

# SPORTSWEEK

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## Carver Walks to First Victory of the Year

▲ Yellow Jackets work North Forsyth for 33 walks in 25-24 win

By JEROME RICHARD  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Carver High School took a long time, literally, to pick up its first junior varsity softball victory of the season.

The Yellow Jackets walked past North Forsyth 25-24 April 20, working three Viking pitchers for 33 walks, including three in the bottom of the seventh to force in the winning run, as they broke into the win column for the first time after six consecutive losses.

Carver coach Mike Ferguson decided on the make-them-pitch-to-you strategy early in the game when he saw North was having problems getting the ball over for strikes. His

strategy paid off in the Yellow Jackets' first win of the year in a three-hour walk-a-thon that began in bright sunshine and ended in the dim light of dusk.

"I was sending our batters up to take the walk. I told them to take two strikes before even thinking about hitting," Ferguson said as the first hints of darkness began to engulf the diamond. Ferguson joked that he hit upon the strategy on the "spur of the moment", but turning serious noted that "when their pitcher started pitching badly I was in the weak part of my lineup and told them to take two strikes before swinging. It paid off and we just stayed with it."

North Forsyth's pitching went south in the first inning when it issued eight walks

leading to six Carver runs. The Yellow Jackets didn't have a hit in the frame and the Vikings committed one error.

North surrendered two walks in each of second and third innings to hold Carver scoreless while getting back in the game with a six-run third, highlighted by Shannon Watson's leadoff triple and an RBI single from Jenny Booth that tied the contest at 6-6.

The game didn't stay knotted long as the Vikings exploded for 11 runs in the fourth, the key hits an RBI single by Kristy Hollingsworth and a two-run single by Watson as the Vikings had five hits and capital-

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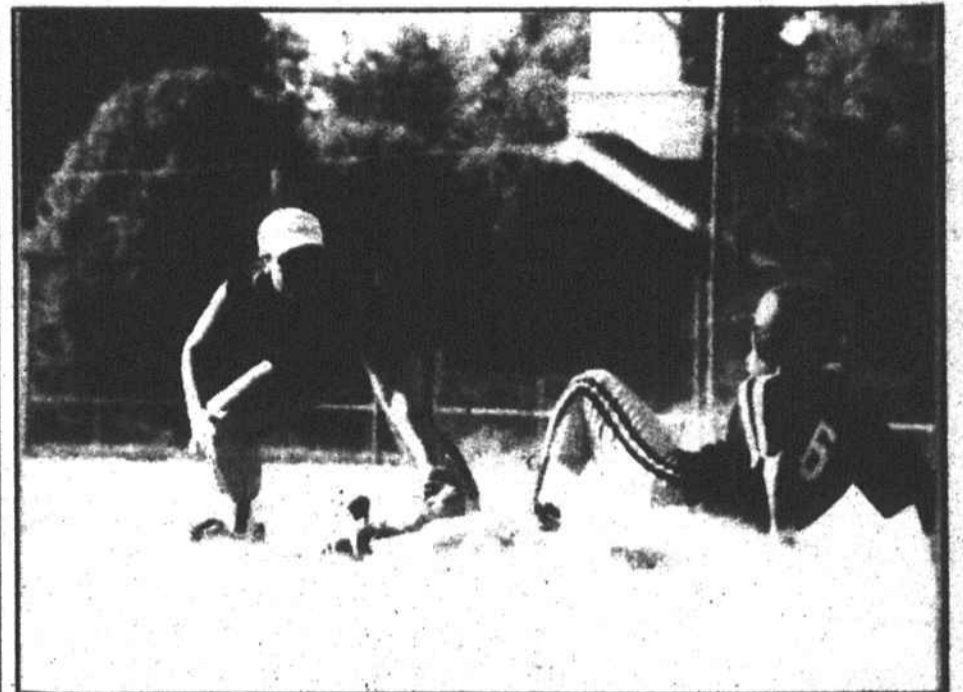


Photo by Laura Markland  
An East Forsyth runner is tagged out during a 24-15 win over Mount Tabor in junior varsity softball April 21. More JV coverage on page 19.

## Black College Trio Chosen in NFL's Opening Round

By JEROME RICHARD  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Three players from historical black colleges, led by Robinson Trophy winner and record-setting quarterback Steve McNair, were selected in the first round of the National Football League draft Sunday April 22.

McNair, a 6-2, 225-pounder from Alcorn State University, was the third player selected, going to Houston after the Cincinnati Bengals chose Penn State running back Ki-Jana Carter with the first pick obtained via a trade with the Carolina Panthers. Tony Boselli of Southern California was the second player selected, tapped by the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars.

Two other players from historical black colleges were chosen in the first round. Linebacker Hugh Douglas of Central State (Ohio) was taken by the New York Jets with the 16th pick and Tyrone Poole, a defensive back from Fort Valley State in Georgia, went to the trade-happy Panthers with the 22nd pick. Carolina traded up to get Poole, giving the Green Bay Packers three picks — the 32nd (last in first round), 65th (third round), and 183rd (sixth round).

McNair was rated the top quarterback in the draft by analyst Mel Kiper Jr., but questions were constantly raised about the level of competition McNair faced at Alcorn State, a Division I-AA school.

The questions were posed despite McNair's third-place finish in voting for the Heisman Trophy and his selection as the inaugural Robinson Trophy winner as the outstanding football player from a historical black college. McNair was also named the top player in Division I-AA and was named the SWAC offensive player of the year an unprecedented four times.

As a senior, he passed for 4,863 yards and 44 touchdowns and rushed for 936 yards and nine TDs. He set the I-AA single-game total offense record with 649 yards against Southern University as a senior.

McNair set the I-AA career mark for passing with 14,496, surpassing the record of Neil Lomax of Portland State, who later played for the St. Louis and Phoenix Cardinals of the NFL. McNair also shattered the total offense record for all NCAA divisions with 16,823 yards, eclipsing the mark set by Brigham Young's Ty Detmer.

Carolina got a double threat in Poole, not only obtaining a quick and speedy defender, but a punt returner who averaged 13.3 yards per return at Fort Valley.

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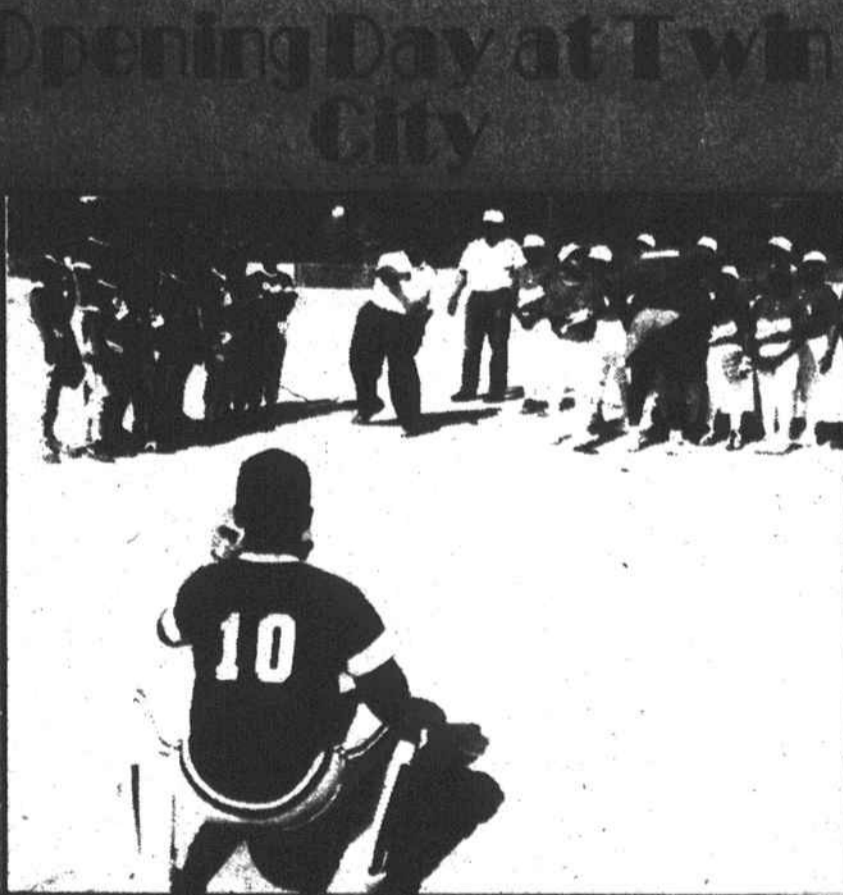
Steve McNair



Joselyn Basing Jr.



Jason Kirby



Brandon Robinson crosses out the first play.



Chavonius Adkins

## New Cats On The Gridiron Prowl

▲ South Fork Panthers begin play this fall as Pop Warner's newest team

By JEROME RICHARD  
Chronicle Sports Editor

The Carolina Panthers won't be the only new cats prowling the football field come autumn.

The NFL's newest team (along with Jacksonville) begins its first season this fall, the same time its namesake South Fork Panthers open their season as the newest member of the Northwest Midget Football League, better known as Pop Warner Football.

"Since we are new and the Carolina Panthers are new, Why not grow together?" South Fork spokeswoman Jo Ellen Crooks

said. "We contacted the Carolina Panthers about using their logo, but it's the property of the NFL. We'll have the Panthers' colors, though. We'll have black pants and white jerseys with electric blue letters and numbers."

The South Fork team fills a hole in the Ardmore area that hasn't had a Pop Warner team in many years, says Crooks.

"There was a team years ago in this area and some of the people that played on it or were involved in other ways felt the area needed a team," Crooks said. "Many of the organizers played years ago and want their

kids to play.

"We'll field a full slate of teams and we'll be on probation until we do. We've filled some of the age groups, but need players for others. I don't think we'll have any trouble filling the teams based on the enthusiasm I've seen. We had kids waiting at 8:30 a.m. the first day of registration, and registration didn't start until 10."

There was some concern among existing teams that a new organization would take players and dilute the talent pool, but Crooks says the Panthers will

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Photo by Melissa Vasquez  
Winston-Salem State University football players unload food at the Good Samaritan Mission. The food was collected at the Rams' annual Red and White spring football game.