

East Forsyth fights from behind, takes 31-20 win over North JV's

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

North Forsyth saw its chances for a conference championship slip through its hands when it dropped a 31-20 decision to East Forsyth last Thursday night.

The home standing Vikings jumped out to an early 20-6 lead only to see one misfortune after another befall them.

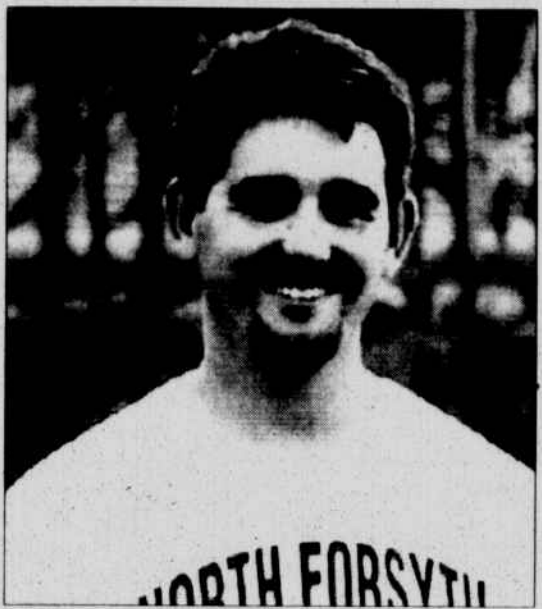
The Vikings took their two-touchdown advantage after David Eldridge, Eugene Collins and Justin Masencup scored first half touchdowns.

But it was all down hill for the Vikings from that point.

The Eagles got back into the game after mounting a late second-quarter drive. North had suffered their first bad break when Masencup, their leading receiver on offense and a starting defensive back on defense, suffered a broken collarbone on his touchdown reception.

On the Eagles' touchdown pass, North was caught with only 10 men on the field and East capitalize when Jason Brayboy tossed a touchdown to close the gap to 20-12. North committed a turnover when it fumbled the ensuing kickoff and East recovered with 2:30 left in the half. The Eagles used their momentum to mount a 30-yard drive that resulted in another touchdown to cut North's lead to 20-18 at the half.

Coach Gene Bowles of North said his



Mike Muse

team just couldn't regroup to stem the flow.

"It was a game of momentum," Bowles said. "We had things go our way early in the game, but late in the second quarter we started getting ourselves in a bind. After Jason broke his collarbone, we were trying to find the right personnel to put in the game when they hit us with the long pass."

"Although we were still up, we didn't have the momentum. Then when we fumbled the kickoff, with them all fire up and ready to go, it didn't take them long to go 30 yards." East

came out and continue to have the momentum in the second half. The Eagles took a 24-20 lead after they blocked a Viking punt.

But North still had several chances to retake the lead. North saw its best chance at victory slip away when a 54-yard touchdown pass on a trick play was called back.

The Vikings worked their double-pass play to perfection, but were ruled to have only six men on the line of scrimmage. That was the first of two penalties that wiped out North touchdowns.

Bowles said the plays took the wind out of the Vikings' sails.

"Whenever everything's going your way and then turns and goes the other team's way it hurts," Bowles said. "But it was a war. It was a good game with a lot of hard hitting. We just couldn't establish what we wanted to do after the second quarter."

The loss dropped North's record to 5-3 overall and 2-1 in the Metro 4-A Conference. Bowles said the Vikings will try to regroup when they travel to Greensboro Grimsley today (Oct. 30).

"Coach (Mike) Muse did a super job in our post-game meeting," Bowles said. "He told them that sometimes you can work hard and be focused but still something can keep you from obtaining your goals. But you can't quit."

"You've got to go on and do the best you can. You can't always have all the successes. You've got to have some failures too."

Togetherness is key for Tiny Grayhounds Junior Midgets in lopsided 40-6 victory

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

The Tiny Grayhounds Junior Midgets put together another impressive performance to advance to the Sertoma Bowl championship with a 40-6 victory over the Walkertown Wolfpack last Saturday.

The Grayhounds got a well-rounded offensive effort and threw in a stingy defensive effort to keep their unbeaten streak intact. The team improved to 8-0 overall.

Coach Tim Bess' team took an early 6-0 lead on a 50-yard touchdown pass from Monte Purvis to Tory Williams. Jarrick Bines scored on a short touchdown run to increase the Grayhounds lead to 12-6.

The Wolfpack closed the gap to 12-6 when Monte Anthony broke loose for a long touchdown run late in the second quarter. However, that was as close as they came. The Grayhounds extended their lead to 18-6 at the half and then wore down the Wolfpack in the second half.

Bess attributed continuity in the team as its biggest asset. Most of the players on the team were members of the 1996 team, which captured the local championship before winning the national championship in Orlando, Fla.

"We worked for it," Bess said. "Most of the players have been together for four years and we're like a family. They're a good group of kids and they know that we love them."



Rayshawn Jordan hands in a touchdown pass.

While the offense produced most of the points in the game, the defense is the key according to Bess.

"We put in a lot of hard work on defense," Bess said. "We have a lot of players that we can turn to on defense to have a good game every time we come on the field."

Among them are Bines, the team's middle linebacker, defensive end Shea Rousseau and Tim Bess Jr.

Offensively, Purvis, the starting quarterback, is the leader. He's joined by a full-house backfield consisting of Bines, Rousseau and Rayshawn Jordan.

"Offensively, we have been working our game to perfection," Bess said. "We were sharp on offensive from the opening kickoff. Another victory on Saturday will assure the Grayhounds of a slot in post-season championship where they will begin pursuit of another national title."

Livingstone AD says punishment too stiff

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE Sports Editor

Does the punishment that Livingstone must face for using an ineligible player fit the crime?

Clifton Huff, Livingstone's athletic director, doesn't think so. Huff said CIAA league officials should have been more lenient, once it weighed all of the factors.

In an exclusive interview with The Chronicle recently, Huff said the school is being singled out for the infraction. Huff stated that his office made an "honest" mistake when it made a decision on a student-athlete's eligibility.

"It was a paperwork error," Huff said. "The player was certified under a rule that we thought he could be certified. We had sent out a transfer tracer and we didn't get it back until after the second game. When the tracer came back, after lopsided victories over Virginia Union and Bowie State, it showed that the player was ineligible."

"At that point we realized that he wouldn't be eligible under the one-time transfer rule and

we declared him ineligible," Huff said. "That's how we found out we had made a mistake."

Livingstone immediately reported the infraction to the league office and to the NCAA. It also began an internal audit of the entire situation surrounding the student-athlete's participation.

"The player was not an impact player and probably would not have been noticed if we had not reported it ourselves," Huff said. "We felt that it was a matter of integrity. Coach (Rudy Abrams) was up front about it and said he wanted to make sure we reported it." Huff said he thought the CIAA office would have considered the nature of the infraction and made a ruling based on the fact that Livingstone made an "honest" mistake.

"By reporting it ourselves, we put ourselves at their mercy," Huff said. "We made the announcement and sent it to the NCAA. They have the right to go for blood if they want to go for blood."

Leon Kerry, the CIAA Commissioner said last week that the league would announce sanctions against Livingstone if the Blue Bears

didn't voluntary forfeit the victories over Virginia Union and Bowie State.

Huff said the Blue Bears football team has accepted the impending forfeits well. Livingstone, which was ranked No. 14 in Division II last week, defeated North Carolina Central last Saturday to improve to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the conference. The Bears will be 7-2 and 4-2 after they are forced to forfeit the wins.

"The players have responded well," Huff said. "They have responded optimistically. We have a great senior class and they've been through a lot. They take nothing for granted. But this season will not be complete without a championship."

If it doesn't happen, Huff said the football team's affect on the Livingstone campus has been considerable.

"They have been a class act on the football field and on the campus," he said. "They don't have the big-head and their winning has inspired all of our other athletic teams. They're good kids and the kind of people you can build a program upon."

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