

CIAA Football Week in Review

Matt Hind propels Rams to victory

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

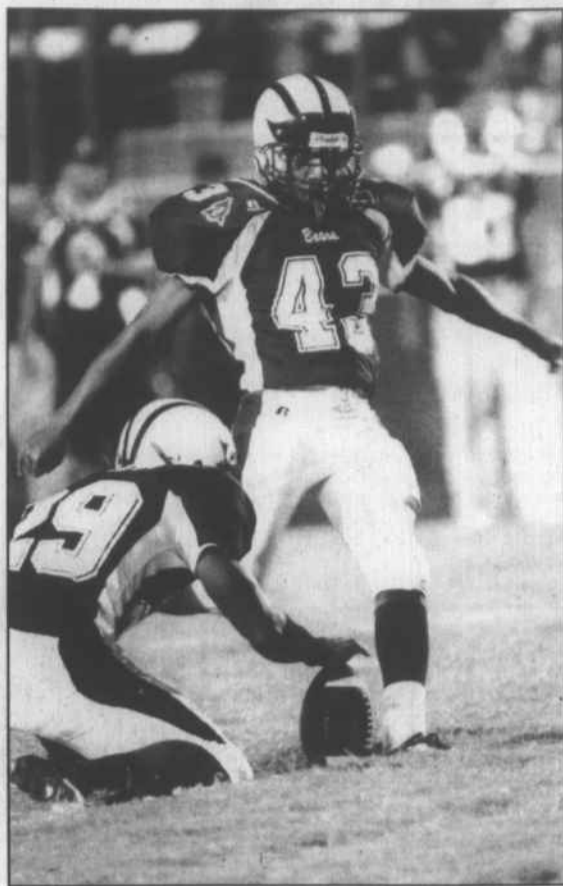
A 26-yard Matt Hind (junior/Clemmons) field goal with six seconds remaining on the clock earned WSSU a 26-24 win over the 2002 and 2003 CIAA champion Broncos as the Rams defeated Fayetteville State University for the first time in four seasons.

The first play from scrimmage looked as though it may be a game-breaker for the Rams as Martin Hicks broke free for a 36-yard gain deep into FSU territory. With only one man to beat, Hicks spun to elude a tackler and was stripped of the ball, coughing up his fifth fumble of the year and the Rams' 10th fumble giveaway in 2005.

The Broncos immediately made the Rams pay on the offensive series that resulted from the Hicks fumble as Amir Holding capped a seven-play, 62-yard drive that used 2:05 of the clock, with a 4-yard touchdown run to put the home-team Broncos ahead 7-0 only minutes into the first quarter of play.

The Rams answered two possessions later as "never nervous Monte Purvis" turned a busted play on third-and-5 from the WSSU 45-yard-line into a 55-yard touchdown run to tie the game at 7-7 with 4:40 remaining in the first quarter of play. The Ram drive, a three-play, 60-yard possession, was set up by a stingy Ram defense that gave the Broncos no options on their second drive of the game, forcing a three-and-out.

The quarter came to a close with the fans in attendance looking toward the possible fireworks that could come in the game's second 15 minutes. Those fireworks came only 2:23 into the second period of play as FSU's Robert Munoz drilled a 21-yard field goal through the



Chester Charles has kicked well for the Shaw Bears this season. Photo by S. Gerald McNeil

middle of the uprights to give the Broncos a 10-7 lead.

Again, however, the Rams answered as Martin Hicks, the first-quarter scapegoat following his fumble on the opening possession, atoned for his sin by scoring a pair of touchdowns less than five minutes apart to give the Rams back the lead.

The first of Hicks' two first-half touchdowns came with 7:18 to play in the first half when he took a handoff from Purvis into the FSU end zone from 12 yards out, capping a five-play, 63-yard drive that

took an uncharacteristically short 1:37. Hicks later recorded his second touchdown of the quarter, this time from only 4 yards out, to give the Rams a 20-17 advantage. A Matt Hind point-after attempt failed, and WSSU was forced to take a three-point lead into the locker room at half time.

The final 15 minutes of the final quarter started with a Bronco big play as FSU sophomore quarterback Jay Autry hit Daryl Barnett with a 47-yard touchdown strike to put the home-team Broncos up 24-23

with what you wrote."

Message four: "I read your article.... I would have to say that the success of West Forsyth throughout the years was more or less ... Dave McConnell. He was the mastermind behind West Forsyth's defense. Coach Stone was a good head coach but he also had a great assistant in McConnell. Also, I attended Reynolds, graduated in 1988. I was also a member of the super 25 all city county football team. I applaud The Chronicle for its coverage of sports in this area."

OK. That's enough. There were so many e-mails received on this matter. I even got one yesterday (Wednesday) morning. The best messages were the ones I got over the phone, though. But I truly didn't have any intentions of starting such a huge discussion. I just wanted to state how I felt and move on. Actually, the version of the column that was printed was pretty nice, I thought. You should've seen the original column.

But obviously something isn't right about Chip and the relationship he has with the people that are supposed to support him - the West family. Forget about me. He needs to worry about getting them on his side. And that's what's up.

Nothing funny about Jokey

Joe "Jokey" Brown was tied for fifth place in my list of top

10 football players in this city. He's looking like he should've been my second or third selection. Well, I can't put him over Ryan Taylor because he's still money on the field too.

But Brown has really stepped up his game. I mean, I knew he was good. After all, I've been covering the kid since his junior varsity days. But he's looking like the second-best running back in Mt. Tabor history (second to Art Brown) right about now. He scored four touchdowns two weeks ago, and he blazed Davie County for two exciting scores last Friday night.

I talked with Coach Bob Sapp about Brown last week, and he couldn't stop talking about him. That's how I felt after watching the Spartans down Davie County. I couldn't stop talking about Jokey. And then I began to wonder why everyone called him Jokey because there's nothing funny about the way that kid plays.

The guys at West are going to have a tough time slowing him down tomorrow, and so are the rest of the teams that get in the way of the Spartans. They're for real, and so is Jokey.

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less than one minute into the quarter. The Rams immediately answered with a drive of their own in an attempt to regain the lead.

However, a quarterback draw play on third-and-goal from the Broncos' 10-yard line was unsuccessful, setting up a Matt Hind 21-yard field goal that pulled the Rams to within one point at 24-23. Hind later hit a 26-yard field goal with only six seconds on the clock to seal the win.

With the win, the Rams improved to 3-3 overall and, more importantly, improved to 3-0 in the CIAA, keeping their championship game dreams alive. The Broncos fell to 3-3 overall and 1-2 in the CIAA with the loss.

WSSU will return to action on Saturday when the Rams travel to Salisbury to take on the Livingstone College Blue Bears in another important CIAA Western Division football contest at 6 p.m.

Saint Augustine's 22, N.C. Central 8: The buzz around the showdown between unbeaten Saint Augustine's and N.C. Central centered around whether the Falcons, whose defense was allowing a paltry 5.2 points a game, could slow down the high-scoring Eagles, who came into the contest averaging a conference-leading 39 points and almost 400 yards of total offense per game.

Saint Augustine's didn't just slow N.C. Central down but ground the Eagles to a halt, holding them scoreless for the better part of three quarters in the Falcons' 22-8 dismantling

Conference Scoreboard:

Livingstone 27,
Johnson C. Smith 10

Saint Augustine's 22,
N.C. Central 8

Saint Paul's 41,
Virginia Union 35

Shaw 22,
Bowie State 20

Virginia State 26,
Elizabeth City State 6

Winston-Salem State 26,
Fayetteville State 24

of the Eagles.

Quarterback Darrell Nesbitt accounted for three touchdowns and 290 of Saint Augustine's 370 yards of total offense, while the Falcons' suffocating defense limited NCCU's high-octane offense to a season-low 175 yards of total offense, including just 30 rushing yards.

The Falcons used a 23-yard field goal by Arthur Lemon, a 1-yard touchdown run by Nesbitt and a 37-yard touchdown from Nesbitt to Eddie Montgomery to open up a 16-0 half-time lead on the Eagles.

In the third quarter, Nesbitt's 6-yard touchdown pass to Montgomery, who had eight receptions for 129 yards, capped a 43-yard scoring drive, as the Falcons opened up a 22-0 lead on the Eagles in front of a

stunned homecoming crowd of more than 11,000.

In the fourth quarter, a botched punt attempt by the Falcons gave the Eagles the ball at the Falcons' 1-yard line. Greg Pruitt's plunge from 1 yard out and a two-point conversion with 7:23 remaining allowed the Eagles to avoid the shutout.

With the win, Saint Augustine's improves to 6-0, 3-0 CIAA and remains in a first-place tie with Winston-Salem State in the hotly contested Western Division. The Eagles fall to 5-1 and are 2-1 in a divisional race that is far from over.

Livingstone 27, Johnson C. Smith 10: Jason Mitchell threw two touchdowns to Jo'von Bonneau and Chris Jeter rushed for 80 yards and a score as Livingstone got its first win of the season in a 27-10 road win over Johnson C. Smith.

Shaw 22, Bowie State 20: Devin Chapman's 94-yard interception return with 28 seconds left in the game sealed the win as Shaw held off Bowie State 22-20 in Bowie, Md.

Upcoming games for Oct. 8:

- Fayetteville State University at N.C. Central
- Shaw at Virginia Union University
- Bowie State at Elizabeth City State University
- Winston-Salem State University at Livingstone (Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.)
- St. Paul's College at Virginia State University
- Johnson C. Smith University at St. Augustine's College

Hill

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make sure I knew how much reporters aren't liked by most coaches. And that may be true. I was a player (unlike some of the coaches who wrote me). So I am very aware of a coach's relationship with the media. And I definitely understand that players don't really like the media unless they think the reporters are going to write something good about them.

I have a great relationship with ALL the real coaches in this city. And the ones who don't like me probably don't get much attention from me for some reason or another. But the coaches who know me don't even come at me like a reporter or whatever. Some of them treat me like a former player or friend. That's great. So I couldn't care less about what some coaches think about me.

I found out that a number of them thought I was out of place when I was told by someone to check out a message board on ncreps.com. I checked it out, then laughed when I saw a message board full of remarks (both good and bad) about me and my column. So I decided to print my own message board with A FEW of the anonymous messages from people that supported what I had to say.

Message one: "I saw your article on Chip Petree and the West team. To start off I want to say that it was an excellent read. I'm truly saddened at the state the West football program has been left in after the ousting of Coach Stone. Secondly, I want to apologize for any comments made by Chip Petree. He doesn't represent West in its opinion of you or your paper. You have to realize that these were the words of a man who wiggled his way to the head coaching of another man's team and has seen the players refuse to give him respect and have bickered over being the leaders."

Message two: "Mr. Petree has been a big disappointment to many of us parents and players. He is immature and very arrogant. We have been in contact with Coach Stone and miss him terribly. He may have yelled at the players but HE CARED FOR THE BOYS. It's hard to see that in Mr. Petree. Thanks for your time."

Message three: "I, as well as many others in the coaching community, share the same feelings as you. I could share several stories with you that are similar to the experience that you had. You were right on tar-

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