

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

AUGUST 1, 2002



Members of North Forsyth's football team watch a video during "Midnight Madness" on Monday.

North Forsyth opens new football season with 'Midnight Madness'

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Sometimes the benefits reaped from a program take longer than expected to come to fruition. In the case of North Forsyth's football program, coach Darrell Hall hopes that is the case.

Hall and his team began preparations for the 2002 season at the stroke of midnight on July 29, when the team participated in "Midnight Madness." The event actually started at 11 p.m. Sunday when members of the Vikings' varsity team checked in for an all-night outing.

"The whole idea of it is to

help the players bond together as a unit," said Hall, who enters his fourth season at the helm of the program. "The players come together and play games, relax, talk and just have fun together."

Members of the team began to get down to business at midnight when they participated in the mile run. Next came timing in the 40-yard dash, followed by the strength test. In the strength test team members were required to do as many repetitions as they could at 185 and 205 pounds.

With that out of the way, the team settled down for refreshments and another peri-

od of fun time. During this time the veteran members of the team had an opportunity to pick their jersey numbers for the upcoming season. That ended somewhere around 1:45 with lights out in the gym, where team members spent the night.

"A lot of them just stayed up and talked most of the night and just got themselves acquainted with each other," Hall said.

At 6 a.m. the players began to prepare themselves for the Vikings' two-mile run. That was followed by a trip to K&W Cafeteria for breakfast around

See Vikings on B2

WSSU's 2002 season hinges on early games

FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

If you look at what coaches around the CIAA have to say about Winston-Salem State's chances during the 2002 football season, you would think everything is fine in Rams land.

However, WSSU has a host of question marks that must be answered before it takes to the field for its first football game. The season opener and the game to follow could prove to make or break the Rams' season. The Rams will open up on Aug. 29 at Carson Newman and an ambush could very well ensue in the Tennessee mountains.



Blount

Last year the Rams helped ruin Carson-Newman's season by capturing a victory at Bowman Gray Stadium. Carson-Newman went into the game as the favorite to capture its conference

championship but sputtered out of the gate and never reached its stride.

With a lot of holes both in his starting lineup and on the coaching staff, coach Kermit Blount has to make sure the Rams know what they will be up against.

If that isn't enough, the Rams will battle Tuskegee University the following week in the Hall of Fame Classic. That game, to be played on Sept. 7 at Bowman Gray Stadium, could also be an eye-opener for the Rams. The Tigers hold a 2-1 advantage in the series, which began at the 1999 Pioneer Bowl in Atlanta. Since then the battles between the Golden Tigers and the Rams have quickly become one of the most intense and entertaining rivalries in black college football.

"The rivalry between these two schools has become a huge one," said Blount, who is entering his 10th season at the helm of the WSSU football program. "The players look forward to seeing one another and Coach (Rick) Comegy is a great coach with a great staff, and I'm sure he'll have his team ready."

The Golden Tigers have much to prove in general. Tuskegee heads into the season as the nation's No. 10-ranked Division II program. The Tigers also

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Matt Brim explodes into a blocking shield during Carver's first practice earlier this week. The 6-6, 310-pound Brim recently committed to East Carolina for the 2003 season.

Brim focusing on winning season

Carver senior offensive lineman commits to attend East Carolina



Brim

By Sam Davis
THE CHRONICLE

The pace has been fast and furious for Matt Brim. Brim, an offensive lineman, transferred to Carver from East Forsyth in January and since then he's been moving in warp speed. Even though the 2002 season didn't officially start until Monday, Brim has had a summer filled with football.

That summer of football officially ended a little over a week ago when he made an oral commitment to accept a scholarship to East Carolina next fall. Brim had turned heads with his ability at linemen camps at Wake Forest (where he was named outstanding lineman), N.C. State and the University of

See Brim on B2

Old Town captures title in first season in league

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Although it seemed unlikely at the start of the season, Old Town Neighborhood Recreation Center recently completed its inaugural season of competition in the citywide Summer Baseball League by going undefeated and capturing the championship.

Old Town got little competition in rolling to the title. The team mowed down Sprague Street, Reynolds Park (twice) and Martin Luther King centers to earn the title. The team also captured two victories by forfeit, much to the disappointment of coach Art Blevins, who is also the director of the Old Town Center.

Old Town amassed some 42 runs in four victories while allowing only 10.

"We had a new group of kids with some of our former Hanes Hosiery players who followed me over here mixed in," Blevins said. "I thought we had a very good baseball team, especially for the first season."

Darryl Tuttle was Blevins' ace on the mound. Asa Beal and Ross Davis were the team's top hitters. But they were by no means the entire story. Their supporting cast included Jamar Young, Josh Simington, Paul Manueso, Stevie Williams, Nick Brittan, Cody Dotson, George Moore, Katie Boyd, Brittany Tate,



Art Blevins (center) with Jamar Young and Daron Smith.

David Knapp, Laron Fuller, Terrell Davis and Daven Gray.

Boyd and Tate, the team's two girl members, were both starters who played key roles on the team.

Boyd, a 12-year-old, spent the first part of the summer as a starter before being selected to her Little League All-Star Team. Tate, a 10-year-old,

came on strong in the last part of the season and started the final two games.

Blevins said he brought baseball with him to Old Town because he believes in keeping youth baseball alive in the city's Recreation Department.

"I've seen a decline in a lot of the centers having baseball

See Old Town on B3

Stealers finish third in national tournament

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem has become a hotbed for top boys AAU basketball players and teams in recent seasons. Now it is also producing its share of top girls AAU players and teams. The YWCA of Winston-Salem recently had four teams — the Stealers' 10-, 12-, 13- and 16-and-under teams — that fared well in national tournaments.

The Stealers' 13-and-under team had the best finish — third in the national tournament. The 12-and-under team placed 17th in its national tournament in Amarillo, Texas. The 10-and-under squad tied for 13th in Orlando, Fla. The 16-and-under team, playing in

front of more than 300 college recruiters, didn't place but made a respectable showing at the U.S. Junior Nationals in Washington, D.C.

The 13-and-under Stealers went 7-1 en route to a third-place finish at the National Invitational Tournament in Orlando.

The Stealers captured their first three games, but fell to the Baton Rouge Lady Amazons 94-88 in overtime. However, the team bounced back with victories in its final three games to take third.

Danielle Hardy scored 15 points to lead the Stealers to victory in their first game, a 51-36 victory over the Cincinnati Ice.

The Stealers rallied from a

See Stealers on B3