

SPORTS WEEK

SECTION B

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NOVEMBER 13, 2008

WSSU win title claimed by Blount

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem State University Rams shut out the Hornets of Delaware State for the final 30 minutes of play last Saturday afternoon as WSSU earned their second consecutive win with a 27-26 victory over the defending MEAC Champion Hornets at Alumni Stadium in Dover, Del. as WSSU head coach Kermit Blount became the all-time WSSU football wins leader with 90 career victories.

In a contest that looked eerily similar to last year's meeting in Winston-Salem, the Rams and their faithful looked as though they would suffer the same fate, one that saw DSU kicker Peter Gaertner boot a 37-yard game-winning field goal through the uprights in the contest's final minute of play.

However, Gaertner would not get the chance to replicate last year's kick as the Hornets were stuffed on fourth and less than a yard from the WSSU 20-yard line as the Rams forced a turnover on downs and preserved a one-point victory over the defending conference champions to earn their first win in Dover since the 1949 season.

Trailing 26-14 at the half, the Rams responded in the game's final 30 minutes of play as freshman defensive lineman Joshua Newkirk and the WSSU defense held the potent Hornets' offense scoreless in the second half.

Newkirk, who tallied a team-high 14 tackles (six solo) and his youthful defensive teammates would prove to be the deciding factor in the contest as they responded while backed up deep in their own territory.

Following WSSU's junior quarterback Jarrett Dunston's go-ahead touchdown from one yard out that gave the Rams a 27-26 lead with little more than four minutes to play in the contest, the Rams' defense would be challenged with finding a way to stop DSU quarterback Vashon Winton and tailback Chris Strother who accounted for nearly 75 percent of the Hornets' 399 yards of total offense.

DSU head coach Al Lavan chose to attempt to draw the Rams offside with a hard count. But DSU quarterback Vashon Winston was stopped on the fourth-down play. With the victory the Rams improved to 3-6 overall while the Hornets fell to 3-6 on the season with the loss.

The victory marks WSSU's head coach Kermit Blount's 90th career victory as the 16th-year WSSU head coach surpasses former WSSU coaching legend William "Bill" Hayes and his 89 career WSSU coaching victories.

"This is very emotional for me" Blount said after the game. "I never thought I'd be this emotional but my players really showed they loved me in this game. They really stuck to it in the second half, never let up, and we came away with the win."

The Rams return to action on Saturday, at 1:30 p.m. as they travel to Durham to face archrival North Carolina Central University as WSSU attempts to win their second straight game over the Eagles in the 42nd meeting between the two teams.

WSSU's Kermit Blount.



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Mt. Tabor's Corey Parker Jr. gives Terrance Gardner a stiff arm during the Spartans 24-13 win over West during the JV Game of the Week. The Mt. Tabor JV squad capped an unbeaten season with the victory last Thursday.

Mt. Tabor JV concludes perfect season

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Spartans take down West Forsyth, 24-13

The last sophomore class to help Mt. Tabor to an unbeaten junior varsity football season went on to play for a state championship as seniors. The Spartan JV squad finished with an unblemished record after the 2002 season, and went on to play for a 4A state championship in 2004.

"That was a really good team," said Mt. Tabor head JV coach Dan Marazita. "I was an

assistant coach for that team. This team is also very good. We've played great all year. It's a good feeling to be able to finish like we did. We played as a team all year. I'm just really proud of the way we were able to finish."

The Spartans concluded their perfect season with a 10-0 record after defeating archrival, West Forsyth, last Thursday. The Spartans were able to slip by the talented Titans (7-3) with

a 24-13 victory in Lewisville. Mt. Tabor entered the final game averaging over 30 points a game.

"We were able to put up a lot of points this year," Marazita said. "But West played us tough. They have a good team, and they always play us tough. I knew this was going to be a tough game."

The Spartans got on the board early after Michael Eldridge hauled in a short

Collin Kent pass with 4:01 left in the opening quarter. Eldridge also ran in the two-point conversion to give Mt. Tabor an early 8-0 lead.

West Forsyth came right back behind the play of receiver Ricky Brown. Brown caught a 26-yard touchdown pass from Mike Ross with :33 left in the first quarter to make the score 8-6. Brown seemingly pushed a Spartan defender down to get to the ball. West also received strong runs from Donta Wade to

See Tabor on B4

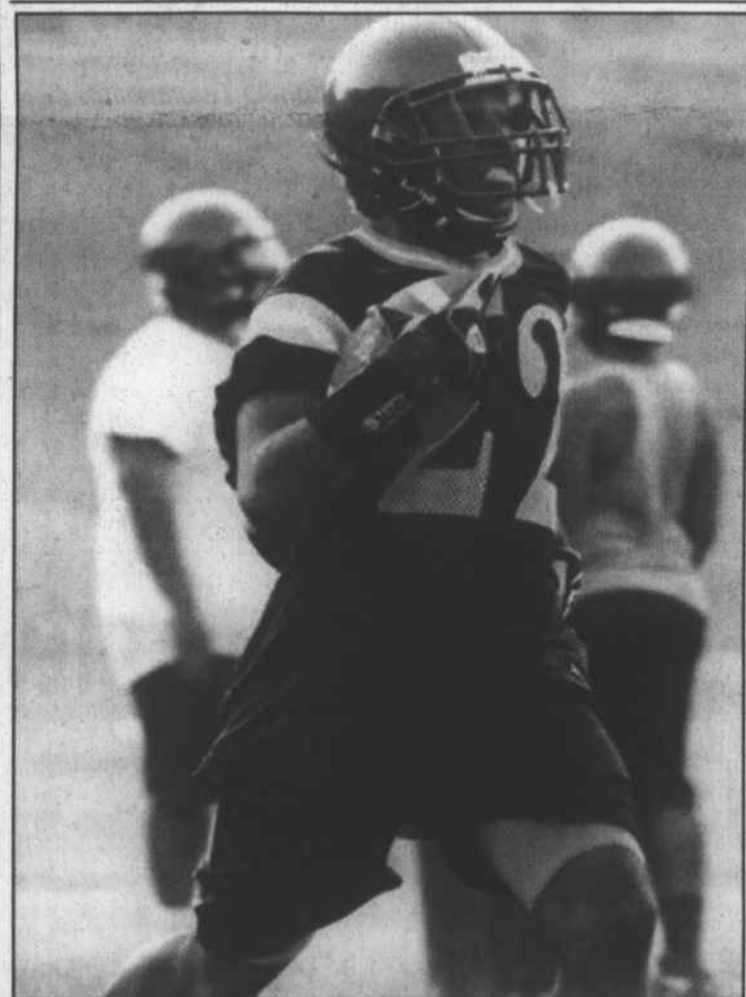


Photo by Charlie Pfaff

Carver's David McIntyre and the rest of the Yellowjackets are ready to make a state title run.

Squads are ready to make playoff runs

I was telling Mt. Tabor's Denard Jones that the real football season begins on Friday, when high school football squads begin the playoffs.

Several local teams will be taking their first steps toward a state championship when they play first round games on Friday.

It's all good to have had a great regular season like the one the boys at East Forsyth (10-1) enjoyed. You have to be happy for coach Todd Willert and his guys. But it's all for nothing if they get beat early. The Eagles, as well as five other local squads will be fighting to win and advance tomorrow night. East Forsyth,

West Forsyth, Mt. Tabor, Parkland, Reynolds and Carver are the local schools in the hunt for titles this year.

East, which is a No. 2 seed, will host Charlotte Myers Park (5-6). No. 9 seed West will travel to play East Mecklenburg (9-2). No. 7 seed Reynolds, led by Jeremy Peterson, will host South Caldwell (5-6).

Mt. Tabor, led by coach Leymarr Marshall, will host Gastonia Ashbrook (4-7).

In the 3A race, Parkland will travel to play No. 8 Asheville Clyde Erwin (6-5). Carver (9-2) will host No. 13 seed West Iredell (7-4). I know you're wondering if it's possible for two Winston-Salem teams to make it all the way. It's not. As a matter of fact, both Parkland and

See Hill on B2

FROM THE HUDDLE

Anthony Hill



'MITEY' GOOD RUN



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

A Tiny Viking running back runs for yards during a Mitey Mite game against the Forsyth Broncos last Saturday. The two squads were among many Mitey Mite teams that participated in the fifth annual Mitey Mite Bowl, which was held at North Forsyth.

SHE'S A CHAMPION

Ewell captures WIBA and WIBC titles

BY ANTHONY HILL
THE CHRONICLE

Local boxer Carlette "The Truth" Ewell, 37, got into some of the best shape of her life to get ready for a title bout with Gwendolyn O'Neil, which was originally scheduled for Sept. 27, in Saint Maarten (Island area of St. Martin).

Ewell trained inside steam rooms to get accustomed to the Virgin Island heat. Ewell did countless sit-ups, crunches and push-ups. She also ran several miles a day to get into good enough cardiovascular shape to fight for 10 rounds. Ewell even found herself running down University Boulevard and Polo Road, past Wake Forest University — after beginning near Rural Hall.

"But I had to get a ride back," Ewell joked. "But I trained very hard for this fight. I am in some of the best shape of my life right now. Eddie Gregg got me right. He wanted to get my body equipped to fight 10 rounds in the heat. We did a lot



Photo by Charlie Pfaff

See Ewell on B5 Local boxer Carlette "The Truth" Ewell.