

Catawba Defeats Lions in Comeback

by Thad Strom
Sports Editor

Catawba linebacker Bill Harrison intercepted a MHC aerial on his own 48-yard line with 7:15 to go in the fourth quarter and raced to the Lion eleven yard line and set up what proved to be the game winning touchdown for the visiting Indians. Less than a minute later quarterback Don Davis hurled an eight-yard scoring strike to flanker Vince Haydock to cap a 27-24 win and an unbelievable comeback.

The Lions had completely dominated the first half after giving up an early score to the Indians. Mars Hill took the opening kick-off and two plays later a bad pitch-out in the backfield was recovered by CC defensive end Dan Fish on the MHC 26-yard line. Steve Roeder, a 5'11", 200 lb. fullback, bulled his way ten yards to the sixteen. After Davis threw an incomplete pass, he ran to the six for a first down. On the next play tailback Bill Godsey sprinted the distance with 13:06 to go in the opening period and the point after made the score Catawba 7 and Mars Hill 0.

After a series of punts by both clubs the Lions took possession on their own twenty-nine. Quarterback Jeff Conner connected on passes to Johnny Dawkins and Hooper Sartlin to move the ball down to Catawba's 35-yard line. However, a loss dropped the Lions back to the thirty-nine and a 57-yard field goal attempt fell short and the Indians put the ball in play on their own twenty.

Incomplete passes and a penalty forced Catawba to punt and again the Lions began to drive, beginning on their own thirty-eight. Running backs Ronnie Reeves and All-American Jeff Davis, operating from a pro set, combined for 40 yards to put Mars Hill down to the Indian 22-yard line; however, another drive was halted when safetyman Larry Bumgarner intercepted a pass at the twenty.

At this point, it seemed that the Lions could do nothing wrong. Mars Hill's defensive end Bobby Wall captured Don Davis for a loss back to the CC six-yard line and the Indians had to relinquish the pigskin. David Taylor's punt was deflected and MHC had great field position on Catawba's 15-yard line.

After reserve qb Danny Robinson threw an incomplete pass, Conner returned to the game and circled right end to the CC four. Jeff Davis carried to the one and two plays later, Conner sneaked in with 6:15 to go in the second quarter to put the Lions on the scoreboard.

Again, the Lion defense rose to the occasion following the ensuing kick-off and pushed the Indians back to their own 17-yard line. Another bad punt gave the Lions a first and ten on the CC 29. On second down Davis took a pitch-out from his quarterback and ran to the sixteen, and on the next play, Conner passed to Davis to the three. With 3:02 remaining freshman tailback Tim McDonald blasted up the middle to give the Lions a 12-7 lead. Jeff Conner added the two-point conversion on a quarterback keeper around right end.

Mars Hill received a big break on the kick-off when Kim Smith returned the ball to his own twenty-five, fumbled, and the Lions' Greg Hasselbring pounced on the loose pigskin. The offense stalled after being pushed back to the 40-yard line and were forced to punt; however, a roughing-the-kicker penalty moved the ball to the twenty-five, but it was not enough for a first down. Place kicker Zoom Bonnell came on and booted a 42-yard field goal with 2:03 to go and MHC increased its lead to 17-7.

Again, Mars Hill was not to be denied yet another score. A Catawba fumble was recovered by Gene Radford on the CC 40, and Conner's pass to Davis gave the Lions a first and ten on the eleven. On the following down Conner passed to freshman end Ronnie Capps for MHC's third TD of the quarter. When time expired, the scoreboard showed a 24-7 half-time advantage for Mars Hill.

CATAWBA'S DAVIS HAS THREE TD PASSES

With the start of the third quarter, the fans witnessed a completely different Catawba football team. The Indians took the kick-off and marched from their own twenty-seven to Mars Hill's seven and with only 2:58 gone in the period, QB Don Davis connected on a scoring strike to Kim Smith to make the score 24-13. Tom's PAT was good.

After the Lions were unable to move, Catawba took possession on their own 40. A pass to Balestrieri put the ball on the MHC twenty-four, and two plays later Davis found Vince Haydock in the corner of the endzone to pull Catawba closer, 24-20.

The fourth period saw both clubs relying heavily on their defenses. The ball exchanged hands four times until Mars Hill began a drive midway through the quarter that began on their own twenty-five. The Lions moved to midfield, but an illegal procedure penalty set the pigskin back to the MHC 45.

On third down and long yardage, Conner's pass found its way into the arms of Bill Harrison and the linebacker raced to the 11-yard line of MHC before being pulled down from behind by Jeff Davis.

This play not only cost MHC the game, but also a fine offensive tackle. Joey Hinson, a junior from Columbia, S. C., was carried from the field in an ambulance with a leg injury. Hinson was a candidate for all-conference honors and may be lost for the remainder of the season.

Two plays later, with 6:42 remaining in the contest, Haydock hauled in his second TD pass of the night to put Catawba ahead 27-24. The Lions were able to get the ball for two more series of downs, but were futile in their attempts to give the game back to MHC.

Women's Intramurals Begin

Girl's intramural basketball got underway last week with four teams on the schedule. Mrs. Morphy, director of women's intramurals, said that she is really pleased with this year's turn-out for basketball and she hopes that this will encourage other women students to participate in events later in the school year.

The girls play every Monday and Wednesday evenings at 6:30-8:30 and here is a summary of the games played on September 13: The Sharks, coached by Betty Shook, were defeated by the Hootersville Hooters, coached by Janice Black. H. Walker and E. Walker had 4 and 9 points respectively for the losers, while B. English had 3, W. Jarvis 2, S. Blakely 6, and J. Black 6 for the Hooters.

The Go-Getum Gang, coached by Pat Reid and Mary Jane Mash, were led by M. Vinson's 11 points in defeating Delta Omicron, 30-9. Others scoring for the victors were D. Wikes 2, D. Starnes 8, S. Smith 4, J. Revis 2, and J. Wilson with 3. V. Holemaon led Delta with nine.

The clock-watcher for the games is Sally Grant and the officials are Jill Grant, Sally Haule, Pat Reid, and Que Tucker.

If any of you girls are interested in participating in women's intramurals, please contact Mrs. Morphy, 104 In Chambers Gym.



Lion Print

by Thad Strom

A lot of things can be said of a team that can come from a 24-7 deficit at halftime and win 27-24, and just as many things can be said of a team that would permit such a thing to happen. It happened in the Lions' second game of the season and unfortunately, it was the Catawba Indians who worked the miracles—or I should say, Catawba quarterback Don Davis.

I'm not going to apologize for the Lions because I believe MHC played some good football and that one BIG mistake caused the turn-around—a five-yard penalty at midfield that forced Mars Hill into a passing situation that it didn't want to be in. Instead of a MHC first down inside Indian territory or a punt that would put the ball deep into Catawba's side of midfield, they ended up on the Lions' eleven yard line.

Some can say the Lions crawled back into their den and gave up or just got too over-confident. If anything, it was the over-confidence excuse, which I am reluctant to believe. A team doesn't give up when it is ahead seventeen points at halftime—it fights to retain that lead. And a team can hardly get careless with a passer like Don Davis, who is, by the way, a junior and considered one of the best quarterbacks in the Carolina Conference. To contain QBs like Davis for an entire game is not an easy job.

But remember the fourth quarter—the Lion defense held the Indian offense on three series of downs, each series resulting in a punt for CC. It was just that one BIG mistake.

Aside from that unbelievable nightmare, I would like to recognize the coaches' selections from the Millsaps game. The offensive back was Jeff Davis; Joey Hinson, offensive lineman; Wayne Perryman, defensive lineman; and David Hornick, defensive back. Others cited for their efforts were Lane Parsons, Ted Williams, and Jimmy Wilson.

MHC Wins 40-0

by John Allison

The MHC Lions opened the 1972 Football campaign with a convincing 40-0 win over the Colonels of Millsaps College.

Despite playing the contest in 90 degree heat and twelve hours from home, the Lions took a little time in displaying their dominance.

Mars Hill struck early in the first quarter when defensive tackle Gene Radford recovered a Millsaps fumble on their own five yard line. Just three plays later, quarterback Jeff Conner took it in from the one-yard line, and put the Lions ahead to stay.

Minutes later, the Lions regained possession, and with 1:35 remaining in the first quarter, freshman runningback Ronnie Reeves broke loose around right end and sprinted 64 yards for the second TD of the game. This made the score 12-0. The PAT was added by Zoom Bonnell.

Early in the second quarter, Jeff Conner dropped back and unloaded a strike to split-end Ronnie Capps, who broke open for a 58-yard touchdown, headed by linebackers down pass play. Not to be outdone, Wayne Perryman and Billy Warren, came in and promptly halted a

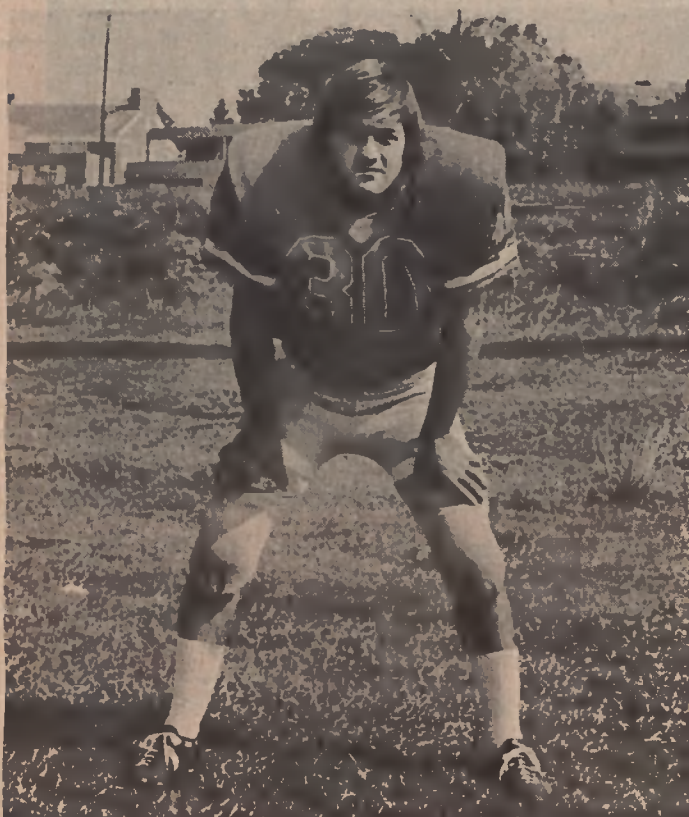
Millsaps drive and forced a punting situation. This set the stage for All-American runningback Jeff Davis, who took the punt and ran unopposed 77 yards for his first of two scores of the day. Bonnell converted the extra point and the half-time score was 27-0.

BROKEN PLAY RESULTS IN SCORE

Early in the third quarter once again it was the defense who rose to the occasion as defensive back David Hornick intercepted a Millsaps pass and took it 17 yards for an insurance touchdown. Bonnell's extra point attempt was blocked.

With just two minutes remaining in the third quarter, a mix-up in the backfield resulted in the final tally for Mars Hill. Quarterback Jeff Conner turned for a quick pitch only to find no one there and in desperation flipped a short pass to Davis, who calmly ran 58 yards for the touchdown. Bonnell converted and the final score was MHC 40 and Millsaps 0.

Overall, the Lions looked impressive in their first outing. Coach Taylor said he was well pleased with the team's performance, but had special praise for the defense, as they came up with three interceptions and two fumbles.



Jeff Davis paces Lions



Offensive tackle Joey Hinson--out for season