

Football takes root at Barber-Scotia

Continued from page 1C admission to a conference, either the SIAC or CIAA, where Johnson C. Smith and Livingstone would provide instant rivalries.

"We're just waiting on our athletic director, our president and our board of trustees to what conference we'll go into," head football coach Tim Newman said. "We're just happy with whatever conference we can go into and play."

Nationally, small historically-black schools like Barber-Scotia have added football in recent years, acknowledging the enrollment boost the sport provides. Stinson said recruiting has already paid dividends in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties,

where the initial interest is focused.

"With the rich (football) history of the Concord and Kannapolis area, it was a heavy involvement for us," Stinson said. "Our enrollment in the area wasn't up to where we wanted it to be. We thought it would give us an opportunity to attract some of the student athletes in this area and also get the community more involved in what we're trying to do."

The Sabers will play as an NAIA independent next season, with six games on the schedule including St. Paul's from the CIAA; Central State (Ohio), a former NAIA power that is bringing football back and Clark Atlanta of the SIAC.

Newman, a former all-

CIAA running back at Johnson C. Smith who briefly played in the NFL, envisions Barber-Scotia as an alternative for prospects to pull their lives and academics together.

"We do have some kids that have gotten into some trouble, but that happens," he said. "We're excited about the kids we do have and look forward to recruiting that second-chance kid, a lot of kids that don't get that (NCAA) clearing house who can play great football that find a home to play. There's a lot of great football players out there."

The expense of a new program has been offset by gifts and contributions, said Stinson. Although Barber-Scotia's financial and acad-

emic struggles have been documented in recent years, the school has been able to build a foundation for football with the help of local supporters.

"It's been difficult but we've had the sponsorship, we've had the in-kind gifts that have come through to help us, so we've been truly blessed," Stinson said. "With a lot of the equipment you've seen has come from different places and professional organizations and money we've raised. Do we have the money to underwrite this? No, we don't have the money to do all the things we'd like to do, but we do have enough to get this program up and running and make it a success."

"They've already taken the first step.

3-6 Cobras need answers to turn season



PHOTO:WAYNE JERNIGAN

The Carolina Cobras have been frustrated by a 3-6 start.

By Herbert L. White
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The Carolina Cobras need a run of good football quickly. Last week's 57-41 loss to New York dropped Carolina to 3-6 and pushes the Cobras into must-win mode with

seven regular season games to play. Although the record is light years better than the 0-16 registered last season, Carolina hasn't put enough winning pieces together for an extended period.

"I think we have a good football team, but sometimes

things happen," Carolina coach John Gregory said. "We have to find a way to play through it and that's what we're going to do."

New York (5-3) broke the game open with a 21-6 third quarter rally that turned a 17-17 halftime time into a rout. New York pulled away with in a 1 minute, 27 second span on Richmond Flowers' 27-yard catch of an Aaron Garcia pass, followed by Jermaine Miles' 2-yard plunge after New York recovered a bungled kickoff return for a 38-17 Dragons lead.

"We knew all we had to do was get a couple of stops and put some points up there," said Cobras quarterback Matt Nagy. "When you get down like that and they get that momentum, it can be a killer. We're still making a lot of mistakes as a team and if we want to be successful we can't make those mistakes."

Carolina played New York

evenly in the first half, but the Dragons gained field position. New York's special teams turned the momentum for keeps, despite the Dragons accumulating a meager 129 yards on 37 plays compared to 237 on 48 snaps for the Cobras.

"I thought our defense did a good job, but special teams were a major factor in the game," said Gregory, a former Dragons coach.

The Cobras, who play at Indiana Sunday, need to develop consistency in order to get into the playoffs. There's still time, but Nagy admits there's little room for error.

"This loss is difficult but we've just got to do whatever it takes," he said. "I don't know what it's going to take, but we've got to do something in order to get that spark and try to win again."

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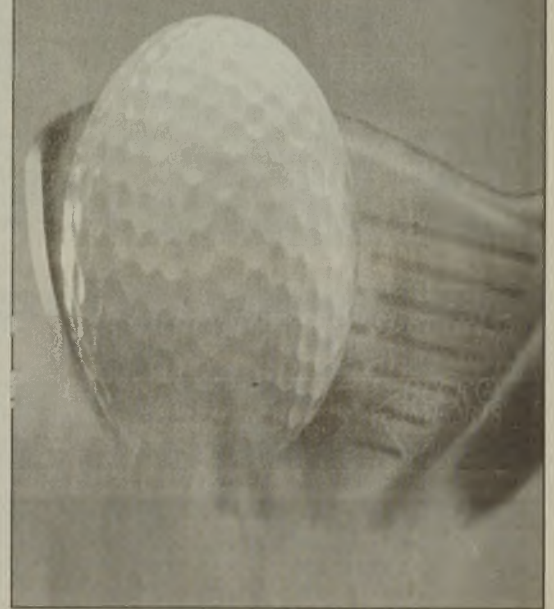
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