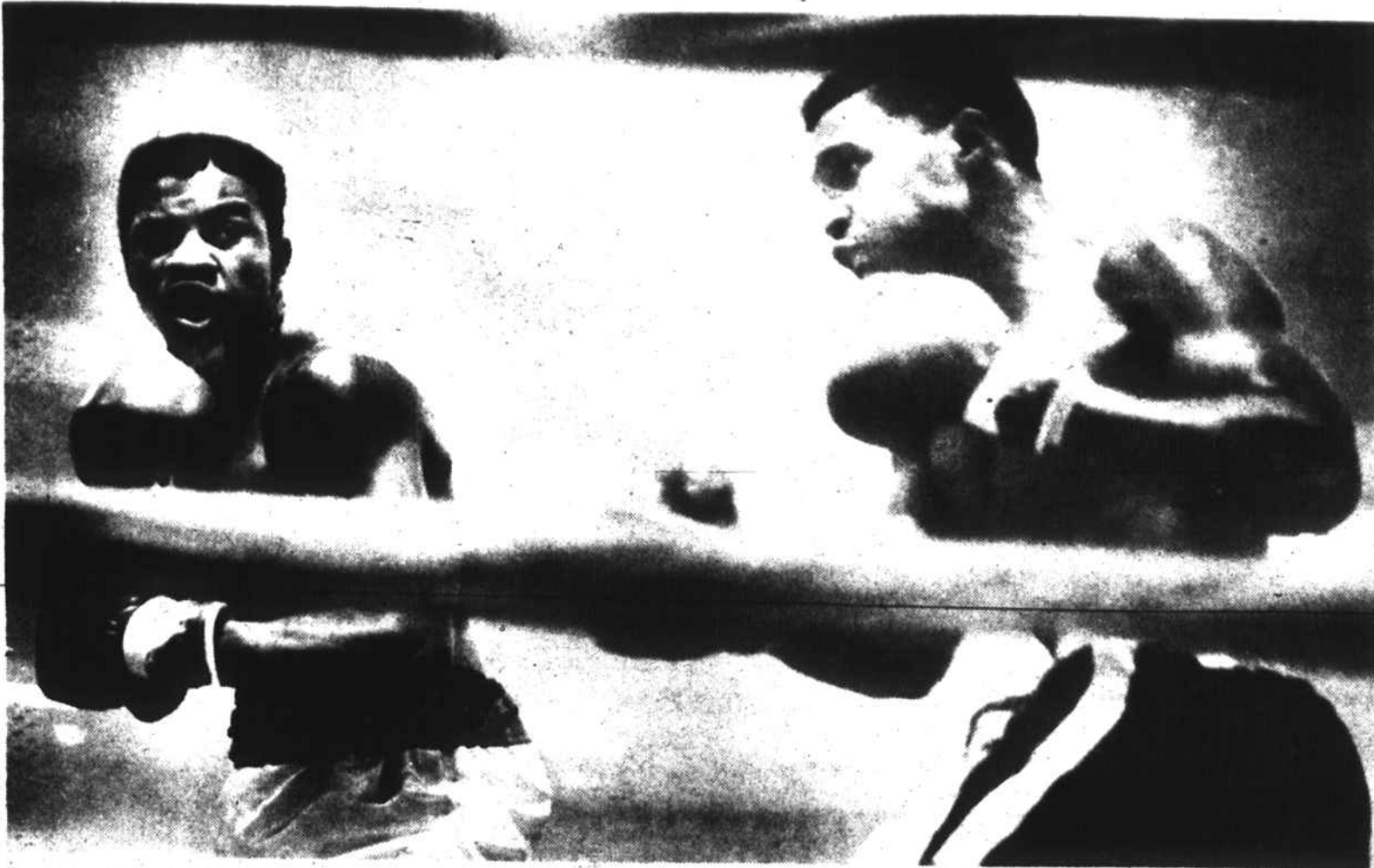


Sports



Boxing Returns

Boxing made a triumphant return to Winston-Salem last week as Thomas Warren, left, went on to score a technical knockout over Philadelphia's Michael Colson (photo by James Parker).

Exterminator

Hardee knocks down Ladson for N.C. belt

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

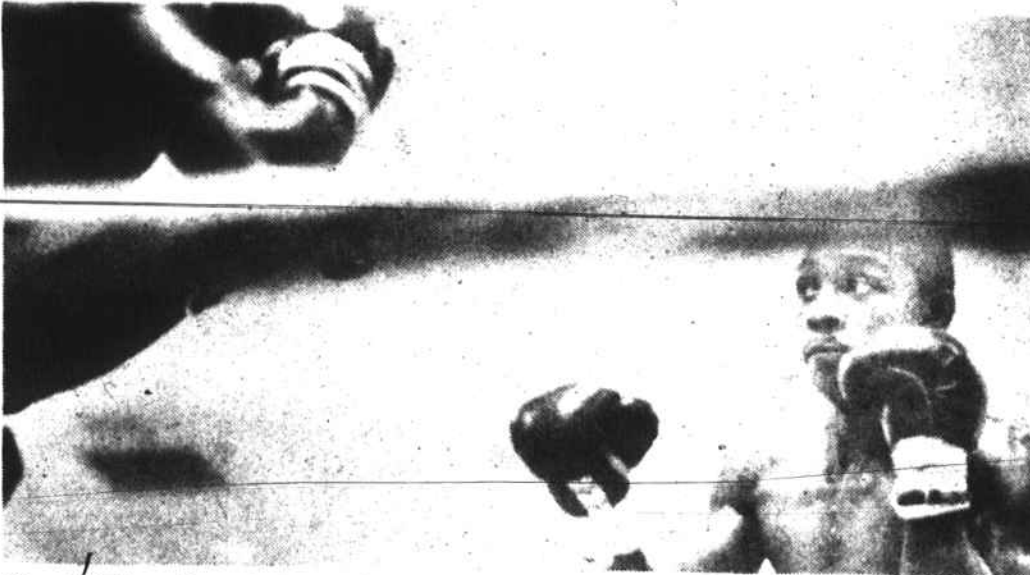
Until last week, boxing in Winston-Salem was about as active as downtown on Sunday -- but a big card at the Benton Convention Center Friday night might've put a halt to the Twin City's boxing doldrums.

The First Annual Winston-Salem Professional Boxing Extravaganza produced a new North Carolina Welterweight champion in Kent Hardee and managed to satisfy the appetites of some hungry Twin City boxing fans in the process.

A crowd estimated at 500 or better watched as Hardee stalked the taller Ladson in the finale of the seven-fight card. Hardee's aggressiveness paid off in the end, as a series of shots to the body and counter punches knocked Ladson to his feet for a technical knockout.

A pair of no-shows forced a half-hour delay in the extravaganza's expected 8:00 p.m. start, but after the opening bell, the restless crowd came to life.

In the opening matchup, Robert Wood of Shelby, N.C. took on fellow lightweight Anthony Ganns of Charlotte. Ganns, the shorter of the two, Please see page B2



Kent "The Exterminator" Hardee lived up to his name by defeating Marvin Ladson for the North Carolina Welterweight Championship (photo by James Parker).

ON THE SIDELINES

The Pirates should rule the seven seas of the Metro Conference

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Flip a coin. Spin the bottle. Roll the dice -- it's time to predict who'll earn the right to join Greensboro Page as high school football playoff teams from the Metro 4-A Conference.

As a cheerleader suggested last year, "Should we pick the one with the prettiest uniforms or the one with the cute quarterback?"

Both methods are probably as scientific as you can get in this league, as the Metro looks as unpredictable as ever.

You can almost bet the house, the kids and the wife that Greensboro Page will capture the top playoff bid from the Metro for their third straight year.

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And from all four Forsyth County coaches who reside in the Metro, you'll hear no argument otherwise.

Until someone knocks off the Pirates, Carver, East Forsyth, Glenn and North Forsyth will resume the familiar role of fighting each other to play second fiddle in the six-team league.

With a new coach, it appears Greensboro Smith won't be content to roll over and play dead in the Metro cellar, but all indications point to one of the four Forsyth County Metro teams to join the Pirates in the post-season fun.

Last year Glenn knocked off East in their final game of the season only to be smashed by the Pirates in the second round of the playoffs, 49-6.

Can the Bobcats seek revenge on the mighty Pirates?

Will East Forsyth fly away with the Pirates into playoff land?

Should the Vikings reserve playoff accommodations in downtown Reidsville?

Might the Yellowjackets keep their sting past Thanksgiving?

Or will the Golden Eagles build a nest in the Pirates' lair?

Avast Ye Swabs

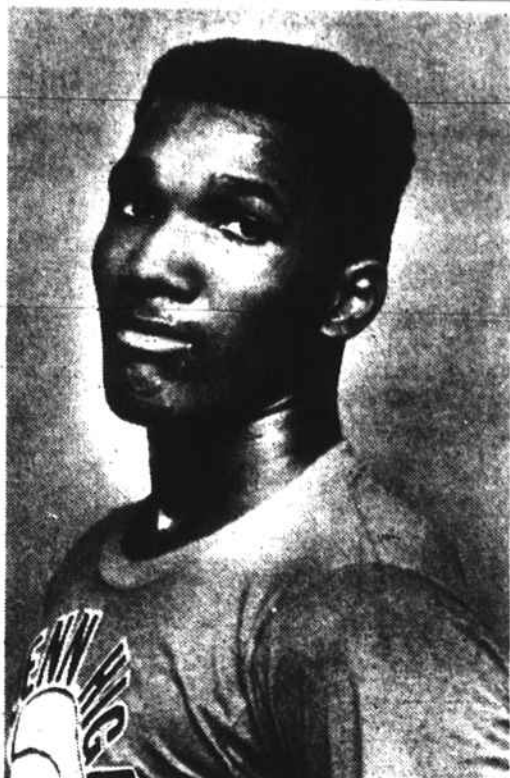
No one has ever beaten Greensboro Page in the Metro Conference, and the Pirates could very well keep their string of luck in tact.

It seems that Forsyth County teams have grown to

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Thompson



Feggins

MVP Feggins leads Spartans to WSBL title

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

The Winston-Salem Summer Basketball League's championship game between Mount Tabor and the 14th Street All-Stars Thursday night dispelled any notions that the league was just another "run and gun" summer get together.

It looked more like an All-Star contest instead, as some very familiar names to followers of high school basketball lit up the scoreboard for 187 points and rose the temperature of the Reynolds Park gymnasium a few degrees as well.

And in the end, it was a soft follow shot in the lane from game MVP Bryant Feggins that started a 10-3 run which allowed Mount Tabor to come away with the regular season title, 96-91.

The Mount Tabor team, led by Glenn High School's twin towers, Kevin Thompson, (6-8) and Feggins, (6-4) and Mount Tabor's Joe John Bryant, (6-7), had a considerable wealth of inside height. With

Thompson, who finished with 29 points and Feggins' 26 points, Mount Tabor pounded it inside early and built an eleven-point half-time lead, 52-41.

Bryant, who continues to solidify his position as one of the best in the county, added three convincing slam dunks and 17 points to the Spartan inside barrage on the smaller 14th Street.

But 14th Street responded to the challenge of the taller Spartans and nearly pulled off the upset with an admirable display of pressure defense.

After scoring six unanswered points to pull within 52-47, 14th Street applied the full-court defense to the Spartans and eventually took a 58-57 lead on a layup from Dwayne Morgan. The layup from Morgan, who finished with 23 points, was the icing on the cake of a six minute All-Star run in which they outscored the Spartans 16-5

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Wallace ready to help Rams through tough '87

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Bill Hayes of Winston-Salem State University has always had an eye for talent -- and his 20-20 vision must've been working on all eight cylinders when he saw Mark Wallace.

Wallace, a senior and two-time All-CIAA selection at linebacker, dropped in on the Rams' campus five years ago with quite an impressive list of prep credentials in his hip pocket. He was sold on Hayes and the Rams almost as quickly as Hayes was sold on him.

As a linebacker and fullback for Waynesboro's Tuscola High School, Wallace started as a sophomore for the 10-12 school. He was named All-Conference, All-Western North Carolina and garnered All-State honors both his junior and senior seasons, while the Mountaineers compiled a 20-3 record during the two-year span.

And in perhaps a high school version of "the shot heard 'round the world", it was Wallace who placed an unforgettable hit on East Carolina recruit Ellis Dillahunt in the 1983 East-West All-Star game.

On that fateful night in Greensboro, Dillahunt was returning a kickoff for the East team, when he met Wallace face-to-face near the 35-yard line at Grimsley's Jamieson Stadium. Like a runaway locomotive, Wallace ran head on into Dillahunt and knocked him cold.

It was later discovered that Dillahunt had cracked two vertebrae in his upper spine -- in short, he had a broken neck.

Dillahunt, now a defensive back, has since recovered and plays football at ECU, and Wallace overcame the fright of the near-tragedy and has went on to start three consecutive seasons for the Rams.

Wallace has tried to forget the collision and apparently has not let it effect him, as he has been a mainstay for the Rams on defense for the past three seasons.

Hayes knew a good thing when he saw it, as Wallace started four games as a red-shirt freshman when injuries rocked the Rams in '83.

Wallace made a favorable impression on Hayes and earned the starting job at linebacker in his first full season in 1984 -- a job he will apparently keep for his fourth straight year.

"Mark is a super ball player," Hayes said of Wallace. "In fact, he and Anthony Blaylock, (a senior cornerback), will be our defensive captains this year."

Hayes also indicated that tight end Harry Giles and offensive guard Vernard Dillard will act as captains for the Rams offense.

Despite his long list of high school credentials, Wallace was flattered when he got his first call to starting duty in the '83 season.

"I was sort of surprised and flattered at the same time," said Wallace. "I had the utmost respect for Coach Hayes the moment I arrived and I knew he was counting on me because of the injuries we had."

And Wallace has not disappointed Hayes very often. In his first performance, he helped anchor the Ram defense that denied Elizabeth City for a 36-6 victory.

Going both ways in high school as a fullback and linebacker, he was heavily recruited by the likes of Clemson and UNC, but grades kept him out of the Death Valleys and Kenon Stadiums.

"I was scared of Coach Hayes at first," Wallace said. "But after the times I've had here, I would want another coach. Coach Hayes has been good to me."

Wallace said he was sold on Winston-Salem State just moments after a visit with his uncle, Stanley Gibbs.

"My uncle Stanley and I came over and walked around the campus," he recalled. "I was pretty impressed with what I saw, but it was Coach Hayes that really impressed me. Hayes treated me with respect and I

liked that. It was like I was really somebody instead of just another student coming in."

Gibbs had played football with Hayes at North Carolina Central University and knew his former teammate could use as many defensive standouts as he could get.

Wallace has since racked up a lengthy list of defensive credits with the Rams, but perhaps none finer than his MVP performance against Hampton in the 1985 CIAA championship game.

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On Your Mark...

All-CIAA linebacker Mark Wallace is looking forward to Winston-Salem State's toughest football schedule ever. The Rams will face four conference champions (photo by Mike Cunningham).