

McDonald: Good start is key to Tabor's chances of surviving CPC

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Mount Tabor wasn't exactly a one-man show with Tyrone Lewis last season, but perhaps the next best thing to it.

A nagging injury to Lewis, a fourth-quarter loss to Carver and a 21-20 loss to South Rowan on a missed two point conversion was the difference between the Spartans finishing 5-5 instead of the 3-7 they ended up at.

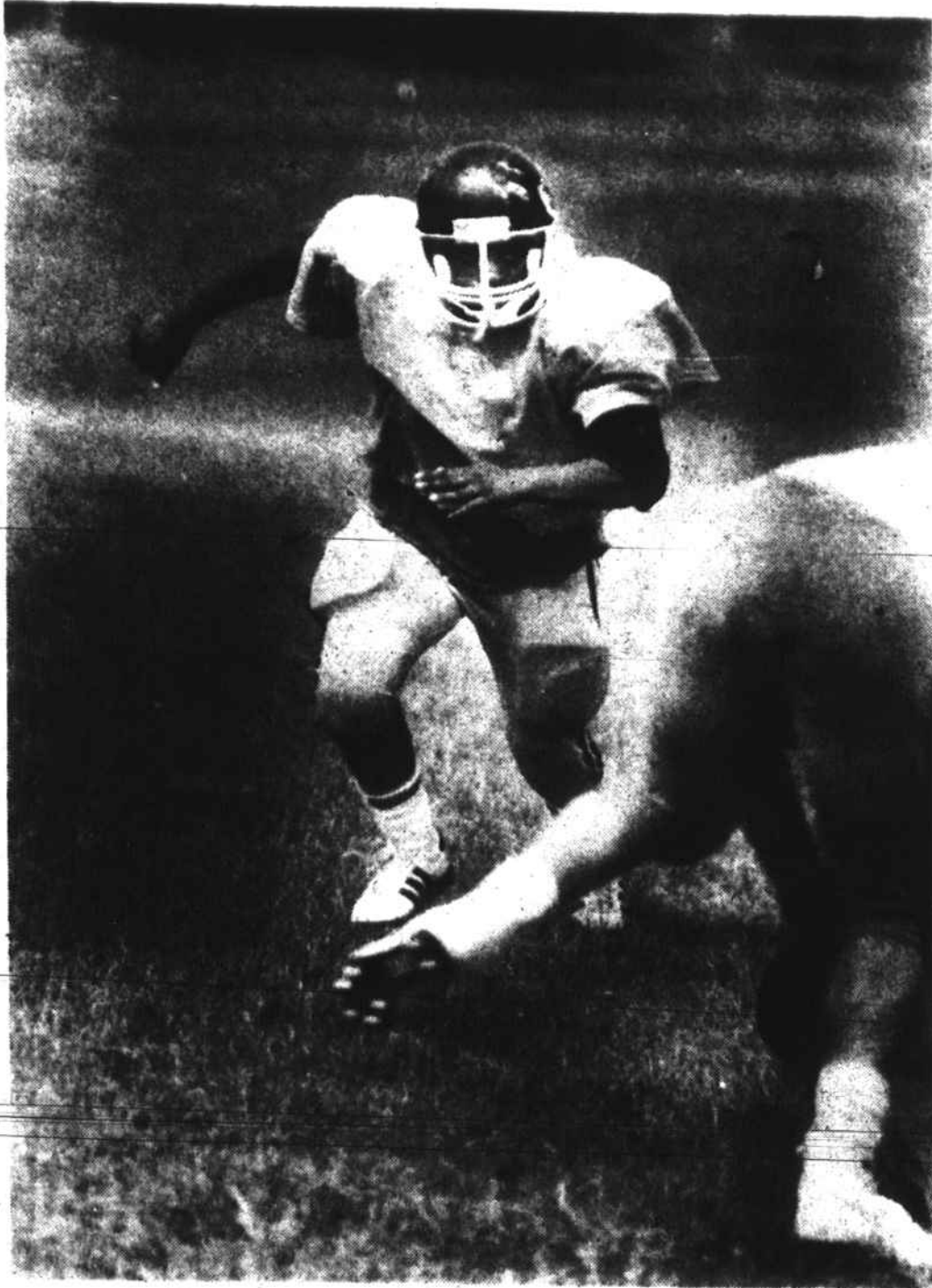
All in all, Head Coach Ed McDonald wasn't that displeased with how things turned out.

"We sort of hung our heads down after the loss to Carver (3-0), but they came back to finish strong with South Rowan," said McDonald, a former assistant at Parkland before taking the head coaching job at Mount Tabor.

"Last year, we were caught depending on one individual too much (Lewis), but Tyrone is gone to Virginia and the concept is on playing team ball. When Tyrone got hurt, we weren't mentally prepared, but this year we are going to learn to count on each other a lot more."

And the Spartans are blessed with a lot of speed they can count on, notably, flanker Julius Reese. Reese is an age-group national champion in the 400-meter dash, and possesses speed unmatched by anyone in the county. He will also see considerable time in the defensive secondary.

The key offensively, will be



Deon Witherspoon's presence on defense should help Mount Tabor pull off a few surprises in the CPC (photo by James Parker).

using six returning starters efficiently and getting the ball to Reese as a deep threat. McDonald says David Griffin, a junior, is the leading candidate for the job at quarterback.

"David looks like the man right now," said McDonald. "He's throwing the ball pretty well and has some moves back there."

Greg McClellan and Mike Kirby look promising at fullback and McDonald is eyeing several others for spot duty in the Spartan backfield. Quickness will be the rule as size is a not a luxury possessed by Mount Tabor this season.

The offensive line includes possible starting duty from James Patella, Tony York, Jeff McAdams, Jay Hegler, Jason Howell, Steve McPeak, Robby Cox, Steve Milman and Mark McDaniel. McAdams, 6-1, 225 and Milman, 5-9, 240 are the largest of the Spartan linemen.

Helping Reese, will be the receiving duties of Earl Brown, James Williams, Haywood Wilson, Chris James and Cashius Adams. McDonald expects help from five or six rising junior varsity players as well, but not in starting roles.

Defensively, some of the same names appear, as McDonald plans to use several players on both offense and defense. Deon Witherspoon at defensive end and Mike Kirby are among the seven returning starters.

"I feel comfortable about our secondary," said McDonald. "That is probably one of the strongest areas of our team."

Pat Cunningham and Julius Reese headline the Tabor defenders in the secondary. They are joined by James Williams, Haywood Nelson, Chris James and Derek McCollum.

The Spartans have a crucial spot to fill at linebacker with the departure of Lewis. Brian McCorkle, Vaughn Moore and Robby Cox should battle with junior varsity players for the avail-



With a young team, Mount Tabor coach Ed McDonald will have to do a lot of pointing the way (photo by James Parker).

able jobs.

The defensive line should bear close resemblance to the offensive line, including Kirby, York, McAdams, Hegler, Howell, McPeak, Cox and Milman with some J.V. support.

Wesley Leiphardt is the only person to nail down a job on special teams. The junior will handle most of the kicking duties and has good range kicking field goals.

"We've been going slow in practice, teaching the basic to some of these newer kids," said McDonald. "Despite having only decent size, if we get off to as good start, then I think we'll be okay."

McDonald said his team likes the role of being underdogs in the league.

"We don't have the pressure like Reynolds and some of the other favored teams will have. I think we can sneak up on some people this year if we execute and develop at a good clip.

"The keys for us will be to progress at a steady rate, utilize our quickness and avoid getting hurt early. Our weakness would have to be depth.

McDonald picked Kannapolis, Davie County, South Rowan and Reynolds as the early favorites, but cautioned not to forget about West, Parkland and his club.

Twin City declared host of football's latest Civil War

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

After three mediocre campaigns in Atlanta and Washington D.C., the Civil War between the North and the South will be moving a little closer to home on December 12 -- as officials of the Freedom Bowl All-Star football Classic have announced that Groves Stadium will be its new home.

And upon the game's arrival to Winston-Salem will come a major change in format, with the drawing of a Mason-Dixon line of sorts and the announcement of two new generals.

Led by troops from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the South team will be coached by Mo Forte of defending MEAC champion North Carolina A&T State University. The North team, coached by CIAA champion Virginia Union University's Joe Taylor, will include top guns from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Southwestern Athletic Conference and other major black college independents.

The ammunition began a little early last week, as Taylor spoke of the CIAA's strengths during a press conference at Groves Stadium.

"The CIAA is a strong league," said Taylor, whose Panthers finished with a 11-1 record, winning the CIAA grid championship last season and earning him the head coaching honors.

"Although you can't look down the line right now, it is evident that the CIAA will be strong again this year. We'll just have to wait until November to see who's going to land the most guys in this game," said the coach of the Richmond, Virginia school, where he has compiled a record of 22-8-2 during his three-year stay as head coach.

Taylor picked Hampton, Norfolk State, North Carolina Central, Winston-Salem State and his squad as the early favorites in the race for the league title.

He said the Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic for college seniors from predominately African-American schools will probably be a big hit in Winston-Salem.

"The fans around here are great," said Taylor. "I'm sure they'll pack the house for this game like they do for the Rams and Wake Forest. I like the move (from D.C. and Atlanta)."

Forte, who guided the Aggies

to an MEAC football title last season and their first NCAA Division I-AA playoff berth in the school's history, was not present at the press conference, but later said that he was delighted to coach the South team.

"It's always fun to coach against the CIAA," said Forte. "I'm very happy to get the opportunity."

At the press conference, Mayor Wayne Corpening and Wake Forest University Athletic Director Dr. Gene Hooks officially welcomed the game to Winston-Salem. "We're going to have things so good that you can't turn us down," said Corpening. "Speaking for Winston-Salem, we are ecstatic to have the game played here. I hope we can keep the game here for a long, long time.

"Just look at that field out there," said Corpening, gesturing to the playing field at Groves Stadium. "I wish my yard at home was half as beautiful as it is."

Hooks was happy to accommodate the game on behalf of Wake Forest.

"We have a great relationship with both conferences," he said of the MEAC and CIAA. "Wake Forest University is delighted to contribute to this game being moved to Winston-Salem. We're happy to have it call Groves Stadium home."

Indeed Wake Forest has close ties with the CIAA in particular, as Winston-Salem State head coach Bill Hayes was a former assistant for the Deacons.

"We were having problems with our football program until we stole Bill Hayes from Wake Forest," joked Clarence "Bighouse" Gaines, the athletic director for the Rams.

"The boys up north still give us trouble and we never know what A&T has because they're always hiding it. Bill and I are thrilled to see this game come to Winston-Salem."

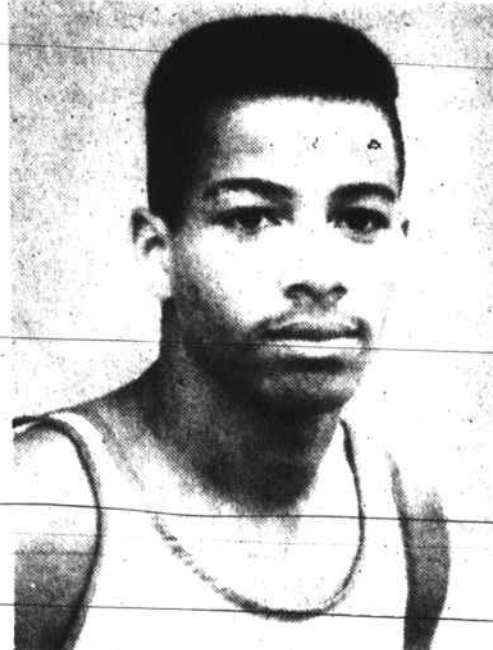
Hayes said the move was a good one.

"They couldn't have picked a better place," he said. "I hope we'll be well represented in December."

Ken Free, the commissioner of the MEAC, said the game will continue to recognize league champions in picking coaches.

"It will be an added incentive to win your conference," he said.

Free said additional coaching support will come from the other coaches in the CIAA and the MEAC.



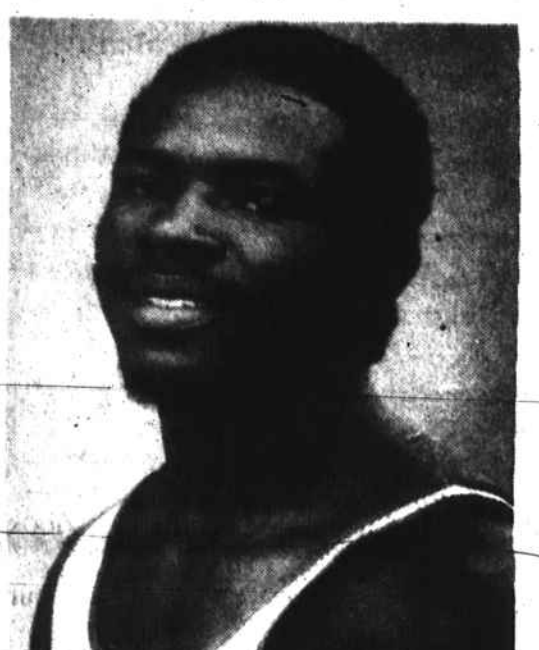
Eric Turner



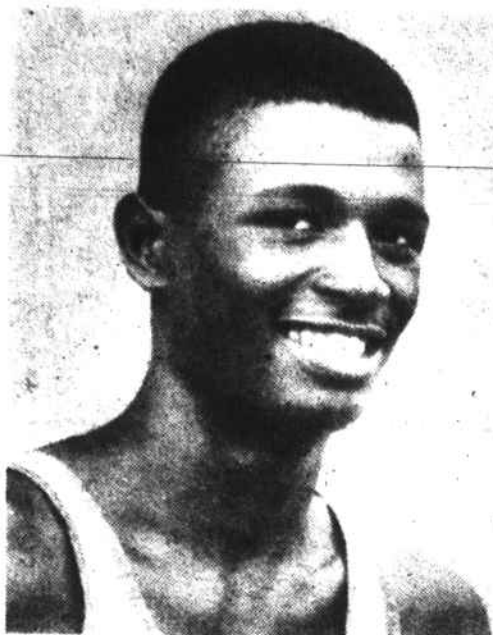
Vanita Morrison



Kenny Kirby



Kevin Williams



Stephon Torrence



"Renee" Squires



Shevonne Martin



Sonny Weeks

Mayor declares August 10 Twin City Relays Day

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

With a sendoff from Mayor Wayne Corpening, the Twin City Relays Track Club will attend to the business of defending two national championships in this weekend's AAU/USA Junior Olympic Games in Syracuse, New York.

The Relays, who left by bus Tuesday night, were honored by the mayor and City of Winston-Salem earlier this week. Corpening officially declared Monday, August 10 as Twin City Relays Track Club Day and presented the club with a certificate of proclamation from his office.

The Twin City team will send 22 athletes to the Syracuse meet, including defending national champion Julius Reese in the intermediate boys' 400-meter dash and Scott Fletcher in the 110-meter high hurdles.

Lemuel Johnson, the head coach of the Relays, answered the mayor's call to bring home some gold.

"We hope to equal or top our success last year," said Johnson, who sent 16 to the nationals last

season.

Reese said he was confident that both he and the team would fare well.

"I'm in great shape," he said. "The competition should be tough, but it always is on a national level. My times haven't been that far off from what I won with last year, so I feel pretty confident."

Reese, a rising junior at Mount Tabor High School and a flanker on the football team there, said he was anxious to run the meet and get on with football practice.

"I've been working with the football team some already, but my main focus has been on this track meet," he said.

The Relays will send their largest group ever to the nationals, including their heralded group of senior girls. The Relays' 4x100 and 4x400 "A" team relay combination of Sandra Harrison, Danita Roseboro, Nicole Bell and Madonia Caesar have been virtually unbeatable this season.

Times from Twin City's 4x100 and 4x400 "B" team of Renee Squires, Tammy Brown, Vanita Morrison and Tina Lane have been good enough to defeat most team's

best combination.

"Our "B" team relays are as fast as a lot of team's best girls," said Learmond "Buddy" Hayes, an assistant coach for the Relays. "That shows you what kind of talent we have in this area. Most towns this size are lucky to have half the kids we have.

"Plus we have Lynn Ray in the 100 and 400-meter hurdles and Lynette Addison in the long and triple jumps. Our girls program is really strong this year and we expect them to be very competitive in Syracuse," Hayes said.

Scott Fletcher of Parkland High School leads the contingent of senior boys, and hopes to repeat as national champion in the 110-meter high hurdles.

"I've been working on my strength," he said. "Running relays has helped me. It'll be tough, but I hope I can win it again."

Only the Durham Striders' Elbert Ellis has been able to handle Fletcher. Ellis has defeated Fletcher the last three times they have met by the narrowest of margins. Ellis has matched Fletcher's personal best of 13.8, but neither of the two have yet to crack 13.7 seconds.

Kevin Cokely, Eric Turner, Fletcher and Kevin Williams will comprise the Relays' senior boys 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams, while Josh Wells will participate in the pole vault.

Reese headlines the intermediate boys group, entering the 200 and 400-meter dashes. Sonny Weeks will compete in the 100-meter dash and will join Reese, Stephon Torrence, Bryant Cowan, Harvey Hughes and Kenneth Kirby in the 400 and 1600-meter relays.

North Forsyth's Shevonne Martin will compete in the 100 and 200-meter hurdles in the intermediate girls division.

Jerry Riley, the vice-president and assistant coach of the Relays, will make the trip, joining a handful of parents.

Still without a major sponsor, the club is paying its own way to Syracuse. Hayes said he hoped the proclamation from the mayor would help local business take notice of the Relays and similar organizations.

"We could do so much more with some financial help," he said. "I hope someone out there is watching."