

# CHRONICLE SPORTS



## Black on Sports



Robert Eller  
Sports Editor

There was a great auto race going on Sunday at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Richard Petty's fans were on their feet again as they had been for so many years as the King of stock car racing Grand National Style roared to the front bringing back memories of the days when Petty was always the man to beat.

The Cale Yarborough fans were screaming too as their man went from the front to fourth to back in front again.

And what about the David Pearson fans as they watched the Silver Fox lay back in wait.

Yes the fans were really PULLING Sunday inside Charlotte motor Speedway. Meanwhile, outside, two wreckers were doing quite a bit of PULLING themselves.

Long before Bobby Allison coasted to victory after Petty and Yarborough experience mechanical difficulties and Pearson's waiting tactics proved to be fruitless, some 25 fan cars were towed away on the orders of Highway Patrol Sergeant James L. Fisher.

And while the independent drivers on the circuit were less than happy with Humpy Wheeler's distribution of the money, both before and after the race, they weren't half as mad as the fans who came out to find out their autos were nowhere in sight.

"I've been coming to this track for more than 15 years," said one man, "and I've always parked in the same spot and never been towed away until today. This is the last time Charlotte Motor Speedway will get \$25 out of me for a ticket."

This writer just happened to be among the group that was left without rides after the towing. Appearing at the track carrying his clothes on his back after experiencing car trouble, the group from his hometown was already there ready for the race, having parked just off the highway across the street from the track.

Ervin Carlton, a long time racing fan who attends nearly all NASCAR races had led a group of 10 people, in three cars, to the track and had them park in the area he had always used. "There were no parking signs there, but none of the signs said anything about a tow away zone," said Carlton as we made our way to the sleek Highway Patrol motor home parked in the grass on the other side of the speedway entrance.

Knowing the tow bill would be high, the drivers walked slowly to the motor home entrance to seek information about their cars only to be met at the door by a trooper who said he didn't know where the cars were taken. "You'll just have to wait till the wreckers come back and maybe they can tell you something," was his reply to the group of anxious fans.

So, it was back to the median to sit down with their riders to wait for the tow trucks to return. Finally, one of the two wreckers returned and announced that some of the cars were at a service station about two miles down the road, "and for \$25 dollars you can drive them off," he said smiling.

"Climb on fellows I'm headed that way right now." Two of the three cars were at the station and the two drivers crowded on the back of the tow truck with about 12 others and the driver roared out with what seemed like more than 10,000 cars, legs, arms, programs, and coolers dangling dangerously off the back.

That left about 16 other drivers still with no information about their cars. "I've got to drive all the way back to Virginia, pick up my son and take him back to school tonight," said one frustrated fan as he sat down to wait for the other truck. "I've already driven 200 miles, paid \$25 to see the race and now I've got to drive 600 more tonight if I can find my car and pay the \$25 tow bill."

Finally, the other truck arrived and the huge driver calmly sat as the worried driver attempted to find out where their cars were. After getting his load of drivers, he, too, roared off to collect not \$25, but \$35 for each car he towed away.

As the truck disappeared into the throng of cars, one fan could be heard to say, "I've been coming to the races for a long time and I've always gotten my money's worth, but not today."

And many of those fans left the track vowing never to return. It surely wasn't Humpy Wheeler's fault, but he may have to bear the blame for what one fan called "The Big Charlotte Rip-off."



Name This Ram

## Hampton Signs Blue Chipper

HAMPTON, VA.--Every football coach dreams of landing the super recruit, the genuine blue chip prospect, the really great football player that can turn a program around. Hampton Institute coach Walter Lovett's wildest dreams and hopes were fulfilled when Martinsville's Dennis Mahan enrolled in the Peninsula school last week.

The 6-foot-1, 174 pound halfback led Martinsville to a 45-3 record during his illustrious four-year career. They posted a 40-0 conference mark. Mahan was the Virginia High School League's leading scorer in each of the past two seasons and scored 21 touchdowns last year. In addition, he rambled for 4,456 yards during his career for an 8.1 yards per carry average.

After graduating from high school, Mahan chose to attend the University of Tennessee. He went to summer school at the Knoxville school and toiled two weeks in the fall practice sessions before choosing to return to Martinsville.

"I just wasn't ready for a big school like Tennessee," Mahan observes. "I was lost, a long way from home, and afraid I wouldn't make it academically or athletically."

After returning home he realized that he would have no seclusion there. Pestered by coaches (as many as 15 a day) he considered giving up college in favor of a job.

That's when Lovett entered the picture.

"When I first met coach Lovett I realized that he was different than most of the other coaches. He simply wanted me to come to see Hampton Institute. There was no pressure at all."

Seeing the campus and meeting the students was like love at first sight for Mahan. "Right away I

knew I liked the school," Mahan relates. "It's a smaller school, one that I knew I could comfortably fit into. The social life is better and there's a lot less pressure here than at Tennessee."

Lovett is waiting for Tennessee coach Johnny Majors to officially release Mahan from his national letter of intent.

## As Rams Outscore Blue Bears

### 'Big Foot's' Toes Take Beating

By Paul Kuhl  
WSSU Sports

Salsbury--Winston-Salem State won its 6th consecutive game of the 1978 season and its 18th consecutive regularly scheduled contest by crushing Livingstone College before the largest crowd ever to attend a Blue Bear game.

Five Rams scored TDs, 3 of them twice, and place-kicker Derek Brewington, kicked extra points until his big toe was sore as the Rams won 55-29.

Running back Arrington Jones scored twice in the first half on runs of 15 and 7 yds. to put the Rams ahead for the night. Quarterback Kermit Blount ran 56 yds. with 1:49 left in the first half and plunged 1 yd. with 1:40 remaining in the third quarter for his 2 scores.

Third-string running back Chris Kirkpatrick scored 2 touchdowns in the last 5 minutes of the game on runs of 12 and 32 yds. Timmy Newsome and Randy Bolton, both running backs, only scored 1 TD apiece on runs of 1 and 39 yds. respectively. Brewington was 7 for 7 in the PAT department.

The Rams opened the night by scoring on their first possession after forcing Livingstone to punt. Starting on their own 32, the Rams needed only 11 plays before Jones burst loose from the Living-



Kirkpatrick



Jones

stone 15 and raced into the end zone.

After an exchange of punts, SWWU took over on their own 49 and scored 6 plays and 1 penalty later on another Jones rush, this one from 7 yds. out.

That score seemed to inspire the offenses of both teams. The punters got a rest as the Blue Bears scored on their next 2 possessions, and the Rams on their next 3. Livingstone's highly-touted Leroy Nesmith broke the ice with a 1 yd. plunge, and then a 23-yd. Marshall Meadows pass to Josh Bryant made Livingstone the first team this season to score more than 1 TD against the defending CIAA champs.

The Rams' third TD was made by Timmy Newsome on a 1-yd. plunge that capped an 89-yd. drive in 5 plays. Jones opened the drive with a 46-yd. romp, and on the next play Billy Diggs caught a Blount

pass and raced 32 yds. to the Livingstone 11. Jones and Newsome then followed the devastating blocks of left tackle Gary Raiford for a first down than a TD.

Following the Bryant TD, Andrew Sharpe raced 28 yds with the kickoff to the Winston 43. Jones picked up 1 yd, then Blount stunned the 7,250 spectators by starting to flow to the right with the Veer attack and suddenly changing directions and racing around the left side. All the Blue Bear defensive line could do was wave good-bye as Blount ran 56 yds. into the endzone.

With only 1:49 on the clock, the Blue Bears scored on their next drive. In 9 plays they moved from their own 20 to the WSSU 15 and Daniel Gore kicked a field goal as the clock ran out making the score at the end of the first half, WSSU 28, Livingstone 17.

In the second half, WSSU scored on the kickoff return and three plays. Newsome picked up 3 yds., then checked out of the game with a bruised shoulder. Blount hit Diggs for 35 yds, and Bolton blasted through the line and zoomed 39 yds into the endzone. The Rams scored on 3 of the next 5 possessions. Punt went over from the 1:40 left in the third period, and Kirkpatrick scored twice in the last quarter.

Livingstone did not score in the third period, but managed 2 TDs in the last. In fact, the fourth quarter started with a 70-yd. Meadows to James Jackson scoring strike. The PAT pass was no good.

In the next series, the Rams struggled from their own 21 to the Bears' 34, and then linebacker Don Settles picked off a Blount pass and raced 67 yds for Livingstone's last score of the night.

When the game was over, the Ram defensive unit was all apologies. The two co-captains, Baxter Harrington and Willie Jordan, both agreed that was the worst game of the entire year.

The Rams now get ready for Homecoming. The Unbeaten Rams host the Broncos of Fayetteville State. FSU is 3-2 so far. Last year WSSU spoiled their homecoming, 40-18.

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