

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

OCTOBER 21, 1999



Photos by Bruce Chapman
Eric Puryear

Puryear's 'inner strength' earned him spot in lineup

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Eric Puryear didn't play as well as he would have liked last Saturday night against Winston-Salem State. The three solo and two assisted tackles he made didn't meet his expectations. He also believes it helped contribute to his team's lackluster defensive showing in the 20-7 loss to the Rams.

However, for once Eric Puryear was able to look himself squarely in the mirror and deal with his shortcomings.

Puryear, the starting strong safety at North Carolina Central, says that hasn't always been the case. And because of that

he's finally feeling comfortable with who is and where he's headed.

From all indications, it looks like Puryear's athletic career is finally headed upward. After heading off to Hampton University on a football scholarship three seasons ago, Puryear has seen a lot of ups, downs and bumps along the road. But now he feels like he's where he needs to be.

"The main thing is that I had to humble myself," Puryear says. "When I came out of high school I didn't know how to do that. That made it hard for me to accept what my coaches and people around me were trying to tell me. Now I find that it's not so hard to do."

Puryear was a key member of Carver's secondary during his senior season. He helped lead a turnaround in the Yellowjackets' fortunes that eventually culminated in Carver winning the state 3-A football championship last season.

But his career didn't exactly take off when he signed with Hampton. He had trouble adjusting to the rigors of college athletics and academics. He finally got fed up with the Pirates' program and transferred to North Carolina Central. He arrived just ahead of first-year Rudy Abrams. Abrams' arrival coincided with Puryear's about-face.

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Puryear drags down a Winston-Salem State runner in last week's game.



FROM THE PRESS BOX

Sam Davis

Rams defense stellar in big win over NCCU; key battle on horizon

The table is set for Winston-Salem State's football team.

The Rams have a showdown with Virginia State on Saturday in a game that will likely decide the 1999 CIAA championship.

WSSU set up the battle by taking a 20-7 victory over North Carolina Central in the Midway Classic at Bowman Gray Stadium last Saturday night. And for the fourth week in a row it was the Rams' defense that led the way. WSSU shut down the league's most potent offensive attack and came up with four key turnovers.

The Rams' offense did just enough to keep NCCU off-balance. Quarterback Tory Woodbury gained 90 yards rushing in the first half as the Rams took a 14-7 lead at the half. WSSU's defense allowed only two first

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Photo by Bruce Chapman

WSSU needs a big game from Terrie Newkirk, who came through with one of his best games of the season against N.C. Central.

Firepower!



Photos by Bruce Chapman
(Left) Tailback Anthony Butler of West Forsyth finds running room in the Titans' win over Mount Tabor. (Below) Quarterback Josh McGee throw a clutch touchdown pass to Matt Bodenheimer in West's victory.



17-14 win puts Titans back in playoff hunt

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

A couple of huge offensive plays on offense and defense, along with a steady performance by tailback Anthony Butler, kept West Forsyth in the hunt for one of two playoff berths in the Central Piedmont 4-A conference race.

The Titans recorded their biggest victory of the season when they defeated Mount Tabor 17-14 last Friday night in a conference match-up in Clemmons.

Perhaps the most pivotal play of the game came after Mount Tabor fought back to take a 7-3 lead. Chris Truesdale threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Cornelius to give the Spartans their early lead. However, West

quarterback Josh McGee found Matt Bodenheimer open on a 41-yard touchdown pass to give West a 10-7 lead and control of the game.

The Titans came right back with another score, thanks to a big play by their defensive unit. Thomas Richmond recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and Butler, who rushed for 145 yards on 31 carries, added an 8-yard run to give the Titans a 17-7 second-quarter lead.

Coach Russell Stone of West Forsyth said his team came through with a clutch performance with its back against the wall. The Titans improved to 4-4-1 overall and 1-1 in the conference.

"It was a big one for us," Stone said. "We've lost a lot of close

ones this year, but this time things went our way. I think this could be a sign that we're on our way back. We're 4-4-1 right now and people out here are a little spoiled. But we feel that we're in a position to do some good things."

The Titans will battle South Rowan on Friday in another crucial conference battle. They have a bye the following week before taking on Reynolds in their season finale.

"We're looking at it like we're in the playoffs now," Stone said. "A loss now and we are out of it. But if we can continue winning, we can control our own destiny."

The Titans have one of their youngest teams in many seasons. The team has only four senior

See West on B2



Brown

Brown is adjusting well to regimented life at Fork Union

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

FORK UNION, Va. - Wearing a uniform and adapting to a regimented lifestyle has come a lot easier than Art Brown expected.

But then, Brown didn't expect to be at Fork Union Military Academy, which is located in the middle of the state of Virginia, between Charlottesville and Richmond. Brown had college recruiters drooling over him for the past four seasons at Winston-Salem's Mount Tabor High, where he rushed for more than 6,000 yards during his career and scored more than 80 touchdowns.

The transition has been smooth, according to Brown, one of the leading rushers in the history of high school football in North Carolina. He is nearing the completion of the first mini-semester at Fork Union and said he's on track to accomplish his academic goal.

After leading Mount Tabor to within one game of the state 4-A championship game last season, Brown turned down a long list of suitors to sign a scholarship with the University of Virginia. When he fell short on his college entrance test requirements, he decided to enroll at Fork Union for a year to improve his test scores and grade point average.

See Brown on B4

Best in the world?



Venus Williams talks about making the move to become the world's No. 1 female tennis player. See page B5.

Carver's JV comes from behind, takes key 19-14 win over Panthers

By SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Koryell Williams' clutch passing and running helped Carver's junior varsity fight from behind to take a 19-14 victory over Greensboro Dudley in an important Piedmont Triad 4-A Conference battle last Thursday at Carver.

Carver's victory not only helped the Yellowjackets improve to 3-0 in the conference, it also helped them to keep their home winning streak alive. The loss was Dudley's first in the conference (3-1) and dropped the Panthers to 6-2 overall.

Dudley put up a big fight before surrendering the game-winning points to Carver. The Panthers fought back from a 12-0 first-quarter deficit to go ahead 14-12 early in the fourth quarter. However, Carver was able to mount a drive in the fourth

quarter that culminated in Williams' 12-yard pass to Johnny Oglesby for the winning touchdown. The Yellowjackets added on the PAT to close out the scoring.

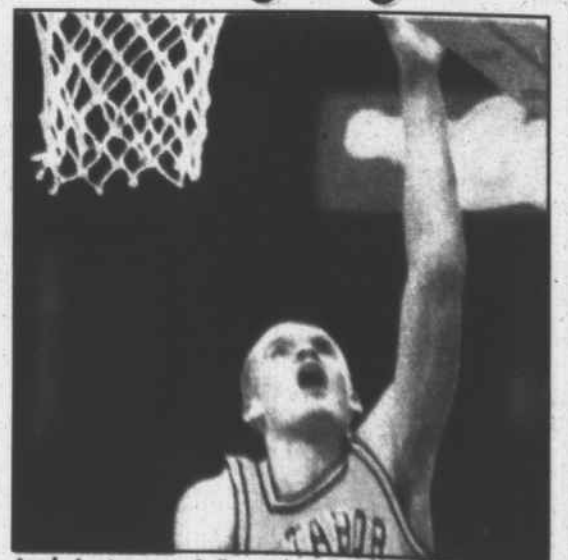
"I have to give credit to Carver for the way it played," said coach Chuck Hayes of Dudley. "Koryell Williams is a big strong quarterback and he made some big plays to help his team. Princeton Scott played real well for them and they came through with some big plays when they needed them."

Williams and Scott added Carver's first two scores to give the Yellowjackets their early 12-0 lead. But Dudley capitalized on several big plays on special teams to get back into the game. Thomas Hastye added a spark with his running and passing as Dudley closed the gap to 12-6. Hastye then lofted a 31-yard pass for a touchdown that tied the game at 12. Dudley then converted a key two-point conversion to take a 14-12 lead on Nigel Bell's run in the third quarter.

But the battle-tested Yellowjackets mounted

See Carver JV on B5

Taking flight!



Joel Justus, a 6-5 senior from Mount Tabor High, made a verbal commitment to attend the University of North Carolina-Wilmington on a basketball scholarship. Justus helped lead the Spartans to an 18-12 record and to the third round of the state 4-A playoffs last year. Justus averaged 16.2 points, 4.3 assists and 3.1 rebounds per game.