

By James Cuthbertson

# Prep Chatter



James

The Southwestern 4A Conference is still alive, but for the time being, we will refer to it as BR and AR, that is, before realignment and after realignment.

The Southwestern AR is not like we used to know it when only Charlotte schools composed it.

Gone is the close unity and rivalry that developed, but the opportunities for more Charlotte schools to make the playoffs makes up for this.

It will be a tough football conference this year.

## EAST MECKLENBURG EAGLES

Don't let the grimace on Rudy Abrams' face fool you. The Eagles have Maurice Flowers, wide receiver Steve Ford, split end Marty Karriker, running back Tony Hamer, and Brandon Gill among the returnees.

And there is Edward "Big House" House, all 5-9 and 260 pounds to anchor the line.

Ford is a 5-9, 140 pound speedster.

Against West Charlotte, he caught passes of 88 and 45 yards to lead East to a 21-14 triumph.

He caught a 40-yarder in the 28-12 win over Myers Park, a 26- and 20-yarders in the 23-0 win over West and a 60-yarder in the 26-7 loss to the Garinger Wildcats.

Karriker, 6-0, and 180, had a 31-yard run against West Charlotte as his only touchdown.

Thompson, 5-11, 165, had a 35-yard run against Myers Park, a three-yard run for a touchdown against North, a one-yard run in against Harding and a 93-yard kickoff return against South in the last game.

Hamer had a 65-yard pass reception touchdown against North. Field goal kicker Brad Causey is back. He booted a 40-yarder in the North game.

Give the Eagles a preseason grade of A-

## GARINGER WILDCATS

The Cats lost a coach and almost all their good players. Returning are cornerback Ronald Robinson, quarterback Chris Hopkins, running back Ralph McKissick, linebacker William Thompson, and center Dennis Bean.

Of the players returning only Ralph McKissick was a big gun last year, running for six touchdowns, including a 76-yarder against West Mecklenburg.

Give the Wildcats a returning grade of C-

## INDEPENDENCE PATRIOTS

The Pats return noseguard Tony Graglia, all 6-2 and 240 pounds of him, 5-10, 225 pound Jeff Krider at noseguard, 6-1, 170 split end Greg Clifton, 6-3, 269 outside tackle John Anthony, 6-1, 165 pound defensive end Harry Fuller, 5-6, 140 pound halfback Donald Donald, and 6-0, 155 pound quarterback Jeff Hobbs to name a few.

Fullback Tony Simpson also returns.

Donald Donald ran 25 yards for the only touchdown as the Pats beat North, 7-2, last year and he had a five-yard run in the 28-6 win over West Mecklenburg.

Tony Simpson ran for a seven-yarder against Central Cabarrus and a 17- and 86-yarder against West Mecklenburg.

The Pats have a lot of beef returning.

Give them a preseason grade of A-

## MYERS PARK MUSTANGS

Returning for the Mustangs are junior quarterback Tony Hunter, running back Alvin Blakeney, wide receiver Reggie Chisholm, fullback James Glover, fullback Tony Burris, and fullback Chris Outlaw.

The team doesn't return much size with most of the heavies of the line graduating.

Blakeney makes them a threat. Last year he had four touchdowns, including a 99-yard run against West Charlotte.

Burris had an 87-yard pass reception for a touchdown against Olympic.

Wide receiver Derrick Crowder caught a 40-yard pass interception against North in a 12-0 Mustang win.

Don't look for too much from the Mustangs.

Give the Mustangs a preseason grade of C-

## SOUTH MECKLENBURG SABRES

This team is loaded.

Quarterback Greg Wilcox returns. He had six touchdowns last year, including three in the 21-14 upset in early season of a hot Garinger team.

Darryl Bonapart, Stanley Washington, Robert McClain all return in the backfield along with D. Brosnahan.

All had a good year in the South backfield with Washington having two touchdowns in the 28-21 win over Myers Park.

Junior Darry Redfern showed that he is capable back there with two touchdowns in the big win over East that sent the Sabres to the playoffs.

That's not all.

Mr. Football, Roman Phifer, is back as the outside linebacker, wide receiver, punter, and place kicker. He does it all.

The Sabres are loaded.

Give them a preseason grade of A+

## PRESEASON RANKING SOUTHWESTERN 4A

1. South Mecklenburg, 2. Gastonia Hunter Huss, 3. East Mecklenburg, 4. Independence, 5. Gastonia Ashbrook, 6. Myers Park, 7. Garinger.

The state has adopted a new playoff format that could include as many as two Charlotte teams in the Tri-County or Southwestern 4A and one each as an at-large team. In some years, we could have six teams going to the playoffs in football and basketball.

## BEST BETS FOR THE FOUR PLAYOFF SPOTS FROM OUR AREA

### Tri-County Conference:

1. West Charlotte- The Lions are always there come playoff time. They manage to find a way.

2. Harding- The Rams have a lot of good things going for them in Antonio Walker and Anthony Houston, both experienced in the backfield.

### Southwestern Conference:

1. South Mecklenburg- The Sabres are loaded. It's going to take a Mack truck to keep them out of the playoffs.

2. East Mecklenburg- The Eagles will find a way. They usually do.

# Golden State Warriors Select Eric Boyd

Greensboro - Eric Boyd, the only player in the history of North Carolina A&T to play on four straight MEAC championship teams, has been selected by the Golden State Warriors in the National Basketball Association draft.

Boyd becomes the second player in as many years from A&T to be selected in the draft. Last year Job Binion was tabbed by the San Antonio Spurs.

In his final year of eligibility, Boyd capped a brilliant career as he was named MEAC "Player of the Year" for the 1984-85 season. In four years as the Aggies' floor leader, Boyd was named All-MEAC and tournament MVP three times.

"Eric is truly an outstanding player and his selection in the NBA draft comes as no surprise," veteran A&T head coach Don Corbett said. "I have been fortunate to be associated with a lot of good athletes but none came better than Eric.

"He played the game with tremendous poise and confidence. He was our team leader for four years and I don't recall a night when he didn't come to play. He never failed to take charge when we needed a big basket or a clutch play. I wish him all the luck in his battle to join the ranks of the professional."

At 6'4" with excellent ball-handling skills, Boyd also has an



Eric Boyd

.....Outstanding player uncanny shooting touch and it is generally assumed that he will get a good look to play in the Warriors' backcourt, a troublesome area for the team last season.

Boyd was the focal point of conversations following A&T's first round appearance in the NCAA Playoffs last March against Oklahoma. Observed Sooner coach Billy Tubbs: "Eric certainly isn't afraid to put it up and the distance from where he shoots is unbelievable."

Boyd, who matriculated at A&T after an equally outstanding high school career at Charlotte

Independence, was the Aggies' second leading scorer with 16.9 points per game last season.

Boyd ended his A&T career averaging 13.7 points, but his worth to the Aggies' success in the last four years is hardly measured in numbers.

"Simply put, he's an exceptional

player," Corbett said. Boyd hopes to follow in the footsteps of another A&T graduate who played for the Warriors. Al Attles was a backcourt star for the Warriors before being named head coach and leading them to the NBA title in 1976. Attles is currently the general manager for the Warriors.

## McDowell Park Set For Nature Center

The grand opening for the new Nature Center at Mecklenburg County's 850-acre McDowell Park and Southwest Nature Preserve is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, July 27. McDowell Park is on the shores of Lake Wylie off Hwy 49, near the North Carolina-South Carolina border.

The 3,400 square foot center, roads, and landscaping were paid for with \$357,531 in 1978 park bond funds. Jeff Huberman, of Gantt-Huberman Associates, designed the facility. Moretti Construction acted as general contractor.

Kid's Corner in the new Nature Center is not for kids only. It is just one of the areas in the Nature Center where the public is invited to participate in the hands-on displays. Other displays include two ant farms and a honeybee hive.

"We also have a display planned about bird nests," says Gail Kerr,

naturalist at McDowell Park. "We will have the material for kids to try to build a nest with. We'll show them how hard it is to do with hands, and birds have only beaks to do it with."

"Outside we will have a sensory awareness area - this is an idea developed by Eagle Scout Fred Russell," she adds. "His idea was to have braille signage and touch and fell displays for the blind, but we expanded it to include the other senses, and it's not just for the blind."

The Nature Center has a fully stocked sales area where wildflower seeds, Petersen's Field Guides, birdfeeders, and a wide assortment of other nature-related merchandise will be available.

Four miles of the planned 10 miles of trails through the park have been completed.

READ THE POST

## From Football Schedule

# South Carolina State Drops Arch Rival Johnson C. Smith

Special To The Post  
Orangeburg, S.C. - South Carolina State College will play an 11-game 1985 football schedule which includes six road games and two new opponents.

The Bulldogs open the season August 31 at Murray, Ky., against Murray State, one of two opponents State will face for the first time this fall.

The Bulldogs will be followed by three straight home games, all with 7 p.m. starting times. The Bulldogs will entertain Furman September 7 in their home opener, then host Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference opponents Delaware State, September 14 and North Carolina A&T, September 21.

State will travel to Washington, D.C., September 28 to face Howard in the first of three consecutive road games. The Howard game will be followed by trips to Lorman, Ms., October 5, to face Alcorn - one of two Southwestern Athletic Conference powers the Bulldogs will play - and Baltimore to meet MEAC foe Morgan State, October 12.

The Bulldogs return home October 19 for a homecoming matchup against Bethune-Cookman, the defending MEAC champion, then take a two-week layoff before resuming their schedule November 9 at Richmond, Va., against Virginia Union.

State closes out its six-game road schedule at SWAC power Grambling November 16, and hosts Georgia Southern, the second new opponent, at Orangeburg in the season's finale November 23.

## S.C. STATE

### 1985-86 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

August 31, Murray St. at Murray, KY; September 7, Furman (Youth Day); September 14, Delaware State (Parents' Day); September 21, North Carolina A&T; September 28, Howard at Washington, D.C.; October 5, Alcorn State at Lorman, MS; October 12, Morgan State at Baltimore, MD; October 19, Bethune-Cookman (Homecoming); October 26, open; November 2, open; November 9, Virginia Union at Richmond, VA; November 16, Grambling State at Grambling, LA;

## Football Camp

Hickory - The Lenoir-Rhyne College Bears football camp will be held Sunday, July 14, through Friday, July 19, on the L-R campus.

Head coach John Perry will serve as camp director and Lenoir-Rhyne assistants Jimmy Kiser, Bruce Ollis, Eddie Huff and Charles Fisher along with selected area high school coaches will help staff the camp.

The camp is open for players age eight through rising seniors in high school. High school graduates are not eligible to attend.

Cost for the day camp is \$80, which includes lunch. Cost for resident campers is \$135, which includes housing and all meals. A \$25 non-refundable deposit must accompany the application.

The Bears football camp is part of the college's Champions of Tomorrow Summer Sports Camps program. Also scheduled for the remainder of the summer are a team basketball camp, boys' basketball camp and day camps for volleyball and soccer.

For more information, contact Pat Holden at 704-328-7115.



Bill Davis

.....Veteran Bulldog coach and November 23, Georgia Southern.

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