

GREEN

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sees the defender he's never going to get a solid hit on him."

Still Green saw little playing time in the Yellowjackets' first two games. He was second on the depth chart at right halfback and Allan Pinkney, the starter, had three touchdowns in the first two games. After the Yellowjackets' second victory, Pinkney was called up the varsity.

That gave Green the chance he needed to get more repetitions in practice and in games.

By mid-season Green had planted himself firmly in the Yellowjackets' attack. He went on to several 100 yard games. Carver, which began the 1996 season with a 3-0 record, fell into a rut midway through the season. But they pulled themselves out in time to post a 7-3 record and a second place finish in the conference.

Green saved his best game for the Yellowjackets' season finale against High Point Andrews. In that game, he nearly single-handedly lifted the team to a come-from-behind victory. He rushed for more than 150 yards in that game and caught passes for another 85 yards, including a 58-yard, over-the-shoulder reception, that led to the winning score.

"I knew then that he had a chance to be a special athlete on the jayvee level," Davis says. "He just went out and left everything he had on the field. Lesser players might have packed it in after we got behind, but he played harder and the rest of the team fed on his energy."

When the season ended Davis and the Carver coaches put Green on a weight program to add size, strength and speed. It paid dividends.

Pound for pound Green is one of the Yellowjackets' jayvees

strongest players. He got his max on the bench press up from 135 to more than 225 pounds. He also built up his leg with a regular regimen of squats and leg presses and went into the season with a max of 400.

Now another dilemma presents itself. Where will Green play for the Yellowjackets next season. He'll go into the season second on the depth chart behind Tyre Kirby and Tauric Rice at left and right halfback, respectively. Those two are among the state's mostly highly recruited running backs.

"I don't expect him to beat either of them out for a position," Davis says. "That's asking too much. But I do think he'll get some snaps next season. He won't complain about his situation - I think he'll go out and get better. If he can add another 15 pounds and continue to get faster he'll be an impact player on the varsity level."

ALL-COUNTY

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West Forsyth came as far during the season as any program in the county, largely thanks to the running of tailback **Anthony Butler**. Butler rushed for 1,269 yards and scored 16 touchdowns on 149 carries. His key blocker was **Daniel Bradshaw**. The key for the Titans on defense was inside linebacker **Travis Hunter**.

Reynolds' triple-option offensive attack began with fullback **Stephon McMillian**. McMillian rushed for 878 yards on 133 carries and scored eight touchdowns. His leading blocker was **John Hopper**, a 6-1, 290-pound sophomore. Defensively, **Mike Jones** was a terror from his nose guard position. He finished the season with

38 solo tackles, 32 assists, caused two fumbles, had five sacks and four fumble recoveries.

North Forsyth utilized its running and passing game behind the play of **David Elderidge**. Elderidge got support from tailback **Cedric Hooper**, who was the team's leading rusher and receiver **Justin Masencup**. Hooper tallied eight touchdowns and Masencup had three touchdown receptions and caught eight two-point conversions.

Steven McCall of Parkland was the team's most dependable player. McCall went both ways, but excelled on defense. He often led the way for tailback/utility man **Chris Coleman**. Coleman had five games with more than 100 yards rushing. Defensively, **Monte Stanback** was the Mustangs'

leader. **Mike Hromdka** was East Forsyth's most efficient player. Hromdka rushed for 900 yards and nine touchdowns from his fullback position and also was second on the team in tackles from his linebacker slot. **Jayson Brayboy** started the season with the Eagles' varsity but came down to the jayvees at the start of the conference season. His experience helped the team to a share of the conference title. Diminutive, strong safety **Nathan Turner** (5-4, 120) was the heart and soul of the defense.

Glenn's top performer was **Kenny Faulkner**. Faulkner started on offense at tackle, but also played a lot of valuable minutes on defense where he was a stand-out.

City-County JV

Carver
DL Dexter Williams
DB Scott Stewart
FB Jason Pender

OT Brad Tesh
QB Jeremy Tharpe
LB Scott Lumley
DE A.J. Brooks

RB KeJuan West

West Forsyth
QB Steve Harrison
OL Vaughn Jennings
FS A.J. Hawkins
LB Adam Reganthal
OLB Zack Hinnant

Glenn
DE Travis Brown
LB Tony Myers

Reynolds
LB Robert Cross
DE Dee Tate
OL Chris Boyd

East Forsyth
RB Lamont Young
S Ronald McRae

Mount Tabor
WR Rashaan Ingram
RB Tremaine Kapp
OL Court Boughton
LB Willie Damon
DE Justin Grogan

North Forsyth
FB Lance Searcy
DE Quinton Cox
CB Eugene Collins

Parkland



POISE

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also played a key role on his AAU basketball team.

Several of his basketball teammates realized his athletic ability and tried to convince Watkins to give football a try. After a little tugging, Watkins decided to go out.

It proved to be a wise move. "Coleman was a natural," says Sam Davis, Carver's coach. "From the first day he walked on the football field there was no question that he would be the starting quarterback."

The Wing-T offense, with its intricate terminology, numbering system and multi-faceted attack, was a challenge.

"It shows what kind of intelligence he has," Davis says. "To pick up an offense as complicated as the Wing-T is difficult. For him to pick it up in such a short time and be able to execute it says a lot."

The situation going into the season was compounded by the fact that Carver didn't have a scrimmage. So Watkins' first experience of the season came in the Yellowjackets' season opener at North Forsyth.

Carver had possession of the football first. North came out in a 9-man line to stop the Yellowjackets' rushing attack. But on the third play of the game Watkins faked the ball on the buck sweep and hit Keegan Haggins on a waggie pass. Haggins went 62 yards for a score to put Carver up 6-0.

On the next possession, North seemingly had Watkins sacked in the backfield for a loss on third down. But Watkins broke free and then sprinted 45 yards to put the Yellowjackets inside North's 20.

Two plays later, Watkins hit Mike Pitts on a 17-yard touchdown pass for a 12-0 lead. Watkins later tossed a 21-yard touchdown pass to Silas Pressley to give him three touchdown passes in his first game ever. He finished the game seven of 10 for 158 yards. Carver went on to a 36-32 victory to get their undefeated season underway.

"That game set the tone for our whole season," Davis says. "We had a lot of kids who were unsure of what high school football was all about. That game gave them the confidence they needed to be successful."

Watkins never wavered the rest of the season. He came up with big play after big play to bail the

Yellowjackets out of trouble every time they needed it.

By the mid-point of the season, Watkins had such a firm grasp of the offense that he often suggested plays in key situations.

"It got to the point that Coleman and I were thinking on the same page," Davis says. "He began to understand the Wing-T offense and how one play sets up another."

"A good example was in the Dudley game. I called a timeout fourth down. By the time I got out on the field Coleman had figured out what we needed to do. So I let him go with it. It worked out, the kids had confidence in what he was doing and so did I."

With that type of confidence, Davis says Watkins can make an impact on the varsity level.

"You have a kid ahead of him that's an all-conference player," Davis says. "So of course you don't expect Coleman to take his job. But Coleman has enough ability to come in on certain situations and play. He may not have the best throwing arm, but he finds a way to get the ball to the open man. When you complete more than 70 percent of your throws that's saying something. Some people don't do that well against air."

ELDERIDGE

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most dominant players his team played against. The Vikings were one of only three teams to defeat the Titans during the season.

"He did stand out," Hayes says. "Their defensive ends were really outstanding. He did a good job against us. I thought that he was the kind of dominating player who could lead a defensive team."

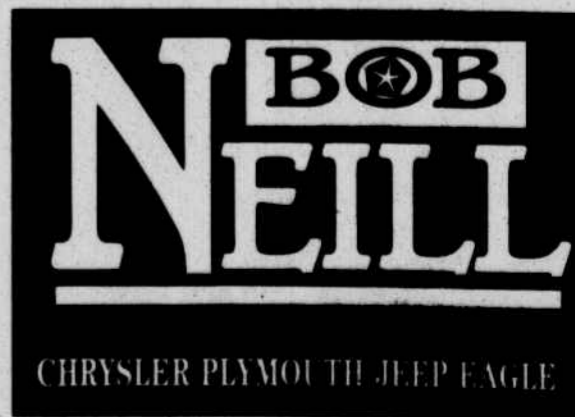
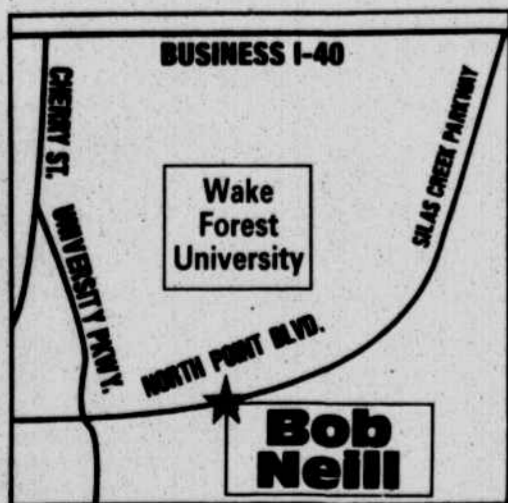
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