



Louisburg Coach Tommy Twitty is shown above discussing this year's plays with his four All Conference returnees. Pictures left to right are: junior end Johnny Pernel; sophomore quarterback Larry Fuller; Coach Twitty; senior fullback Neil McDonald and junior guard Edward Pergerson. The Bulldogs open at Elm City September 5.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

[SPORTS] In Our Opinion

By CLINT FULLER

A change in rules which goes into effect this season will allow high school football teams to go for a two-point conversion, an option which has proven popular in college football in recent years.

Instead of the ball being placed on the two-yard line following a touchdown as has been done in the past, it will now be placed on the three. A kick which goes through the uprights will net the team a one-point conversion—a pass or run which goes into the end zone will score two points.

Moving the ball back a yard will make running a bit more difficult and could prove a little tougher on passes. It should make little difference to place kickers.

The rule change should help Louisburg and Franklinton. Neither has ever had an adequate place kicker. Most high school teams are shy of a successful kicker. The Bulldogs and the Rams will continue to run and pass for the point after, although both have on occasion surprised their opponents—and fans—by attempting to kick the extra point.

Last season, Louisburg, for example tried 17 extra points. Of these eight running attempts were made with four being successful; six attempts to pass for the point were tried with three clicking for the score and three attempts were made at place kicking with one going through the goal posts. Percentage-wise, the Bulldogs will probably do well to stay with the running and passing PAT's.

Louisburg takes on 2-A Scotland Neck here October 17. The Fighting Scots are said to be rebuilding this year. Last season when the Scots were also rebuilding they ended with a

very respectful 6-3-1 record against some tough competition.

Coach Herman Clark, who won "Coach of the year" in the Albemarle Conference last season, says "It's just too early to tell what the team will do." Reports say the Scots are faced with a "massive" rebuilding job; that they are small and inexperienced and that they must come up with a "super effort" if they are to have a good season.

Scotland Neck has 27 members of the team and are counting on four returning lettermen. Leading the squad is Larry Harrison, an end last year who is expected to be switched to quarterback this season. He saw some action at the quarterback position last year. The Scots lost an outstanding halfback when Jim Moye transferred to a military school this year.

The Bulldogs will need to watch these teams which are said to be "rebuilding." Sometimes the timbers fall.

Another ambitious move by Louisburg this year will bring Ayden here on October 24—making for a back-to-back set of tough games. The Tornadoes had a 45-game win streak going last year until 2-A Farmville ended the string on October 12. This, however, failed to halt the Tornadoes. They went on to win the State Class A Championship.

It will undoubtedly benefit the Louisburg program that the Bulldogs will be meeting such strong opposition as Scotland Neck and Ayden. This marks the first time the Bulldogs have ever played a 2-A school although Benvenue, Whitley and South Granville qualified for 2-A when the Bulldogs played them in past years.

Four Teams Will Be After First Franklin Area Crown

The loss of South Granville and Helena brought death to the Tar River Football Conference this year. In its place is the newly formed Franklin Area Conference. Its members are Louisburg, Franklinton, Wakelon and Oxford Orphanage.

South Granville won the title last year with a 5-0 record. Wakelon and Helena finished second with identical 3-2 records, Oxford was fourth with a 2-2-1, Louisburg was fifth with a 1-3-1 and Franklinton was sixth with an 0-5 conference record.

Summaries of this year's prospects in the Franklin Area Conference indicates that Oxford, Wakelon and Louisburg have a shot at the title with the Franklinton Rams not entirely out of contention. As a matter of fact, the title could end up in any one of the four schools. However, some thoughts can be gained by reviewing some obvious facts.

The name of the game, of course, is scoring. Defense is important, as any coach will readily tell you, but, to win, somebody has to score.

From the scoring potential standpoint here is what the four squads look like in pre-season:

OXFORD ORPHANAGE - The Red Devils have the conference's leading scorer in Tim Jones who produced 12 touchdowns for 72 points last year. Jones is a returning junior back. Jake Dew, number seven in scoring last year is back. He scored six touchdowns for 36 points. James Earp is returning, he was 12th among conference scorers last season with two touchdowns and an amazing 12 extra points. Jones is All Con-

ference; Dew and Earp are honorable mentions.

Also returning are tackle Gene Grimes, honorable mention and All Conference guard Kenneth Bass. Oxford will have all its scoring punch back except two ends, All Conference Billy Faircloth and honorable mention Alex Ward. This indicates that the Red Devils will have as much and perhaps more scoring punch than last season. It will take a strong defense to hold them.

WAKELON - The Bulldogs lost four All Conference players and two honorable men-

tions. There are no AC's or HM's returning. Roger Maye and Ricky Rogers are gone from the backfield and Danny Price is missing from an end position. Quarterback Earl Bunn is back with several untried backfield men. Five are juniors and seniors and three are lettermen.

LOUISBURG - Louisburg lost All Conference Thomas Finch and honorable mentions Bill Taylor and Phillip Robertson. Four All Conference players are returning and two honorable mentions are back. Finch is lost as a pass receiver; Robertson is lost as a running back. Returning are All Conference fullback Neil McDonald, a senior; All Conference quarterback Larry Fuller, a sophomore in the backfield and All Conference Johnny Pernel at the end and All Conference Edward Pergerson at the guard. Honorable mentions, Steve Perdue is back at an end and John Kornegay is back at a tackle post.

McDonald was 15th among scorers last year and Fuller was number two quarterback in the conference behind South Granville's Saunders. He had four TD passes, three PAT passes and one TD rushing. Also back with points scored in parenthesis are Phillip Redmond (7); Jimmy Wrenn (7); Pergerson (7); Charlie Hobgood (6); Robby McDonald (2) and Perdue (1). The Bulldogs will have a respectable scoring punch this season.

FRANKLINTON - The Rams lost four honorable mentions, Brooks Bennett, Freddie Coats, Mack Beckham and Dennis Carter. Returning is All Conference Cliff Williams moving to halfback and honorable mention linesmen Buck Pearce and Stuart Eakes. Coats, Beckham and Carter were scorers last year and their absence will be felt, however, Williams, who is number 5 in scoring with six TD's and 3 PAT's is capable of taking up a lot of slack. The Rams scoring potential, like Wakelon's is not easily defined. New players are difficult to measure.

OXFORD led the four squads in offense last year, scoring 162 points against opponents. The Red Devils were also the best defensive squad, giving up only 83 points. Louisburg was the second best offensive club in the

league scoring 110 points but was third in defense giving up 150 points. Wakelon was third in offense, scoring 84 points to edge Franklinton's 81 points. The Bulldogs were second in defense allowing only 102 points by opponents. Franklinton allowed 206 points to be scored by opponents.

To be a contender, the Rams seemingly will have to

get more help out of this year's candidates than the other three schools. The title will be decided by the squad that enjoys the greatest improvements over last year. Oxford and Louisburg seem to have the best chance at this when the returnees are figured on paper. However, football is not played on

paper so we'll just have to wait until the season ends before making a safe prediction.

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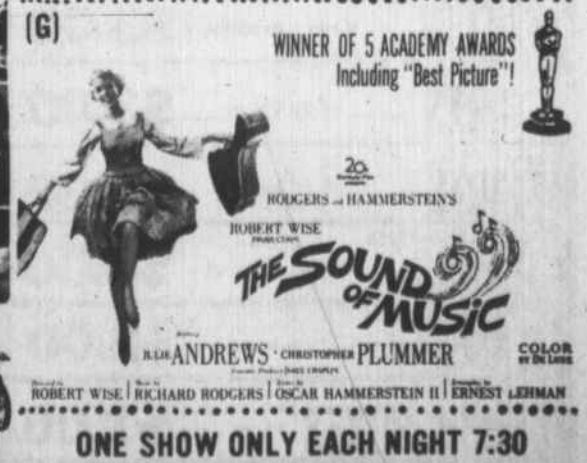


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