

# Speedy backs lead High Point Central

By DAMON FORD  
THE CHRONICLE

High Point Central football coach Gary Whitman has three reasons to smile when he thinks about the upcoming season.

The return of quarterback Rashad Stevenson, tailback Chuckie Reed and fullback Ricky Haywood are the reasons for his giddiness.

These three seniors lead an explosive offense that returns nine starters.

Last season Haywood led the ground attack with 1,087 yards. Reed collected 522 yards, averaging 10 yards per carry and caught a few passes for 533 yards. Stevenson threw for 975 yards and ran for 719.

Altogether the three speedsters accounted for 3,303 total team yards and 34 touchdowns in leading this team to a 10-2 record and second round birth in the playoffs in 1997.

Whitman doesn't see any reason why his team can't build on that success this year.



Rashad Stevenson passed for 975 yards and rushed for 719 as a sophomore last season. Photos by Bruce Chapman

"We return a lot of experienced kids so we're very optimistic," he said. "If our kids listen and do what we tell them to do we should do well."

But the coach is not relying on his offense to carry his team in 1998, he knows their defense must step up to the challenge.

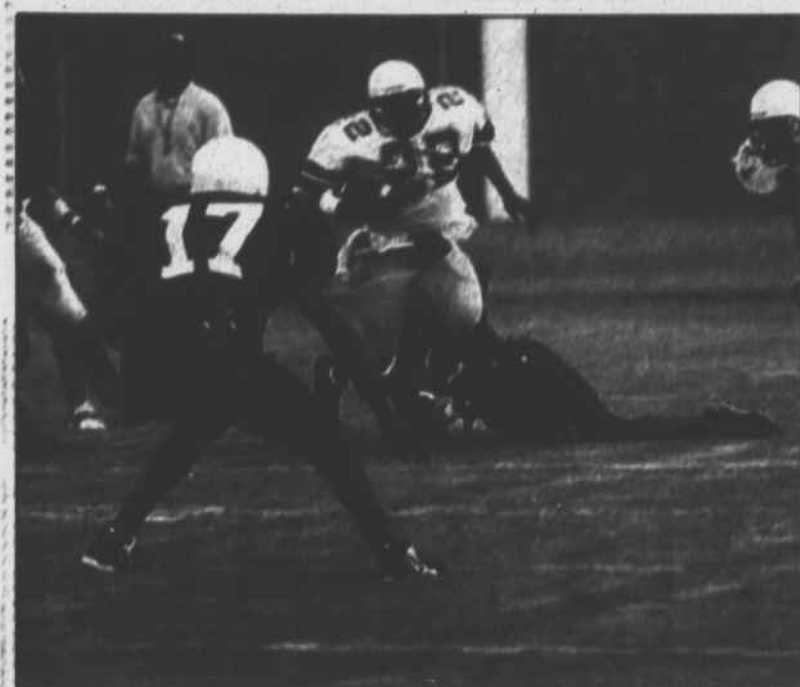
"That's going to be a key area," Whitman said. "We've got a couple of holes to fill there."

Antoine Bailey and all-conference performer Calvin Humphrey return in the secondary to lead the defensive attack. Whitman has also moved Daniel Rothrock, an all-conference offensive lineman, to the other side of the ball to add a little more experience on the defensive line.

"If you're a good football team, you have a good defense," he said.

The Bison will have their hands full playing in the Central Carolina 2-A Conference. Whitman says his team shouldn't think too highly of themselves since the other teams should be improved.

"I hope not, usually that's a sign of overconfidence," he said. "I think most of the teams in the league are going to be better. We've had a good preseason. The kids have worked well."



Chuckie Reed is one of the state's fastest running backs.

# Parkland hopes for a major turnaround in '98 with host of experienced veterans returning

By THERESA DAVIS  
FOR THE CHRONICLE

With last year's record of 1-9 as a backdrop, Coach Bernard Faulk of Parkland realizes that there's nowhere but up for his Mustangs to go this season.

It is with a sober mind that Faulk looks at his team's plight during the 1997 season. Take away five plays from the season and Parkland would have enjoyed a winning season.

But unfortunately for the Mustangs, whatever could go wrong did go wrong for them. This time out, however, they are looking for a reverse in their fortunes.

The Mustangs had 34 players turn out for the team this year, 10 of whom are starters from a year ago. Those numbers compare very favorably with recent Mustang teams.

The most impressive part of that is the fact that eight starters return on offense.

If the Mustangs plan to fare well when they get the season underway, it will be because of two horses that Faulk hopes to ride, tailback Brandon Isaiah and quarterback Clifford Crawford.

"I feel good that I have an experienced quarterback (Craw-



Clifford Crawford's leadership is vital to Parkland's chances. Photos by Bruce Chapman

abb, Derrick Stevens and Tim Bristow back on offense.

"Compared to past years our line is bigger, faster and stronger, that is something that will help us along the way," Faulk said. "I do plan to run Isaiah, but we will take what ever the other team gives us."

"We have eight players on offense that are returning starters," Faulk said. "They are Clifford Crawford, Brandon Isaiah, Julius Davis, another lineman Edward McNabb, Derrick Stevens and Tim Bristow."

"We also have 6 returning defense," he said. "They are Lamont Wilson, James Taylor, Camden Banner, Kenny Crosby, Tim Bristow and McNabb. We plan to do nothing different with our defense this season."

This year they had 34 players come out, 10 of them being returning starters. This is a very good turn out for the Varsity team compared to past years.

"We plan to do nothing different with our defense this season," Faulk added. "This year Lamont Wilson, and Scott Lumley are our defensive leaders. We have a lot of seniors this year and that is what makes us so experienced as a team."

Faulk thinks his team has a realistic chance of making it to the playoffs. But to do so the Mustangs will have to go through several teams which are favored to be the tops in the conference.

"What will determine the success for this season would be if we stay injury-free," he said.



Tim Bristow will give the Mustangs speed to the outside.

ford) on the team, and that will help us on our offense because he is not only our quarterback but he is one of our team leaders," Faulk said.

Isaiah, a big burly tailback (6-1, 200) rushed for over 1,100 yards last season. This season the Mustangs will put a fullback in front of him and throw less in the "Run-and-Shoot" offense.

In addition to Crawford, Wilson and Isaiah, the Mustangs have Julius Davis, Edward McN-



Brandon Isaiah

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