

By James Cuthbertson



**PREP  
CHATTER**



The Southwestern 4A Conference race is becoming intense. The old guard is gone and the new boys on the block are showing their muscle.

Garinger and West Mecklenburg are each going for their third shutout this weekend.

The best defenses in this young season belong to West Mecklenburg, Garinger, North Mecklenburg and West Charlotte in that order.

West Charlotte has the best defense. They are followed by West Mecklenburg, Independence and North Mecklenburg.

The West Charlotte defense is also tough and the offense has been smooth against some tough competition in Pulaski of Virginia and South Mecklenburg.

In fact, West Charlotte's 16-0 win over South Mecklenburg was better than the 35-19 loss that Greensboro pinned on the Sabres, no slouch of a team.

Surprises have been the East Mecklenburg Eagles offense that has sputtered and all but died.

The Eagles have given up 35 points.

The Sabres of South have given up 51 points to lead the league in that category. Their early season schedule has been against two of the state's top powers.

The Independence Patriots rolled over the East Eagles with an almost flawless execution and brought some smiles to coach Rusty Kester's face.

Robbie Kistler ran for 88 yards on 20 attempts. He was aided by halfback Tony Simpson and quarterbacks Chris Wallace and Barry Barrino, both of whom looked good.

My prediction record has taken a turn for the worse with 11 correct and nine wrong. Let's see if we can get back on the right track this weekend.

**THE PREDICTIONS**

East Mecklenburg (0-2, 0-1) at West Charlotte (2-0, 1-0)

The East Mecklenburg Eagles offense is sputtering. The Eagles are having trouble getting a first down let alone getting into the end zone. This could be a down year for the Eagles.

The West Charlotte Lions are intimidating in this young season. They really are growling.

The jungle won't be too hospitable for the Eagles. West Charlotte 21, East Mecklenburg, 7.

Garinger (2-0, 1-0) at Olympic (0-2, 0-1)

The Trojans are on their home turf for the first time this season and that could make a difference.

Coach Ray Barger's defense is having a good year, limiting Hunter Huss to eight points and West Mecklenburg to 14.

The problem has been getting some points from the offense.

The Wildcats are quick and in a good frame of mind this season.

Look for the Cats to take this one. Garinger, 10, Olympic, 7.

Myers Park (0-2, 0-1) at Independence (1-1, 1-0)

I have been really impressed by the Independence Patriots. They are big and are playing with a lot of guts. The defense is excellent.

Look for the Pats to roll against a Myers Park team that has had a lot of bad luck lately. Independence 20, Myers Park, 14.

Harding (1-1, 1-0) at North Mecklenburg (1-1, 0-1)

It's hard for anyone to beat the North Vikings at Valhalla, but the Rams will give it a good run for the money.

Harding has been playing well lately with J. D. Cauthen and Antonio Walker in full bloom. North Mecklenburg, 16, Harding, 14.

West Mecklenburg (2-0, 1-0) at South Mecklenburg (0-2, 0-1)

How do you predict against a team that has two straight shutouts. You don't! The Indians are having a banner season.

Even the cheerleaders are putting on some stellar performances and the entire Tuckaseegee Road community is ablaze with the wins that the Indians have been bringing home.

This is the Indians' first road game and the going could be tougher than most people think.

**IN OTHER GAMES:**

Lewisville, S.C., 21, Country Day, 6; Catholic, 8, Forest Hills, 7; Latin, 10, Christ Church, 0; and Providence Day, 14, Christ School, 7.

**THE RANKINGS**

1. West Mecklenburg - The Indians haven't been here in a long time, but they have earned it. They are an exciting bunch to watch. Coach Jim Hambacher's weight program has paid off.

2. West Charlotte - The Lions have been intimidating this year. They are outstanding in all areas on defense and on offense.

3. Garinger - The Wildcats have been slumming around the basement for years.

Congratulations, Wildcats, on your recent victories. Your star is on the rise.

4. Independence - The Patriots have power and beef. The team, led by quarterback Chris Wallace, cut down on execution errors and showed their stuff at East Mecklenburg.

5. Harding - The Rams scored their first win over the Mustangs in years. In this battle of arch rivals, Johnathan Cauthen and Carl Williams led the way.

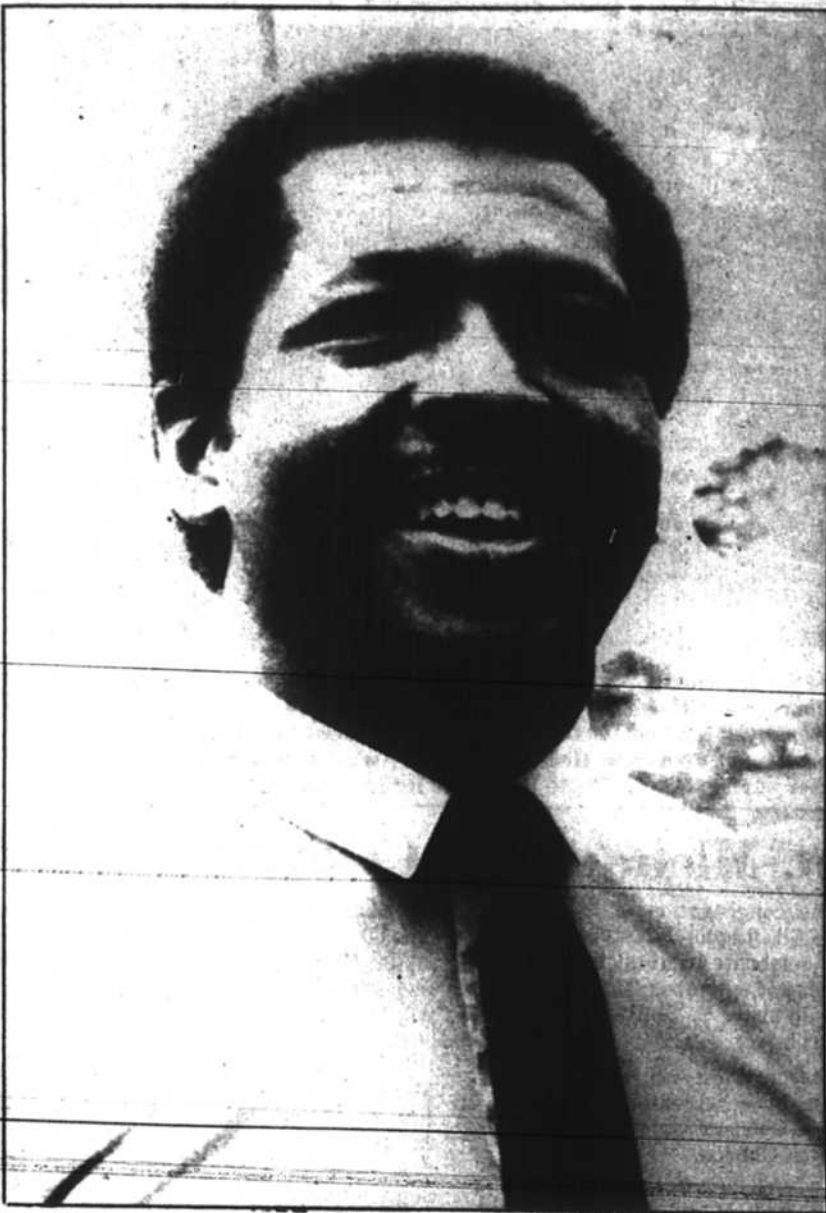
6. North Mecklenburg - The Wildcats of Garinger shutout the Vikings. But they'll be back.

7. South Mecklenburg - The passing connection of Greg Wilcox to Roman Phifer and Tony Lindsay will give the Sabres several exciting wins this season.

8. East Mecklenburg - The Eagles were listless against Independence and they lost to the Patriots for the first time, only the sixth time in 21 meetings.

9. Olympic - The Trojan defense is not bad, but the offense has yet to get off the ground.

10. Myers Park - From top to bottom in one season, the Mustangs have much improvement to make.



Andre Springs  
.....Admissions counselor

**Springs-Bernhardt Win  
McCanless Golf Tournament**

Andre Springs and Johnny Bernhardt lost a 3-up lead with three holes to play and then bounced back to edge Dusty Holder and Ernie Kirchen by 1-up on the 20th hole to win the 20th annual Grady McCanless Memorial Four-Ball Tournament, Sunday at the McCanless golf course in Salisbury.

Springs, a Charlotte native and graduate of West Mecklenburg High School, is a 1979 graduate of Fayetteville State University where he served as captain of the golf team, earned All-CIAA and All-District 26 honors for three consecutive years while also being named the CIAA's most outstanding golfer.

In 1981 and '82, Springs was runner-up in the Rowan County Amateur Tournament held at Corbin Hills and he has also captured the McCanless match play event.

Currently an Admissions Counselor in the Registrar's Office at Livingstone College, Springs formerly served as Head Golf Coach and recruited the nucleus for Livingstone's 1984 CIAA golf champions. He also served as Director of Intramurals.

In 1982 Springs was honored as "Rookie of the Year" by the Post Secondary Opportunity Committee of North Carolina Admissions Counselors.

Springs is married to the former Chiquita Brawley of Salisbury and they have a 7-month-old son, Andre Jr.

**Contracts Approved  
For County Roads**

Among the contracts approved by the state Board of Transportation at its monthly meeting this week was one affecting Mecklenburg County.

The contract calls for grading, paving, lighting, signing and retaining walls for I-277 from I-77 to South Cedar Street in Charlotte.

The project is at the west end of an overall project to extend I-277 to I-77 at Independence Blvd. to Brookshire Freeway in Charlotte. Completion of the overall project is scheduled for fall, 1988.

The contract approved was awarded to Rea Construction Co. of Charlotte for \$2,027,712.

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**FOOTBALL**

**WHERE THEY PLAY**

Saturday, September 22  
BOWIE STATE AT J.C. SMITH  
NORFOLK STATE vs. ELIZABETH CITY  
FAYETTEVILLE STATE at GUILFORD  
N.C. CENTRAL at HAMPTON  
LIVINGSTONE at KNOXVILLE  
ST. PAUL'S at VIRGINIA STATE  
VIRGINIA UNION at WINSTON-SALEM STATE  
BETHUNE-COOKMAN at N.C. A&T  
HOWARD at S.C. STATE  
MORGAN STATE at UNIV. OF CONN.

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**CIAA FOOTBALL**

**Winston-Salem State**  
(Rams)

— Vs —

**Virginia Union**  
(Panthers)

7:30 P.M.  
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