

Titans

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home-field advantage. Other than that, the game figures to be a toss-up.

Given that both teams' offenses score 30-plus points a game, the final outcome could be determined by which offense gets the ball last. Both defenses, while solid, figure to face their sternest challenges because there's so much offensive diversity. The Titans and Black Knights have strong ground games with gifted runners who are a threat to score anytime they touch the football. The passing attacks are equally explosive.

West Forsyth has a versatile crew of game-breakers. Kenyar McPhatter isn't a bruiser type of running back, but his elusiveness and surprising strength make him a tough match-up as a runner and as a receiver coming out of the backfield. At the receiver slots, Jamon Brown and Kallai Buyna are big-play threats.

Drew Latham has evolved as a key cog at quarterback. Latham's prime assets is his decision making. He rarely throws interceptions and he's effective enough as a runner to keep defenses from keying solely on McPhatter.

Two keys for West

Forsyth's defense are Clifton Mack and Alexander Garrett. Both must play well in order for the Titans to control the line of scrimmage. Safety KeAndre Buyna leads the way for an opportunistic secondary. West Forsyth has held opposing offenses to 15 points per game this season.

North Davidson operates from multiple offensive sets with quarterback Josh Sicignaeo as the focal point. The backfield tandem of Zi Russell and Hunter Morgan is the best the Titans have faced all season. Matthew Rogers and Jacob Laflesh are proven commodities at wide receiver.

The defense - with nine freshmen and two sophomores as starters - is young, but skilled, smart and game-tested. The strength is the front line, anchored by Blake Stephens and Devon Welch.

Linebackers Maddox Johnson and Zander Williams are the other prime contributors on a defense that has allowed 15.1 points per game.

West Forsyth and North Davidson have big-play capability on both sides of the ball, so the final outcome could be determined by turnovers and/or special teams play. All the elements are in place for this game to be the most memorable of the JV season.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee



Kenyar Phatter of West Forsyth is a threat to score as a runner, pass receiver and kick return specialist.

Loss

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heavy rains in late September. Three nights after whipping the Vikings, the Yellowjackets were back in action against a revved-up Wildcats squad.

It didn't help matters that Carver's starting quarterback (Tyron Teal) and his backup (Teryan Cherry) were out of commission because of concussions. In their absences, the Yellowjackets had trouble trying to establish any semblance of offensive continuity. By midway through the second quarter, starting running back T.J. Boyce was called on to run the team as the fourth-string quarterback.

"It's tough when you have to go that far down the depth chart," said Winfield. "Plus, we fell behind early, and that really hurt us. West Stokes played well, but I also feel that with all that was going on with us, they caught us at a good time."



Winfield



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Yellowjackets linebacker Jeremy Brown (8) and lineman Travez George (50) close in to make the tackle on Nick Myers of West Stokes.

Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

After the opening kick-off, the game turned ugly in a hurry for Carver. On fourth down in the first

quarter, the Jackets were pinned deep in their own territory. Punter D. Credle had to pull the ball down to

prevent a blocked kick and he ran, but was tackled behind the line of scrimmage at the 10-yard line.

JV Football Today

Thursday, Nov. 5

- North Forsyth @ Ledford, 7 p.m.
- Glenn @ Ragsdale, 7 p.m.
- Reagan @ Reynolds, 6 p.m.
- Carver @ South Stokes, 7 p.m.
- Atkins @ North Stokes, TBA
- Northwest Guilford @ East Forsyth, 7 p.m.
- West Forsyth @ North Davidson, 6 p.m.

Three plays later, Tyler Smith scored on a nine-yard quarterback keeper and Nick Smith kicked the PAT to put West Stokes up 7-0. On the ensuing kick-off, Phillip Legette fumbled on the return and the Wildcats recovered at Carver's 20-yard line. Smith connected with Zan Sandlin on a six-yard touchdown pass to give his team a two-touchdown cushion near the end of the first quarter.

West Stokes (6-2, 4-0 conference) added another touchdown with less than a minute left to play in the second quarter on Smith's 19-yard scoring pass to Tyler Little. Carver showed some spunk and resiliency right after that score when Boyce sliced through heavy traffic to score on an 87-yard kick-off return.

Carver's jubilation, however, was short-lived. The Yellowjackets were flagged for a block in the

back, and Boyce's score was nullified. West Stokes led 21-0 at intermission.

The Yellowjackets finally reached the end zone with 2:57 remaining in the third quarter. Boyce fumbled the snap while lined-up in the shot-gun, but still managed to power his way through two tacklers on a four-yard touchdown run to cut the deficit to 21-6.

West Stokes put the game out of reach early in the fourth quarter when Smith threw an 11-yard scoring pass to Austin Lilly, who scored again on a short run with less than a minute remaining in the contest.

"We'll bounce back," Winfield promised. "We're getting our injured players back in time for that last game. We know we can do better than what we showed against West Stokes."

Excited

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impressed onlookers at the NBPA Top 100 Camp, which annually attracts the best high school players in the country.

The scouting report on Corprew: Powerful wing player and versatile perimeter defender who's difficult to guard off the dribble. Vastly-improved outside shooter has the skills to develop into a standout combo guard. Corprew (12 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals per game last season), verbally committed to Arkansas-Little Rock in early September.

Of the three returnees, Pape Ndiaye is the most intriguing - partly because he's somewhat of an unknown commodity after missing all of last season with a torn ACL. He didn't play on the AAU circuit this past summer. Instead, he focused solely on further enhancing his strength and conditioning for the upcoming season.

Ndiaye, a 6-foot-9 power forward who averaged 10 points, 6 rebounds and 2 blocks two seasons

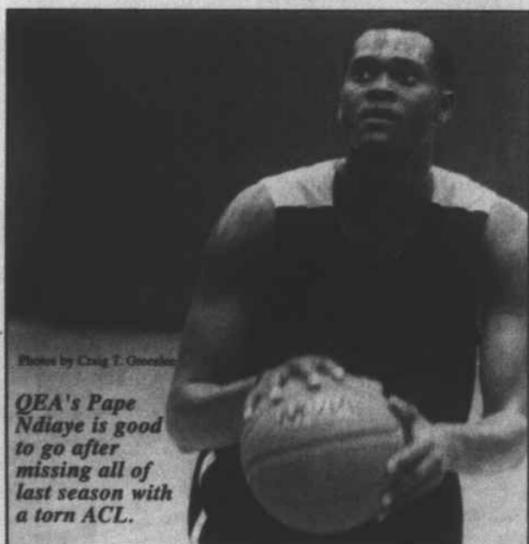


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
QEA's Pape Ndiaye is good to go after missing all of last season with a torn ACL.

ago, has the ability to play with his back to the basket. And he's a crafty enough ball handler to drive past defenders off the dribble. Not only is he an above-average outside shooter, but he's a skilled rebounder and shot blocker.

Prior to his injury, which happened a week before last year's season opener, Ndiaye was getting serious looks from over 20 colleges, which included Mississippi State, Oklahoma, Washington

State and UNC Charlotte.

"It was hard for me to sit and watch [last season]," Ndiaye admitted. "I felt like I let my teammates down. But now, I'm doing very well. Coach [Pitts] did a great job in helping me to keep my mind right. All during rehab he kept telling me, 'don't give up, don't give up.' I'm ready to show everybody that I'm 100 percent all the way back."

With Ndiaye sidelined for the season, Marsellis Purvis (averaged 8 points

and 10 rebounds per game) emerged as the Pharaohs' top post player. Purvis, a 6-foot-8 power forward, more than held his own in the paint against bigger opponents.

Purvis' presence will keep teams from focusing all their efforts on stopping Ndiaye down low. Last summer, Purvis continued to sharpen his skills while playing with Team Loaded, one of the nation's highly-regarded AAU programs.

Andre' Toure leads a talented class of newcomers who are expected to provide immediate help in the Pharaohs' quest to finish among the nation's Top 25. In Pitts' view, Toure, a 6-foot-8 sophomore small forward, compares favorably to former QEA standout Quincy Miller, who played with the Detroit Pistons last year and is now playing in Europe.

"Andre' is one of the elites at his position," said Pitts. "I believe he's among the Top 10 in the country. Even now, he's as good as Quincy [Miller] was as a 10th-grader."

Ranathan Ono Embo, a rangy 6-foot-5 junior point guard, has the requisite

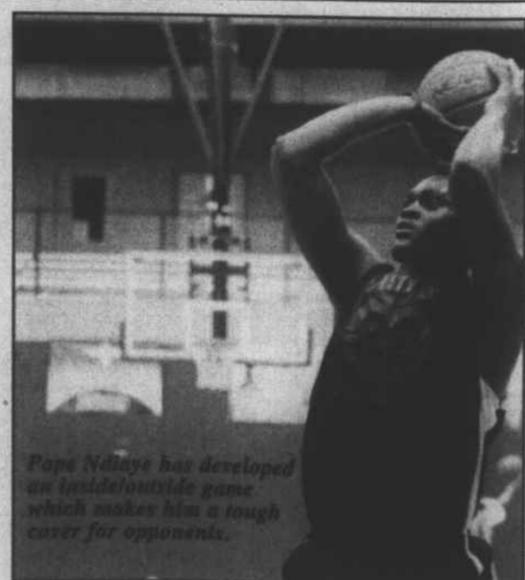


Photo by Craig T. Greenlee
Pape Ndiaye has developed an inside/outside game which makes him a tough cover for opponents.

skill-set to thrive as Corprew's backcourt partner. Ono Embo gets to the basketball at will, and he's an exceptional perimeter defender. Malik Prevard provides depth and athleticism at power forward. The 6-foot-9 senior is an above-the-rim finisher who blocks shots and plays tenacious defense.

Pitts added a pair of outside shooters to the roster, which will enhance QEA's offensive diversity.

Jaylan McGill and Keith Stagg are pure shooters who routinely torch defenses from 3-point range.

"We have some new faces, but our team DNA is still the same," said Pitts. "We rely on defensive pressure to create more offensive opportunities. And with every [offensive] possession, we push the tempo. That's how we put our opponents on their heels at both ends of the floor."