

# SPORTS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

## NCCU Eagles still plans to join MEAC

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) has lost Winston-Salem State University, which announced last week that it will return to the CIAA — but gained the Eagles.

North Carolina Central University is expected to join the conference as its 12th member on July 1, 2010. The news was announced last week in Durham on the NCCU campus.

"I am elated to have such an outstanding academic institution as North Carolina Central to return to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference," said MEAC Commissioner Dennis E. Thomas. "I would like to commend Chancellor Nelms, Dr. Wicker-McCree, and the entire NCCU family for all their continued hard work as they make the transition from Division II to Division I."

Commissioner Thomas added, "The addition of NCCU keeps us in compliance with our long range strategic plan of adding up to 14 members. NCCU is a perfect fit for the MEAC."

But Thomas' statement was made before the news of WSSU's change of heart reached him.

North Carolina Central is in the third year of its reclassification from NCAA Division II to Division I.

NCCU is one of seven founding member institutions of the MEAC. The Eagles withdrew from the conference in 1979, opting to remain a Division II member when the conference reclassified to Division I. From 1979-2007, NCCU competed in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

"This is a significant milestone in North Carolina Central University's transi-



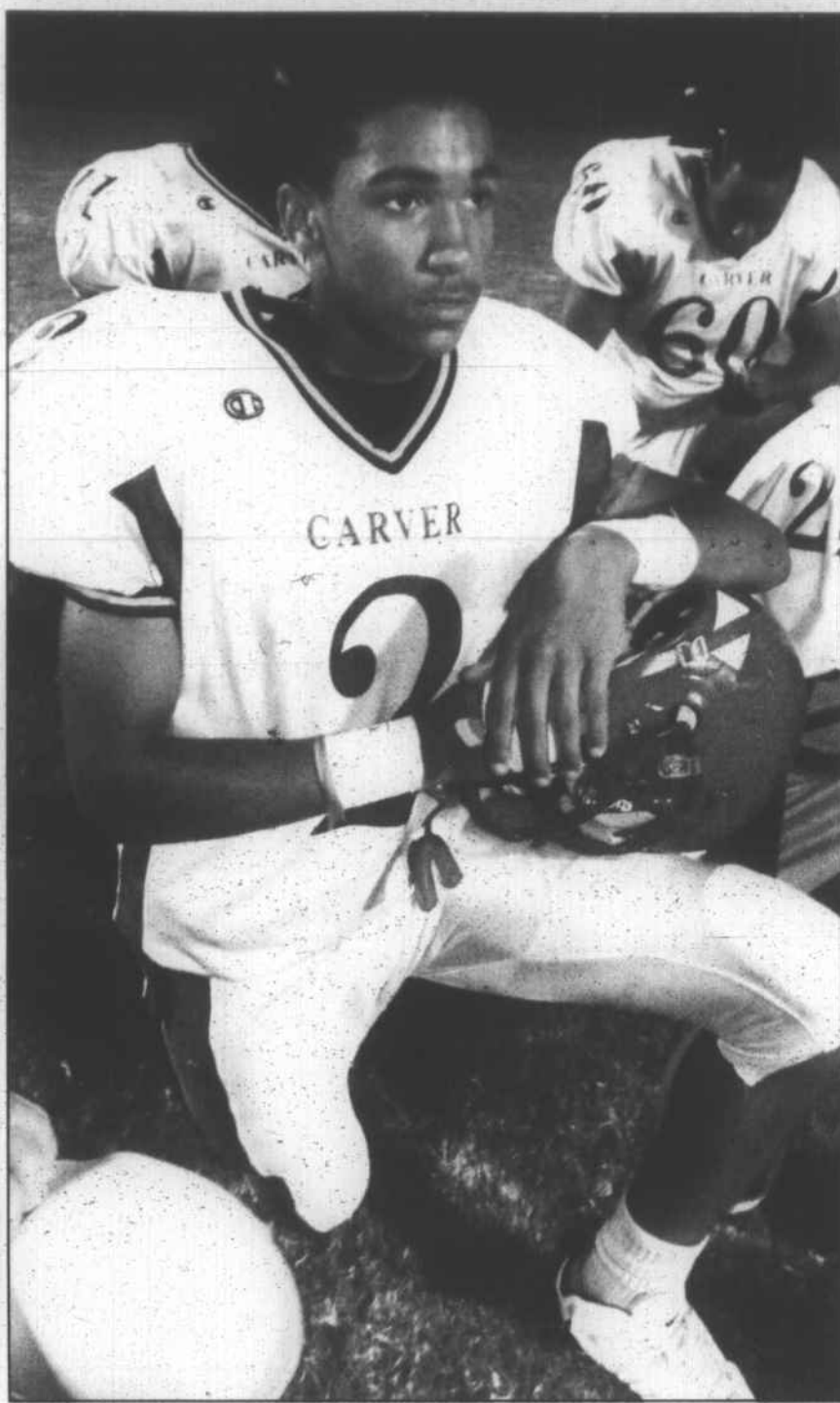
Chancellor Nelms



Commissioner Thomas

tion to Division I," said NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms. "Membership in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference is a win-win proposition for our student-athletes, alumni and fans — indeed, all our university constituents."

"This is wonderful news for North Carolina Central University, but most importantly for our student-athletes, coaches and fans," said NCCU Director of Athletics Dr. Ingrid Wicker-McCree. "The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference is a fantastic conference with highly competitive academic and athletic institutions. For NCCU to return to the MEAC and be part of its rich history is a tremendous step for our athletics program. We now have a place to call home."



Carver's Ironman Joe Mitchell listens to instructions with teammates.

## Carver JV the victor in low-scoring match-up

BY TIM BULLARD FOR THE CHRONICLE

There was little for the highlight reel, but a win is a win.

That's what Carver High School's JV football team got last Thursday playing against R.J. Reynolds High School at Thompson-Deaton Stadium. The Yellowjackets won 2-0 after a safety in the fourth quarter.

Coach Travis Pender was pleased with his squad, despite the low score.

"I think we did well," said Pender. "Our defense definitely did a great job on this side of the ball. It kept us in the game. They gave us the ball back, and we were able to do some things with the clock."

This evening, the team plays Parkland at home. They go into that game with a 1-2 record.

"We played two tough games," the coach said. "North Forsyth, and Glenn last week. Winston-Salem has some tough competition in the city this year as far as JVs, so we never know who will win. West Forsyth is pretty tough. Every week it's something different."

Pender is expecting big things from QB Joe Mitchell, who is also the team's free safety and punter.

"He's the Ironman of the team," said Pender. "Yeah, he's an animal."

RJR Coach Darren Nelson, a Winston-Salem State University alum, expects his team to rebound and be ready to play East this evening.

## Skinner wins honor for WFU's come from behind win

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Wake Forest quarterback Riley Skinner on Monday was named the ACC Offensive Back of the Week by the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Skinner, a 6-1, 210-pound senior from Jacksonville, Fla., engineered his seventh career fourth quarter game-winning drive in Wake's 24-17 win over Stanford on Sept. 12. Skinner completed 18 of 26 passes for 187 yards and one touchdown. In the process, he broke the school record for pass completions in a career. He now has 677 career completions.

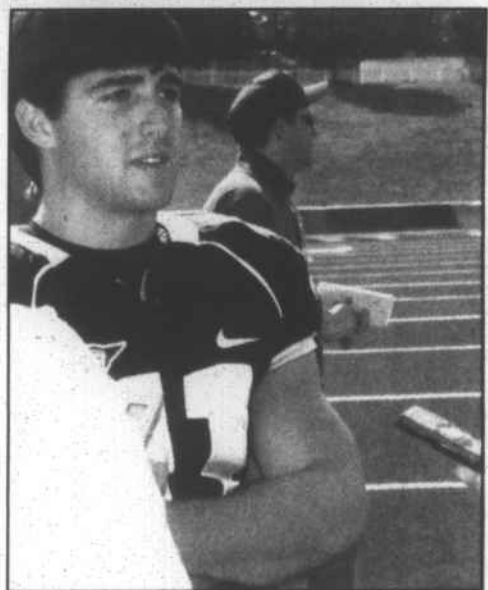
Saturday's come-from-behind win over Stanford should not have been a surprise for followers of Wake Forest football. Skinner has led the Deacons to similar wins in his second game of the year all four seasons.

In 2006, Skinner was playing in his second career game and made his first-ever start as he helped erase a 13-7 Duke lead as Wake Forest won 14-13.

After separating his shoulder in the season opener at Boston College in 2007, Skinner returned as the Deacons hosted Maryland, his second game of the season. He helped Wake rally from a 24-3 deficit to beat the Terps 31-24 in overtime.

Last year, Skinner drove Wake Forest on a nine-play, 57-yard drive as Sam Swank booted a 41-yard field goal to beat Ole Miss 30-28.

For Skinner, it marks his sixth ACC Player of the Week honor. He was the conference's Rookie of the Week three times during the 2006 season and earned Offensive Back of the Week honors in 2008, after wins over Baylor and Ole Miss.



Wake Forest QB Riley Skinner.

## POLAMALU'S BEAUTY SECRET



PRNewsPhoto/Head & Shoulders

Call it a stroke of marketing genius. Head & Shoulders shampoo has found the perfect pitchman for its product — Pittsburgh Steeler Troy Polamalu, who is equally known for his stellar on-field play and his long, curly locks. Polamalu can be seen in a series of Head & Shoulders advertisements next to the catch line: "Think I can manage my mane alone?" The promotion also includes the Web site [www.TroyTacklesMore.com](http://www.TroyTacklesMore.com), where fans can sign up for a sample of the shampoo and even have some interactive fun with the football star.

## WSSU golfers finish 12th at tourney

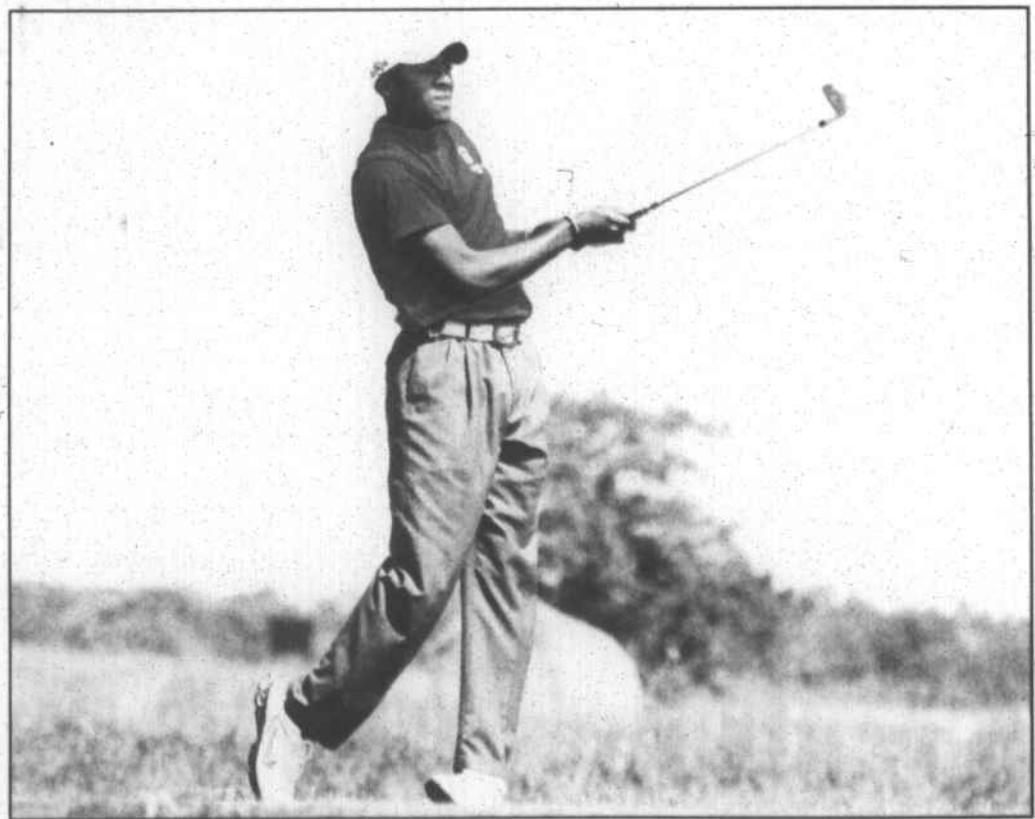
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

FARMVILLE, Va. — The Winston-Salem State University men's golf team closed out play at the Manor Intercollegiate Golf Tournament with a total of 1,002 after 54 holes of competition. That tally put them en route to a 12th-place finish at the tourney, which was hosted by Longwood University and played at the Manor Resort Golf Club in Farmville, Va.

Gardner-Webb University won the event with its 290-291-295-876, while Gardner-Webb's Daniel Kim took medalist honors among the 81 collegiate golfers with his 69-72-72-213 at the 7,214-yard, par 72 layout, winning in a playoff on the second hole against Preston Dembowiak of Liberty (70-73-70-213).

WSSU's Devin Cherry was the Rams' best individual scorer, turning in rounds of 78, 77 and 79 en route to a 54-hole total of 234, good enough to earn a tie for 31st.

Jerrell Fields posted a three-round total of 244 (81-85-78-244) good enough for a 57th-place finish and freshman Kevin Veach card-



Devin Cherry was a shining star for the Rams.

Photo by Dyanne Busse of Red Rocket Photos

ed a 256 (86-89-81-256) en route to a 66th-place finish as the Rams continued an impressive start to the 2009-10 season.

Kenneth Lathan posted rounds of 92, 89 and 87 en route to a tie for 71st place finish after 54 holes of play

with a three-round total of 268, while Steven Mason finished 54 holes with a 282 (92-94-96-282) for a 77th place finish.

The Rams finished 57 strokes ahead of MEAC-rival Hampton University, who turned in a three-round

total of 1,059 to finish in 13th place.

WSSU returns to action Sept. 25-27 in Atlanta at Browns Mill Golf Club as they compete in the Coca-Cola Black College Golf Invitational.