

Hampton beats A&T and takes home MEAC crown

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

What better way to win a conference title than destroy the champions of a year before?

Hampton University found that out as it ran past N.C. A&T, last year's MEAC champion, over the weekend. The Hampton defense forced seven turnovers and the kickoff return team added two touchdowns as the Pirates won their third Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference championship with a 51-24 win over N.C. A&T State University. With the win, the Pirates clinched an automatic birth in the Division I-AA playoffs — their first trip since 1998.

N.C. A&T jumped out to a quick lead on its first possession with a six-play, 28-yard drive that ended with a 38-yard field goal by Carlos Davalos. Unfortunately for Aggie fans, that would be the Aggies' last shining moment for quite some time.

Thirteen seconds later, Hampton's Jerome Mathis, who already had returned kicks of '99 and 91 yards, added a 92-yard kickoff return to his résumé and put the Pirates ahead for good at 7-3.

Interceptions by Brian Houston and Michael West led to the next two scores for the Hampton offense. Houston's pick gave the Pirates the ball at the A&T 26-yard line, and just moments later Princeton Shepherd found Ardell Daniels in the left flat for a 23-yard touchdown and a 14-3 Hampton lead. West's second interception in as many games led to a 34-yard touchdown run by Alonzo Coleman (25 att., 106 yards, three touchdowns) on the ensuing play.

Coleman's two-yard plunge late in the second quarter and a



Surrounded by his players and coaches, Hampton University president William Harvey hoists up the championship trophy.

32-yard field goal by Andrew Paterini had N.C. A&T staring at a 31-3 halftime deficit following 31 unanswered points by the Pirates.

The A&T defense restored "Aggie Pride" immediately in the second half when James McCoy intercepted reserve quarterback Kerry Dixon's pass and raced 59 yards to trim the Hampton lead to 31-10 at the end of the third. Pinned deep in their own territory by the Aggie defense, the Pirates were forced to punt from their own 10-yard line. However, Omar Kinnebrew broke through the left side of the Hampton line and blocked Cameron Muro's

punt and recovered it in the end zone. Just like that, N.C. A&T found itself down just 14 points.

Yet once again the Hampton kickoff return unit answered the call. Trying to kick away from the ever-so-dangerous Mathis, the Aggies kicked it short to the upback Daniels — apparently not realizing he was just as lethal. Daniels danced around three A&T defenders before racing up the Hampton sideline for an 89-yard touchdown and the Pirates' fourth kickoff return for a touchdown this season. With the clock reading 10:25 in the fourth quarter, the Pirates were holding a 38-17 advantage.

Still fighting every inch of the way, A&T had one more trick up its sleeve in this seesaw fourth-quarter battle. On their first play from scrimmage, the Aggies ran a flea-flicker as Adrian Moye found Brandon Trusty behind the Pirate secondary for a 62-yard strike. However, that proved to be the last stand for the Aggies.

Coleman added another two-yard touchdown run and Houston (10 tackles, one interception) closed out a stellar performance with a 52-yard fumble return to provide the final score of 51-24 and give the Pirates their sixth conference championship in 13 seasons under Joe Taylor.



The Packer Pee Wee squad put on a defensive exhibition during its two-point victory over the Durham Eagles over the weekend.

Pop Warner

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the Packers had notable games. Some of those players were Travis McGriff, Dillon Borton, Ryan Rousseau, Jalen Day, Derrick Cunningham, Alex McAllister, Jaquan Reynolds and Stephon Harper, to name a few.

There wasn't much suspense during the Tiny Indian games over the weekend. The Tiny Indians' Midget and Midget teams made easy waste of their competition last Saturday.

The Jr. Midget squad was amazingly led by their second unit, which spearheaded a 33-0 victory over the Durham Eagles. Fred Flemming got the ball rolling for the Tiny Indians after he put the first points on the board with a touchdown in the first quarter. That was the last action the first string saw on offense until late in the game.

Reggie Jackson spearheaded a strong defensive effort with an interception for a touchdown early in the game. Then Rashone Lee and Travis Floyd got in the mix for the Tiny Indians. Lee scored on a 15-yard run, while Floyd found pay dirt after a 30-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Other notable players for the Tiny Indians were Kevin Simmons, Jahoward Jones, Kierre McCray, Randy Baskins, Randy Floyd, Tim Rice and Ahman Boyd.

The Jr. Midget Tiny Indians will play the Norfolk Nighthawks on Nov. 29.

The Tiny Indians' Midget squad picked up where the Jr. Midget squad left off, defeating the Garner Trojans 28-0 to pull to within one game from the

national championships at Walt Disney World.

The hard-hitting John Fowler and Antwan Campbell got things jumping for the Tiny Indians early after blocking a Trojan punt. Tarell Black scooped it up and trotted into the end zone for the score. Then it was time for the exciting David McIntyre to get in the mix of things.

McIntyre scored on a 12-yard touchdown run. He also scored on an interception returned for a touchdown. Other standout players for the Tiny Indians were Tevin Stinson, Treshaud Rousseau, Juan Haney, Emmanuel Haney,

Bryan Hairston and Jonathan "Toothache" Williams.

The Tiny Indians will get an opportunity to play the team that bounced them from the playoffs a year ago, the Dale City Cowboys, in two weeks when they travel to Raleigh.

Other scores and results (all of the area Division II teams were defeated over the weekend):

- Oak Ridge Colts 20, Durham Screaming Eagles 26
- Capitol City 21, Forsyth Broncos 19
- Kernersville Raiders 33, Capitol City Steelers 34 OT
- Walkertown Wolfpack 14, Capitol City Steelers 43

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Tri-City runners perform well at AAU recent meet

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Football isn't the only sport that has fans packing a stadium around the city lately.

Local track performers are also grabbing the attention of spectators and supporters in this area. Tri-City Relays hosted the 2004 N.C. AAU State Cross Country Meet at Tanglewood Park in Clemmons last Saturday. Many Tri-City athletes performed very well among the 62 athletes that participated.

Most of the medal winners secured a trip to the AAU national cross country championships in Kingsport, Tenn., on Dec. 4.

The medalists from the team are as follows: The gold medal winners were the Bantam Boys 3,000-meter team of Perry Cabean (13:00), Nabil Lachgar (13:12), Justin Hairston (14:09), Sami Lachgar (15:03) and Adam Smith (15:51). The talented Michael Towery also captured a gold medal after finishing with a time of 11:35 in the 3,000-meter

race in the Midget Boys division.

Perry Cabean captured an individual honor after he finished second in the 3,000-meter race in the Bantam Boys division to take home a silver medal. Nabil Lachgar received a bronze medal after he finished with a time of 13:12 in the Bantam Boys division.

Other notable performers for Tri-City were Elizabeth Marshall (sixth), Alexandra Marshall (seventh) and Natiffiya Suber (10th). All three runners competed in the 3,000-meter race in the Bantam Girls division. David Cavanaugh (fifth) and Vernon Tubman (seventh) also had notable performances in the 3,000-meter race in the Midget Boys division.

Tri-City will host another cross country event this weekend. The event is known as the Fun Run for Elementary School students. It will take place on Saturday at Tanglewood Park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is sponsored by Fairway Home Care, 534 N. Liberty Street.

MVP

Trey Ervin's ability to shoot, rebound and assist as a team player earned him the title of Most Valuable Player in the N.C. Gaters AAU Fall Basketball League tournament in Greensboro. Trey played in the 11 and under fall league. A sixth-grade student at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School, Trey is the son of Robin Ervin and Jakay Ervin Jr., and the grandson of Jakay and Minnie Ervin Sr.

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