

Scope

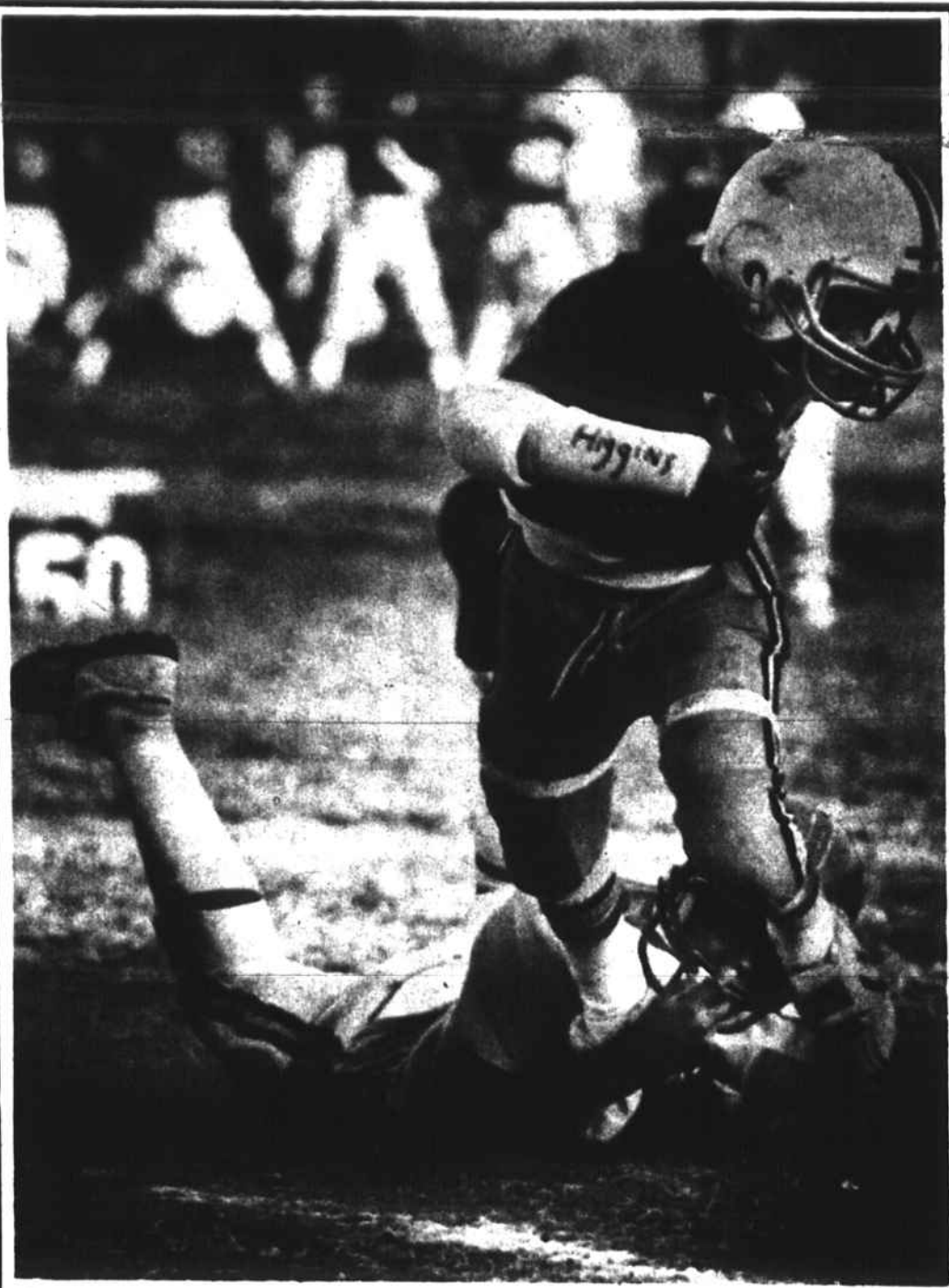
From Page B4

much worse than they have the past couple of seasons. Two promising juniors Kevin Besecker and Jerome Morgan could figure in Hawkins' plans, but 6-4 Derrick Byers, a freshman has the most potential of any Titan since Norton Barnhill (remember him?).

Still, the team to watch this season will be North Forsyth. After weathering through last season, Coach Olon Shuler should have plenty to smile about. With 6-7 Scottie Johnson and 6-5 David Carlyle to go along with Howard, the only question marks are at the guard positions.

In Howard, the Vikings have the most talented player to come out of Winston-Salem in a long while. With the physical tools he possesses, Howard can determine the outcome of North's season. In addition to that, a good season from Howard will put him closer to signing with a major college power.

While Howard comes to the 4-A level with an enormous advance billing, seniors Christian and Mickens could hook onto big time programs with outstanding years. Overall, the 84-85 season will be a competitive one. No one team or player should dominate.



Shoe-String Tackle

LaMar Joyner of the Tiny Indians Pee Wees struggles for yardage, but can't escape the tackle of a Viking defensive player (photo by James Parker).

Inside Stuff

Wake Forest: A lean year ahead

By DICK DEVENZIO
Syndicated Columnist

How does Coach Carl Tacy manage to keep Wake consistently competitive in the ACC? Wake can rarely get a top student-athlete if Duke wants him, can never get an all-American prospect over Carolina, and cannot compete for the good athlete/borderline student that often goes to State.

Last year, nevertheless, Wake got into the final eight in the nation, tying for third in the ACC and beating DePaul before finally losing to Houston in the NCAA playoffs.

This year, the effects of not having a home court, of practicing in an on-campus "high school" gym, and of not having the full quota of players (eleven are currently on the roster) will be obvious in the win-loss column.

If Wake can eke out a victory over UNC in mid-December, and get wins in their comparatively easy non-conference games, they may be able to keep their confidence -- a great equalizer in sports -- and play beyond their ability for awhile.

Assistant Coach Mark Friedinger is one who tries to bolster confidence. He's an optimist. He points to the team's unsurpassed forward, Kenny Green (a proven star point-maker). He cites the ball handling go-power of tiny "Mugsy" Bogues and the overall ability of off-guard Delaney Rudd. He concentrates on the good things that can happen, and in practice he is encouraging and upbeat.

Striking a balance, and being more of a cricizer (teams need both), the other assistant, Ernie Nestor, showed HIS sense of desperation on the practice floor, one time screaming, almost pleading, with Delaney Rudd -- "GET IN HIS FACE, PRESSURE HIM, GET HIM."

Coaches realize, better than players, what they are up against. The players don't see the other schools practicing. They get their confidence and their sense of progress from their intra-squad scrimmages. And at Wake, there just isn't the competition.

Carl Tacy remains calm and philosophical, determined to do his best and hope for a banner recruiting year, but I think he would be justified in demonstrating the sense of desperation he must inevitably feel. It is more than simply the recent loss of forward Todd May, who had star potential but hasn't been counted on because of his recurring injuries. (Even if he

does return to the team, it is doubtful he will be able to play at full strength.)

Throughout the practice I saw, jackhammers filled the gym with noise as workmen completed construction on the roof. It had to be distracting, but I get the feeling that Tacy isn't the big boss at Wake (or sports are not so highly elevated in the academic community) such that he can go ranting and raving to some higher authority.

Tacy takes the less-than-ideal conditions in stride -- it's part of the deal at Wake -- and he makes the best of it. The practice was limited anyway. The team is already ailing, "beat up" so to speak, and in need of a rest -- and it is only mid-November. When Delaney Rudd seemed once to badly twist an ankle on a layup, the gym got quiet. (Even the jackhammers stopped, I think.) Wake can't afford to lose anyone to injury.

If the players truly understood what they are facing, I wonder if Rudd and Green and Bogues would have come to practice just a minute before the scheduled starting time. They are going to need a tremendous amount of extra effort, and a very special ef-

fort at developing a team chemistry, just to win three or four games in the ACC -- and THAT effort has to come from the stars.

I don't think the players realize this adequately. Nor do I think Tacy will be able to fill his big man spot inside by rotating his European rookie, Hartmut Ortman (6'8"), and his seven-foot sophomore Craig Wessel. Both look like they could be good in a couple of years, but Tacy needs them desperately -- in a couple of months. And there is really no one else to speak of.

ACC teams will go straight at Kenny Green, to get him in foul trouble, and they will take advantage over and over of Wake's frailty -- they are not only small, they lack bulk too.

I expect a long, frustrating year for Wake, and a last place finish, perhaps along with Clemson. Looking at their schedule, I don't see how they will be able to keep from losing 8 of their final 10 games. So they'll need all the wins they can get early in the season. If they stub their toe in December on foes like Rollins and Boston College, this could be the worst year for Wake since 1928 -- when Billy Packer played!

Black College Briefs

From Page B4

game of the season -- including three starters -- were heaved because they reportedly violated curfew rules.

Little Bird Dept., Part III: Florida A&M Athletic Director Roosevelt Wilson calls to say that

FAMU is not considering joining the Ohio Valley conference, as we reported in this space. Wilson said the geographical location of the OVC teams would prohibit FAMU from joining. Wilson said it is likely that FAMU will join a league by 1986.

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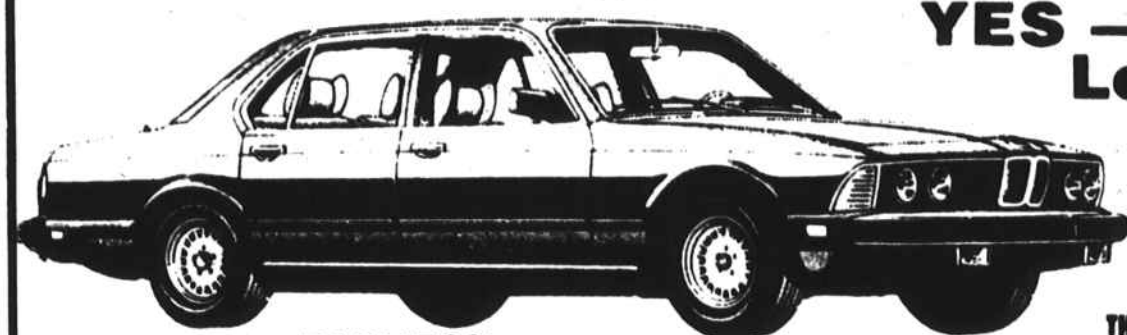
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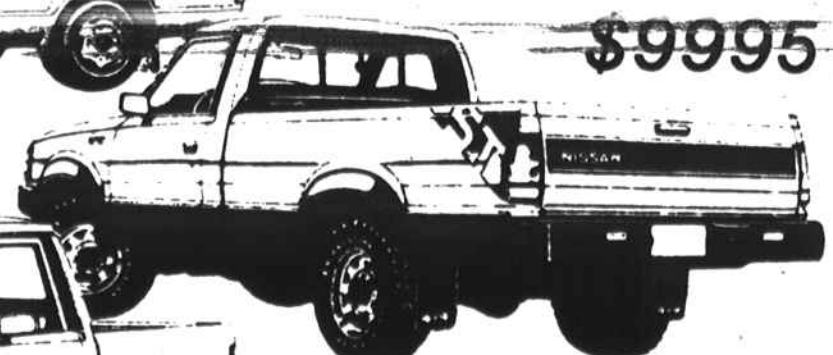
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