

# Defense sets tone, Carver downs Parkland 38-0

By CHRISTINA McCRAVY  
THE CHRONICLE Sports Intern

Carver's defense made the most of Parkland's mistakes and the Yellowjackets jayvees rolled to a 38-0 victory last Thursday at Deaton-Thompson Stadium.

The Yellowjackets defense forced a Mustang fumble on the first possession of the game and that set the tone for a long night for Parkland's offense.

Carver's defense held Parkland to 10 yards rushing on 20 carries. The Mustangs were nine of 20 for 110 yards passing, but they were picked off twice, including a 72-yard interception return by Wesley Talbert.

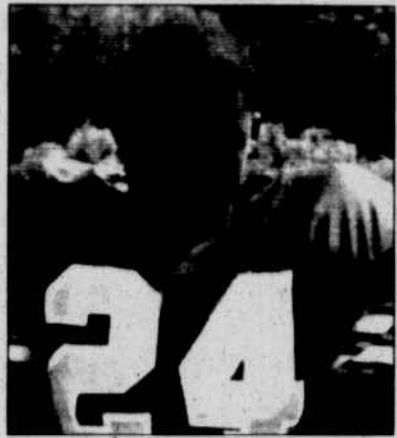
Parkland got 66 of its passing yards on one play after a deflected pass was hauled in by Parrish Rhynehart. But they weren't able to take advantage of it. Being stopped on downs inside the Carver five.

Meanwhile, Carver's offense continued to roll. With halfback Reggie Greer leading the way, the Yellowjackets put together their sixth consecutive 300-yard outing to improve their record to 6-0 overall and 3-0 in the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference.

Green finished the game with 10 carries for 156 yards and a touchdown.

Coach Sam Davis of Carver said defense was the difference.

"I have to give our defense credit," Davis said. "They were determined and focused. They came out ready to play from the opening



David Edwards



Wesley Talbert

whistle. They mad the big plays and gave the offense the ball in excellent field position."

Parkland took the opening kickoff, but was held without any yardage on the first two plays of the game. On third-and-ten Carver sacked Jermaine Tharpe, Parkland's quarterback and took possession on the 23. Four play later Jason Pender scored on a two-yard run and then added the extra point for an 8-0 lead.

The key plays in the drive, which was prolonged by two penalties, were passes by quarterback Coleman Watkins that went for 15 and seven yards. Watkins finished the game six of 11 for 70 yards and a 30-yard touchdown pass to Keegan Haggins. But he left the game with a bruised collarbone in the third quarter.

"Coleman played a strong game for us again," Davis said. "His athletic ability puts a lot of pressure on the opposing defense. If he can't play this week it will be a

blow to us, but we hope that we will have someone step up and take up the slack."

In six games Watkins has completed 42 of 60 passes for 432 yards and nine touchdowns.

Parkland was able to get inside Carver's five-yard-line on its second possession, but went backwards from that point. Tharpe lofted a deep pass that was tipped in the air by a Carver defender. Rhynehart came back to the ball, hauled in it and took it to the four-yard-line.

After two plays resulted in losses, the Mustangs went to the air and David Edwards stepped in front of a Tharpe pass for an interception at the six.

"Edwards has been the key to our defensive turnaround," Davis said of the 5-11, 200-pound middle linebacker. "He's a freshman, but he really has come along and so has the rest of the unit."

Carver added its second score of the game on Parkland's next

possession when freshman outside linebacker Sean Wilkes blocked a punt and Bernard Cain fell on it in the end zone for the touchdown. Watkins scored on an option play to increase Carver's lead to 16-0.

The defense came up with another big play when Talbert stepped in front of a Tharpe pass and sprinted 72 yards for another Carver score and Pender added the extra point for a 24-0 halftime lead.

"Our offense was a little sluggish in the first half," Davis said. "The week off took away our defense because we're so young. All of our linebackers are freshmen and two of our down linemen are freshmen. But they are getting better and better as the season goes along."

Carver's offense got untracked in the second half, driving in for a touchdown on the opening drive. Green scored from seven yards on a trap to make the score 30-0.

Green's outing was his third consecutive 100-yard plus game and pushed his total for the season above 700 yards to go along with seven touchdowns.

"He plays like a veteran," Davis said. "He sets the example on the field with his play. He doesn't say much. He goes out and does his job without doing a lot of talking"

The Yellowjackets will travel to Southwest Guilford tonight (Oct. 23). A victory will clinch the Piedmont Triad 4-A junior varsity championship.

# Blount, Rams eager for win against Johnson C. Smith

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

Winston-Salem State, which came up big last week against Virginia State in a 21-12 victory, is at a crossroad in its season.

The Rams will play two of their final three games on their home turf and could still salvage a winning season.

The Rams have played well in each of their last two games. WSSU outplayed North Carolina Central two weeks ago, but fell to the Eagles by a 30-29 score. Last week they were able to hold the score down on one of the league's most explosive teams.

This week, the Rams get a chance to avenge last season's poor showing at Johnson C. Smith. The Rams will face a Golden Bulls team that is 2-5 overall and has a 1-3 CIAA record. Smith is coming off a disappointing 38-27 loss to Elizabeth City.

Coach Kermit Blount said his team is finally getting its act together. The win over Virginia State was huge, but the Rams can't afford to celebrate too long.

"You don't want to ride the win too long," Blount said. "You want to channel the positive energy into the next game. You want the intensity to stay there."

Tory Woodbury, who has stepped into the starting lineup in the last two games, said the Rams are beginning to play with confidence.

"The win (over Virginia State) boosts our confidence," Woodbury said. "We came in and got the win when we needed it. Now we feel that we can beat anybody if we come to play"

That attitude might become infectious. The Rams played with confidence in their win and even the coaching staff seemed loose, deciding to go for a first down on a key fourth down situation rather than punt.

The big thing this week for WSSU could be avoiding a let-down. The Rams can't afford to

let last week's win go to their heads and forget that they have struggled through the season - especially on the offensive side. WSSU managed only 237 yards of total offense and must work on that figure to be a consistent offensive unit.

Defensively, the Rams have shown that they can stop the opposition if the offense can generate enough productivity to keep them off the field for extended periods of time.

The big challenge for WSSU this week is stopping J.C. Smith tailback Scott Lee, who rushed for 274 yards on 37 carries last week. As Lee goes, so does the Golden Bulls offense.

On the other hand, the Golden Bulls have not been the same defensive unit that they were under Daryl McNeil. New Coach Bill Davis hasn't been able to get the same type production from his defense.

The key in the game could once again be Woodbury. Another big game and the Rams will be on their way to victory, Rams 28-24.

**IS BOWIE STATE FOR REAL?**

The Bulldogs have put together four wins this season after a very shaky start. Bowie is 2-3 in the CIAA after knocking off North Carolina Central 20-14 last week.

Ryan Pigford has given the Bulldogs a legitimate threat at running back and that has boosted Bowie's fortunes. The Bulldogs have also played better on defense than they have in recent seasons.

Fayetteville State, which scored a season-high 38 points last week, will have its hands full with Bowie. The home standing Bulldogs have momentum going and will be hard to beat, Bowie 31-28.

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL HAS LIVINGSTONE for homecoming and that could be a very big mistake. Just two years ago the Blue Bears upset the Eagles in front of a big crowd and NCCU hasn't been

the same since.

Livingstone needs this one if they expect to have a chance at the CIAA championship. Although they stand atop the conference with a 5-0 CIAA mark and 8-0 overall record, an impending investigation into the eligibility of a player will likely result in the loss of two games. But the Blue Bears will still have a chance at the conference championship if they defeat the Eagles

Central will have its hands full with Livingstone's backfield duo of Wilmont Perry and Chris Williams. The Eagles also can't forget about multi-talented quarterback Pernel Wilder. Bears clip the Eagles' wings in this one, 35-21.

ELIZABETH CITY TRAVELS TO NEW HAVEN and the Vikings will be facing one of the better Division II programs in the country. ECSU had some success early in the season but has fallen on hard times in recent games.

The Vikings were dealt a 41-16 loss last week by Livingstone.

ECSU is still struggling to get consistency in its offense. The Vikings are last in the conference in total offense, averaging an anemic 225.3 yards per game. The running game has produced less than 100 yards per game and 2.5 per carry. A long day for the Vikings in Connecticut, 38-14.

VIRGINIA UNION HAS come on strong after an abysmal start and is really beginning to look like the Panthers of old. Last week the Panthers played evenly with Division I-AA Liberty Univ. before dropping a 16-8 loss.

The Panthers' game against Virginia State could be an interesting one because of the rivalry between the two schools and their proximity. This is one of the oldest rivalries in the conference and records can be thrown out whenever the teams get together.

Ironically, the teams are tied with Fayetteville State for third place in the conference with 2-2 CIAA records. The team that loses will be all but eliminated. This could be the biggest upset of the season if Union wins.

However, VSU won't allow that in front of a big home crowd, Trojans 35-28.

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## CIAA This Week

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**WSSU HOMECOMING 1997**



WSSU NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION presents  
**The Manhattans**  
Friday, Oct. 31, 1997  
9 p.m. - 1 a.m. - M.C. Benton Convention Center  
For more information call (910) 750-2125

**Schedule of Events**

**Friday, Oct. 31, 1997**

- 9:45 a.m. Founder's Day Convocation, K.F. Williams Auditorium
- 12:30 p.m. Alumni Achiever's Luncheon, Thompson Center
- 1:30 p.m. Red & White Parade, WSSU Campus
- 9:00 p.m. Alumni Homecoming Ball, Benton Convention Center
- Midnight - 4p.m. Alumni Pre-Dawn Dance, Adam's Mark Hotel East Tower

**Saturday, Nov. 1, 1997**

- 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Alumni Parade Viewing Breakfast, Unique Upstairs
- 10:00 a.m. WSSU Homecoming Parade, Downtown Winston-Salem
- 1:30 p.m. WSSU Homecoming Football Game WSSU Rams vs. ECSU Vikings
- 5:00 p.m. Block Party WSSU Campus
- 10:00 p.m. Old Schoolhouse Party

**Sunday, Nov. 2, 1997**

- 11:00 a.m. Worship Service Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church