

Reynolds

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also played well, as did Larry Atkinson and Dedrick Carpenter. "James Broyhill did a great job tonight," Mitchell said. "He gave us what we were looking for that was the key to our effort. The game was a real defensive battle."

Carver also had its moments on the defensive side of the football. The Yellowjackets didn't allow the Demons to move into scoring position in the game. Adrian Jones and Johnny Oglesby spearheaded the Yellowjackets' defensive effort up front.

"Defensively, they were doing the same thing to us that we were doing to them," Mitchell said. "I don't think it was a matter of the offensive teams playing that bad. It was a game where the defensive teams took control of the game."

However, the Demons made a couple of key offensive plays to keep the ball away from Anthony and the Yellowjackets.

"Our offense came through when it had to," Mitchell said. "When Joe Corell caught that one dump pass, that was really big for us. But we're expecting that now because he's done it three times."

Reynolds plays host to High



Chris Gray

Photo by Bruce Chapman

Point Andrews on Thursday and Carver begins its Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference season against Western Guilford. The Yellowjack-

ets have won the conference championship in each of their years of competition in the league.

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Likewise, Carver showed why it has one of the top football programs in the state. The Yellowjackets, shaken by a 27-19 loss to perennial 4-A power West Charlotte in their previous game, fought back to take control of the game behind the outstanding play of Lashun Peoples.

The Yellowjackets closed the gap to 17-7 at the half before scoring on their first two drives of the second half to go ahead 21-17 with 5:27 remaining in the third quarter. T.J. Gregg bulled his way to the end zone from the 20, and Jason Brayboy gave Carver a two-point conversion on an option run for the Yellowjackets' first lead of the game.

Lesser teams might have folded after seeing their big lead disappear, especially against a power like Carver. But not the Demons; head coach (Alex Mebane) and none of his players had ever earned a win over the Yellowjackets in football - on the JV or varsity - prior to last week's game.

Last year the Demons held the early lead and led for most of the game before folding down the stretch and allowing Carver to get out with a win. This time, however, it would be different. RJR put together its best drive of the night,

an impressive 80-yard, nine-play drive to retake the lead.

That drive could very well be the one that defines the Demons' season. Junior quarterback Mike Russell showed why he earned the starting nod. He directed the touchdown drive to give the Demons a 24-21 lead.

Russell showed his poise by completing five of five passes for 67 yards. The biggest play of the drive came when Russell connected with Derrelle Mitchell on a 43-yard pass that carried from the Demons' 31 to the Carver 26. Five plays later Teddy Petree took a pitch from Russell and scooted down the right sideline for a 9-yard touchdown.

As good as Russell played on that drive, he might have done his best acting job after the teams traded possessions. After being pinned back on their own 5-yard line, Russell carried out his fake to perfection and fullback Shemont Green found a gaping hole up the middle and raced, untouched, 95 yards for a touchdown to extend his team's lead to 31-21 with 3:51 to play.

Carver fought valiantly in the game's final minutes, but couldn't overcome the 10-

point margin.

Keith Wilkes, Carver's coach, summed it up in a few words.

"Reynolds came to play tonight," Wilkes said. "Their kids were hungry and they executed. We put it on the ground and that was too much to overcome."



Keegan Haggins and Marcus Herndon battle for a pass.

Photos by Bruce Chapman



T.J. Gregg powers his way to the end zone.



Teddy Petree gets free on the sideline.

North

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fourth quarter. Undaunted North answered with a 55-yard pass from Carter to Vestal to cut the lead to 28-26 and then was successful on the conversion to knot the game at 28-28.

North had a chance to win on its final possession of the game. The Vikings took possession at their 50 and marched inside the Mount Tabor 20. However, that's where their heroics ended. Two passes into the end zone were dropped by Viking receivers and the next was intercepted by Mount Tabor to end the threat.

Bowles said he was pleased with

his team's progress. The Vikings came out of the gate much quicker than they have offensively in their first two games, which they dropped to Carver and Glenn, respectively.

Vestal put on a show from his position, grabbing five catches for 180 yards. Carter, who suffered a broken finger during the preseason, had his best game thus far this season. McDuffie rushed for 104 yards on 14 carries.

The Vikings had some miscues, most of them coming early, but Bowles said his team executed better on offense than they have in their first two games.

"We're running a lot of option stuff, and we made a couple of bad pitches," Bowles said. "But you have

to take the good with the bad. When you're trying to live on the corner, that's going to happen. But we pretty much played an error-free game.

"I've been real pleased with our young offensive line. We had to make a few changes, but we really have progressed and seem to be getting better every game."

Bowles said the Vikings' defense also showed improvement.

"Defensively I thought we got good play from Kerry Pettigrew, Kier Thomas and Keith Tanner," Bowles said. "Tanner had three quarterback sacks."

"I think we're showing some improvement," Bowles said. "We're not as aggressive as we need to be. We're doing a lot of arm tackling and upper body tackling. We're not coming through with good wrapups down low."



Photos by Bruce Chapman

Mount Tabor had the upper hand early, but North fought back to tie the game.



Jerry McDuffie picks up some of his 104 yards on this carry.

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