

# SPORTS WEEK

## Members of Yellowjackets' 3-A State Championship sign grants

By THERESA DAVIS  
For THE CHRONICLE

Last Wednesday (Feb. 3) was a big day for seven members of Carver's State 3-A Football Championship team.

It was on the day that Jamel Jackson, Courtney Weaks, Leon Moore, Dwayne Little, Tauric Rice, Adrian McCloud, and Tyree Kirby all officially signed football scholarships with the schools of their choice.

All the parents seemed to be really thrilled about the choices their sons have made as far as furthering their scholastic and athletic careers.

James Jackson, father of

wide receiver Jamel Jackson, said: "If it is going to further his education, I am all for it."

Jamile's mother, Tanya Jackson, added: "It is going to be a long ride, but he is happy about it so, I am behind him one-hundred percent."

Irene Weaks, Courtney Weaks' mother said she couldn't be happier to see her son sign with Winston-Salem State. That is the college she wanted him to attend and by it being so close to home, it will be easy to see him when they have home games.

Mrs. Weaks, along with her husband Jerry Weaks, said they are very proud of the accomplishments their son has made in

both academics and sports.

"I am very happy, that's all I can say" Irene Weaks said.

Sandra Moore, the mother of Leon Moore, said: "I think he did a great job in deciding where he needed to go, and I back him up in the choice he made."

Moore, who played on the Shrine Bowl team, had several ACC teams including Clemson in hot pursuit of him. However, he decided to cast his lot with Appalachian after a recent visit.

Dwayne Little, Carver's leading tackler from his linebacker position, signed with Hampton Univ.



Members of Carver's 1999 recruiting class join Coach Keith Wilkes at their signing. (l to r) Tyree Kirby, Dwayne Little, Jamile Jackson, Tauric Rice, Courtney Weaks, Leon Moore and Adrian McCloud.

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From The Press Box

Sam Davis

## Chalk one up for Wake's Caldwell

A level playing field is all that most African American coaches say they want. And for good reason.

Whether it's on the high school, college or professional level, equal opportunity is still far away for minority coaches.

When you look at it as a whole, you'll see the existence of the same "good ole' boy" network that prevented minorities from advancing to the top of many fields of endeavor many years ago.

While other occupations have changed, coaching still has its deep-seated, racist roots. No matter how far one seems to rise in the profession, you'll still see those antiquated ways rearing their ugly head.

That point was accentuated and brought close to home recently. At a time when Coach Jim Caldwell should have been receiving kudos for coming through with the biggest coup of his seven recruiting years at Wake Forest, he was unduly dragged through mud.

It should have been one of the highlights of his career, to this point, when it was announced that Caldwell had landed C.J. Leak, one of the nation's top high school quarterbacks.

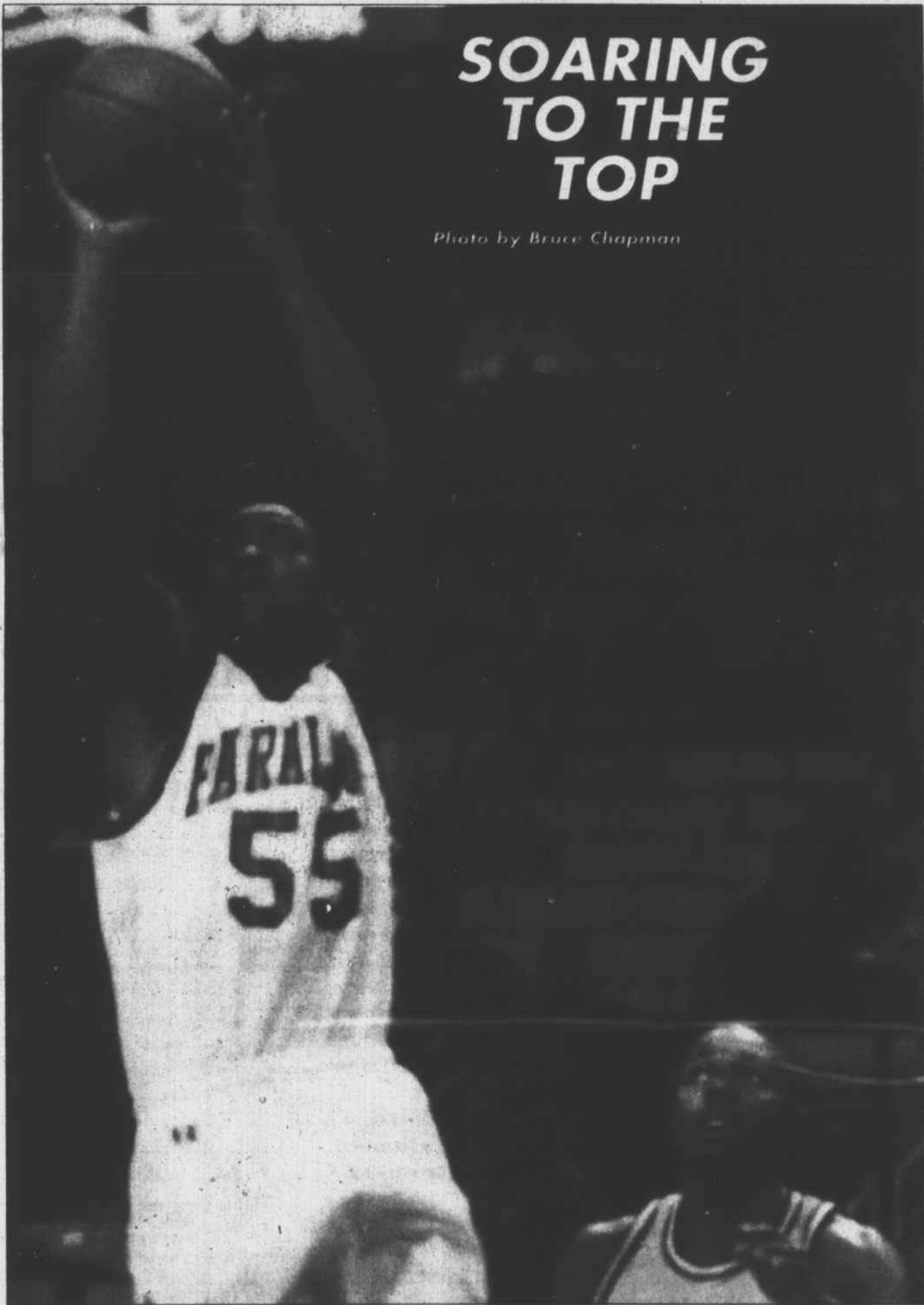
But instead of recruiting analysts jumping on his bandwagon and giving him credit for an outstanding job, they instead turned their attention to Leak and lambasted him for signing with the Deacons.

That is a shame. Even Leak's high school coach, Randy Jester, joined in the act. Jester, whose team benefited from Leak's vast ability, didn't have anything positive to say about his prize pupil's decision.

According to a quote in a local media outlet, Jester is reported to have expressed his dissatisfaction with the way the whole situation was carried out because he was left out of it.

"Did I have hopes of C.J. going to Notre Dame or Penn State?" Jester was reported to have asked, rhetorically. "Yes I did. Did I

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## SOARING TO THE TOP

Photo by Bruce Chapman

## Pennington, Mustangs fit pieces of season's puzzle snugly together

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Mike Pennington knew he faced a tough challenge when he accepted the head basketball coaching position at Parkland nearly two years ago.

The once-proud program was coming off a season in which it had posted a 5-19. Morale was low and it appeared that things would get worse before they got better. That looked to be especially true when Pennington's team lost its first six games of the 1997-98 season.

The team, however, did an about-face and righted itself quickly. The Mustangs finished third in the Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference last year and landed a position in the state playoffs.

It's been all down hill since then. Last Friday night, when the Mustangs defeated Carver by a 74-60 score, Parkland capped a remarkable jump from worst to first place in the conference.

"If you had told me 18 months ago that we would be 20-1 and have a chance to win the conference championship, I would have said someone is crazy."

The key for the Mustangs was putting all the pieces of the puzzle together to make a top-flight high school team. The Mustangs, who improved to 20-1 with their win and are ranked No. 2 in the Northwest Coaches Poll, already had a team leader in point guard Clifford Crawford.

Crawford, a 6-3 senior, recently signed a basketball grant to attend North Carolina State. Many recruiting analysts rate him as the No. 1 point guard in the state.

However, his talents were raw when Pennington arrived. Although he displayed tremendous offensive skills from the outset, his defensive skills were lacking. It didn't take Pennington long to bring those up to par. The Mustangs bought into Pennington's system from the start and despite losing their first six games they never wavered in their enthusiasm. That helped them get past the rough start to their 1997-98 season. After finding their confidence, they went on a roll and finished the season in third place in the conference.

In addition to getting scoring and leadership from Crawford, they had several other players that stepped up when needed. They included 6-7 center Brandon Bowman, pivotman Lamont Wilson, guard Curtis Barnett and Brandon Isaiah, whose slashing moves to the basket jump-starts the offense when it becomes sluggish.

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## Local players ink scholarships

By SAM DAVIS  
THE CHRONICLE

Art Brown of Mount Tabor joined crosstown rival Angelo Crowell of North Forsyth in the 1999 recruiting class at the Univ. of Virginia when he signed an athletic grant to play for the Cavaliers last week.

Brown and Crowell were two of the members of one of the biggest local recruiting classes in several years. Crowell announced his intentions more than two weeks ago. He chose to follow in the footsteps of his brother Germaine Crowell, who was an All-ACC performer at wide receiver for the Cavaliers.

Crowell was a three-time all-conference pick for the Vikings at linebacker and also started his final two seasons at tailback for North. Crowell was the leading tackler in the Shrine Bowl as North Carolina took a victory over South Carolina.

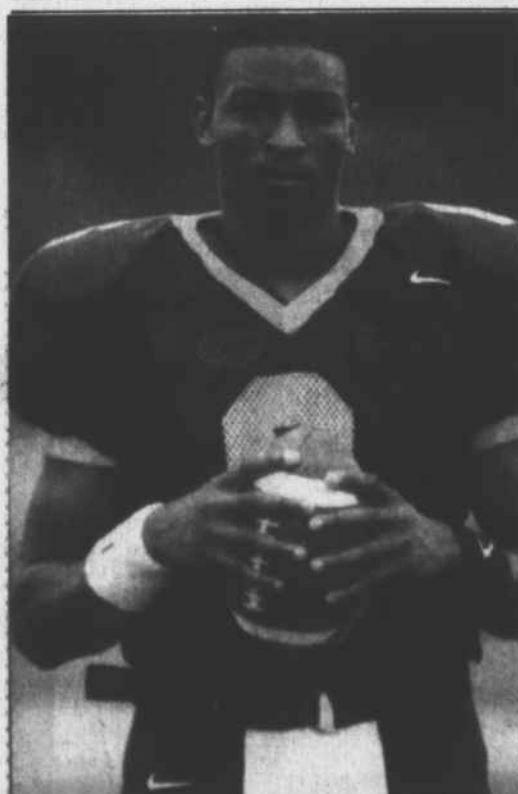
Brown was also a member of the

Shrine Bowl team. He became Mount Tabor's career rushing leader after leading the Spartans in that category in four consecutive years. As a senior he rushed for more than 1900 yards and 31 touchdowns as the Spartans advanced to the 4-A Western Division finals.

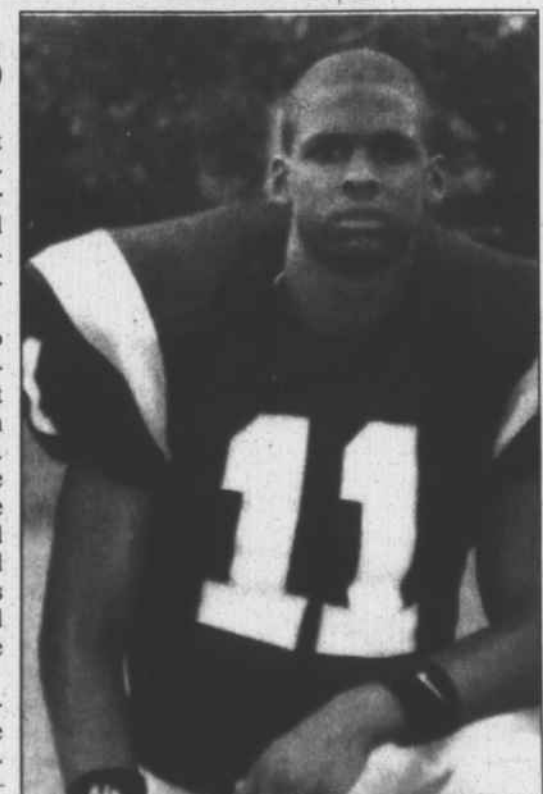
Brown had several other classmates to sign scholarships last week. They included defensive back/kick return specialist Walter Hauser, quarterback Brian Gaither and linebacker Sam Smalls. Hauser, who last weekend captured the state indoor track championship in the 300-meter dash, signed with Howard Univ. Gaither and Smalls both inked pacts with Western Carolina. Gaither was Mount Tabor's quarterback and passed for more than 1,500 yards. Smalls was the team's leading tackler.

Western Carolina was another program that benefited significantly from the local talent in Winston-Salem. The Cata-

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Brian Gaither



Rodmond Dunlap



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