

Harry Situation

▲ Playing Against One Another Was Nerve Wrecking For Coach and His Son

By JEROME RICHARD
Chronicle Sports Writer

Football coaches and players are notorious for pregame preparation. Tales abound of coaches working 20-hour days preparing for an opponent and then sleeping in their offices, eager to start over again the next day. And it is nothing for players to spend countless hours practicing for an upcoming season or game. But no amount of practice, preparation or planning could have prepared East Forsyth defensive line coach H. B. (Harry) Harris and his son Harry III for what confronted them last Friday night.

Coach Harris had the unenviable task of devising a defensive strategy to stop his son, the starting fullback for the highly-regarded Mount Tabor Spartans. The two men's emotions ran the gamut from exhilaration to worry to relief as

they talked Friday about what they expected that night and again Saturday after it was all over and the Spartans had won 42-20 behind Harry's 118 yards rushing.

"We couldn't stop him or their quarterback", said a groggy Coach Harris Saturday morning, noting that the Mount Tabor quarterback, Daniel Webster, was his son's long-time neighborhood friend and the two played Pop Warner football together. "I remember playing football in the street with them," the coach recalled. "As far as last night's game, we didn't do a good job tackling. We are so young and just not strong enough yet for this level."

Butterflies fluttered in both Harris' stomachs before the game.

"Before the kickoff I did get a little anxious and concerned because a lot of attention had been focused on the situation," Coach

Harris said. "I didn't want Harry to perform badly and embarrass himself, or the family name," he added with a laugh. "After the game started it just became another game, though."

Harry III was more nervous that usual heading into the game as the butterflies felt more the size of birds fluttering in his stomach due to the increased pressure and attention. The glare of the spotlight was intensified because Mount Tabor head coach Bob Sapp used to be a colleague of Coach Harris at East before taking the job at Mount Tabor.

"I was more nervous than usual," Harry III said. "Coach Sapp and my teammates told me to relax, but I wanted to beat East and make my daddy proud."

"Once the game started I forgot he was over there. I never got tackled on their sideline, so I didn't see

him until after the game."

The Spartan running back didn't get tackled much at all, especially in the first half when he gained 110 yards on just six carries.

"As we walked off the field at the half, Coach (Joe Bill) Ellender's wife looked at me with a look like, 'Couldn't you do a better job stopping your son?'" Coach Harris said with a chuckle.

"I thought daddy's defense would hit me and I wouldn't get much yardage, but our offensive line blocked well," Harry III said.

The experience, while unique, is one that Coach Harris doesn't want to repeat any time soon.

"Once a year is enough," he said. "I wouldn't want to do it week in and week out because there is too much pressure, especially for Harry. To be that much of a focal point of their offense as he is and to go against your parent is a lot of pres-



Mount Tabor fullback Harry Harris III (33) battles his dad, Harry, the defensive line coach at East Forsyth, for the football.

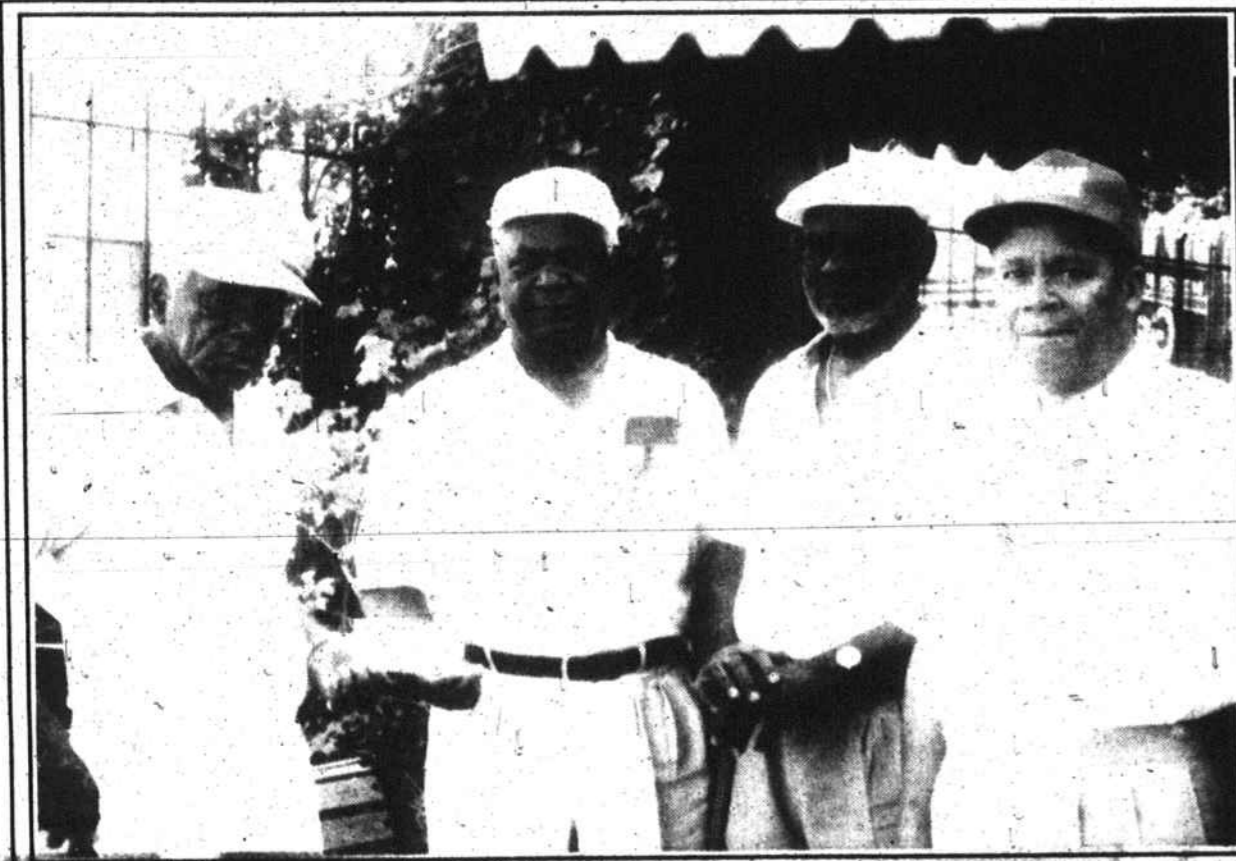
sure. I never had that opportunity as a youngster. As a parent I had a lot of mixed emotions, but I'm glad I had the opportunity.

"To have my son play well and for our team to show improvement was a great blessing for me."

He was also blessed another way. Even though his team got beat

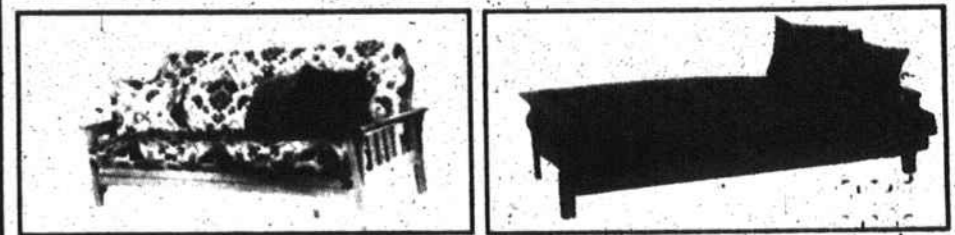
and his defense surrendered 118 yards to Harry III, Coach Harris won the economic battle.

"He had to get 135 yards for me to buy him and his offensive line pizza," the coach said. "Thank goodness they he didn't get the 135 yards because you haven't seen the size of their offensive line."



Officers of the Winston Lake Senior Golf Association presented a \$500 check to the Winston Lake Junior Golf Association's Scholarship and Tutorial Program at the conclusion of the Senior Association's first-ever Member-Guest Tournament. Making the donation are, from left, David Peay, president; Harvey D. Jones, treasurer; Herman Springs, director of youth activities; and Robert Scales, tutor. The team of George Phillips and Harry Transou shot a 57 at Winston Lake Golf Course August 27 to win the Member-Guest Tournament. Coming in second two shots back was Dequincy Currence and C.P. Booker while Bobby Wofford and Chris Ingram won a playoff for third, beating the teams of Lonnie Wellman and Fred Marshall and Harvey Jones and Butch Wheeler. The playoff teams each shot a 62 in regulation.

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