

SPORTS WEEK

B SECTION

NOVEMBER 11, 1999

Carver clinches conference title

Yellowjackets face Goldsboro in opening round playoff game Friday

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Carver flexed its muscle, showing off its strength up front with a bruising rushing attack, and captured its third consecutive Piedmont Triad 3-A Conference championship with a 21-14 victory over Greensboro Smith last Friday night.

The Yellowjackets ran out to a 14-0 lead and held off the Eagles' flurries down the stretch with solid defense. Smith scored twice on tipped passes, but it wasn't enough to stop Carver's stranglehold on the

conference's top seed in the playoffs.

Carver, the defending state 3-A champions, will play host to Goldsboro in a first round playoff game on Friday night at David Lash Stadium.

T.J. Gregg had a career-high 30 carries for 170 yards and Lashun Peoples turned in several spectacular runs to keep the Yellowjackets' running churning.

"I thought our offensive line did an outstanding job and the backs stepped up their game," said coach Keith Wilkes of Carver. "T.J. is a veteran and he's been in a lot of big games. And you expect Peoples to make big plays in games like this. I also thought



Carver's offensive line controlled the football and T.J. Gregg's inside running controlled the game.

See Carver Varsity on B2



Defenders LaShun Peoples and Jacob Hopkins deflect a pass into the hands of a Smith receiver.

FROM THE PRESS BOX

Sam Davis



Blount

Rams wake up in time to set up West Coast battle

Winston-Salem State had California on its mind and it showed in the Rams' first-half performance in their final CIAA football game last Saturday.

The Rams, who clinched the CIAA championship the previous week with a victory over Johnson C. Smith, struggled on both sides of the ball and took a slim 14-6 lead in the half against lowly Elizabeth City. However, the Rams responded to coach Kermit Blount's halftime talk and escaped with a 21-6 win.

Blount said he had to remind his team that it had to finish its business against the Vikings before looking forward to this week's battle against Grambling at San Diego's Qualcomm Stadium.

The Rams, who improved to 6-2 overall and 6-0 in the CIAA, will face a challenge this week against the steadily improving Grambling Tigers, coached by former NFL quarterback Doug Williams.

"Really this game was tough for everyone," Blount said. "We had never been in this situation before, where we had already won a championship. I had used about every pre-game talk and after you've clinched a championship it's even harder to prevent a let-down."

Terrie Newkirk and the Rams' offensive line

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Playoff bound!



Photo by Bruce Chapman

Parkland's Brandon Isaiah has racked up big numbers in leading Parkland to the playoffs.

Parkland riding its 'Horse'

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

Anyone who knows a lot about the Parkland football program can readily recall the many outstanding running backs the program has produced.

It seems appropriate that a high school program which uses "The Horse" as its fight song, would get most of its damage done via the ground game with powerful running backs. In the early days of the program, tailbacks like Horace Fulton and Walt Larry were the focus of coach Homer Thompson's program. Then came a succession of superlative tailbacks. Chris Kirkpatrick, Curtis Peterson, Donald Jackson and Kennard Martin were among the best to come along and they took the program to another level.

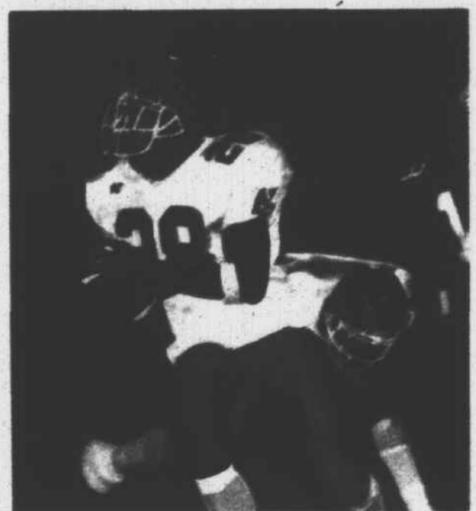
Even in Thompson's final years at the helm, the Mustangs' teams were known for their powerful runners and yearly march to the playoffs.

Brandon-Isaiah and the 1999 edition of Mustangs football has helped to re-establish that tradition. Even though he played on teams that lined up in pass-oriented alignments, Isaiah, a 6-2, 205-pound senior, showed what he could do as a sophomore and junior, respectively, when he rushed for 1,200 and 10 touchdowns and 1,800 yards and 19 touchdowns.

A change in coaches and system this season has finally put Isaiah in the elite group of Parkland runners. Through 10 games Isaiah has amassed 1,970 yards and 24 touchdowns. First year coach Deangelo Bell has placed more emphasis on the running game and Isaiah has stepped up his game another notch. The result is the Mustangs' first playoff berth since the 1991 season. Parkland will travel to Wilson Fike for a first-round game on Friday night.

Isaiah said he's happy to have his team in the playoffs, finally. Last year the Mustangs were 2-8 overall

See Isaiah on B3



Barr

Photo by Bruce Chapman

North finishes strong, defeats Southeast 21-2

BY SAM DAVIS
THE CHRONICLE

North Forsyth didn't make the playoffs, but the Vikings did finish the season with a winning record. That and the fact that the Vikings showed much promise from start to finish has coach Darrell Hall upbeat about his program's future.

The Vikings compiled a 6-4 record and made a run for one of the Metro 4-A Conference's two playoff berths before coming up short. However, there was much to be proud of in the team's 21-2 victory over Southeast Guilford.

"We finished up with a win," Hall said. "I really wasn't sure what team would show up because we had been eliminated from the playoffs. But they were attacking. They realized this was their last game. They really gave their all."

Kyle Kiser's passing and the running of tailback Walter Funderburk helped North get off to a fast start. Funderburk carried the ball strong as the Vikings took the ball and marched to the Southeast 40. From there Lewis Barr took a 40-yard reception for a touchdown to help the Vikings to a 7-0 lead. North went to halftime with a 14-0 lead after Justin Masencup scored on a pass from Kiser.

"Kyle threw the ball well and our running game was there," Hall said. "The offense moved the ball well in the first half."

Southeast put together several good offensive drives. However, North's defense rose up with goal-line stands to stop the Falcons from getting into the end zone.

"Southeast had a couple of good drives," Hall said. "But our defense stopped them after they had first and goal. The defense was pretty much equal to our offense."

North continued to play well in the second half and

See North on B2

Aggies sluggish in tuneup for FAMU

BY DAMON FORD
SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Despite a sluggish start and probably some thoughts of this weekend's showdown with Florida A&M, North Carolina was able to stay focused long enough to defeat visiting Delaware State last Saturday at Aggie Stadium, 24-13.

Despite playing a hum-drum type of game, several Aggies talked about the significance of the victory.

"It's the biggest win of our careers," said free safety Darryl Klugh. "Now we're playing for all the marbles next week."

Indeed they are. A&T will take on FAMU this Saturday at home with the MEAC championship title and an automatic bid to the Division I-AA playoffs on the line.

But first the Aggies had the Hornets to take care of and it didn't look like that was going to be an easy task. A&T, which came in the game without the services of their leading rusher, Maurice Smith, who was out with an

See Aggies on B2



Romando North

Jaguars fall short in season finale

BY THERESA DAVIS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Durham - LIFT Academy saw its rally fall against Mount Zion Academy last Friday night, but the Jaguars played one of their better games of the season, according to coach Sam Davis.

LIFT fell behind 16-0 early and trailed 24-6 at the end of the first half. However, the Jaguars' defense held the Warriors scoreless in the second half and LIFT had a chance to win the game in the game's final minutes.

"Our kids went toe-to-toe and never backed up," Davis said. "We were a little in awe at the beginning of the game, but my kids left everything on the field. It was one of the guttiest performances I've seen on any level of football."

Mount Zion's roster, composed of players from all over the country, was littered with Division I recruits who have already completed high school. The Warriors' offensive line averaged more than 300 pounds.

"Going into the game we knew it was going to be a challenge," Davis said. "Physically they were a lot more mature than our kids and I told our kids from the start that they had to play like

men because they were playing against men."

Mount Zion jumped out to an early 8-0 lead. The Warriors scored on the third play of the game and then added the extra point. LIFT had moderate offensive success in the early going, but couldn't mount a drive. Mount Zion scored late in the first half to take a 16-0 lead and it looked like the Warriors might rout the Jaguars.

"I told them after the second touchdown that if we didn't get ourselves together it was going to be a long night," Davis said. "They weren't going to hold anything back."

That's when the Jaguars hunkered down and started battling. LIFT went 85 yards in only three plays to get its first score. The Jaguars went to a no-huddle spread offensive set that got them back in the game quickly. Sedric McMilian scored the first of three touchdowns when he took a pass and ran 68 yards to the Warriors' end zone.

Mount Zion answered with a long touchdown pass, but the spark from the Jaguars' first score carried them through the second half.

LIFT received the second-half kickoff and promptly marched 70 yards for a touchdown.

See LIFT on B1