

# College Bound!

Art Brown (right), Walter Hauser (bottom left) and Angelo Crowell signed scholarships last week.



## Players

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mounts also signed Rodmond Dunlap of Reynolds, who was named to the AP All-State team during the 1998 season. Dunlap

led Reynolds in tackles for four consecutive years and set a record for number of starts for the Demons.

Other signees included Lamont Wilson of Parkland, who signed with North Carolina

A&T, Wilson was an all-conference defensive lineman for the Mustangs and also played in their offensive backfield as the lead back for record-setting tailback Brandon Isaiah.

## Parkland

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With those players providing the firepower, the Mustangs' future was bright headed into this season. It got even brighter when Danny Gathings decided to leave East Forsyth and play with Crawford, his teammate in AAU basketball last summer.

Gathings was the missing piece of the puzzle. With him in the lineup, the Mustangs have operated like a well-oiled machine. Although they've had bumps and bruises, scrapes and other mishaps, they have played like one of the favorites to make it to Chapel Hill for the State 3-A title.

Only a loss to Reynolds in the finals of the Frank Spencer Classic separates the team from an undefeated record. Not that they haven't been tested. Friday's battle against Carver was one case in point. Despite illness and playing in front of a hostile crowd, Parkland was able to come away victorious. The Mustangs were hit hard by illness

in the week, but the players still came through to earn the victory.

"We talk a lot about things like that," Pennington said. "The kids have worked hard and they're still learning how to win."

Although several of the starters were sick, the Mustangs' reserves came through with key performances off the bench. They included Camden Banner, Bill Fulton, Isaiah and Eric Islar.

Banner burned the Yellowjackets with three key 3-pointers. Carver had made a run at the Mustangs and had the lead cut to 51-46 with three minutes remaining in the third quarter.

"Those are the things you have to do when you're in a tough game," Pennington said. "I knew Carver wasn't going to quit and it wasn't going to be an easy game for us."

After clinching the league championship, Pennington said his team has to keep its focus as it goes down the stretch toward the conference tournament and the playoffs.

## Press Box

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have hopes of him playing on a national championship team? Yes, I did. Did I have hopes that he would be a Heisman Trophy winner? Yes, I did. Are all those things gone? Probably so. Yeah, I am upset. But did I have any input? No, I didn't."

There are several things about Jester's comments that are disconcerting. The first is: "shouldn't a student-athlete's interests be paramount in his or her decision to attend the college of his or her choice?" Or should high school coaches steer their athletes one way or another? If so, is that fair to the athlete or to the athlete's parents?

But even more important, for the sake of this argument, is the reason for Jester's disappointment. Part of it appeared to be Jester venting his frustrations because he felt Leak's future would be jeopardized by attending Wake Forest. But a lot of Jester's frustrations seemed to come to the surface because his reputation as a coach would be furthered by having sent a player to Notre Dame or Penn State?

From the comments he made, it appears that it was Jester's desire to see Leak in an established, "big-time" college program. Because he chose Wake Forest instead of a program with a more impressive national reputation, Jester became upset.

And that is what African Americans should consider in

this case. Far too often the personal needs or desires of our youngsters are overlooked. Leak's father wanted his son to be close to home so he could watch practice and spend time with him. The elder Leak also wanted his son to build a relationship with a coach who could serve as a role model and mentor.

In Caldwell, he chose someone whose talent and ability transcends race. Nevertheless, Caldwell is someone who can still identify with the plight of African Americans because of shared experiences. That counts for something.

If you don't believe that, just ask Notre Dame, which went home empty handed last Wednesday after Leak announced his decision.

Wednesday after Leak announced his decision.



Coach Caldwell



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## Signing Day

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Little's mother, Astria Thomas, said it was a day that the two had longed awaited. "I feel good about the choice Dwayne made," she said. "I think it is a good school and has a good history. I think he will do very well when he gets there."  
Tauric Rice had announced a commitment earlier to join Little at Hampton. However, he made a last-minute switch to Howard University. Howard made a big push to sign Rice at the last minute and he decided on the night before signing day that we would make the move. "I feel I have a better opportunity at Howard and I feel the

academics are a little better," he said. "I also have a lot of relatives in that area."  
Tauric, the son of Ellis and Hedy Rice, never played in a losing conference game at Carver.  
His father said he was pleased with Tauric's choice. "I feel fantastic," he said. "I am very thankful that he is getting this opportunity."  
McCloud will have an opportunity to play against Jackson, Rice and Little when their teams take the field in the MEAC. McCloud signed with South Carolina State.  
McCloud's father and mother, Worth and Jacalyn McCloud, accompanied him to the signing. He said it was an important day in their lives.

"I feel great," Worth McCloud said. One of the goals in my life has been accomplished. I have my son signing a scholarship to one college and my daughter is in another.  
Kirby, also signed to play at an MEAC, choosing North Carolina A&T. Kirby, the son of Diane Kirby, led the Yellowjackets in rushing in consecutive seasons. He was highly recruited because of his outstanding speed. He was one of the top finishers in the state 3-A track championship last spring.  
His mother said she looks forward to seeing him play in college.  
"I am glad he chose to go to North Carolina A&T," Ms. Kirby stated.

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Joseph Davis - Member of St. John's Lodge will speak on the history of Prince Hall Free Masonry  
Mike Taylor & Donna Fogle - Sales Representatives, Norwest Mortgage will speak on financing programs for First Time Home Buyers  
J. Ross Geller - Asst. Vice President, Wachovia Bank will speak on Small Business Banking Services  
Agar Thomas - Exec Director, Pre-paid Legal Services will speak on Making Attorneys Affordable  
Dr. Earnest Bradford - Retired College Professor, will speak on A Salute to Black Civil Rights Leaders.  
Calvin Harris - Nutritionist, will speak on the importance of Health & Nutrition  
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