Carver back after dismal season

By DAVID BULLA Chronicle Sports Editor

Carver's jayvee basketball team is on the rebound, but not without some growing pains.

After the Yellow Jackets struggled to a 3-17 record last year, first-year Coach Ron Hollingsworth figured the team could only improve this season.

Yet, Hollingsworth was having nightmares after the Jackets lost their first two games. The bad dreams ended, however, as Carver rallied to win three of its

Carver

Parkland

Reynolds

East

Carver

Parkland

Mount Tabor

Mount Tabor

County Standings

County Standings

next four games entering Friday's 4 p.m. home date with talented Eastern Alamance.

"After the first two weeks, I was ready to give up," said Hollingsworth, who also coaches Winston-Salem's AAU team with Norman Brown. "I couldn't transpose my ideas into anything that would work on the court, and I wanted to overlook the small things because I was used to coaching guys like Brian Howard and Greg Scales. If I told Brian to jab away and pop out, he'd do it.

PREP STANDINGS

These kids thought I was speaking Russian when I told them that.

"I talked to Norman and he said I have young guys and that I should be patient. I realized I'd have to be a teacher first."

Jayvee coaching in Forsyth County, which has no athletic programs for its middle schools, is largely a matter of teaching fundamentals. Although Hollingsworth was used to teaching more polished players, he discovered he liked the challenge.

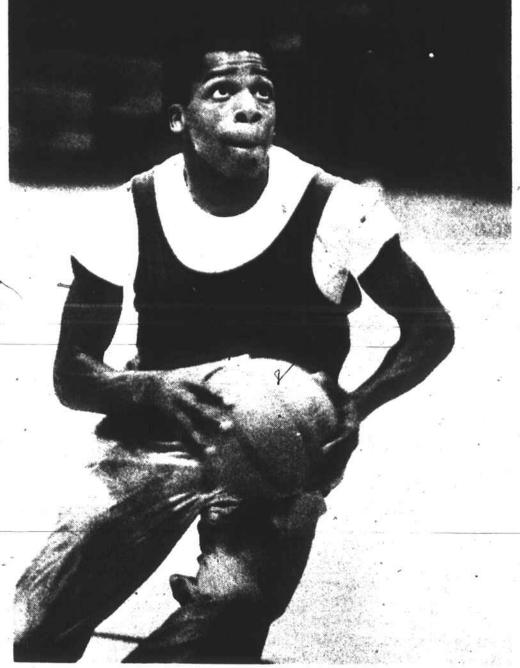
"The first day of practice, I bet we missed 20 layups before we made one," Hollingsworth said. "It was just the little stuff, but you have to learn that first. We've been working on fundamentals every day since then. It's not my nature, but I'm putting teaching ahead of winning."

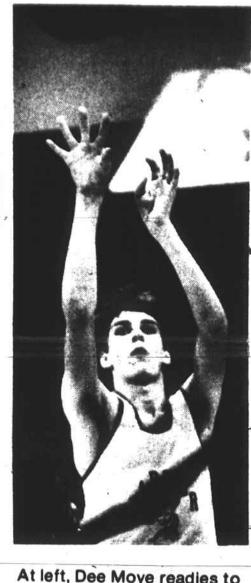
Behind the outstanding play of Rodney McKoy, it appeared the Yellow Jackets would rebound in a big way. After the first two losses, Carver was one of the strongest jayvee teams in the county. However, the 6-foot-1 junior, who had averaged 29 points for the jayvees, was promoted to the varsity to replace injured guard Tim Douthit. Douthit severely sprained an ankle two weeks ago against West and will be in a cast through this week. It's not known how long it will take him to recuperate.

"There goes 29 points and 15 rebounds a game," Hollingsworth said. "One of our players, Napoleon McCloud, said we can't expect to replace Rodney with one man. But he said five guys can combine to pick up the slack.

"With Rodney in there, I would expect to go something like 17-3. I still think we can have a very respectable record."

In their first six games, the Yellow Jackets have received





At left, Dee Moye readies to slam dunk for Carver jayvees, off to a 3-3 start; Lonnie Pierce, a 6-foot-4 sophomore guard, displays his outside shooting touch (photos by James Parker).

noteworthy efforts from 6-1 sophomore Darren Daniels, 6-4 sophomore Lonnie Pierce, 5-10 sophomore Robert Scales, 5-8 Tribute Williamson and Cloud, a 6-0 junior.

"Darren has been our strongest man on the boards, averaging 10 rebounds a game," Hollingsworth said. "He can really sky. He has a vertical jump of about 38 inches. If he grows any, he's going to be incredible.

"Against Mount Tabor, he made a great block on their center (6-6 Joe John Bryant), who was going in for a dunk. Darren took off at the circle inside the foul line. His elbow was above the rim."

Pierce has taken on the role of stabilizer.

"He's very fundamentally sound," Hollingsworth said. "He's the type of player who squares up when he gets the ball and pump fakes you. He can shoot, too. Even though he's our tallest player, we moved him to No. 2 guard because he gets good shots on the wing. He also is a good passer and nobody his size will be guarding him on the wing, so he will get a good look at who's open."

Scales and Williamson have shared time at the point guard position. Scales will have to man the point by himself for a while, however, since Williamson, who projects as a backup point guard on the varsity next season, has developed a case of tendinitis of the knee.

Hollingsworth figures Cloud, the namesake and son of the Glenn varsity coach, will improve dramatically by the end of the season.

"Napoleon has the potential," Hollingsworth said. "But he has basketball in his blood. He knows the game. Soon as he learns to bang, he'll be tough."

Several other players may contribute before the season is over. Hollingsworth calls Pookie Wilkins "the greatest rec player his age," but Wilkins' defensive skills lag well behind his offensive talents.

At 6-3½, Fred Johnson has the size to be an eventual big part of the Carver program.

"Fred reminds me a lot of Alex....
Please see page B5

January is Fitness Month at the YWCA

Workshops

- #1 Home-Office-Gym Exercises to Help You Stay Fit
- #2 Pre-Natal/Post-Partum * Exercises
- #3 Exercise and Diet to Lose Weight and Stay Healthy
- #4 Relaxing with Yoga

Racquetball Clinics

Veteran instructor Stevie Armbrecht will introduce you to the rules and strategy of the game.

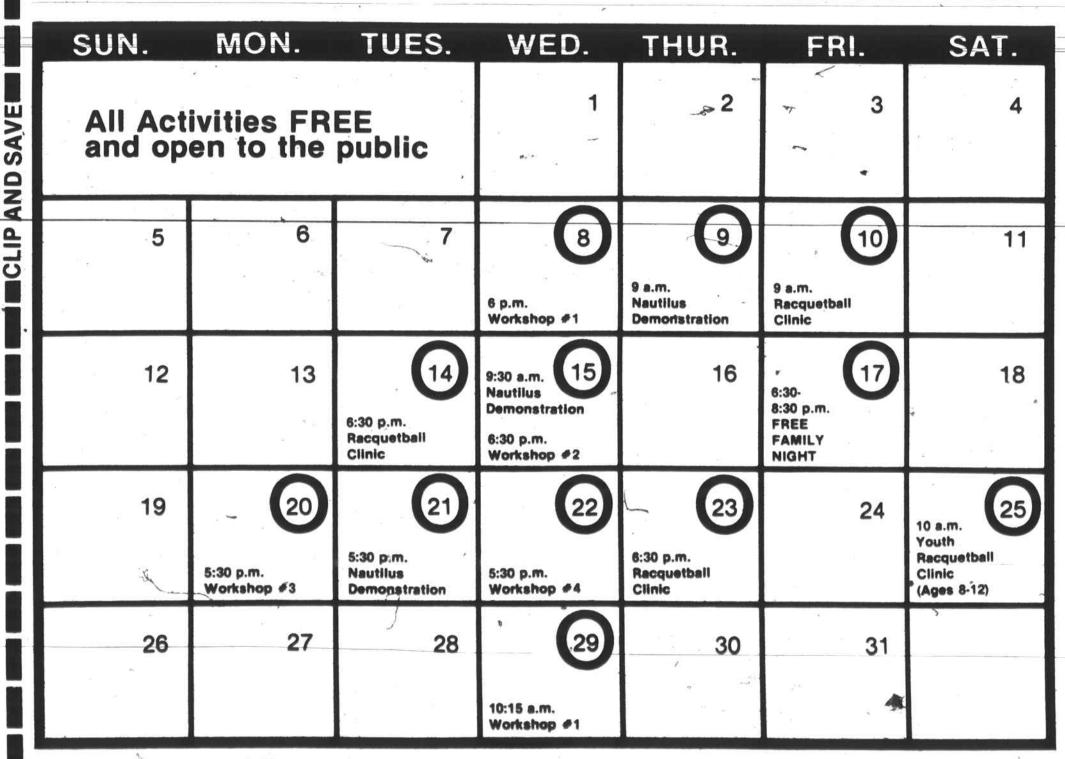
Nautilus

A trained instructor will take you through our Nautilus stations and show you what they can do to help you in your exercise program.

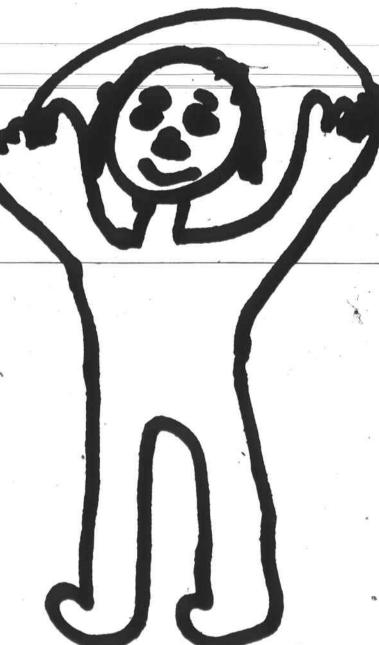
Family Night

Our new Family Night program will be offered free this one Friday. Come try our pool, Nautilus Center, racquetball court (reservations required), sauna/whirlpool, and take part in a family exercise class.

Information *Call 722-5138







Drawing by Megan Glancy. Age 7

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