

Local Sports

Slammers capture state title

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

The Grandslammers shook some early-match jitters and won the state Volvo 3.5 tennis championship last weekend in Asheville.

The Winston-Salem team beat teams from Greensboro in the semifinals and finals to advance to the regionals in Lexington, Ky., July 25-28.

"All of us were a little nervous," said co-captain LaVerne Livingston. "We just had to relax; then we were able to win the thing."

In the finals at UNC-Asheville, Michelle Grace won at No. 2 singles, while doubles victories came from the teams of Foster Horne and Martha Stockman and Livingston and Cookie Kennedy.

With the team leading 2-1 in matches, Kennedy and Livingston put matters out of reach with a 5-7, 6-3, 6-3 win.

"When we lost the first set, we weren't taking advantage of some of the things they were giving us," Livingston said. "We lobbed a lot in the second set, instead of letting them make the volley, which they were putting away."

Also playing in the state championship were Katie Carter, Carolyn Rice and Gail Manuel.

The team was taking this week off before starting practice for the regionals at the University of Kentucky. The Grandslammers will play Alabama in the first round of the regionals.

It was the team's second state title in three years. The Grandslammers, most of whom are members of the Kimberly Park Tennis Association, won in 1984 before being eliminated in the regionals in Atlanta.

Livingston said the addition this year of Coach Mike Jones has played a big role in the team's success.



Cookie Kennedy lobs a return for Winston-Salem's Grandslammers, who won the state Volvo 3.5 tennis championship (photo by James Parker).

"He helps us out with doubles strategy," she said. "We know how to do certain things, but we didn't know when to use them. Mike pushes those buttons to let us know when."

"He also gives us a much-needed coaching figure, helping to boost our egos. He's also there to correct our mistakes, keep on us and let us know when we've changed for the better."

The Grandslammers went through the regular-season with an unbeaten 7-0 record and were crowned city champions.

Jones Shines

Randy Jones captured the 200 meters and anchored two winning relays last Saturday at The Athletics Congress state meet in Raleigh.

"His time in the 200 is ahead of last year," Coach Virgil Simpson said. "He ran a 21.9 to win the nationals in the intermediate age group and he ran a 21.44 Saturday."

Jones, who led Glenn to the state high school championship last month, anchored the Roadrunners' 4x100 relay team, which won in 41.10 seconds. Gerald Martin began the relay, followed by Harvey Sutton, Kevin Caesar and Jones.

"We took the lead in the second leg and never trailed again," Simpson said. "We'll be shooting for 40 next time."

The Roadrunners' next meet will be the TAC Regionals at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., July 11-12.

Derrick Speas won the 100 and 200 in the youth boys' age group. Please see page B14

Golf

Davis, Springs big winners in Armstrong Memorial

By DAVID BULLA
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Harry Davis had played well in the first round of the NAACP Golf Classic last month.

But his game fell to pieces in the second round and he watched Richard Thomas ease to victory.

Last Saturday, Davis toured the same Winston Lake Golf Course with an even-par 71 to capture the Charles B. Armstrong NNPA Memorial Tournament.

"I guess the difference was 18 less holes," Davis said with a smile. "But seriously, the course played more to my liking today. I hit some good shots to the green in the NAACP, but there had been so little rain that the ball rolled and rolled all day. I just kept having bad holes and my score skyrocketed."

"The greens were in good condition today. Last week they had a rain over here that just flooded the course. It was one of those localized storms because I live about six miles away and I didn't get a drop."

Davis dropped in four birdies to go with two bogeys and a double bogey last week to shoot even par on both sides of the 6,188-yard course. He won by one shot over Sam Puryear and two over Floyd Green. Gene Williams was fourth with a 74

Cameron hungry as a Bear

Jack-of-all-trades makes another position shift for Chicago

By DAVID BULLA
Chronicle Sports Editor

Jack Cameron sat in front of a television six months ago watching as the Chicago Bears pulverized the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

Did Cameron, who played for Chicago in 1984, miss the practical jokes of Walter Payton, the motivational arrogance of Jim McMahon and the punishing defensive work of Jim Dent? You bet he did. The Super Bowl appearance money would have been worth more than his '84 contract.

Yet, Cameron had mixed feelings as he watched his former teammates ease to the National Football League championship. On the one hand, he was ecstatic that some of his best friends were now on top of the football world after the Bears had been also-rans in the NFC's mediocre Central Division for more than a decade. On the other hand, he knew the only thing that prevented him from being in New Orleans to share in the celebration was a league-imposed reduction of roster sizes.

"A lot of people asked me who I liked in the Super Bowl," Cameron said. "I think they expected me to say the Patriots. But I have a lot of loyalty to the Bears."

The former Winston-Salem State standout, one of the last players cut last year, didn't need to burn any bridges.

"You have to be realistic," he added. "You don't want to be changing your attitudes about an organization all the time, especially when you know they might call you back."

Bear Coach Mike Ditka had promised to call back. In fact, Ditka foresaw reactivating Cameron before the season ended in case of injury to another player. But the Bears remained relatively injury-free at Cameron's position, wide receiver.

Still, Ditka made good on his promise when the Bears signed Cameron to a free-agent contract last month. The former Ram star has already attended the Bears' mini-camp and is getting in shape for their preseason camp in Platteville, Wis., next month.

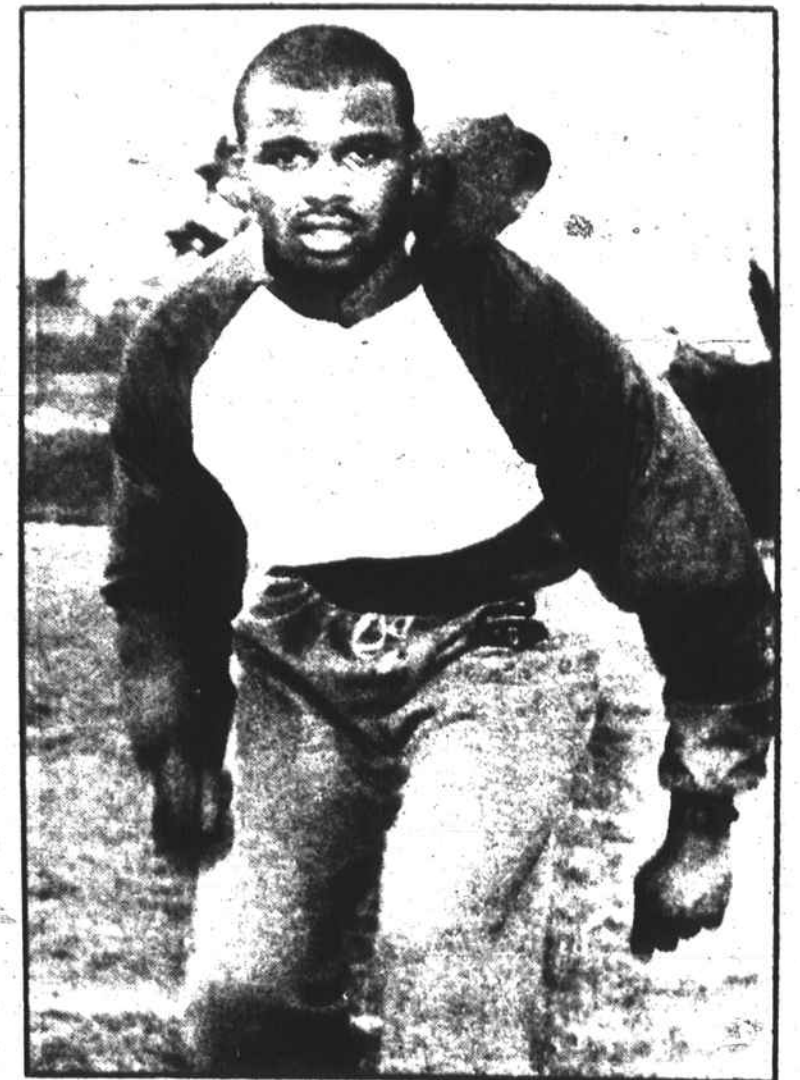
For Cameron this likely will be his last chance to make it in the NFL and he's ready to return to the corn fields of Wisconsin.

"I not only have to win my job back, but I also have to establish myself this year," he said. "Look, I'm 25 and age makes a big difference. They might be saying, 'Hey, this guy's 25 and hasn't established himself yet. What's he doing around?'"

"But I'm ready to go because I sat out a year and I know I belong out there. I have that to motivate me, while the other guys were around and have never known what it's like to sit out a year. I'm hungry going back."

After a year of hibernating, Cameron will be trying to make the 45-man roster as a free safety, the position he played at WSSU. Indeed, he was an all-CIAA performer at that position in 1983, drawing Chicago's interest.

"Gary Fencik has played 11 years as the Bears'



Jack Cameron, preparing for the Chicago Bears' training camp by working out at the Winston-Salem State track, will try to make team as a free safety (photo by James Parker).

free safety," Cameron said. "He'll probably retire after this season. That will give me the opportunity to establish myself if I make the team this year."

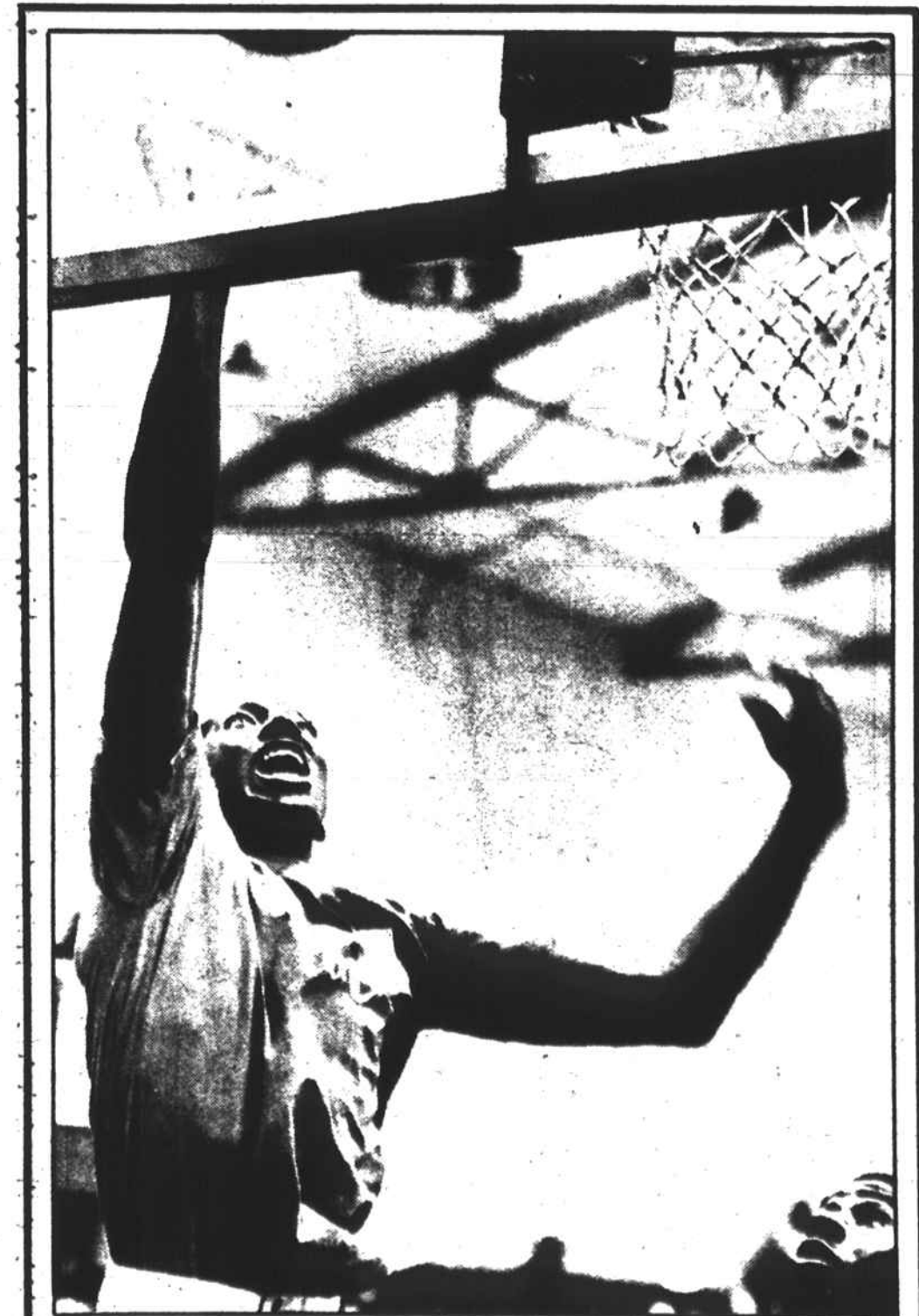
The Roxboro native said he was happy to be back in the secondary, but he knew there would be a lot of position changing when he first signed with the Bears in '84.

"You play where they ask you to play," he said. "I would have been at home a long time ago if I wasn't versatile."

His rookie season found Cameron playing wide receiver, some defensive back and returning kicks. Indeed, the 6-foot, 192-pound Cameron returned a kickoff 97 yards for a touchdown against Cleveland Bay in an exhibition. That earned him a spot on the Bears' roster and remains the highlight of his pro career.

"I didn't realize what I was doing," said Cameron, who had been a standout running back at Roxboro Person High School. "Willie (Gault, his roommate) and I had been talking about all these spikes we were going to introduce that season. But when I scored I forgot and I just flipped the ball to the official. Willie dogged me on the sideline unmercifully."

Cameron thought he would make the team again last season after catching a 37-yard touchdown pass. Please see page B12



Big Apple Ball

Milton Vaughn goes in for a layup for Domino's Pizza, a 96-85 loser to the Players in Big Apple League action last week (photo by James Parker).



Harry Davis attributed his NNPA golf title to excellent conditions at Winston Lake Golf Course; Davis shot an even-par 71 to win the championship flight (photo by James Parker).

and Ed Green fifth at 76.

"Golf's a funny thing," Davis said. "One day you have it and the next day you don't. The little white ball doesn't respect anyone."

"I play to have fun, but I like to win."

Davis, a lawyer, has been playing in Winston-Salem for the last

quarter-century and he's been playing championship-flight golf the last half-decade.

"I don't hit that long, but I think I'm a pretty fair chipper and putter," said Davis, who has practiced criminal and civil law in Winston-Salem for the last 26 years.

"I've always been competitive

and I've been close in a whole lot of events. But I mostly have seconds and thirds to show for it."

With his first win of the year, Davis is ready to embark on a summer tour that includes stops in Knoxville, Tenn., Asheville and Greensboro.

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