

Lowrance takes bragging rights in matchup with rival Carter

BY ERIN MIZELLE
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Lowrance Middle School and VS Carter Vocational reunited once again, over a basketball game in Kennedy High School's gymnasium.

It's not only a game; it is an opportunity for staff, community, cheerleaders and student athletes from both schools to cheer on and watch their students compete and work together for a common goal.

Both schools educate special needs students.

The final score was 17-6, with Lowrance Middle School the victor.

Both teams finished the game with shaking hands and fist bumps. Many people after the game gave affirmation and confirmation about the great job of both teams and how the student athletes from Lowrance Middle were grasping and understanding the fundamental coaching points from Head Coach Juwon Crowell and assistant coach Sir James Maxie during the game.

Ronnie Caviness, head coach of Carter Vocational High School, and his team of assistants were coaching intensely, telling his team to keep playing and working hard no matter the score.

"Each and every one of us in the world has a special need, which is to feel loved, valued and respected," says Crowell. "It is all any of us need."



(Upper left) Head Coach Juwon Crowell talks strategy with his team. (Lower left) Jemari L. (#41) takes in the atmosphere of the day as he plays defense. (Upper right) Assistant Coach Sir James Maxie celebrates with his victorious team.



Boulware

from page B1

the Rams' offensive identity might be. Much will depend on how much the quarterbacks continue to grow in their understanding and execution of the playbook.

What is clear for now is that WSSU will sport a different look on offense. A year ago, they used the

pistol formation and averaged 35.7 points per game. This year, they're returning to the multiple pro-style offense employed during the Rams' three-year run in the NCAA playoffs under former coach Connell Maynor.

The formations will vary from the spread look of last season. WSSU will run empty backfield with four wide receivers, but will also run sets with two backs and double tight ends.

"We ran a lot of shot-gun last year," Boulware said. "This year, the quarterback will be under center a lot more. We want to avoid being one-dimensional."

Whoever winds up being the starting QB will have a solid offensive line to operate behind. Jac'que Polite (6-foot-5, 300 pounds) is the prime protector at left tackle. The rising junior from Ridgeland, S.C., started out last season on the defensive line, but switched positions midway through the season when it became clear that he wouldn't get much playing time. Polite uses his size, strength and speed to neutralize defenders.

Don't be surprised if the Rams become more of a "ground-and-pound" team. Rising senior Tyree Massey (5-foot-11, 235 pounds) is a burly bruiser

who does his best work running between the tackles. Massey, however, has the speed to make tacklers miss and break long runs.

WSSU won't have to depend on Massey to shoulder the entire rushing load. Malik Moseley, a rising sophomore transfer from Old Dominion, will get his share of touches this fall. Moseley (5-foot-9, 192 pounds) is an elusive runner who makes good use of his speed and field vision.

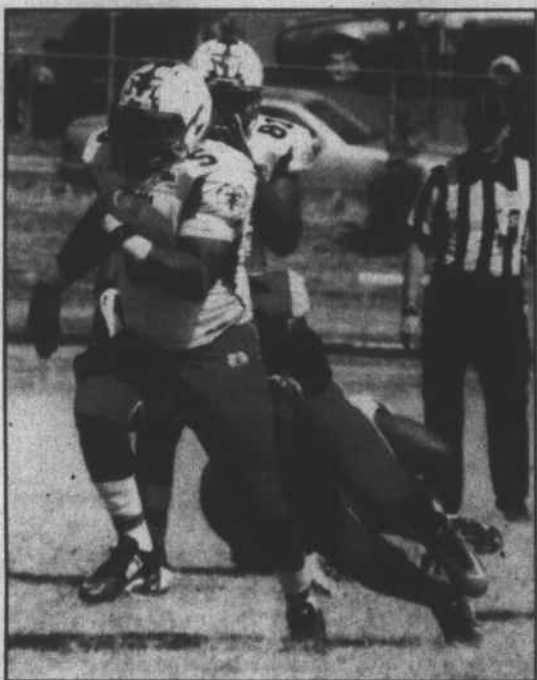
At wide receiver, Canard Brown (Jackson State transfer) has the tools to emerge as a big-play threat. Rashan Williams could also step forward as a key contributor in the passing game.

On defense, look for Winston-Salem State to add some new wrinkles to its base 4-2-5 alignment. During the Spring Game, the defenses on both sides took center stage and combined for six interceptions. For this season, the game plan will call for defense force action more than it has in recent ones.

"We're going to revamp a few things," Boulware said. "We'll play more man coverage on the back end and use more blitz packages up front to generate more pressure on the passer."

Rising senior Michael Bloomfield (6-foot-3, 245 pounds) will figure prominently in the defensive scheme. Bloomfield's upper-body strength and exceptional quickness off the ball makes life difficult for opposing offensive linemen. "Any time you talk about our defense, there's one name that always comes to mind, and that's Michael Bloomfield," Boulware said. "Michael is a workaholic and he applies pressure on every snap."

Inside linebackers Kyrell Williamson and Jaitavius Jackson, along with crafty cornerbacks Kailan Chavis and Cameron Sullivan, are expected to have stand-out seasons.



Tyree Massey breaks free to gain yardage.

Track

from page B1

month, Washington-Saunders has the look of a legitimate contender for a state outdoor title. He ran 48.48 earlier this season, which is the second-fastest in North Carolina.

East Forsyth's Isis Brooks was a multiple winner at the Brent (100 meters/200 meters /300-meter hurdles). Still, Brooks could be hard pressed to pull off a triple at the Piedmont Triad Conference Championships.

Brooks (12.31 seconds in the 100; 25.42 in the 200) will face-off against two of the area's best sprinters in High Point Central's Tamara Clark and Charla Ward of Ragsdale. Clark has a hand-held time of 11.54, which is the fastest in the state.

The outlook for Brooks in the 300 hurdles is very favorable. She'll enter the PTC Championships as the No. 1 seed whose time of 47.65 seconds is by far the fastest in the conference this season. Brooks' closest rival is Nascha Blue of Glenn, who she defeated convincingly at the county meet.

Middle distance races

In the boys' 800, Vernon Espinoza of West Forsyth and Mount Tabor's Kenny Kniesel will be primed to win at the Central Piedmont Conference Championships. Both are ranked among the state's top 10. Espinoza is No. 4 at 1 minute, 56.15 seconds and Kniesel is eighth at 1:57.30. At the Brent, Espinoza called on his 400-meter sprinter's speed to pull away in the late stages of the race.

Perhaps the most intriguing matchup at the CPC meet could be the girls' 800. Parkland's McKinley McNeill

(2:20.30) is a 400 specialist who runs the 800 from time to time. Whether or not she competes in this race at the conference is anyone's guess.

If she does run the 800, McNeill will most likely face a stiff challenge from versatile sophomore Tiara Patterson-Mills of Mount Tabor (2:21.85). That doesn't mean that it will be a two-runner race. Ellen Spencer and Mackenzie Newsome of West Forsyth will contend for top honors.

The girls' 4x800 relay should deliver some pulsating moments. Mount Tabor rates as the pre-race favorite. The Spartans foursome of Jenna Lineberry, Leah Messenkopf, Emily Reichert and Patterson-Mills clocked 9:57.86 to win at the Brent. Even so, with conference bragging rights on the line, Reagan (10:03.12) and West Forsyth (10:19.10) will push the Spartans to the limit.



Three Brent Invitational champs squared off in the boys 200. West Forsyth's Breon Jenkins (second from right) won the 200. Brian Sessoms of Carver (middle) won the 100 and Chace Washington-Saunders of Reagan (second from left) won the 400.



East Forsyth sprinter/hurdler Isis Brooks (in black) won three individual events at the county championships last weekend.

Spring Game

from page B1

Talley finished with seven tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss and three sacks, while Michael Bloomfield finished with five tackles 2.5 tackles for loss and two sacks.

Amyl Smith also had five tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss and two sacks. Michael Douglas had four tackles, a half a tackle for a loss and one sack, while James Bullock, Andre Green, Kyrell Williamson and Brian James each had three tackles. Wesley Crosby added two sacks, Xavier Gregory had one sack, and Krell Williamson added a fumble recovery. Joseph Grant had two interceptions, while Brian James and Cameron Sullivan each had one interception.

The White Team was led in rushing by Tyree Massey, who rushed 13 times for 88 yards, while Entrone Jones rushed five times for 46 yards and one touchdown.

Demetrius Lewis finished 9 of 22 for 79 yards and one passing touchdown, with four interceptions.

Eric Williams led the White Team receivers with three catches for 20 yards, while William Belcher added three catches for 20 yards and one touchdown. Anthony Everett had one catch for 16 yards, Paris Harris had one catch for 12 yards, and Trey Foggie had 2 catches for -1 yards.

William Johnson averaged 29 yards per punt on the afternoon, as he punted and kicked for both teams. Johnson went

three of four on field goals, with the highlight a 54 yard attempt that split the uprights good.

Defensively for the White Team, Tiquece Brown finished with 5 tackles, one and half tackles for a loss and one sack. Albert McLean also had five tackles, three tackles for a loss and a sack. Kariym Gent had four tackles, while Sadarius Byers had three tackles, two tackles for a loss and a sack. Devin Baber added three tackles and two tackles for a loss. Joe Wright and Daniel Kwaku also had one sack each, and Deshawn Littlejohn had two interceptions.

"I think we piggy-backed off our last practice on Thursday, and the guys came out and were on fire. Everyone was sharp and focused, and we capped it off with a good performance today," said head coach, Kienus Boulware.

"Now we get to go back and watch the film for the last time as we go through this evaluation period, but overall I am pleased with our spring," added Boulware.

"Tyree Massey had a great day. Massey sort of takes us back to 2010 and 2011. He is in the mold of Nick Cooper. Massey is about the toughest thing we have had in the backfield with his bruising running style downhill, since Cooper. If that ends up being our bread and butter, then we will run the football," said Boulware.

Winston-Salem State will open the 2015 football season on Thursday, Sept. 3, at UNC Pembroke.



Photos by Erin Mizelle for The Chronicle

Rickey Burns II, No. 31, grabs at a player on the red team during the Spring Game.

Wake

from page B1

of its next 10 games through April 21. Wake returns to town for a four-game home stand that starts on April 24.

"It's up to us to play to our level of ability," said Coach Tom Walter. "Offensively, we're balanced. There's power in the lineup to hit home runs. But we can also steal bases and manufacture runs. This team is built to beat opponents in different ways."

Wake Forest (22-16 as of April 13) ranked seventh nationally in team batting average (.313). Statistically, the Deacons rank among the ACC's top three in most offensive categories, including batting average, runs batted in, home runs, slugging percentage and total bases.

Craig has emerged as a key factor in Wake attack. The sophomore first baseman is having an All-American kind of season. At the start of this week, Craig ranked among the national leaders in home runs (12), RBIs (54), total bases (110) and batting average (.407).

"There's no denying that Will Craig has exceptional ability," Walter said. "But there's more to it than him being a talented player. He's a hard

worker who puts in the time and makes every effort to perfect his craft. When you put all of that together, you get outstanding results."

Craig hasn't had to be a one-man demolition crew. He gets ample assistance from Nate Mondou, who's hitting .366 with nine homers and 49 RBIs. Fairchild (.370) also ranks among the ACC's Top 5 in hitting.

Wake Forest has proven itself as a run-scoring outfit. Yet, the ability to go deep in conference tournament play and the NCAA playoffs hinges a lot on quality pitching. On the whole, the Deacons pitching staff has had its struggles this season (5.70 ERA is the highest in the ACC).

In ace right-handers Matt Pirro and Parker Dunshee, Wake Forest has two starting pitchers who have more than held their own this season. Pirro (6-2, 3.04 ERA) led the conference in wins and he's struck out 49 batters in 47 1/3 innings. Dunshee (5-0 with 51 strike-outs in 46 innings) is equally impressive. His ERA of 2.54 was ninth-best in the league.

"Matt and Parker throw as well as anybody in the ACC," Walter said. "When you have premier pitchers like those two, you always have a chance."