

sports

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Midgets Qualify for Shot at 'Big Time'



Happy!

Staff Photo by Templeton

Members of Tiny Vikings Jr. Midgets Celebrate Championship

By John W. Templeton
Staff Writer

The crowd was screaming, the coaches pacing the sidelines and the air was thick with excitement as several hundred young midget football players played their hearts out for a shot at the big time -- a chance to play in Groves Stadium Nov. 17 in the Sertoma Bowl.

Four teams qualified for the bowl by winning Northwest Midget Football League championships Saturday afternoon at the Mineral Springs Junior High School field.

The Boys Club Tiny Indians came from behind for a 20-12 triumph over O. Henry of Greensboro in the midget classification; the Mineral Springs Tiny Vikings

beat the Tiny Indians 14-6 in the junior midget group; Walkertown beat Clemmons 24-0 and O. Henry beat the Tiny Demons 8-0.

In the midget game, O. Henry had taken a 12-0 halftime lead on two touchdowns by Mickey Whitaker -- a 12-yard run and an eight-yard fumble recovery. But the Indians Cedric Moss returned the favor in the third quarter with an eight-yard run and a 50-yard punt return.

Soon after the Indians stopped O. Henry within their own five, in the fourth quarter, James Cathcart scored the winning touchdown on a 45-yard punt return, with Moss adding the two-point conversion. In the junior midget

game, spectacular plays made the difference in an otherwise tight defensive struggle. Indian David Mills opened the scoring with a six-yard touchdown on a quick look-in pass from Brian Howard.

The Vikings marched straight back down the field to shock the Indians with a 40-yard over the shoulder touchdown catch and run by Ronald Mayhew from Emanuel Porter.

Things stayed stalemated until the fourth quarter when a Viking lineman stripped the ball from Howard and ran within the 10-yard line. Calvin Wright scored the touchdown and extra point for the winning margin. The win by the Boys

Club entry was a particularly satisfying one for its supporters. The season had begun under a cloud as the club severed ties with the parent booster's club over a \$1,200 debt for football equipment.

After several weeks of negotiation and a parent appeal to the United Way, a settlement was reached that saw the club pay the debt and allow the boosters to resume fund-raising activities, including manning the concession stands, according to boosters president Douglas Joyner.

"It never affected the players at all," said club director Don Moore, who said the teams continued to get their usual strong support from fans and their volunteer coaches.

Grambling Returns to Top in I-AA

Quietly, like cat burglars scaling skyscrapers, Grambling's Tigers have again become the most talked-about black college football team. Two weeks ago, the team was featured on CBS television's NFL Today program, as highlights of Grambling's win over Texas Southern were shown.

And CBS sportscaster Brent Musburger has ranked Grambling among his Top 10 college teams in the country -- right up there with the Alabamas and Notre Dames.

The publicity is coming because Grambling is winning again, and winning big. But don't get the wrong idea. The Tigers have never been losers. But early in the season, Florida A&M bombed Grambling, 28-7. There was a later loss to Tennessee State.

Now, however, the Tigers are rolling. Grambling beat tough Jackson State, 25-13 two weeks ago, to run its record to 5-2. The Tigers are ranked No. 1 in

black college sports

by Barry Cooper

the NCAA Division I-AA national rankings.

Head coach Eddie Robinson says his team is playing much better than earlier in the season, but adds he hasn't changed a thing.

"We have the same team," he said in a recent interview. "I guess we have improved with our execution. That's about the only thing we're doing different. We're doing the same things on offense that we did early in the year, and we're doing the things on defense. Maybe we have gotten a little better insight on what we are trying to do."

Last year, Grambling was on probation, and couldn't advance to the I-AA playoffs, despite a 9-1 record. This year, there is talk of a national

I-AA championship or a major bowl bid. Robinson, however, says he doesn't spend a lot of time thinking of possible post-season honors.

"We just hope we can hang on to the No. 1 spot," he said. "We are happy, but it's really not anything to be happy about. It just increases the bounty on your head. A lot of people are getting excited around here now."

"But the excitement should just be for this Saturday and then the next Saturday and the next Saturday and the next. I watch teams like those that play in the Rose Bowl. They got there because they kept winning. If you keep winning, you got a shot. If you lose, you don't have a shot."

Robinson said this year's Grambling team has a lot of potential.

"I don't think I have been able to get out of the team what they are capable of," he said. "That's

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Morgan Tackles Second CIAA Foe

GRAMBLING AT SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

S.C. State has been an up and down team all year. One week, the club looks like a powerhouse, but may look like just an average team the next week. This should be a great, great game. S.C. State will be trying to gain revenge for a 19-15 heartbreaking loss to Grambling last year. Grambling is driving towards the I-AA playoffs. This, however, looks like another upset. Prediction: S.C. State by 1.

VIRGINIA STATE AT MORGAN STATE

Another top game this weekend. Virginia State still has some hopes of catching Virginia Union in the CIAA race, but this is a non-conference battle. Morgan State is sitting atop the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference standings. Defense will decide this game in a close battle. Prediction: Morgan State by 6.

Bears Break Union String

Durham -- Four MEAC teams improved their records against outside competition, while three suffered losses to non-conference foes.

Morgan downed previously undefeated Virginia Union 14-7, South Carolina State whipped Morris Brown 41-14, Delaware State surprised Bethune-Cookman 17-15, and N.C. Central stopped J.C. Smith 14-10. Tennessee State handed A&T State University a 37-14 loss, Southern blanked Howard 30-0, and University of Maryland-Eastern Shore lost to Tuskegee Institute 17-12.

In one of the biggest games on the East Coast, Morgan shocked the Virginia Union Panthers with a 78-yard scoring bomb from Darrell Coulter to Cornelius Johnson on the first play from scrimmage, added a field goal four minutes later, and took a 9-7 lead at the half. Ron Fairly scored for VU late in that first period on a 2-yard run.

Morgan's defense took over from there, recording a safety with 5:55 left in the game. David Booker booted a 35-yard FG with 2:29 remaining. The MSU victory pushes them closer to post-season Division II play.

S.C. State kept its Gold Bowl hopes alive with a Homecoming thrashing of Morris Brown, as Chris Ragland scored three times in the initial quarter,

and totaled 160 yards on the day. The 187-pound tailback went over 1,000 yards rushing for the year, only the second SCS player to do so. Prince Phillips hit Marion Brown for a second-quarter 26-yard score before the visitors could get two TDs in the third period. SCS closed out the romp with one-yard runs from Nate Rivers and Victor McKinley.

In winning its second game in succession, Delaware State fell behind 7-0 in the second period, but got the big play from Walter Samuels, who exploded for a 75-yard TD

James Thomas tied the contest with the extra point, then put the Hornets up at the half on a 21-yard field goal. Running back Anthony Beamon, who rushed for over 100 yards on the day, ran a two-yard TD in the third quarter, and Bethune-Cookman's James Preyer made it close with a short TD run with 4:34 left to play.

N.C. Central yielded a touchdown to the Bulls on the game's opening series, but came back in the quarter to match the home-standers on a Charles Yuille one-yard scamper, and took a 8-7 lead with Yuille scoring a two-point conversion. Both drives were 65-yarders, and JCS scored on an Ed Jones pass of nine yards to Nate McDowell.

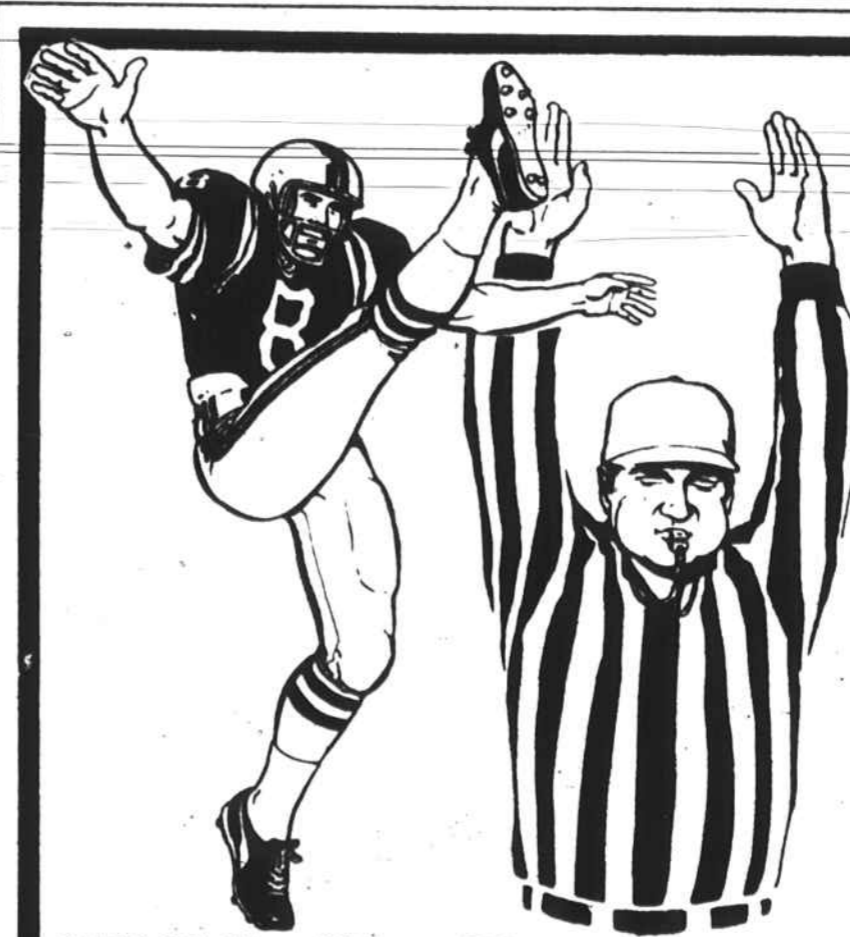


Photo by Santana

High stepping Kermit Blount evades

ECSU tacklers during 28-18 Ram victory

Saturday.



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