

# Sports

# B1



## COMMENTARY

### Viking Coach...



BY SAMUEL G. PURYEAR JR.  
Chronicle Sportswriter

To say that Coach Willie Ashford Jr. hasn't become an integral part of the Tiny Viking organization and local little league sports, would be like saying the Republicans haven't placed America in the crunch during the last 12 years.

Danny Kaye, a noted comedian once said, "The greatest natural resource that any country can have is its children." Ashford adheres to this provident philosophy and has done so since he first began coaching as an assistant to James "Skeet" Williams and John Isabelle in 1977.

Sanguine, amiable and jovial are three simple terms often tossed around when describing this 15 year veteran of the Pop Warner league. "I had a lot of help when I was growing up playing sports. This is my way to give something back," said Ashford.

Ashford, a native of Winston-Salem and graduate of Atkins High, developed into a shrine bowl caliber football player while playing with the likes of Hubert "Twitt" Alexander and Carl Eller. After high school, Ashford stayed around the city and was hired at R.J. Reynolds where he has been employed for 34 years.

Ashford works an eight hour job, five days a week but still manages to schedule three team practices during the week. "My wife has been very supportive. The day that I can't put together something special for the kids will be the day I give it up," said Ashford.

Earlier this week, while visiting a Viking practice, the milieu surrounding Ashford was one of belief, concern and support. Ashford used selective acrimony while discussing last weekend's 12-0 loss to the Falcons but also mixed his message, being sure to placate the feelings of his young team in preparing for this week's contest against the Rams. "You can't fool these kids, you have to give them what you've got," said Ashford.

Ashford first got into little league coaching when his oldest son, Willie Ashford III, who is currently assisting his father coach the team, became involved with the Pop Warner Organization. "I became involved at first as a supportive parent," said Ashford.

Since Willie III, Ashford has seen his three other kids, including his only daughter, who was a cheerleader, participate in the Pop Warner program. Ashford doesn't profess to have any outre coaching methods, just simple love for the kids. "My approach to the kids is the same regardless of the sport because I try to be as fair and sincere as possible to the kids," said Ashford. "I treat them the way that I would like to be treated."

If noted comedian Kaye could perform one great pantomime, in one last act, for one good man, he would act out a figurative man of grand stature, not a loner but a realist, not insouciant but concerned, not captious but understanding and most of all it would describe a hortatory individual trying to develop more out of his kids than merely turning them into professional athletes.



A SENSE OF HISTORY-- Livingstone College team manager W.J. Trent, left, and captain J.W. Walker were members of the college's football team in 1892.

## WSSU Rebounds With Some Impressive Numbers

BY SAMUEL G. PURYEAR JR.  
Chronicle Sportswriter

After taking a 47-14 pounding at the hands of Division I-AA powerhouse Southern University, Winston-Salem State University rebounded with some impressive numbers in their 48-30 thriller over North Carolina Central.

The victory improved the Rams record but still leaves many pondering about the Rams future.

The 48 points scored by WSSU marked the team's highest point total on the season, but the 30 points surrendered, was the second highest point total allowed in as many weeks. "The main thing about our defense is injuries because we don't have the depth that we need," said Coach Pete Richardson of the Rams. "We are down to our third team strong safety and our linebackers are at about 80 percent."

After falling behind early and often, the Rams mounted a comeback that saw them even the score at 27-27 for the first half.

"We came out sluggish, but Central played a great first half taking advantage of the opportunities that we gave them," said Richardson.

Apparently the respite was all that the Rams needed as they exploded for two third quarter touchdowns and one in the fourth to defeat the Eagles.

"There was no sense in exploding during the half," said Richardson. "We settled down and figured out our mistakes."

Richard Huntley gained 48 of the Rams 176 yards rushing, placing him fourth in the CIAA with 92.0 yards per game, while linebacker Antonio Stevenson is leading the CIAA in quarterback sacks with eight. Terrence Graves, Torrence Shankle and Donald Carter are tied in fifth place with interceptions in the CIAA with four apiece. Although Oronde Gadsden didn't have any completions due to a broken finger suffered against Southern, he is still seventh in the CIAA averaging 3.3 catches per contest. Quarterback Rovell McMillan currently ranks sixth in the CIAA in total offense with 138.3 yards per game.

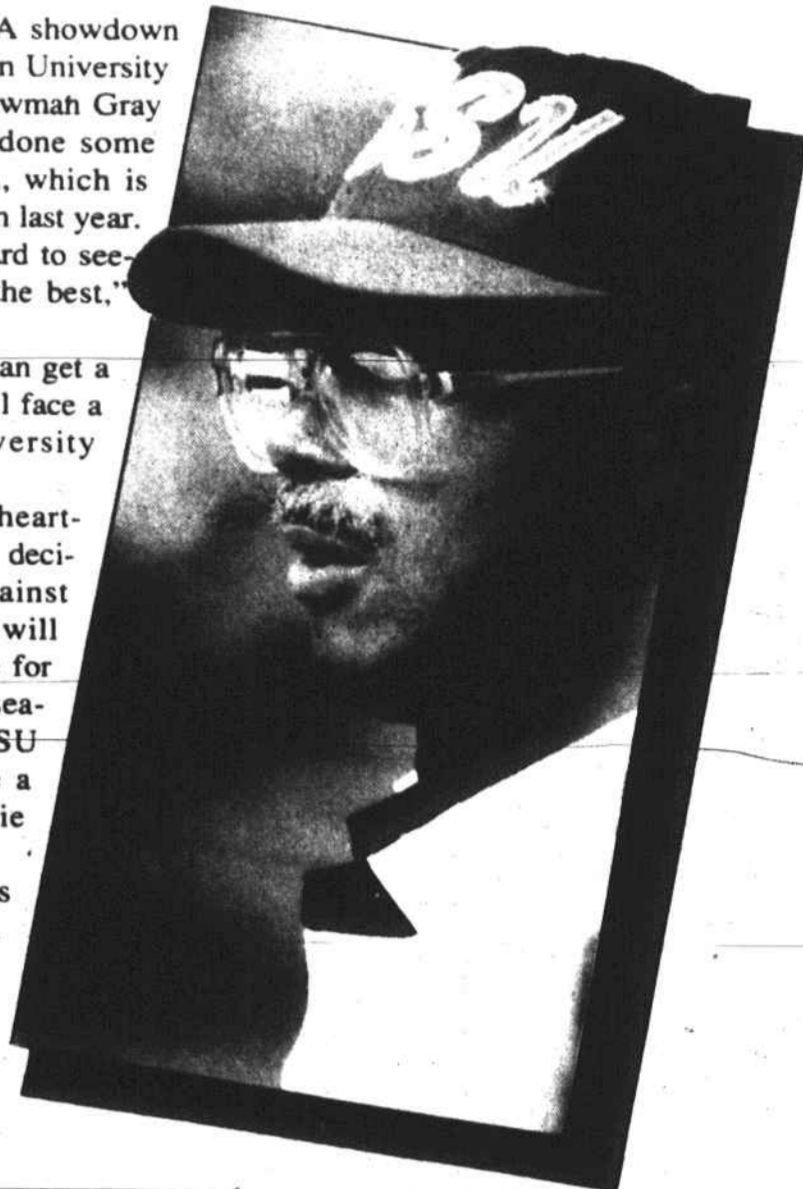
The victory raised the Rams record to 5-2 overall, 3-0 in the CIAA, setting up

what appears to be a CIAA showdown against undefeated Hampton University at (5-0-1) on Nov. 7 at Bowman Gray Stadium. "Joe Taylor has done some great things for that team, which is primarily the same one from last year. I am always looking forward to seeing the best play against the best," said Richardson.

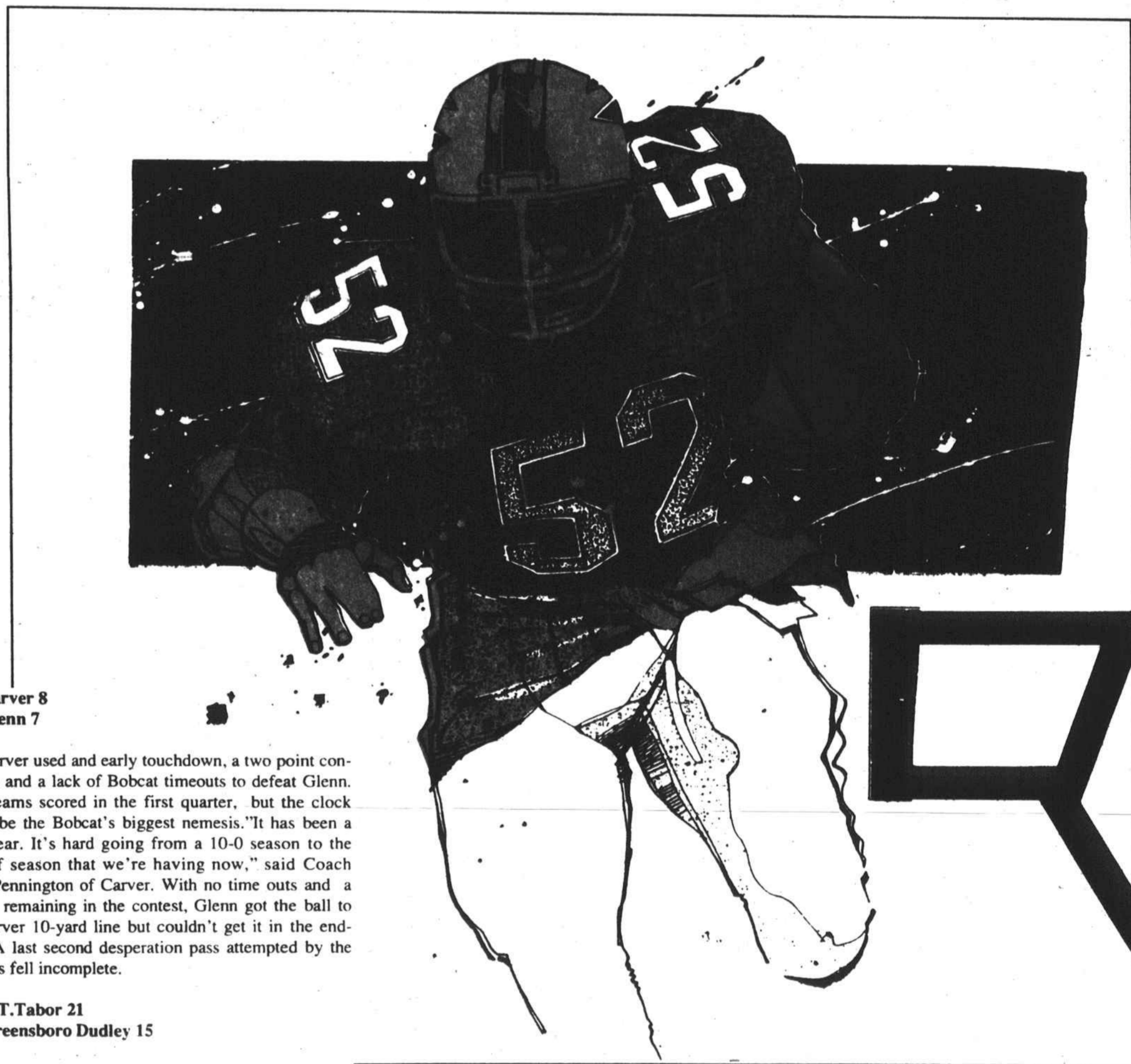
But before the Rams can get a shot at the Pirates, they will face a tough Bowie State University team.

The Bulldogs lost a heart-breaking 20-16 last minute decision on last Saturday against Elizabeth City State and will present a serious challenge for the Rams. Earlier in the season, WSSU defeated ECSU 27-18. "It is going to be a tough game because Bowie is a good team.

They always play us tough," said Richardson. The game will be at 7:00 p.m. at Bowman Gray Stadium.



## Junior Varsity Prep Round-Up



Carver 8  
Glenn 7

Carver used an early touchdown, a two point conversion and a lack of Bobcat timeouts to defeat Glenn. Both teams scored in the first quarter, but the clock would be the Bobcat's biggest nemesis. "It has been a long year. It's hard going from a 10-0 season to the kind of season that we're having now," said Coach Mike Pennington of Carver. With no time outs and a minute remaining in the contest, Glenn got the ball to the Carver 10-yard line but couldn't get it in the end-zone. A last second desperation pass attempted by the Bobcats fell incomplete.

MT. Tabor 21  
Greensboro Dudley 15

The Spartans took an early 14-0 advantage but had to hold on as they defeated the Panthers 21-15 in a pivotal conference match-up. MT. Tabor, having already lost two conference games to Parkland and Davie County needed to defeat Dudley if they were going to have any chance of winning the Central Piedmont Conference. The victory placed the Spartans one game behind league leading Parkland. With Dudley leading 15-14, on a fourth and 40, with less than a minute to play in the game, Matt Wassong completed a pass to Henry Harris that covered 60 yards to give

the Spartans the victory.

Parkland 16  
West 8

Parkland used a stingy defense, to defeat the Titans 16-8 to remain in first place in the conference. Entering the contest, Parkland had controlled the tempo in their five victories with some outstanding defense. "The defense has been really consistent this year," said Coach Tony Barnes of Parkland. Quarterback John Otatti and Ron Ingram combined to score

both Mustang touchdowns.

Davie Co. 40  
Reynolds 28

Before last Thursday's contest with Davie, the Demons sent some of their best jayvee performers up to the varsity according to Demon Coach James Alexander. "We sent some of our better players up to the varsity. We were just a little confused on defense," said Alexander. The loss dropped the Demons to 4-3 overall and 2-1 in conference play. The Demons are

### SBN BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL POLL

October 19, 1992 Week #7

LW	TW	Team	Votes	Record	LW	TW	Team	Votes	Record
2	1	Delaware State	102 (7)	5-1	8	8	Grambling State	33	4-2
3	2	Jackson State	89	6-1	8	9	SAVANNAH ST	14	5-2
1	3	Florida A&M	80	5-2	10	10	Texas Southern	12	4-2
6	4	Hampton	72 (2)	6-0-1	14	11	Fayetteville State	5	4-1-1
5	5	Central State	69 (1)	5-1	11	12	Howard	3	4-2
4	6	North Carolina A&T	68	5-1	13	13	Winston-Salem State	2	5-2
7	7	Alcorn State	51	4-2					



WINSTON-SALEM STATE  
VS.  
BOWIE STATE  
Saturday, 7:00 p.m.  
at Bowman Gray Stadium