

Hayes' departure made at least one person very happy

By RANDY PETTITT
Chronicle Sports Editor

Bill Hayes made Mark Dunlap a very happy young man last Friday morning when he officially resigned as the head football coach at WSSU and joined the Aggie camp.

Dunlap, a standout tailback/linebacker at Parkland High School, was personally signed, sealed and delivered to N.C. A&T by former head coach, "Mo" Forte. But when Forte stepped down to grab an assistant coaching job with the Denver Broncos, the Mustang senior quite naturally had second thoughts.

"I really liked Coach (Bill) Hayes a lot," said Dunlap, an All-Central Piedmont Conference choice at linebacker.

"But I wanted to play in Division I and get away from home a little bit," he explained. "So I chose N.C. A&T over Winston-Salem. It was a tough decision to live with."

"When Coach Forte quit, that really got me."

When he heard the news Friday night, though, Dunlap was one of the happiest people in town.

"I was shocked and thrilled at the same time," he said.

"When Coach Forte gave it up to go to the NFL, people starting asking me what I was going to do. I decided to wait until they hired a coach and see what happens."

"I'm glad I did."

Hayes, who battled Forte and A&T for the ser-

vices of Dunlap, is probably glad he did, too.

"Mark is a fine athlete," said Hayes of Dunlap during the peak of the recruiting wars in March. "We hate to see him go to A&T, but I don't think we'll be hurting with the guys we always already have."

Hayes appointment to A&T has quickly put all of Dunlap's fears to rest.

"I was afraid that the guy they hired would be senior-oriented and ignore the new guys," he explained.

"Now, with Coach Hayes, I know I'm going to get a good chance to play. As Coach (Homer) Thompson always told me, 'Things always work out for the best.'"

"This time they certainly worked out okay for me."

Dunlap said Hayes and the Aggies will indeed have their work cut out for them.

"Alan Hooker and some of those guys will be hard to replace," he said.

"But I know Coach Hayes. He can bring in some more freshmen and have us winning games right away. Look what he did at WSSU with (Connell) Maynor."

While Winston-Salem may resent or criticize Hayes for leaving the school, at least one person is glad he made the move.

Mark Dunlap certainly is.



Mark Dunlap

ON THE SIDELINES

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"I'd like to introduce you to our interim head coach, Pete Richardson."

No applause, just the scuffling of a chair and a polite cough filed the silence.

Though Richardson was not exactly a bundle of nerves, one could tell he was slightly new at this.

Grasping the podium firmly (that's what I always do), he impressively tackled a vast array of questions - most of them along the lines of, "Hey, are you going to mess up an already wonderful program?"

His basic reply was in the direction of a no.

Richardson, who has faithfully served as an offensive backfield coach, assistant coach, offensive coordinator and defensive coordinator during eight years of the Hayes era, is an obvious candidate to permanently fill the vacancy.

"It's tough to take over a program that he (Hayes) built over a period of several years," said Richardson, often Hayes' right hand man.

"Bill and I built quite a relationship during my stay here. I know these are some big shoes to fill, but I'm going to give it my best."

Indeed, if Hayes' accomplishments were measured in shoe size, he'd probably rate about a size 22.

Bob Lanier, eat your heart out baby.

RICHARDSON SLOWLY SETTLED in at the podium and actually looked like he was having fun towards the end of the press conference.

He said the loss of defensive back Anthony Blaylock and Mark

Wallace will hurt the Rams, as will departed Lonnie Pulley, Jerry Maynard and Barry Turner.

But he indicated that Hayes by no means left the cupboard bare.

"Barring any major injuries, we should have a pretty decent team," said Richardson, appearing to be mindful that coaching changes often slow things quite a bit.

"I still believe in one of the major things that Bill always stressed -- that's winning games in the pits. It all begins in the middle. We have some big people and we're certainly going to use them."

The Wing-T, Richardson says, will still be the Rams' bread and butter offensively.

"We've spent a few weeks this spring reteaching it to some of the newer guys," he said. "I don't plan to get away very much from what we were already doing."

"But with a guy like Connell Maynor (the Rams' incumbent quarterback) running the show, we're definitely going to open it up a little more."

"We'll be able to do a lot of things with him back there. He is much too talented to hand the ball off all the time. We're going to use him extensively."

But Richardson stuck to a WSSU tradition and insisted that this team would still run more than it throws.

"We're still going to run the football quite a bit. Our line will be doing a lot of trapping and pulling to open up the running game."

THOUGH HE HAS once served as offensive coordinator, the former Buffalo Bills defensive back is considered to be a defensive mind. He agrees that his skills as a

coach are better suited on the defensive side of the football.

"I love coaching defense," said Richardson, who was heavily responsible for developing the schemes that Hayes relied heavily upon to win the CIAA title last year.

"I will probably act as the head coach and defensive coordinator. We'll probably get someone else to be in charge of the offense."

That someone is likely to rest with another Hayes assistant.

The only hitch is that two Ram assistants are rumored to be fleeing with Hayes.

Meanwhile, the rumors became reality last week.

There was a buzz of chatter around the campus all week.

Hayes met with his players in mid-week to assess the situation, and undoubtedly, the word spread fast long before it ever hit the papers.

A group of football players stood outside the athletic dorm that rests on the hill adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Their talk was not of a playful nature -- at first.

But even when there is a death in the family, all is not sad.

In fact, some good may come of it all.

"We're going to be all right," said one of the players (who jokingly threatened to use me as a tackling dummy if I printed his name in the paper).

"Just come watch the A&T game."

I will, but that's another story.

Right now, let's mourn the departed, wish him well and celebrate the new.

And beat his pants off in September.

Winston Lake AAU

From Page B1

"But we took an ill-advised three-pointer that bobbled out and Charlotte went down and scored. We turned it over three straight times after that, and that was pretty much the ball game."

Despite the loss, Feggins continued to prove that leaving him off the all-state team was a definite oversight, as he connected on one of the most spectacular dunks of the tournament in Winston Lake's final game.

"It was the most ferocious dunk that I've ever seen, college, pro or high school," said Hollingsworth.

"He was definitely sniffing the rim on that one."

The Winston Lake said though his team played well in spots, Feggins was the only one who had a satisfactory tournament. The Glenn High School swingman had 29 in the loss to Yanceyville, but was held to just five points in the mini-pool loss to Charlotte.

Feggins has been the man for

us all year," said Hollingsworth of the Winston Lake standout.

"He is the only one off the team that played up to his potential as far as I'm concerned. Feggins had a hell of a tournament. If we had made the finals, he probably would've been the MVP."

The loss to Yanceyville could turn out to be a valuable learning experience for the team says Hollingsworth.

"We made some crucial mistakes in the final minutes of a close game," he said.

"I think that loss will help us when we play in the 17-and-under national tournament."

Winston Lake jumped on the Yanceyville team, moving out to a 14-2 lead, but 27 free throw attempts saw the All-Stars trailing 48-45. Foul trouble was also a problem for the Winston Lake team, as Feggins, Phil Glenn and Stu Epperson each sat out several minutes of the first half with two

fouls.

Yanceyville opened the second half by extending their lead to 15 points, but a 1-3-1 trap sparked by Julius Minor coming off the bench helped close the gap to three with eight minutes left.

Three calls in the closing minutes proved to seal Winston Lake's fate. Stu Epperson though. The first came when a three-pointer was overruled by another official and a point was taken off the scoreboard.

Then, Stu Epperson was whistled for his apparent fifth foul, but was not asked to leave the game by the scorer's table or the officials.

Moments later, on a Feggins foul, the referee ruled that Epper-



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