

Former Trojan Corey Hankins Plays Final Game For Catawba

BY DOUG RUTTER

Corey Hankins was nowhere near South Bend last Saturday afternoon when Notre Dame battled Florida State in college football's game of the year. He didn't even watch it on TV.

Hankins was too busy running up and down a football field in Hickory, playing a game that was just as important to him as the Notre Dame game was to Florida State's Charlie Ward.

A former West Brunswick High School football star, Hankins played his final game for Catawba College last weekend. The Indians lost to their archrivals, Lenoir-Rhyne, 38-29.

Hankins, a 5-11, 215-pound line-backer, was Brunswick County's high school football player of the year in 1988 and used his knack for tackling to land an athletic scholarship and get a college education.

Reflecting on his college career last week, Hankins encouraged other high school students to use whatever athletic ability they have to their advantage.

"I think it's real important they take advantage of it. You should get out and see different things," he said. "Small colleges are good for education because you get to know your professors, and it's a lot easier to succeed."

Hankins, twice selected to the all-county and all-conference teams, led West Brunswick to the Waccamaw Conference championship and a 10-2 season as a high school senior.

None of that mattered, though, when he arrived at Catawba's campus in Salisbury in the fall of 1989. Like most freshmen, he didn't know anyone and nobody was impressed with what he had accomplished at West.

"It's a big difference between high school and college," Hankins said. "The biggest difference is the talent level. In high school every team has one or two great athletes. In college everybody is just as good as you are."

Catawba competes in the South Atlantic Conference, which frequently has teams ranked near the



BEACON FILE PHOTO
COREY HANKINS as a West Brunswick senior in 1988.

top of the Division II polls. "It's a different brand of football than Division I, but still it's football," Hankins said. "It's not Florida State or anything like that, but it's a good brand of football."

Hankins had 41 career tackles for the Indians going into this season, but came up big this year with 45 tackles through nine games, making him the sixth-leading stopper on the team.

"He's done a good job since he's been here and we're proud of him," Catawba Coach J.D. Haglan said. "I'm sure he'll be successful in whatever he does after college."

Hankins, plagued by injuries throughout his career, stayed healthy this year and played in every game.

"It's really been a good season," he said. "I've had a good time playing here. I've enjoyed the coaches and the players."

Torn knee ligaments midway through the 1991 season nearly ended Corey's football career. After reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation, he didn't make it back onto the field until late in the 1992 season.

He played in just three games last year, and thought about calling it quits at that point.

"I really wasn't comfortable with the way I went out," Hankins said of the '92 season. "I came back this year to prove to myself I could come back after that injury."

The blown-out knee was just the latest in a series of injuries that have haunted Hankins. "My X-ray file is as thick as an encyclopedia," he says.

At West Brunswick High, he fractured his collar bone twice, and then there was the broken hand his senior year.

Corey's last game in Trojan green was a second-round playoff game against Jordan-Matthews. West Brunswick lost 14-6 despite an incredible effort by Hankins.

A cast was removed from his broken hand one hour before kickoff, and he proceeded to make 27 tackles.

Coming out of high school, Hankins said he had planned to go to college with or without a football scholarship. N.C. State took a look at him, but never offered a grant like Catawba.

Hankins says he has a lot of good memories from his football days at Catawba, but maybe none more vivid than his first and only career interception Oct. 16 against Gardner-Webb.

The fourth-quarter pickoff led to an Indian touchdown and a 40-36 win. "That was a big thrill for me," he said. "Even in high school I made a lot of tackles, but I never got an interception."

Hankins is on track to graduate in December with a degree in therapeutic recreation. He sent out resumes last week. Ironically, he hopes to land a job that will allow him to help athletes recover from injuries.

Corey said he wouldn't have made it through college without help from his parents, Jimmie and Pat Hankins of Supply.

"They've really supported me my whole college career," he said. "I could always look up in the stands and see my family."

Hot Weather Cools Spot Fishing

BY DOUG RUTTER

Balmy weather over the weekend seemed to slow down the best spot fishing in years, but the coveted fall fish were still biting at most places early this week.

"They're still here," Ed Kayler of Sunset Beach Fishing Pier reported Monday morning. "One guy came in a while ago and said he had 15 already this morning."

Kayler said spot fishing slowed down the middle of last week but picked up over the weekend, when the South Brunswick Islands were drenched in sunshine and temperatures approached 80 degrees.

"It's been pretty good," Kayler said. "They're not jumping on the pier, but they're biting."

Gil Bass of Holden Beach Fishing Pier said fishermen continued to catch spots last week, as well as whiting and flounder.

"They have caught quite a few spots this week," Bass said Monday. "They've slowed down, but they're still catching some."

At Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier, manager Curtis Williamson said the weather apparently had a big impact on the fishing.

"It ain't been too hot," Williamson said of the fishing. "They've been biting a little bit. It's been kind of slow. They've been biting in spurts."

Williamson said the slow fishing didn't deter many fishermen, who

still enjoyed the nice weather last weekend.

"People are still trying. They're not giving up," he said. "If it stays like this people will keep trying through December. I hear the fishermen say there will be more spots. I don't think it's over."

Sheffield's
Although the spot fishing slowed down, the offshore fishing was pretty good last weekend, according to John Sheffield of Sheffield's store at Ocean Isle Beach.

"It was pretty good Friday and Saturday," Sheffield said Monday. "There was a lot of king mackerel caught about 30 miles offshore."

Ocean Isle Beach homeowner Jim Hewitt landed a 29-pound king mackerel. Also, Gene Parker of Ocean Isle and Richard Crutchfield of Whiteville caught two wahoo that weighed 61 and 51 pounds.

Inshore, Sheffield said anglers caught mainly spots, flounder, trout and spottailed drum.

"The spots have tapered off," he said. "There's a lot of people trying for spots. They probably don't know which way to go with the way the weather's been lately."

Tripp's Fishing Center
Several fishermen out of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shallotte Point caught king mackerel over the weekend, said spokesperson Joyce Land.

The crew of the *Rockin' Robin*

caught its limit in kings on Sunday. Anglers also caught lots of black fish offshore.

"The inside net fishing has picked up some," Land said. "They're still picking up spots outside and a few on the hook and line."

Frank Causey of Shallotte caught 100 pounds of spots last Friday aboard the Miss Lena.

Land said fishermen also caught speckled trout, flounder and spottailed drum inshore last week.

This Week's Tide Table

| Day | Date | HIGH | | LOW | |
|-----------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| Thursday | 18 | 11:21 | 11:39 | 4:44 | 5:29 |
| Friday | 19 | 12:11 | 12:12 | 5:37 | 6:20 |
| Saturday | 20 | 12:33 | 1:05 | 6:33 | 7:12 |
| Sunday | 21 | 1:29 | 1:54 | 7:29 | 8:03 |
| Monday | 22 | 2:25 | 2:48 | 8:29 | 8:57 |
| Tuesday | 23 | 3:17 | 3:39 | 9:26 | 9:45 |
| Wednesday | 24 | 4:06 | 4:28 | 10:17 | 10:33 |

ADJUSTMENTS
SHALLOTTE INLET—add 17 min. high tide, add 32 min. low tide.
LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 22 min. high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.
BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 10 min. high tide, subtract 7 min. low tide.
SOUTHPORT—add 7 min. high tide, add 15 min. low tide.
LITTLE RIVER—subtract 11 min. high tide, add 18 min. low tide.

New Fishing License Will Help Land Data

State officials hope a new license that will be required starting next year will give them a better feel for the number of commercial fishermen who are working in North Carolina and what they're catching.

The license, which will cost between \$15 and \$45, will be required to sell seafood. The program takes effect Jan. 1, 1994, and will prohibit fishermen from selling seafood to anyone except licensed dealers.

The N.C. General Assembly approved the new license earlier this year in an effort to better determine the number of commercial fishermen, the amount and type of fishing effort and total seafood catch.

"The biggest reason for it is to get more information on what we have been catching," said Rich Carpenter, southern district manager with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

"We don't feel like we get a whole lot of what's caught. We don't have a good feel for what's being caught," he added.

Proceeds from the sale of licenses

will be used to collect and process the catch statistics.

The state will issue separate licenses for seafood caught on vessels and seafood not caught on vessels. The license for non-vessel catches will cost \$15 per year for North Carolina residents and \$100 for non-residents.

Fees for vessels will be based on the length of the boat. They are \$25 per year for watercraft up to 18 feet, \$35 for vessels 18 to 35 feet and \$45 for larger fishing boats.

Licenses will be available starting Dec. 1 and may be purchased at the Marine Fisheries office in Morehead City or from licensing agents along the coast. The local agent is Shallotte Marine Supply.

When purchasing a license for a vessel, a valid vessel license receipt must be presented. Licenses will be issued on plastic cards, which must be presented to seafood dealers at the time of landing.

Dealers who catch or produce their own seafood to sell will be required to purchase the new license.

Also, all seafood dealers will be required to record each landing and submit "trip tickets" to the state on a monthly basis starting in January.

Dealers must record the location of each catch, the type of gear used and the species and quantity of seafood landed.

Each individual's data will be kept confidential. However, data summaries will be used by fishery management agencies, fisheries associations, economic development councils and the public.

State officials say having accurate data is not only important to government agencies, but the fishing industry as well.

Commercial landing statistics are used to justify dredging projects, disaster recovery funds, economic development projects, the value of commercial fisheries to North Carolina and quota allotments to fishermen.

For more information on the new license, call the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries at 1-800-682-2632.

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