

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

Harrell Looks To Rebuild Scorpion Fortunes

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

For new North Brunswick coach Clark Harrell, it's the same message—just a different song.

Harrell was hired as the new North Brunswick coach just prior to the start of preseason drills in hopes that he can turn Scorpion football fortunes around.

It was only a year ago that the former East Carolina linebacker was hired as head coach at Columbia, a 1-A school that had not had a winning season in its 14-year existence. Harrell not only rebuilt the football program at Columbia but led the team to a 5-4-1 record in the process.

Scorpion officials are hoping Harrell will continue the trend at North Brunswick, a school that has had only one winning season (1972) since its founding.

"It's been a big period of adjustment for both my family and the players," said Harrell of his move to North Brunswick.

Harrell spent his first night (July 31) in the area at a motel and did not find a residence till August 3. In between those days the Scorpions began preseason drills and Harrell started installing his new system and philosophy to his players and coaches.

"The players have had so much thrown at them at one time that we're still working on polishing things up. We're still having problems with consistency also," said Harrell.

The Scorpions will have a new look offensively as Harrell has employed the Wishbone formation. A number of offensive backs return which should run the new formation effectively.

"In a scrimmage against Pender last week we showed some good signs running the offense. However, we would break one play for 15-20 yards then run the exact same play later and lose possession on a fumble."

Lanier Sloan (5-11, 202, sr.) has been moved from his tight end position a year ago to fullback and according to Harrell is "coming around". Sloan was an All-County defensive end last season.

Senior Clarence McKay (5-8, 152) is another prospect at fullback.

Chubby Sanders (5-10, 180, sr.) will be at one halfback while Ricky Edge (5-5, 155, sr.) will be at the other halfback spot.

Others challenging for the halfback slot are junior Laverne Holliday and sophomores James Dowe and Chuck Thomas.

Seniors Eric Lee and Keith Woodcock are in a battle for the starting quarterback position.

"Both Lee and Woodcock do different things better than the other. We may have to alternate them during the game but it primarily depends what the situation dictates," said Harrell.

Sophomore Curtis Porter is another prospect at quarterback.

The Scorpions won't be shy in passing the football this year with a host of eligible receivers. Topping the list of receivers are seniors Chris Williams and Joe Chance (6-3, 157). Also seeing action will be juniors Sammy Seally and Steve Mintz along with sophomore James Grady.

Leading the Scorpions offensive line will be All-County tackle Junior King (6-0, 190, sr.), center Chuck Clem-

mons (5-9, 184, sr.) and tackle James Reynolds (6-1, 244, sr.).

Backing Clemmons up at center are junior Tim Strickland (5-6, 145) and sophomore Wynn Beck (5-9, 191).

Aiding the Scorpions on the offensive line are seniors Walter Brown (5-10, 165) and Joe Lamb (6-0, 167), junior Kevin Cordrey (6-0, 222) and sophomores Bill Watson (5-7, 145) and Glenn Beck (5-9, 151).

The Scorpions will operate defensively out of a 5-2 formation and Harrell believes his stop unit will be big and potentially strong at linebackers.

"Our defensive secondary is coming around. We still don't break on the ball like we should but rather just stand around and wait."

Woodcock, who had two pass deflections in the Pender scrimmage, is a likely candidate for the secondary while outside linebacker Chuck Thomas and inside linebacker Chubby Sanders beef up the Scorpions in the middle.

Other Scorpions in the secondary will be Lee at free safety and Dowe.

Clemmons will also be starting at inside linebacker and is one of the best on the team against the run according to Harrell.

King, one of the Scorpions most outstanding defensive players, will add quickness to the defensive line.

Along with King on the line will be Reynolds and junior nose guard Randall Bryant (5-9, 235).

Mitchell Stevens (5-9, 202), an All-County offensive line selection last year, will also see plenty of action on the defensive front while senior Montrel Jackson (5-10, 202), Garrett Bryant (6-0, 185) and Tommy Roderick (5-7, 160) add size.

Harrell finds the only question mark concerning the team is mental preparation.

"What concerns me is that there is no tradition here. This is something we will have to overcome. A lot of the times the biggest opponent is in your own mind," said Harrell.

"The scrimmage against Pender was as rough a preseason contest as I've ever seen and it showed that we will stand up against players much bigger than we are.

"What will be the biggest factor is that losing has got to bother us. A loser will sit back and rationalize about what happened and why, whereas a winner will be willing to do something about it."

Harrell and his assistants—Bubba Baldwin, Jeff Spivey, Clyde Holly and Jodie Middleton—have spent much of practice time thus far "teaching" players the new system.



NORTH BRUNSWICK PREPARES FOR CLARKTON—Scorpion Ricky Gresham (25) leads teammates through a tire drill as a final tuneup for Friday's first game against Clarkton. The Scorpions are

under first-year coach Clark Harrell who hopes to guide North Brunswick to its first winning season in 13 years.

This has taken up more time than expected and a lot of patience but Harrell feels it is worth it.

"Instead of telling a player just what to do, we instruct him on why he should do it. It is the slow but, good way to coach."

One of Harrell's goals is to have a winning season along with playing a part in who goes to the playoffs while also hoping to have the Scorpions in the playoff picture as well.

The Scorpions have managed only two wins in the last 13 conference games over the past three seasons and have struggled to two straight cellar finishes in the old East Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

North Brunswick will face Clarkton, Dixon and Acme-Delco in nonconference play—all three teams that the Scorpions defeated a year ago.

The Scorpions will face four of seven new Waccamaw Conference opponents at home including South Robeson, West Columbus, West Brunswick and Fairmont. Conference road games include trips to South Brunswick, East Bladen and Whiteville.

"Whiteville certainly has the tradition and looks to be the team to beat. I really don't know that much about the rest of the league," said Harrell.

Following a collegiate playing career at East Carolina, Harrell, a native of Tarboro, has had other prep coaching stints at Roanoke Rapids (1981) and Ayden-Grifton (1982). Harrell spent the 1983 season as a Pirate assistant at his alma mater.

At North Brunswick, Harrell replaces Mickey Daniels who resign-



BEGINS WITH SCORPS—Former East Carolina assistant Clark Harrell is in his first season with the North Brunswick Scorpions. A native of Tarboro, Harrell was a linebacker for the Pirates before having coaching stints at Roanoke Rapids, Ayden-Grifton, Columbia.

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ed in July after being named Scorpion head coach just a week before.

Prior to Daniels, North Brunswick was led by six-year coaching veteran Tom Farrar who guided the Scorpions to a county championship in 1983.

North Brunswick Scorpions 1985 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Aug. 30	Clarkton
Sept. 6	at Dixon
Sept. 13	Open
Sept. 20	at Acme-Delco
Sept. 27	South Robeson*
Oct. 4	at South Brunswick*
Oct. 11	West Columbus*
Oct. 18	at East Bladen*
Oct. 25	West Brunswick*
Nov. 1	Fairmont*
Nov. 8	at Whiteville*

*denotes Waccamaw 2-A Conference game. All games kickoff at 8 p.m.

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SCORPIONS OPEN FRIDAY—North Brunswick's Steve Blue (22) and Steve Mintz (43) loosen up during a Scorpion practice earlier this week. North Brunswick opens the new grid season Friday hosting Clarkton.

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