

The Billings Years: 1960

By BIL. GOODWIN, JR.

Bill Billings lost four starters from his 1959 edition of the Edenton Aces, but in August of 1960 he found several experienced lettermen to take their places. Never had or never would he and Bill Hardison have reason for being as optimistic as they were before the start of 1960.

By moving Leroy Spivey to end and inserting experienced Erwin Griffin at a guard, Billings had only two positions left of which he was unsure. Jack Sawyer, a senior, and Charles Cuthrell, a junior, stepped into those positions like they were made for them and erased any doubts Billings had about his 1960 squad. Sawyer, in fact, went on to win all-conference laurels, and Cuthrell was a leading lineman for two years.

The other positions on the Aces squad were taken years ahead of 1960. Fred Britton claimed his end, Wayne Baker his tackle, Jimmy White his guard, Jerry Tolley and Richard Dixon their halfbacks, Bubba Hopkins his rugged fullback position, and Carroll Forehand took over as the quarterback. Besides these starters, the Aces had a bounty of experienced lettermen to fill the reserve spots and play extensively on defense. Many teams in the Albemarle Conference would love to have had Billings' reserves of 1960.

Camden made it close the first two times the Aces had the ball, but Forehand soon galloped 80 yards for a score, Hopkins plunged for one and raced 76 for another, Tolley added 44- and 62-yards, and Douglas Sexton romped 9 yards for the finale as the Aces stomped the Rebels, 38-0.

Roanoke Rapids made it a little closer with their beef, but by the time the clash was over the pattern was well set for the season. Forehand had tossed two touchdown passes to Britton, of 13 and 50 yards, Hopkins had rattled 37 yards for a score, and Tolley had scored twice on runs of 40 and 27 yards. The Aces romped again, 33-6.

Wallace-Rose Hill met the Edenton blitz immediately after the start of the game when Tolley roared for touchdowns of 61 and 48 yards on two straight scrimmage plays. Tolley got another one, of 52 yards, and lateralled to Britton on a 59-yard scoring play. Forehand passed to Hopkins for the final tally to make it 30-6.

Williamston played spirited ball and managed to keep the Edenton reserves out of the game until the fourth quarter. Hopkins scored twice and Britton, Dixon, and Spivey once each as the Aces won their fourth straight, 34-0.

Scotland Neck was out of the Aces' class. Tolley raced 73 yards with a punt return and scored a 15-yarder, Hopkins and Spivey scored, and Forehand lobbed a 70-yard touchdown pass to Britton. The 33-0 victory was clearly a result of the Aces blitz scoring tactics and tough defense.

Edenton had won in Elizabeth City only once in history, and had not beaten the Yellow Jackets twice in succession in 26 years. Bill Billings took his

mighty Aces to Memorial Field highly favored to crack history and win by a big margin. The Jackets, always capable of upsetting the Aces, started the game as if they intended to do it again. Late in the first half, however, the Aces began a drive. Hopkins carried the ball ten straight times, bulling over the Yellow Jackets until he scored.

Elizabeth City kicked to start the second half, and Tolley, behind excellent blocking, brought it back to score. After that the Jackets were broken and the Aces had a field day. Britton took a lateral from Tolley and scored, and Forehand threw 44 yards to Tolley for another touchdown. Edenton won, 28-6.

Billings used his reserves for three quarters against Weldon. Tolley carried two punts into paydirt early in the game, and Spivey, Forehand, Dixon, Sexton, Wayne Ashley, and Herbert Adams each scored in the 52-0 rout, which The Herald termed a "practice game".

There were two victories each year under Billings which were musts. The boys wanted to win against Hertford, and Billings wanted a win over Ahsokie. In 1960 Billings agreed to let his aggregation run up as big a score as they liked over Hertford as long as they defeated Ahsokie. Hertford, therefore, caught the brunt of the Aces fabled attack, and the 51-6 rout evened the count for 1953.

One of the Aces tells this story about the Ahsokie game: "Coach Young (Ahsokie head coach Jack Young) came into our dressing room and told us we might as well pack up our stuff and head home. Well, this got us pretty worked up, and naturally everybody wanted to score a touchdown." Billings obliged his boys and left his first team in the game until every back on the team scored. Hopkins was last, and he got his on the last play of the game to give Billings his most complete victory 40-0, and his seventh straight conference crown. The Aces gained 349 yards to Ahsokie's 99, and the Indians crossed the midfield stripe only once.

Plymouth was demolished in a track meet affair. Every Edenton back scored for the third straight week, and of seven touchdowns, six were of over 50 yards. Jimmy White, playing fullback, even scored a 56-yarder with the reserve outfit. It was raining in Greenville, but the Aces routed Garner just the same. Every back again scored as the Aces won the region title 40-0, showing very little playoff tension.

Playing Wallace for the second time in 1960, the Aces met difficulty in East Carolina's stadium for three quarters. Tolley rattled off a score in the first half, and Forehand plunged for one in the third quarter, but the Aces could not breathe easy. Then, in the final period, Hopkins ripped for a 10-yard marker and thundered for a 38-yarder down the middle, and Tolley rounded out the 32-0 win with an 87-yard romp.

Winston-Salem Hanes came to Hicks Field and Edenton for the second time in four years had



GOSH SNAKES!—All grin and freckles, little Scott Thurber is kept afloat with the help of his twisted friend, while swimming in Sun Valley, Idaho. Snake is a plastic tube.

a championship played on its gridiron. Hanes had by far the best team the Aces played, and were worthy of being in the championship game, but they still could not contain the dynamite that Billings had stored in his backfield and fierce line.

A Hanes fumble set up a score for Hopkins in the second quarter, but the Aces missed the extra point. On the second half kickoff, the Aces fumbled deep in their own territory. Buddy Bovender, flashy Hanes back, soon scored, the extra point sailed through the bars, and the Aces were behind for the first time in 1960.

As Plymouth had done in 1959, so had Hanes done in 1960—they gave the Aces the spark to victory. Two long drives netted touchdowns for Hopkins and the Aces were safely home, 19-7. The big fullback carried the ball 43 times during the night for 177 yards and gained for himself a place on the All-Eastern team.

Billings greatest year had ended. His team was state champion and had finished undefeated with a 13-0 record. He would lose heavily from the 1960 team, but he would have material returning. Bill Billings was to meet the challenge of his last year in Edenton and meet it well.

In some small field each child should attain, within the limited range of its experience and observation, the power to draw a justly limited inference from observed facts.

—Charles W. Eliot.

ings, Miss Pamela Bunch, Joseph Hathaway.

Colored

Mrs. Violet Marie Norman, Thomas Frank Thatch, Mrs. Alberta Rankin, Mrs. Loretta Holley, Mrs. Marvella Jones, Mrs. Stella Jackson, Mathew Blount.

Patients discharged from the hospital during the same period were:

White

William C. Roberts, Mrs. Della Mae Coburn, Francis L. Everett, Mrs. Mary Hassell and infant son, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Ward, Mrs. Dorothy Yates, Richard Riddick, Stuart Hollowell, Mrs. Aileen M. Bunch, Mrs. Joyce Ann Ainsley and infant son, Mrs. Shirley Miley and infant daughter, Miss Lou Ann Bunch, Elton T. Chappell, James Lassiter, Jr.

Colored

Mrs. Loretta Holley, Mrs. Marvella Jones, Mrs. Stella Jackson and infant son, Mathew Blount, Mrs. Doris Jean Ferebee and infant daughter, Richard Andrew Cox, Mrs. Estelle Holley.

Births

Births occurring at the hospital during the same period were:

White

Mr. and Mrs. Elton Ainsley of Creswell, a son; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Miley of Edenton, a daughter; and Mr. and Mrs. Garland Toppin of Edenton, a son.

Colored

Mr. and Mrs. James Jackson of Edenton, a son; and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Ferebee of Edenton, a daughter.

Hospital Patients

Visiting hours: 10-11 A. M.; 2-4 and 6-8 P. M. Children under 12 are not permitted to visit patients.

Patients admitted to Chowan Hospital during the week of August 13-20 were as follows:

White

Mrs. Dorothy Yates, Stuart Hollowell, Mrs. Aileen M. Bunch, Mrs. Winnie Mae Bray, Mrs. Joyce Ann Ainsley, Mrs. Shirley Miley, Mrs. Elsie Ray Toppin, Miss Carol Lassiter, Miss Lou Ann Bunch, Elton T. Chappell, James Lassiter, Jr., Joseph P. Ward, Mrs. Janie Harrell, Mrs. Inez Moran, Mrs. Berta Stall-

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