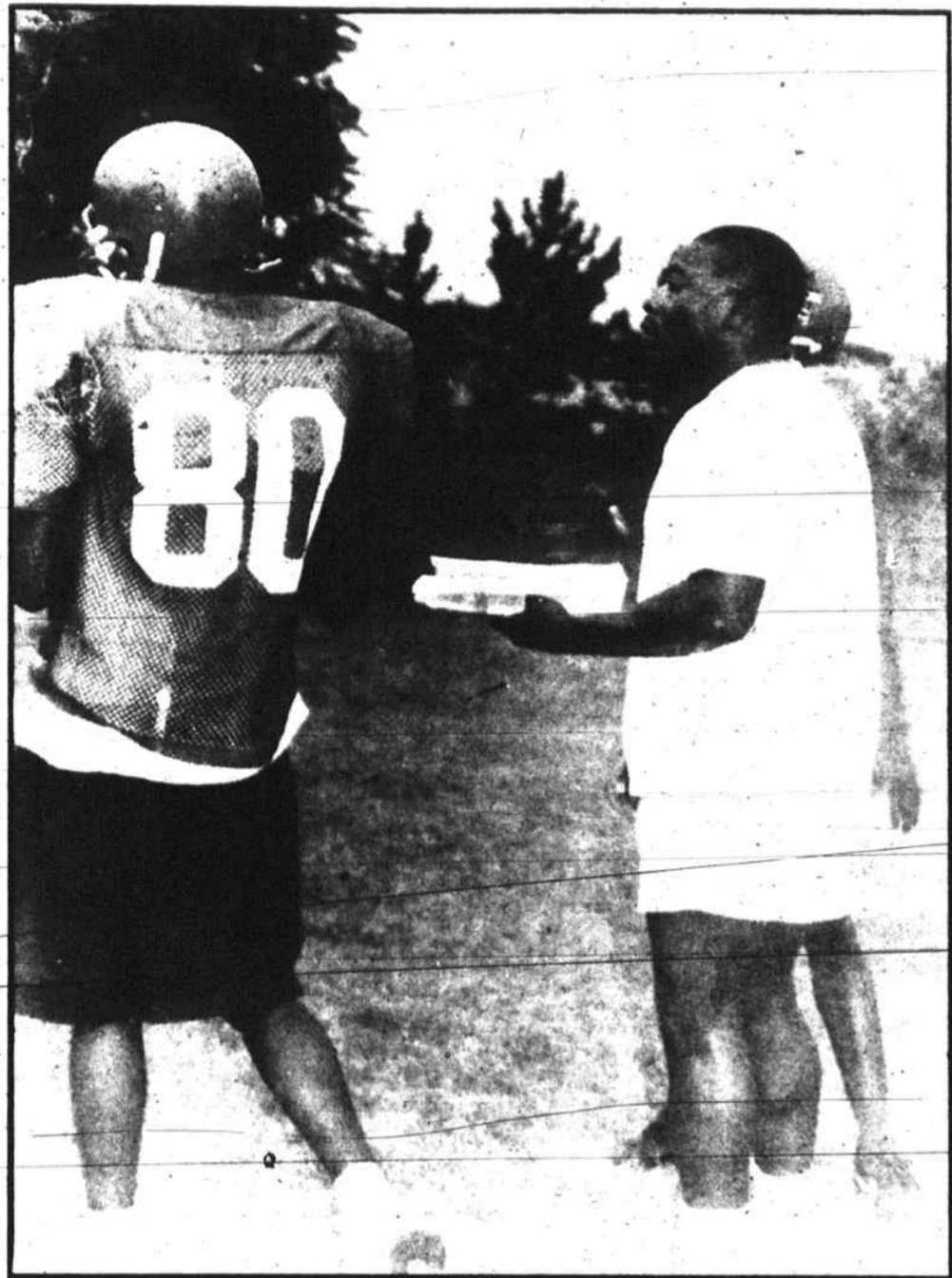


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Parkland JV Moves from 4-A to 3-A Conference



Parkland JV Coach Tony Barnes gives instructions to Luke Lanning.

KICK OFF

By DEBY JO FERGUSON
 Chronicle Sports Writer

Parkland High School's junior varsity football team will see some changes this season, switching over from a 4-A to a 3-A conference. According to head JV coach Tony Barnes: "There's no previous knowledge of knowing what to expect out of our new conference, so it would be impossible to determine who our biggest threat will be."

Barnes will begin his second year as JV head coach at Parkland, with a 7-3 record last season.

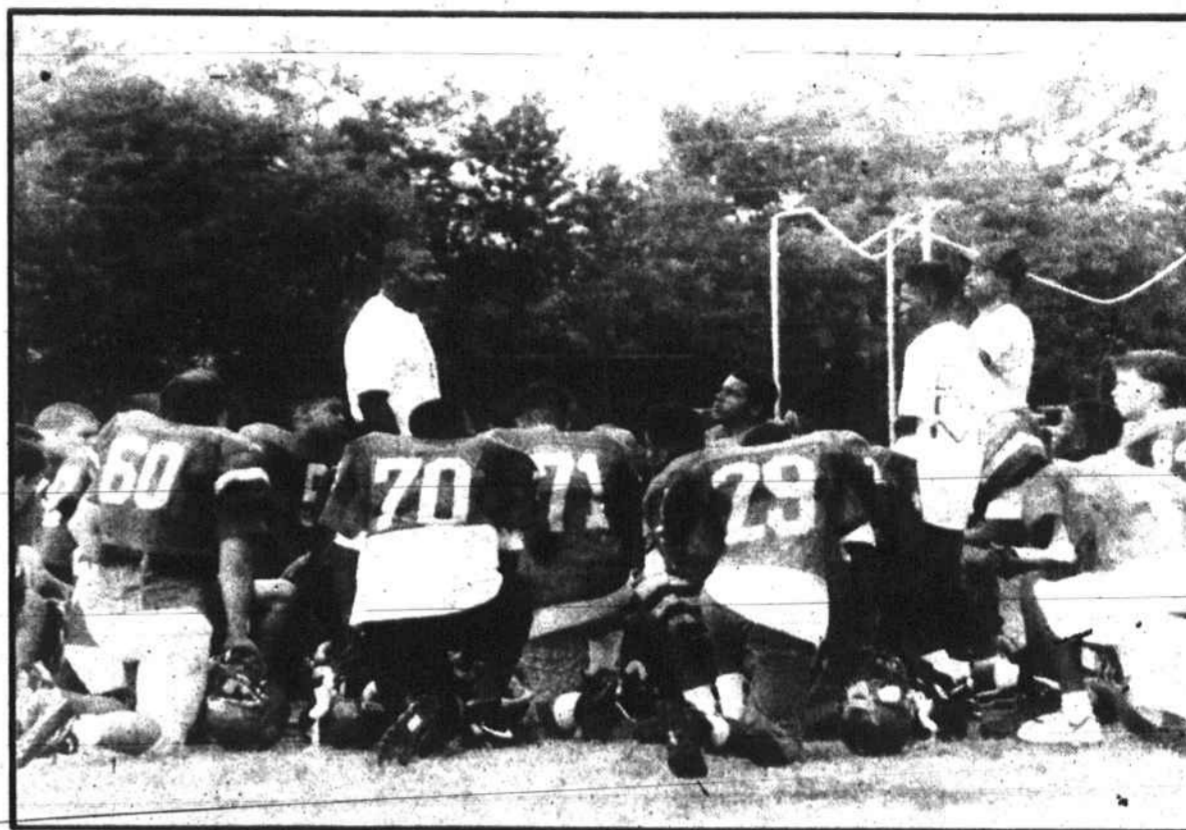
Barnes said he predicts Cetaro Searcy and Jabir High will be the team's top players.

"Our best advantage as a team is our strong skills positions, although we do need to work on our maturity through non-conference games and knowledge of the game," Barnes said.

This year 90 percent of the JV Mustangs team will be made up of freshman, after losing 16 players this year. Ten sophomore and four freshman moved up to varsity, and two players are not returning this season.

Returning starters are Jabir High, Cetaro Searcy, Monte Minor and Raenard Dobson.

However, although this may seem like a beginning for the JV Mustangs, it is only a building process for what might turn out to be the most possible threat in the confer-



The Parkland junior varsity Mustangs go over strategies during practice.

ence.
 The roster for the JV Mustangs includes: Kentrell Gibbs, quarterback; Jabir High, halfback; Cetro Fearcy, split-end; Jevond Myers, quarterback and line-backer; Mike Montgomery, quarterback; Jeff Hennighan, quarterback and line-backer; Romaro Jackson, full-back and line-backer; Renard Dobson, tight-end and outside line-backer; Monte Minor, corner-back and wingback; Sherman McGriff, split-end and corner-back; Antwon Rucker, wingback; Tim Cobb, split-end; Greg Kite, defensive end; Jamal Norris, split-end;

Caprise Mikey, halfback; Cory Banner, corner-back; Jerry Davis, line-backer; Gary Johnson, line-backer; Chester Hemphill, corner-back; Josh Thompson, line-backer; Monte Conner, defensive end; Brandon Mack, offensive and defensive tackle; Matt Imes, center and defensive tackle; Robert Cheeks, offensive guard; James Watters, offensive guard; Robert Hairston, defensive tackle; Derrick Hughes, offensive guard; Jeremy Kindy, offensive tackle; Kerry Ellis, offensive guard; Van Collins, offensive tackle; Luke Lanning, defensive end; and Mike Liner, defensive end.

Triple Gold Medal is One Step Away

The women's sprint relays is the last hurdle Gail Devers has to clear to become the only triple gold medalist at the World Championships. Devers already knows something about final hurdles.

Devers said she still feels fresh despite running seven races in six days, including winning efforts in the 100 meters and the 100 meters hurdles.

The U.S. team is a huge favorite in Sunday's relay finals. With Devers blasting past Jamaica's Juliet Campbell on the anchor leg, the Americans won their semifinal heat Saturday in 42.34 seconds, the fastest time of the year.

But Devers should be forgiven for taking nothing for granted.

"No matter how far you get in life, there is always that last hurdle," she said.

Devers missed a sprint-hurdles double at last year's Olympic Games when she stumbled over the last hurdle while leading in the final. It made for one of the most dramatic moments in Barcelona.

In Stuttgart, the dramatic moments have been positive, like her near-perfect season up to now. If the United States wins the relay, Devers would become the first woman ever to win three gold medals in the World Championships.

She edged Jamaican Merlene Ottey in the 100 by a razor-thin margin, and dominated the hurdles.

But relays can be unpredictable.

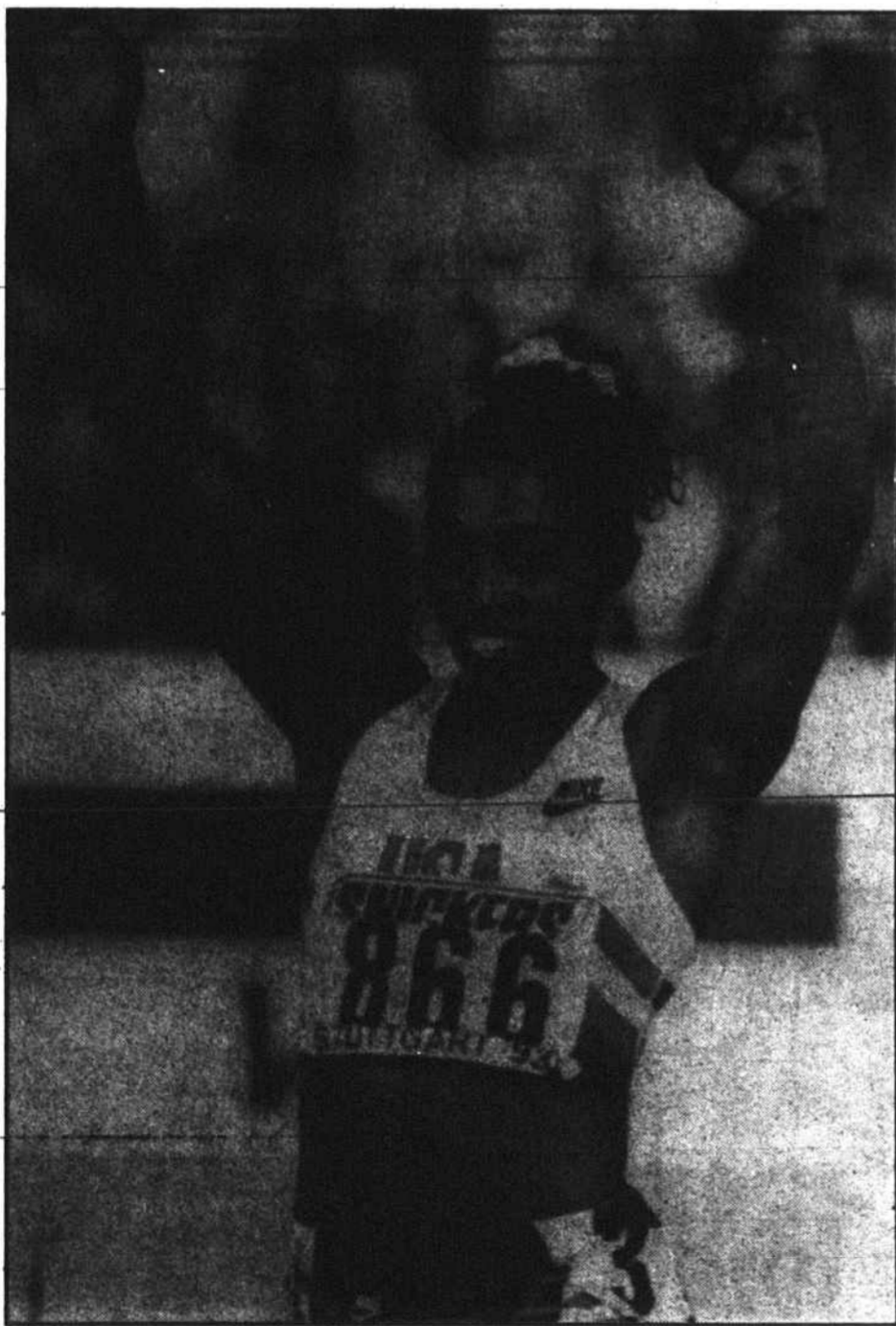
At the last World Championships in Tokyo two years ago, the team dropped the baton in the semi-finals.

Devers is not building up any hopes though, and has been remarkably unemotional after her two gold medals.

"I don't show emotion like most people," she said after winning the hurdles race. "I'm not going to turn backflips or something like that."

"This means a lot to me because of what happened last year. I wanted to come here and conquer that 10th hurdle. This was a long time coming."

She downplays her own record-breaking performances. In the hur-



Gail Devers raises her arms in victory.

dles, she set a new U.S. record of 12.46 seconds, the fastest time this year.

"There is room for improvement. I can still improve my time," she said.

Clinching the double has long been her aim, but matching Fanny Blankers-Koen is beyond her reach. The Dutchwoman also had a sprint hurdles double at the 1948 London Olympics but added the 200 and the sprint relays as well.

"Absolutely not," she said when asked whether she could equal such a feat. She does not enjoy running the 200. Her coach Bob Kersee also said competition programs did not allow for a hurdles-200 double.

"What she has already accom-

plished is amazing for somebody who only three years ago was hobbled by Graves' Disease, a life-threatening thyroid condition.

Her weight would shoot up, her eyes bulged, her head would feel as if someone with spikes was running on her brain. At one stage, doctors considered amputating her feet.

Devers recalled how Wilma Rudolph overcame polio before becoming an Olympic sprint champion.

"All I wanted was for someone to take a chance with me," she said.

Her first training consisted of just walking around the track.

One year later, she won a silver medal at the Tokyo World Championships.

"It comes down to who wants it," she said.



Opening season practice leaves this player a little pooped-out.

WSSU Rams to Play Season Opener

The Rams are anxious and motivated to begin the upcoming football season as they head off dressed in their uniforms of scarlet and white for the first game of the season, against Elizabeth City State University this Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

This will be the beginning of a new era. After being under the direction of Coach "Bighouse" Gaines for many years, the Rams will now be under the direction of new coach Kermit Blount, who, although he is new as the Rams' head coach, is not new to WSSU football.

Blount is very familiar with the team, as he represented the Rams during the 1975-79 seasons.

The Rams lost five key players this season including (LB) Tim Pittman, first team All-CIAA; (DB) Terrence Graves, first team All-CIAA; (LB) Donald Carter; (CB) Torrence Shankle; and (LB) Reggie Richardson, with a total of 15 letterman and seven starters lost.

On the other hand, the Rams had 35 returning letterman and 12 returning starters, with the key returnees Antinio Stevenson (OLB); Kelly Goodman (OL); Rovell McMillian (QB); Richard Huntley (RB); Oronde Gadsden (WR); and Kevin Surratt (DB).

The Rams also added 15 new signees to the team, including two from Winston-Salem: Jason Vanhog



"We (the coaching staff) feel very good about our chances for the 1993 season."

— Kermit Blount

(K) and Otto Gaither (TE) both graduates of Carver High School.

Other new signees include: Juwawn Tune (QB/DB), Richmond, Va.; Kareem Holmes (LB), Darlington, S.C.; Frank Goodman (LB/RB), Charlotte; Carlos Massey (DL), Greenville, S.C.; Frankie Littlejohn (OL), Greenville, S.C.; Brian Milam (DL), Greenville, S.C.; Ron Johnson (OL), Maryland; Randall Carter (DB/WR), Virginia; Shawn Colvin (DB), Greensboro; John Downing (OL), Fayetteville; Mardie Roberts (P/DB), Eden; Anthony Jones (DE), Cleveland Heights, Ohio; and Kevin Bailey (LB), Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

"We (the coaching staff) feel very good about our chances for the 1993 season," said Blount.

"On offense, I felt very well the way they got after it during spring.

The offensive line had to make more adjustments because of our change in offense, but they handled it well," Blount said.

The Rams schedule is as follows: 9/4, Elizabeth City State University, away, 1:30 p.m.; 9/11 N.C. A&T (Ram-Aggie Classic), home, 7 p.m.; 9/18, Howard University, away, 1:30 p.m.; 9/25, Livingston College, away, 1:30 p.m.; 10/2 Fayetteville State University, away, 1:30 p.m.; 10/9, Norfolk State University (Homecoming), home, 1:30 p.m.; 10/16, N.C. Central University, home, 7 p.m.; 10/23, Bowie State University, away, 1 p.m.; 10/30, Johnson C. Smith (Red & White Day), home, 7 p.m.; 11/6, Virginia Union University, away, 1:30 p.m.; and 11/13, Virginia State University, (Youth & Fan Appreciation Day), home, 1:30 p.m.