Defense provides spark, Carver takes 26-0 win over Glenn

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

Carver's defense put together its best game of the season and the Yellowjackets offense got untracked in the second half in a 26-0 victory over Glenn last Thursday (Sept. 26) at Carver.

The victory helped the Yellowjackets take a 1-0 record in the North Piedmont 4-A Conference. Carver captured the conference championship last season after posting a 6-0 mark.

Coach Mike Pennington said he was happy with the victory in the conference opener.

"I thought there were a lot of things we could have improved upon, but I'm happy to get the first win in the conference," he said. "We did a lot of good things out there, especially on defense. I thought our offense started to come around in the second half and we started to play the way that I think we're capable of playing.

"I thought we really dominated on defense and that set the tone for the game. But our offense has to start stepping up and scoring points when we get ourselves in position.

We can't afford to waste scoring opportunities."

The Yellowjackets defense dominated from the start of the game and gave its offense several opportunities to score after forcing turnovers deep in Bobcats territory. However, Carver's offense had trouble holding onto the ball in the first half.

The defense produced the first touchdown of the game to give the Yellowjackets a 6-0 halftime lead. Eric Banks picked up a fumble after a quarterback sack and rumbled 30 yards into the end zone in the second quarter.

Carver's offense finally got going early in the second half behind the interior running of fullbacks Kevin Vaughan and T.J. Gregg. Gregg had 56 second-half yards rushing after a sluggish start and scored from six yards out to boost the Yellowjackets' lead to 12-0.

Shawn Peoples, who had been bottled up for most of the game, finally broke lose in the third and fourth quarters for the Yellowjackets. Peoples, who came into the game as the team's leading scorer and rusher, finally got into the end zone in the third quarter to increase the Yellowjackets' lead to 18-0. Marcus Gray ran in the two-point conversion to make the score 20-0.

Peoples added the final points of the game on a short run to make the final margin 26-0. Peoples' touchdown increased his total to seven on the season and also allowed him to go over the 100-yard rushing mark for the fifth time. Pennington credited Carver's offensive line - consisting of center J.R. Sturdivant, guards David Dombrowski, Tim Beal and John Lindsey, tackles Quincy Jordan and Tyrone Kirby, and tight end Rod Jones, which provided room for the Yellowjackets' backs to run in the second half.

"I thought our offensive line did a much better job in the second half," Pennington said. "We really weren't coming off the football in the first half. But in the second half we started to get after people and it made a difference."

Coach Eddie Hawley of Glenn said his team played well on defense, but the offense's inability to move the football finally took a toll.

"Offensively we couldn't get anything going," Hawley said.

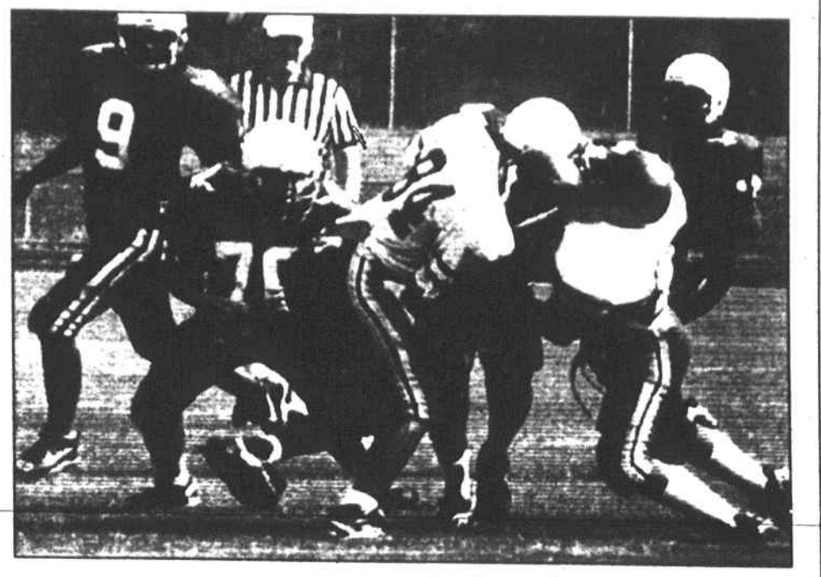

Photo by Reginald Campbell

Eric Banks (84) staked Carver to a 6-0 lead against Glenn when he picked up a fumble and scored the Yellowjackets first touchdown. The Yellowjacket defense helped Carver to its first shutout of the season.

"They kept us putting us in tough situations. "The score is not indicative of how well the defense played. Carver had so many opportunities and eventually they made the most of them."

Melton Hardee, Carver's defensive coordinator said he was proud of his team's effort, particularly after a Yellowjacket turnover gave the Bobcats the football inside the 10-yard line. Carver's defense rose up to keep the Bobcats out of the end zone.

"It was a super effort," Hardee said. "The defense played the kind of game that we've been trying to get them to play all year. Everyone was going to the football. "I think we had them in a scheme that they really didn't know against Mount Tabor (in a 32-16 loss) and we wanted them to get back to their basic defense," Hardee said. "We played a lot of people and everyone came up with strong efforts. Hopefully we can continue to play that well in the last half of the season."

Banks, Leon Moore, Vaughan and the rest of the Yellowjackets' front line controlled the line of scrimmage. Carver also got good play from its linebacking corps and defensive secondary.

"It was a team effort," Hardee said. "Everyone we put out there played well."

The Yellowjackets will be idle this week because Central Davidson's junior varsity program folded. The forfeit victory improves the Yellowjackets' record to 5-1. They will be off until next Thursday (Oct. 10) when they square off against Parkland. "We're going to take some time off and then get back down to our basics," Pennington said. "This comes at a good time for us because we can really spend more time looking at personnel and technique. Hopefully it won't prevent us from being sharp on offense when we play against Parkland."

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Faustina L. Holman
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North Forsyth comes back to take win over Page

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

The start of North Forsyth's junior varsity game last week looked remarkably similar to its two previous games.

The Vikings fell behind Greensboro Page after watching a first-quarter blocked punt turn into a 35-yard touchdown and a 6-0 Page lead.

However, this time the Vikings regrouped at the half and were able to roll to a 26-6 victory in the Metro 4-A Conference opener.

The Vikings, who had dropped consecutive losses, pulled even in the second quarter on Mike Robinson's short touchdown run and put 20 second-half points on the scoreboard to even their record at 2-2.

Coach Gene Bowles of North Forsyth said his team's second-half performance might have salvaged the season.

"That second half could be the turning point in the season," Bowles said. "The game started out the same as we had been playing lately. But after a good, lengthy halftime talk we came out in the second half and controlled the line of scrimmage."

The Vikings' defense continued to play well. North didn't give up any points on defense in their loss to Parkland the previous game. However, the offense's mistakes had cost the team dearly.

"The offense started to put it together," Bowles said.

North controlled the ball on the ground in the third quarter and took a 12-6 lead on Robinson's short run. After the defense held Page again, Kevin McRae hit Trevon Fears with a touchdown pass to increase the Vikings' lead to 18-6.

North Forsyth finished up its scoring in the fourth quarter when Aaron Dixon scored on a short run. The Vikings lined up try for a PAT, but a high snap resulted in Josh Hicks throwing a pass to McRae for a two-point conversion and a 26-6 score.

The defense rose up to stop each Page possession. Bowles said that was no easy task, given the complexity of Page's offensive attack.

"We're really encouraged by the play of our defensive people," Bowles said. "The entire team played well. It took an entire team effort because Page is so versatile on offense - even on the jayvees. They keep a 50-50 run-throw relationship. We had to play the pass and the run and we did a very good job of it."

After shuffling quarterbacks in the first three games of the season North decided to stick with McRae at quarterback. Hicks, who had split time at quarterback, moved to outside linebacker on defense.

"This week we went with Kevin the entire ball game and it helped us in both categories," Bowles said.

"Kevin did a good job of moving the team and Josh had an interception that really helped the defense.

We made the decision since we're trying to be an option team that we need Kevin to be our quarterback because he's a better runner."

Bowles said the victory should help the Vikings as they go deeper into their conference schedule.

"We're in conference play and we feel real good about the progress we're making," he said. "If the kids can carry the momentum from the second half over the rest of the season we're going to be fine. I think they have finally realized they can't make mistakes and be successful on offense."

The Vikings play host to East Forsyth today (Oct. 3) at North. Both teams broke out of losing streaks with conference wins last week.

"It's going to be an interesting ball game," Bowles said. "It's going to be our first time seeing a Wing-T team and that's a particularly tough job on jayvees."

Demons defeat South Rowan 20-8

from B1

Mebane said he was also pleased with the play of David Mitchell, Kalandas Williams and Billy Washington on defense.

"David and Kalandas are doing a super job across the front for us on defense," Mebane said. "They both had big games. Billy Washington is also playing well at outside linebacker. He's just a great athlete, who could probably play seven or eight positions on defense."

Mebane also said he was pleased with the development of his quarterbacks.

"We think we have two very good quarterbacks - both of them can do something well. Whichever is not playing quarterback is playing somewhere else on the football field. They've both been working at this system for only about six weeks. We're going to look at them until the end of the season to see where they are.

"I'm not opposed to having two quarterbacks for the future," Mebane said. "Both have also been filling in at other positions. A.J. played outside linebacker the last couple of games and Dee has been playing free safety."

Mebane the Demons' victory was an important one for his program.

"It was a big one for us," Mebane said. "We need to have success so that the kids will get confidence as we go along. It's going to help us as we go further into the conference season. We want the kids to feel that they can be successful. We've got some good athletes in this program and we want them to experience success early so that they can grow together as a unit. We do very much want to build confidence in our jayvee team. Winning two in a row should give us confidence."

The Demons will play host to North Davidson on Thursday in another Central Piedmont 4-A contest. North Davidson defeated West Forsyth last week in its conference opener.

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