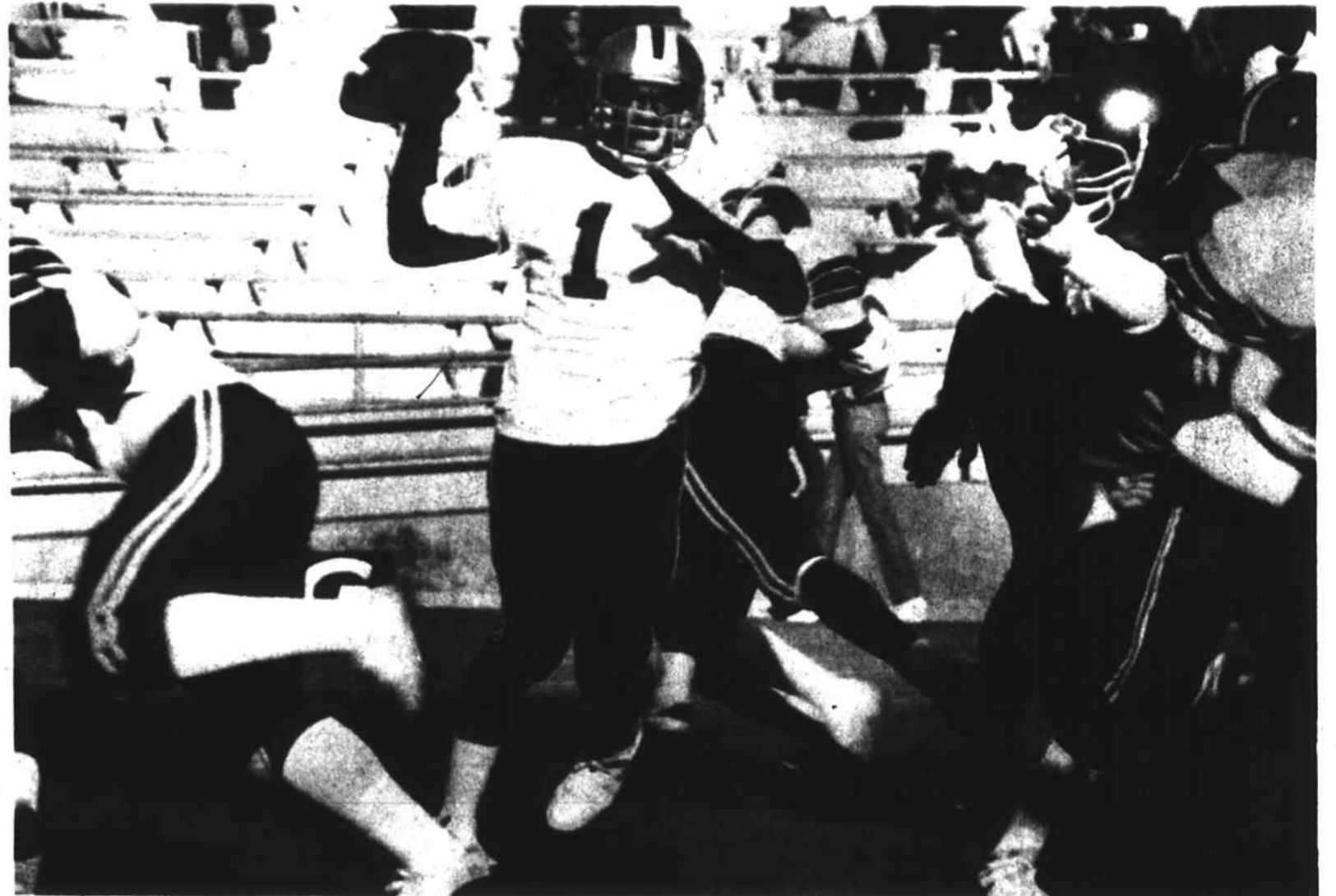
less than even that. Their chances for a CIAA crown and a possible Division II playoff bid vanished when Tyrone Smith's seemingly perfect 37-yard field goal hit the left upright and bounced with a resounding thud to Foreman Field's AstroTurf surface.

Smith's kick climaxed an emotion-charged game that saw both teams play like champions. A post-game celebration followed, with the Norfolk faithful storming the field and wrecking the goal post that had wrecked the Rams' last-ditch effort.

When it was all over, Norfolk Coach Willard Bailey perhaps summed it up best.

"Somebody else must have wanted us to win this game," Bailey said, looking upward. "It was just a shame that someone had to lose in a game like this. The score truly reveals how close the game really was."

Maintaining his composure, and picking his comments carefully, Ram Coach Bill Hayes said it was



Winston-Salem State quarterback Mike Winbush looks for a receiver in last Saturday's championship game. Winbush completed 20 of 32 passes for 220 yards against Norfolk State (photo by James Parker).

disappointing to come back so well, but still fall in defeat.

"I thought we had the momentum going," said Hayes, referring to the Rams' second-half effort. "We showed a lot of character the way we played."

The loss was especially bitter after the Rams had clawed tooth and nail to get back in the game and mounted a frantic, last-minute drive that seemed destined to succeed. Senior quarterback Mike Winbush, who played like a man possessed all after-

noon, wept openly as did several teammates after the errant field goal attempt.

"I'd rather get beat by 40 points than lose in a game like this," said Ram defensive end Mike Warren, one of the team's captains. "This is really hard to accept."

Winbush agreed.

"I thought it was good," Winbush said of Smith's kick. "This really hurts."

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Sports Scope

He gave the 'boys' a fighting chance

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

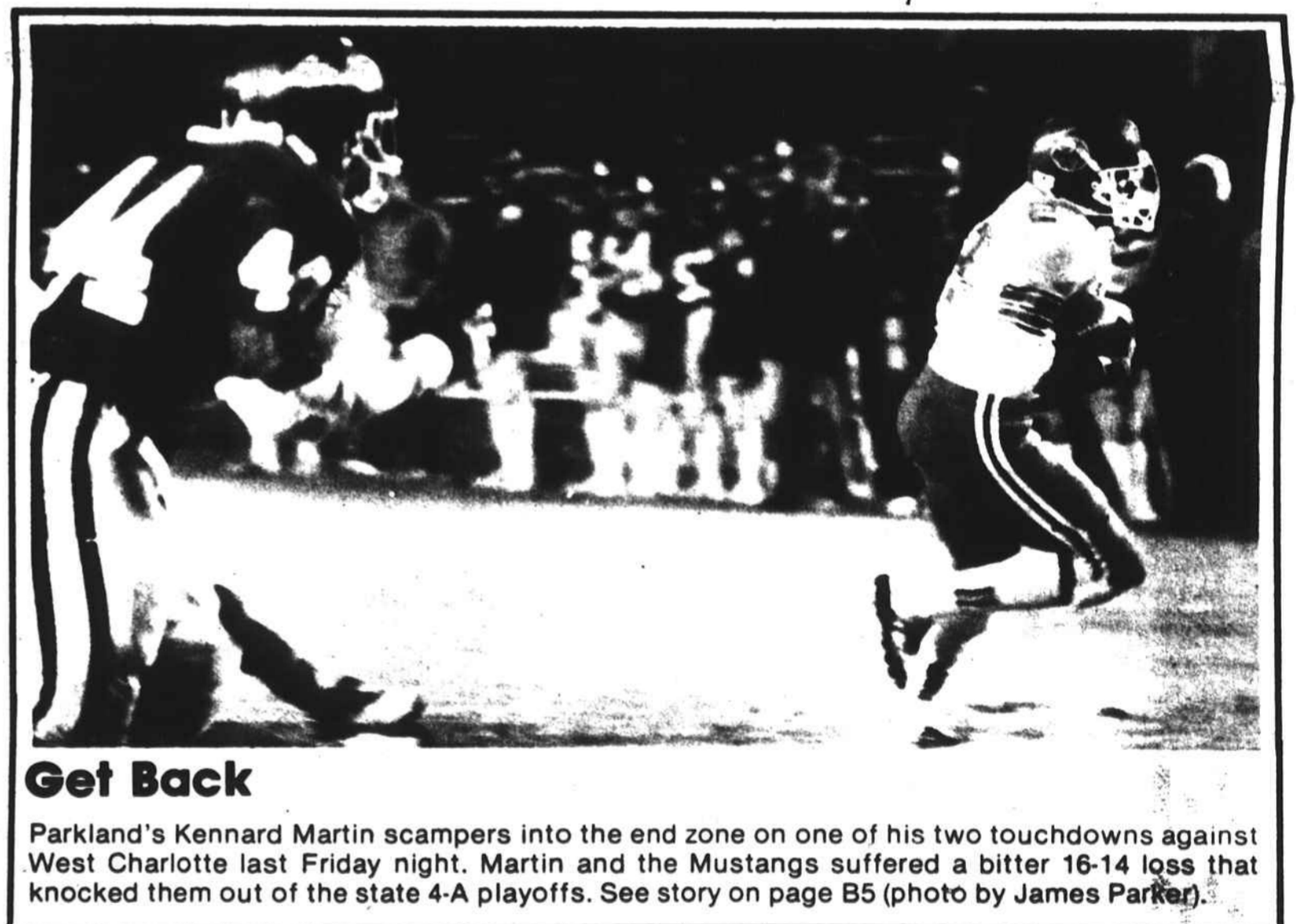
NORFOLK, Va., -- In mid-August, Winston-Salem State quarterback Mike Winbush faced a decision. He could either continue playing professional baseball in the Texas Rangers' instructional league this fall and receive a considerable increase in his contract, or he could return to the Rams for his final season of football eligibility.

To compound matters, the Rams had added two talented and highly-touted young quarterbacks (Dana Walker and Haywood Workman) to their roster and Winbush wasn't assured of a starting job. Yet, Winbush decided to return to the WSSU campus anyway and finish his career with the players he had arrived with.

As he told me in August, "I wanted to be with my boys and finish my career with them."

Last Saturday's game in Norfolk, Va., was the

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Get Back

Parkland's Kennard Martin scampers into the end zone on one of his two touchdowns against West Charlotte last Friday night. Martin and the Mustangs suffered a bitter 16-14 loss that knocked them out of the state 4-A playoffs. See story on page B5 (photo by James Parker).

Sports People

Whitten: A natural distance runner

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Tiny, 15-year-old Tomika Whitten is a "natural" -- the type of athlete who's so gifted you can almost simply point her in the right direction and she'll do the rest.

Though she's only been running cross country a little over two years, Tomika is the top female runner in the state. Two weeks ago, she emerged from a field of 120 to win the girls' state high school cross country title.

Tomika's come a long way since she first started, yet had it not been for the advice of a P.E. teacher at what was then Kennedy High School, she might not have even given the sport a try.

"I didn't start running cross country until I was in the ninth-grader," says Tomika, who's now an 11th-grader at West Forsyth. "We had to run cross country as a P.E. requirement and I beat a girl that was on the cross

country team.

"Mrs. Craver, the P.E. teacher, asked me if I was interested in joining the team," says Tomika. "I thought I'd give it a try to see how I would do."

She did all right. It took a lot of work to build the stamina needed to complete a cross coun-

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-- Tomika Whitten

try course, but Tomika adjusted quickly to the rigorous training.

"It was hard when I first started," she says, "I couldn't run a mile without stopping. But, once I got in shape, it got a lot easier."

By the end of her first season, Tomika was already the finest

female runner in the county in 9-10 schools. Unlike the boys, however, she didn't have many opponents.

"I came in first in the county," says Tomika. "But there wasn't really much competition. It was only about four other girls running."

Last year, things got even worse. In the county meet, there weren't any girls for Tomika to run against. Undaunted, she ran with the boys.

"I wasn't really running against them," Tomika says modestly. "I was really running against the clock. But, of the 60 boys running, I beat 24 of them."

This year, Tomika says she really got her first real challenge in high school meets. When she moved up to the 4-A high school level, the competition increased tremendously.

"This year was really different," she says. "I always

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Tomika Whitten of West Forsyth stretches prior to a practice session. Whitten won the state high school cross country a few weeks ago (photo by James Parker).