

SPORTS WEEK **B** SECTION

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# Parkland, Carver prepare to do battle

Carver hoping for payback to settle last year's score

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Carver began the 2002 football season with a basic theme: This season would be the year of the "Big Payback." With the exception of Carver's season-opening tie against Mount Tabor, that theme has held true to form.

The Yellowjackets, who defeated Greensboro Smith 35-14 Friday night, would like for that trend to continue Fri-

day when they play host to Parkland at Bowman Gray Stadium.

Coach Keith Wilkes and his team tuned up for their battle against the Mustangs by shutting down an explosive Smith team Friday. Carver held Smith to just over 200 yards of offense and went over the 300-yard mark in total offense for the sixth consecutive game as it improved to 5-0-1.

"Right now I think we're

playing our best football of the season," Wilkes said. "I thought our defense did a good job of holding Smith to its lowest scoring total of the season, and our offense seems to be improving each week."

As it has all season, Carver hit the Golden Eagles with a one-two punch at quarterback (D'Angelo Gray and Jamar Pitts) and had several running backs to factor into the victory.

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## Rallying The Troops!



Photo by Imas Sivad  
Coach Grady Crosby of the Winston-Salem Vikings Pee Wees gives instructions to his team during the Vikings' game against the South Fork Panthers. The Vikings rallied to take a 7-0 overtime victory.

## Disturbing trends in Pop Warner football deserve some review

FROM THE PRESS BOX

SAM DAVIS

The local Pop Warner football season is nearing the halfway point, and teams throughout the Triad Area are enjoying phenomenal success in participation and attendance. Local teams are the lifeblood of the high school programs in the area, particularly in Forsyth County, where there are no feeder programs for high school teams.

When you look at the success of the high school programs in Forsyth County, you have to believe that the Pop Warner coaches have had a lot to do with the early development of players who have come through those programs.

By the time this season comes to a close, local teams — who are now jockeying for playoff position — will be crowned as champions in two divisions. Those teams will then advance to state, regional and national competitions. The experience the players gain will be invaluable to the players who are participate in those winning programs.

Yet, all is not well with Pop Warner football. From time to time there are disturbing issues that arise in little league sports, and despite all the positives Pop Warner football provides, a negative shadow is cast on it.

Perhaps the most disturbing issue currently circulating relates to the number of athletes who are either being coerced to or are choosing to lose weight to play. In many instances the athletes are "cutting" weight so they can play "older lighter." In that category, athletes who are a year older than the other players can play at the division lower than their age group if they are 10 to 15 pounds lighter than their counterparts.

The intent is to give players who weigh less an opportunity to play with players who are of the same weight. Some coaches have deliberately made an effort to attract players who are a year older and more mature physically than the players who are in their natural age grouping.

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Photo by Bruce Chapman  
Vincent White of WSSU strips the ball from Jerome Lesley during the Rams' battle against the Panthers Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium. Lesley and the Panthers escaped with an 18-15 victory.

## Rams face Broncos in key battle

The CIAA this Week

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

The pecking order in the CIAA is beginning to take shape, and it looks like this season could be the most competitive one in more than a decade. While Winston-Salem State and Virginia Union were favored to capture divisional titles and could still be the front-runners, both are being pushed by divisional foes. And both have stern tests coming up this weekend.

Virginia Union got a leg up on the race for the league crown

by taking an 18-15 victory on a last-second field goal over WSSU last weekend. But the Panthers can't afford to savor their victory long. VUU will travel to Bowie State for an Eastern Division battle against the Bulldogs Saturday.

The Panthers are starting to resemble the Willard Bailey-coached teams that dominated the early 1980s with their bruising style of play on offense and defense. They will battle a Bowie State team that could be the league's best defen-

sive unit. However, the Bulldogs have struggled on offense for most of the season and will need one of their best defensive efforts of the season to shut down a potent Virginia Union offense.

Bowie State has three of the top defensive players in the conference on its squad. But unless the Bulldogs' defense can produce points they will be hard-pressed to come away with a victory. VUU quarterback Cordell Roane has stepped into the line-

See CIAA on B5

## Last-second field goal downs Rams

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State has reached a point that none of the players on its football team has seen before, but coach Kermit Blount isn't panicking. The Rams, who have gotten out to a 1-3 start, will play host to Fayetteville State Saturday in their homecoming game. After losing both of their home games thus far this season, the Rams are hard-up for a victory.

The Rams saw their 12-game regular-season home winning streak against CIAA opponents come to an abrupt halt. The 18-15 loss dealt to WSSU by Virginia Union Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium was the Rams' first season defeat during the regular season since they lost to Livingstone in 1998. It is also the first time the Rams have started the season 1-3 since the 1996 season.

WSSU led for most of the game after scoring on its first possession. The Rams jumped on top after taking the ball, driving 80 yards and tacking on the extra point. The game score remained 7-0 until the third quarter when VUU finally got on the scoreboard after a muffed punt by the Rams.

By that time WSSU had blown several chances to get on the scoreboard. The Rams had several opportunities to add points in the third quarter but failed to do so. VUU took advantage of its chances, scoring all 18 points after intermission, including a 47-yard field goal by Tony Oby on the game's final play as the horn sounded.

Coach Kermit Blount said the Rams' mistakes cost them a chance at victory.

"It's a tough ballgame, and it's one that we shouldn't have been in that situation," Blount said. "We had the opportunity to score again, and we couldn't get it done, and those guys played a helluva ballgame, and I take my hat off to coach Bailey and his staff."

Bailey, whose team brought a 3-1 overall record into the game, said the game-winning field goal was an added dimension for the Panthers, who defeated the Rams on a last-

See Rams on B5

## 'Jackets' JVs sting Smith

BY THERESA DAVIS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Carver got a chance to see just how well its youth movement was taking shape when the Yellowjackets' junior varsity squared off against Greensboro Smith Monday night. Carver's entire starting backfield was made up of three freshmen. However, that unit got the Yellowjackets out of the gate quickly and helped Carver roll to a 33-14 victory at David Lash Stadium.

"Those guys could all make weight for the Junior Midgets in Pop Warner," said coach Sam Davis, whose team improved to 4-1 overall and 2-1 in the Piedmont Triad Conference. "But they go hard at it every play, and they're very dependable."

The unit — with Levon

Lawrencé at quarterback, Tyrone Springs at halfback and Eric Brown at fullback — benefited from a 60-yard kickoff return by DeMario Smith to open the game. The Yellowjackets then stormed in for the touchdown to grab a 6-0 lead. Smith answered with a touchdown of his own, but the Yellowjackets clamped down on Smith the remainder of the half.

Smith, which rushed for more than 100 yards for the third consecutive game, added a 2-yard touchdown and added a two-point conversion to lift Carver to a 14-8 lead at the half.

Carver's defense came to life in the second half, led by the inspired play of linebacker Octavius Davis. Davis finished the night with 12 tackles,

See Carver JV on B3



Photo by Imas Sivad  
Members of the Crowell family tailgate in the parking lot before Virginia's game against Wake Forest Saturday. With his family cheering him on, Angelo Crowell and the Cavaliers fought back to take a 38-34 victory.

## Local players make impact in Virginia's win over Wake

BY SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Losing a football game that you're expected to win is one thing. But losing to a team in your own back yard is even more difficult to accept. That prospect was on the mind of two former Forsyth County players when Virginia and Wake Forest battled in an ACC game at Groves Stadium Saturday night.

The game was a home-

See Crowell on B3