

The 'Silver Fox' continues Mustang tradition with Dunlap at tailback

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

In all his 34 years of coaching, Homer Thompson never had a year like he had last year, a 2-8 campaign where everyone from tailback Mark "Fuzzy" Dunlap to cheerleader Renee McHone was getting injured.

But the nightmare is over and Dunlap is back, healthier than ever after gaining an extra 26 pounds in the weight room over the summer. Coaches throughout the county call him an All-Conference tailback, but Thompson goes a step further.

"I'll brag on Fuzzy a little," said Thompson, known affectionately as the "Silver Fox" because of his silvery-gray hair.

"If he stays healthy, I think he may be one of the best running backs in the state. Maybe the best at tailback.

"We'll have to get some folks blocking up front for him though," said Thompson, whose Parkland teams are known for three yards

have the most coming back, and that's what wins the early ball games for you -- experienced seniors."

Thompson is indeed short on returning senior starters, boasting just three on offense -- Dunlap at tailback, James Demetrakis at offensive tackle and Lamont Witherspoon at center.

The defense fares better, with Dunlap returning at linebacker, Demetrakis at defensive tackle, Kenneth Cuthrell at cornerback, DeAndre Starnes at guard and Bryant Jones at cornerback.

Quarterback has been a problem that has haunted Parkland for years, but Thompson has been blessed with three hopefuls this season, with senior Cedric Lineburger leading the three-man quest for the starting nod.

Al Jeeter, up from a highly successful campaign for the jayvee team and Greg McIntyre, a left-handed transfer from Mount Tabor, are right on Lineburgers heels for the job.

At split end, Thompson tabbed senior Bryant Jones and juniors Kevin Gleiser and Pat Gentle.

Seniors Richard Phillips, Jeff Canter, Demetrakis, and David Britton join juniors Shawn Lewellan, Todd Sample, Brian Gentry, Jon Hayes and Chad Wallace competing for spots on the offensive line.

Seniors Stan Green and John Young have filled the spots at tight end.

Thompson said it will take time to get his offense rolling, especially the passing game.

"I suspect we will run a lot, but we're not afraid to throw it when the time comes," he said.

Defensively, coordinator Drew Buie says the linemen are small and quickness is a must to stay out of trouble.

Demetrakis, Starnes, Hayes, Phillips, Roger Livingston, Marcus Simpson and Travis Woodard will all compete for spots on the line.

Linebackers include Dunlap, Lewellan, Ron Fields, Paige, John Malloy and Jarrod Jessup. The Mustangs usually play three linebackers and it is a key position in their defense. Buie said the selections will be difficult and well thought out.

At defensive back, Shannon Stainback, Bill Wilson, Cuthrell, Gleiser and Eric Lewis lead what looks to be a young secondary.

Thompson declares the defense stronger and quicker than last year.

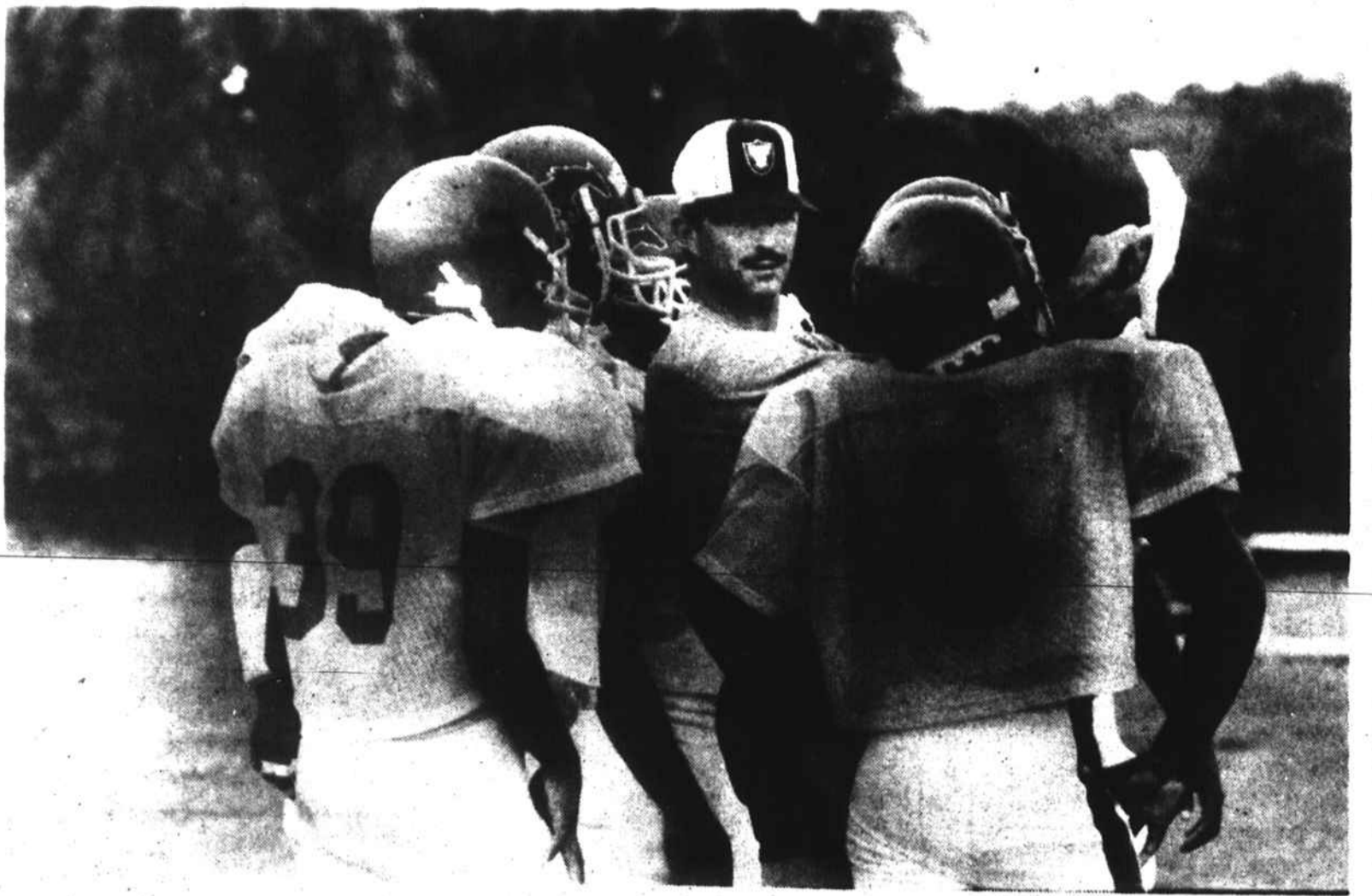
Former All-CPC soccer player, Chris Chaffee will handle most of the kicking duties. Chaffee should be one of the best in the county kicking field goals. Hayes and Demetrakis are expected to share the punting duties.

The "Silver Fox" says once his team has been "baptized into the 4-A" that they'll be in good shape.

"If Fuzzy stays healthy, then we'll be able to compete," said Thompson. "He is really hungry this year and we hope to get him the ball a lot and do some blocking for him. I think our pass will come around eventually.

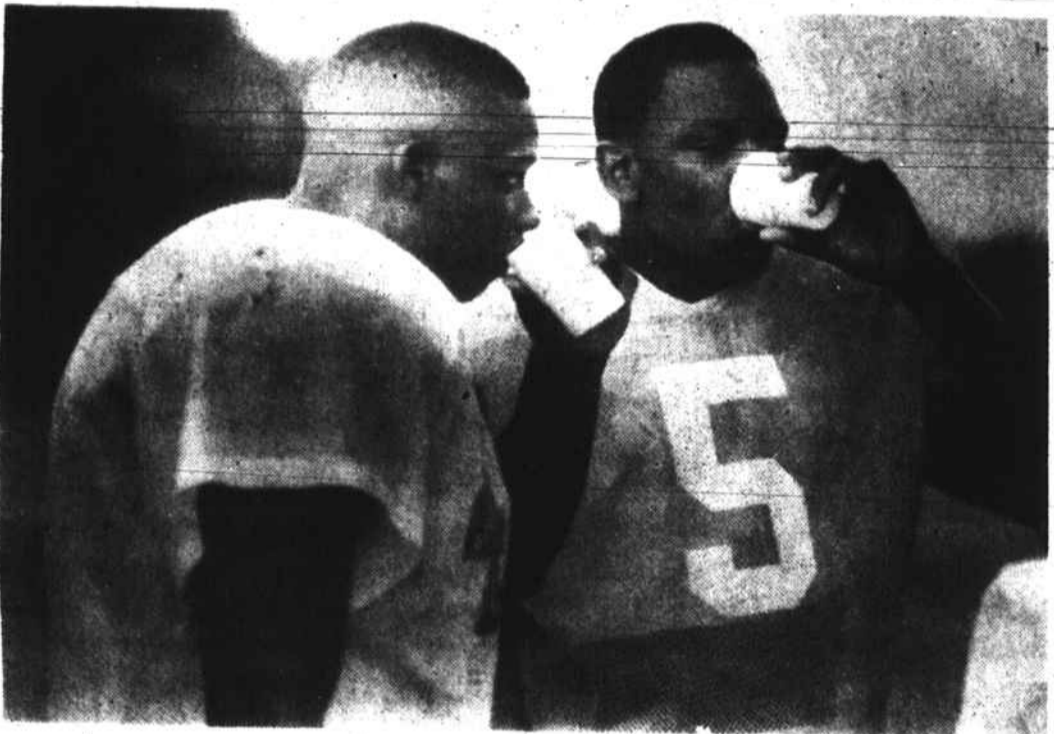
"Things don't look too bad at this point. Don't expect too much from us early, but I expect us to jell after a few ballgames."

Slow starts are common for the Mustangs -- so are strong finishes in league play. The Mustangs are the sleeper in the Central Piedmont Conference.



Getting Down to Business

Drew Buie, (above left), instructs a group of defensive players on what they'll be doing next. Buie, a former player for the Oakland Raiders, is the defensive coordinator at Parkland. James Demetrakis, (left), should be one of the best linemen in the county this season. Demetrakis, a 269-pound junior, is a good bet to take All-Conference honors in the CPC (photos by James Parker).



Mark "Fuzzy" Dunlap shares a drink with teammate Cedric Lineburger during a hot practice session last week (photo by James Parker).

and a cloud of dust from their long line of outstanding tailbacks.

The Mustangs are used to being the front-runners in their conference, but so far, no one seems to be picking on the Mustangs. Thompson agrees that his team is not the one to be concerned with -- yet.

"Based on what's coming back, I'd say Kannapolis Brown, Reynolds, Davie County, South Rowan and South Rowan are the contenders in our conference right now," he said. "That might change later in the season, but those teams

Thompson insist the race is a dead heat, but the track record favors the senior player at Parkland. Regardless, the Mustangs look solid at that position.

Joining Dunlap, 6-2, 206 pounds, at tailback, will be sophomore Eric Lewis up from jayvee and junior Shannon Steinback.

At fullback, senior DeAndre Starnes is the leading candidate, joined by juniors James Paige and Gerald Smith.

Competing at flanker, is John Malloy, Travis Bryan and Monte Odom. All three are seniors.

Hentz's conditioning program a hit at 14th Street

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Hansel Hentz started a summer conditioning program four years ago just to help a couple of football players stay in shape over the lazy summer months. The small idea at the 14th Street Recreation Center has since blossomed into a sizeable program that has seen the likes of Ray Agnew, Derrick Debnam and Fernando Horn graduate to the collegiate ranks.

Hentz says athletes from all over the county are realizing the importance of staying in shape during the off-season.

"College athletes are very scientific about how they train these days," said Hentz, who is an instructor and coach at the 14th Street Recreation Center.

"Schools are looking for kids who are students and well-conditioned athletes. That means working out to stay in shape over the summer.

"The kids who are down here working in this program will have an edge over the ones who've been watching television all summer," he said.

The summer conditioning at the 14th Street Center offers running, jumping rope, basketball and other forms of conditioning. Kevin Thompson, who was the Chronicle's Player of the Year in basketball for Glenn High School last season, is one of the members of the program.

"I have really improved a lot of my skills and physical abilities in this program," said Thompson, a rising junior who was considered

one of the top 30 sophomores in the country last season.

"I've been working on running the court, dribbling and passing the ball," he said. "I get a full conditioning workout here. We run, jump rope, play basketball, lift weights and go to the spa afterwards. I've gained 15 pounds, but it's not fat.

"There were several things I hoped to do this summer -- bulking up and improving my strength were among them. Lifting with Hentz has helped me to achieve those goals."

Indeed, Thompson has grown an inch in height and now stands at 6-8, 205 pounds. His added weight and strength is sure to increase his ability to impress the scouts this coming season.

"Kevin has worked real hard the past couple of years down here," said Hentz. "He is passing and dribbling the ball with confidence. The extra size will enhance his ability to block shots too.

"He should be pretty awesome this winter after playing in the Summer League and working out in this program."

Joining Thompson in the summer conditioning, are Malika and Makeba Hentz, both sisters and major factors in East Forsyth's success in girls basketball the past two seasons.

"My girls have been down here running with the boys all summer," said Hentz of his two daughters. "They should be pretty tough after shooting over these guys."

Makeba says the extra practice and conditioning should help them

this fall.

"You get lazy sitting around the house all summer," she said. "Playing against the boys helps too. After making shots against these guys, a layup against the girls this winter will seem easy."

Her sister, Malika, agreed.

"Conditioning now will make it easier this winter," she said. "But you really have to keep it up all the time or you get out of shape pretty fast."

The Hentz twins say they hope to be able to stay together in college, but haven't narrowed down their choices yet. Several schools have shown at least some interest in the East Forsyth standouts.

The Little Guys

An increasing number of middle school students are joining the 14th Street program according to Hentz. He says the energy and enthusiasm from the younger crowd rubs off on the older kids.

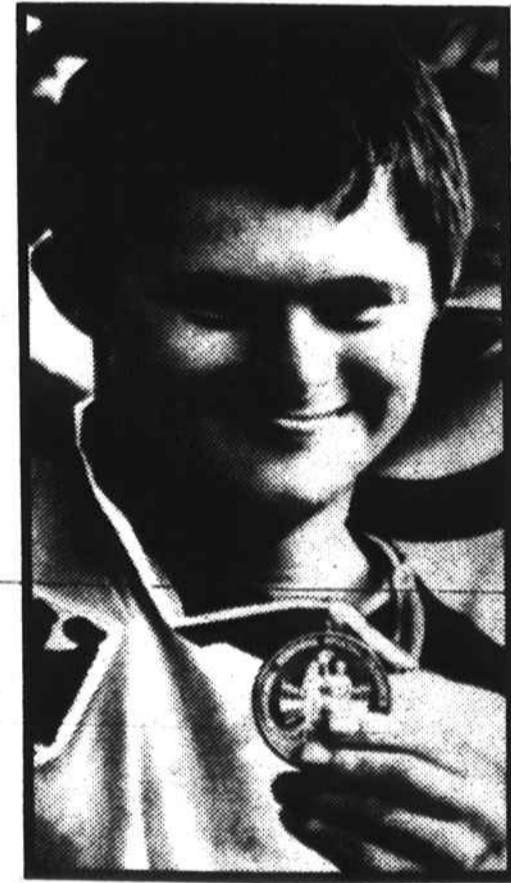
"Those little kids really keep everyone else hopping," he said. "And a lot of them play football or basketball and it helps them improve their physical ability at an early age.

"Some of them are already great athletes and they haven't even reached high school yet. This is a good thing considering we don't have sports in the middle schools anymore."

Chris Williams is a rising eighth-grader at Kernersville Middle School and says he is much faster than he used to be.

"I used to be pretty slow," he said. "But now, I'm a lot faster and I don't run out of energy as fast."

Underwrite a miracle.



is making miracles happen. There are many ways that you can help underwrite this miracle, ways that also take into account your personal finances and the new tax law. Some of these ways are listed in the coupon below, and we would be glad to discuss these or others with

you at your convenience. Please call or write today to learn how you can help spread the spirit of Special Olympics. The need has never been greater -- and your help has never meant more.

Individuals with mental retardation have always been told, "You can't do it." Through Special Olympics, you can tell them they can do it. Since Special Olympics International was founded in 1968, it has grown into a worldwide sports movement that brings pride, confidence, courage and determination to more than one million children and adults with mental retardation in over 20,000 communities throughout the United States and over 72 countries around the world. In your community, the spirit of Special Olympics

Please send me information about how I can underwrite a miracle through Special Olympics by:

- Making a gift of securities, bonds, or cash
- Making a gift of personal property
- Making a gift of land
- Naming Special Olympics as beneficiary of an IRA plan, pension plan, life insurance policy, or in a will
- Transferring securities, bonds, cash or land in return for income
- Establishing a trust to ultimately benefit my children
- Transferring my home to Special Olympics but continuing to live in it
- Please call me to discuss the ways I can contribute

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____
Best time to call _____

Please write or call today:
Steve I. Schneider
Special Olympics International
1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 628-3630

