

Soccer team looks forward to season

BY ROBBIE LAUGHTON
Correspondent

The 2001 ACES Boys Soccer Team is loaded with excitement and exciting players. There is a new Head Coach, a 20 game season, and a great mix of experienced players and young talent. Led by four Seniors and six Juniors, the ACES will add eleven Sophomores and Freshmen to field a

squad of aggressive, quick and determined athletes.

First year Head Coach, Mark Bates, will work to mold a team that is exciting to watch and plays hard until the final whistle. He will use his 35 years of playing and coaching experience to get the most out of each player.

Missing the play-offs on the final game of the regular season last year has given this

year's team perfect motivation. Especially when the team that knocked the ACES out of the play-offs is this year's first opponent. The ACES will kick-off its 2001 schedule with a 7:00 p.m. match against the Plymouth Vikings this Thursday, August 16 at the Purser Soccer Complex.

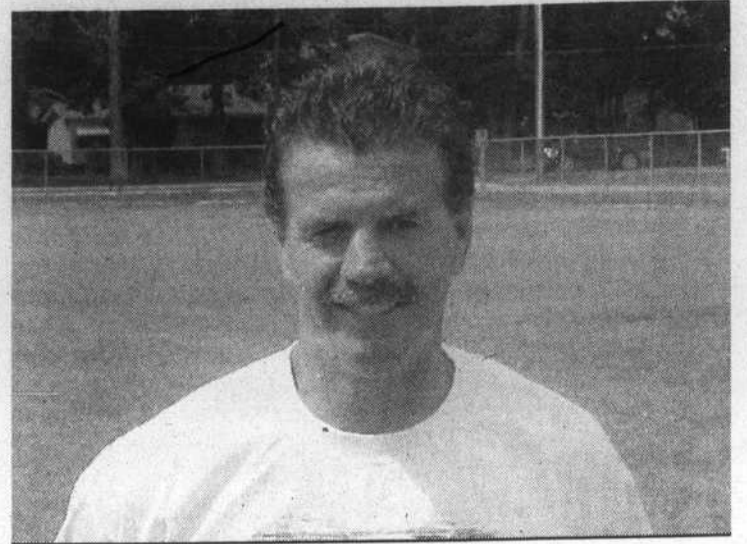
This year's ACES are:
Seniors - Kevin Knox, Timmy Ratzlaff, Patrick Sell-

ers and Joel Williams.

Juniors - Alex Bean, Robert Brucia, Brett Laughton, Stuart Proctor, William Pruden and Jerrod Satterfield.

Sophomores - Nathan Bass, Luke Copeland, Michael McLaughlin, Daniel Phillips and Eric Sliva.

Freshmen - Stewart Bean, Graham Elmore, George Parrish, Rob Perry, Brian Ward and Will White.



Head Coach Mark Bates

Aces welcome their new soccer coach

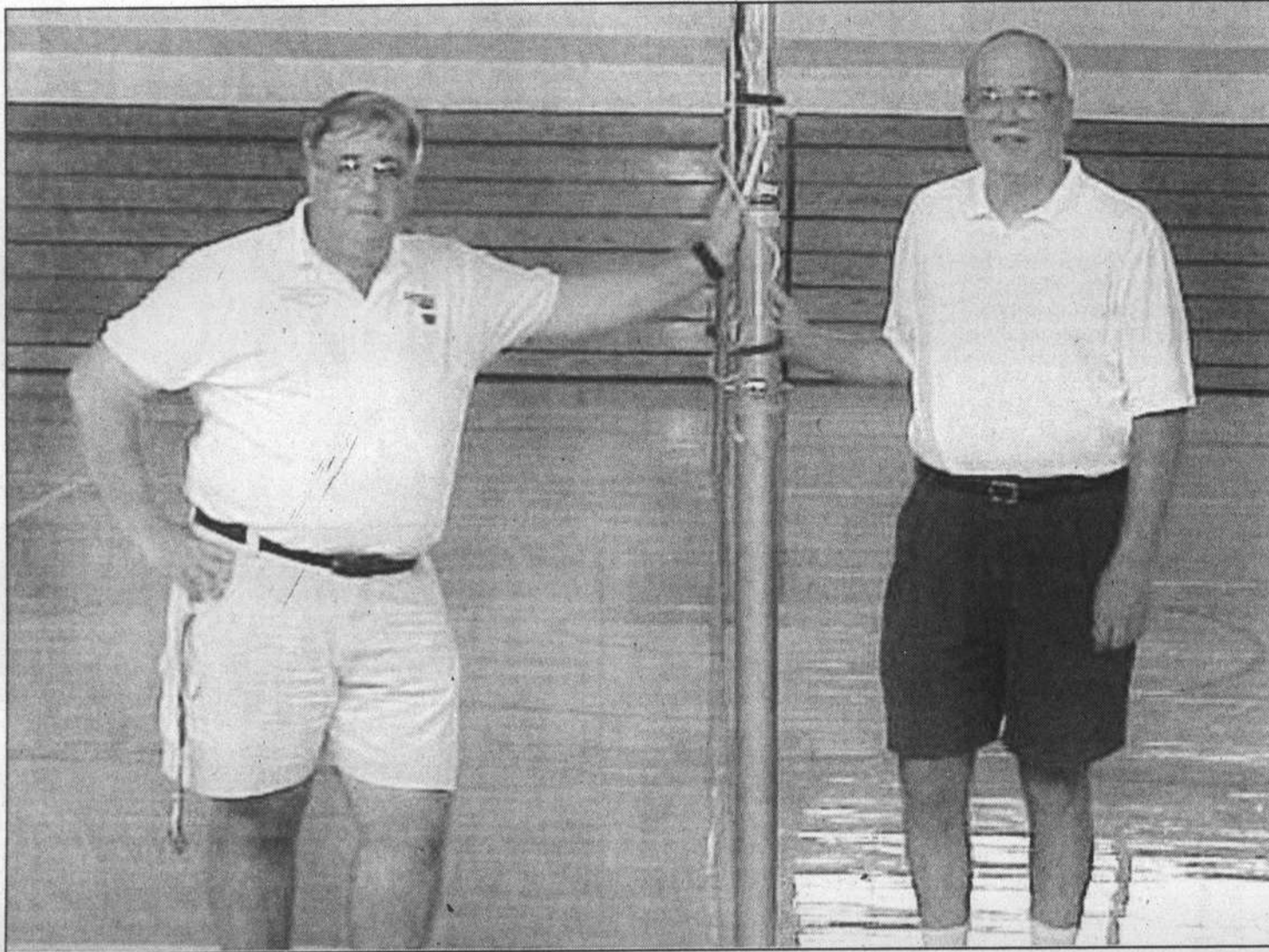
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For one week in the summer of 2000, Mark Bates and two other British soccer players led a youth soccer camp for the Edenton-Chowan Recreation Department. Mark was impressed enough with what he saw and experienced that he decided to bring his British Challenger Soccer Camp back to Edenton for another week this past summer. Approximately 90 boys and girls ages 4-15 attended the instructional camp three weeks ago and were glad he did. In fact, it was such a great experience that the Recreation Department approached the formal professional soccer player about returning during the season and continuing to develop the young talent in the many leagues the Department offers in the Fall. A second motive was to ask if some assistance could be given to the varsity boys soccer team at John A. Holmes High School who were without a Head Coach after the departure of last year's coach, Sandy

Davis. Without hesitation, Coach Bates agreed to come back for the Fall soccer season and help out wherever he could.

With 35 years of playing and coaching experience, Mark Bates says his first love is teaching the game of soccer to kids, then watching them improve and helping them develop into higher level players. Mark has led numerous camps for all ages of beginners through semi-professional players. He has also played professional soccer in England. He has decided to remain in the States and open his own soccer organization called MB Soccer. Mark says, "I see my experience in Edenton as an opportunity to help a small community while gaining valuable contacts to grow my new business. I believe it will be a win-win situation for everyone".

One thing for sure, the area youth will have an exposure to one of the best soccer players they will see and an opportunity to listen and train with a fantastic teacher of the game.



The 2001 Lady Aces Volleyball team opens play this week against Perquimans County High School. Lenny Plummer (left) and Rock Hutnell (right) will be directing the team for their second season together.

J.A. Holmes volleyball a double hit; Plummer and Hutnell leading team

BY MARY SAWYER
Correspondent

Lots of people consider themselves volleyball players. Anyone who slaps a volleyball around in the backyard with a few aunts, uncles, and cousins every 4th of July can lay claim to that title, right? Wrong. At least not if you are comparing yourself to the 21 athletes who make up the junior varsity and varsity volleyball teams at John A. Holmes High School. They play the bump-set-spike kind of volleyball where defensive success is measured in digs and offensive success is measured in kills.

Returning spikers Tiffany Gray and Heather Regulski are expected to put down a few of those kills this season for the varsity squad. But that will happen only if they receive good sets from teammates like returning setters Angela Brothers and Sarah Leggett. (Look up the word teamwork in the dictionary and you'll find the word volleyball.) Regulski is the only senior in that foursome and one of only two on the team. Shaneetha Holley is the other senior and she is also expected to see a lot of court time.

New this year to volleyball in this area is the addition of

a junior varsity squad. Lenny Plummer and Rock Hudnall coach both teams and practice them together since freshman and sophomores who make up the JV team are also allowed to play in varsity matches. (With a combined total of only seven juniors and seniors, the coaches expect they will be taking advantage of that rule often.)

"It's a little tough right now practicing with 21 players, and only 10 of those are returning, but once we get it all sorted out we should have a couple of pretty good teams," says assistant coach Hudnall.

The junior varsity team has the same schedule as the

varsity, with their matches scheduled for 4:00 followed by the varsity at 5:00. The JV team plays the best of three games while the varsity plays the best of five.

The next home matches are on Thursday, Sept. 6 against Manteo, so why not go out and see for yourself how you compare to some real volleyball players!

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BY MIKE RAY AND SANDRA RAY

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Due to the Labor Day holiday, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners will meet in regular session on Monday, September 10, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Room, Courthouse.

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