

# Church provides alternative to other youth football leagues in the area

BY TEVIN STINSON  
THE CHRONICLE

There are a number of youth football organizations in Forsyth County. But none of the organizations build up the game day hype like the Youth Character Football League (YCFL).

The YCFL is an alternative to other youth football leagues in Winston-Salem that had mandated weight limits for every age group.

In other youth leagues, if a boy did not meet the required weight limit in a specific age group, the child would have to

move up to the next age group, or try to lose weight to remain down.

The YCFL provides a avenue for boys ages 5-14 to play, children who were denied acceptance into other leagues because of their weight.

Union Baptist Church and its pastor, Bishop Sir Walter Mack Jr., started the Youth Character Football League in 2009.

In years past, the league has held an official draft day to kick off the season. The draft was designed to give every participant in the league a chance to feel like he had made it to the big leagues. According to Mack, the draft was

## Youth Character Football League Home Schedule

Sept. 12 against the Trinity Panthers

Oct. 3 against the Southeast Guilford Falcons

Oct. 10 against the Carolina Cowboys

Oct. 24 against the Eden Prowlers.

All home games will be played at Winston-Salem Preparatory Academy, 1215 N. Cameron Ave.

one of the signature events of the league.

This year for the first time, more travel to play games is involved.

Mack said the league treats all participants as a priority and in return they treat them as a priority.

A number of local high school

coaches helped out with the league in past seasons. Last year coaches from Mt. Tabor, North Forsyth and East Forsyth volunteered with the league.

This season, the YCFL will have four home games, including the home opener Saturday, Sept. 12, when they host the Trinity Panthers.

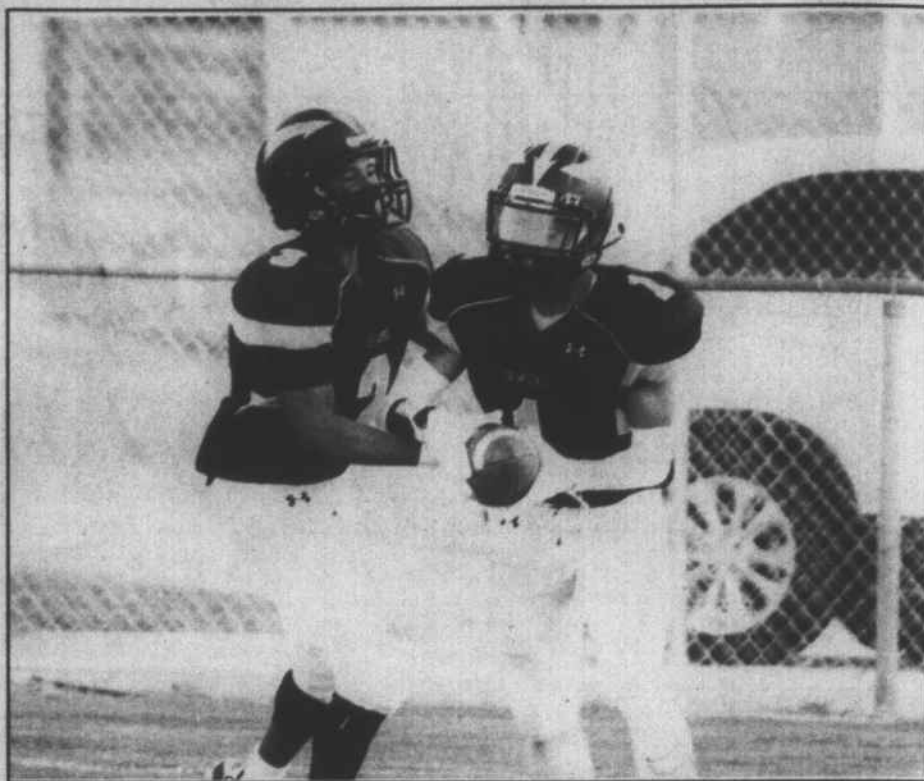
Last week, the YCFL traveled to Asheboro to take on the Southwest Randolph Cougars.

The YCFL practice and play its games at Winston-Salem Prep, 1215 North Cameron Avenue.

For more information on the YCFL, visit [www.unionbaptistws-nc.org](http://www.unionbaptistws-nc.org).



Jaelon Maxie of East Forsyth (6) heads downfield for a sizeable gain.



RJR's Dimaggio Wilson (3) congratulates teammate Rashon Bethea after his 50-yard touchdown reception.

## JV Football

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the second quarter. Mysta Goodloe connected with Dimaggio Wilson on a 32-yard pass. Two plays later, Goodloe fired a 22-yard touchdown pass to Rashon Bethea with 51 seconds remaining to make it a 21-6 game at intermission.

The Demons narrowed the deficit early in the third quarter when Charlie Mensh hooked up with Bethea on a 50-yard scoring play. With East Forsyth up by 21-12, it seemed that the tenor of the game had started to turn in RJR's favor.

A costly Demons turnover, however, derailed their comeback hopes. A low snap from center got away from Mensh who was lined up in the shotgun. With the Eagles defense set to recover the loose ball and possibly score another touchdown, Mensh kicked the ball out of bounds, which resulted in a safety.

Reynolds had a short kickoff and East Forsyth took over on the Demon's 39-yard line. The Eagles capped another scoring drive with Bullins' 23-yard touchdown toss to Childs, who made a diving catch in the right corner of the end zone for a 29-12 lead.

"I saw a lot of fight out of our guys, and they didn't quit," said Coach Rod Dunlap of Reynolds. "There are several areas we need to work on and clean up. If you take

away the good field position they had and our turnovers, we're right there. As long as our players continue to buy in to what we're doing, we'll be OK."

The Eagles defense, which had two interceptions and three fumble recoveries, added the finishing touches when Jomaad Cater picked up a fumble and raced 42 yards for the game's final score.

"Our defense made mistakes, but they made some plays too," said Horton. "They played well coming down the stretch and gave us good field position, which gave us a lot of chances to put points on the board. We should have scored more, but we'll get better at that. It's a lot easier to get better coming off a win rather than a loss."

## Leagues

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able to score two touchdowns off turnovers, enough to come out victorious, 13-0.

The long day continued for the Indians when the Jr. Pee Wee division fell, 14-6.

This week, the Indians will have their first home game of the season when they face off against the Greensboro Ravens.

The Indians and Broncos are members of the Piedmont Youth Football & Cheer League, which is part of the American Youth Football League. There are a number of other AYFL organizations in Forsyth County. For a list of those teams, visit [www.pyfcl.com](http://www.pyfcl.com).

### Tiny Vikings (Pop Warner)

To prepare for the upcoming season, the Winston-Salem Tiny Vikings held a scrimmage jamboree on Saturday, Aug. 22.

Pop Warner teams from all over the state attended the tournament, held at Mineral Springs Middle School. During the tournament, each team was allowed to be on offense for 15 minutes before giving the ball to the other team.

The format used during the tournament is very similar to the format used during scrimmages at the high school and college levels. The jamboree was designed not only to prepare players for the season but for the next level as well.

For years, the Tiny Viking organization has helped student-athletes transition into the next level. The Vikings are the longest running Pop Warner organization in the county.

During the jamboree, the Viking Sr. Midgets took on a tough competitor from Greensboro.

Last season, the Vikings held the title for the Northwest Midget Pop Warner Football League.

Head coach Chris Key told his players that other teams are going to be ready to play them because they are the champions.

"I told my players that they have to come into every game ready; nothing is going to be handed to us," Key said.

Last season, the Vikings competed for the Pop Warner National title in Orlando, Florida, before falling short of their goals of a national title.

Last Saturday, the Vikings traveled to Raleigh for the first official game of the season.

The Tiny Vikings is one of only two members of the Pop Warner organization in the area. The Winston-Salem Tar Heels are in their first season as members of the organization.

**"I told my players that they have to come into every game ready; nothing is going to be handed to us."**

—Chris Key, Head coach



A member of the Forsyth County Broncos Jr. Pee Wee division tries to break free from a defender on Saturday, Aug. 29 at Clemmons Elementary School.



A member of the Winston-Salem Tiny Indians Jr. Pee Wee division finds some running room in the first half of Saturdays match-up against the Forsyth County Broncos. The Broncos won the game 14-6.

## Honored

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National Coach of the Year Award.

As a youngster, Hughes played Pop Warner football with the Tiny Vikings and his father was the head coach. The younger Hughes remembers all the chat sessions with father/coach where the

son/player learned how to improve his skills and gain a better understanding of game strategy.

"My dad was the one who steered me into coaching," said Hughes. "We used to break down film and go over plays. We'd analyze what went right, what went wrong and what needed to be done to correct mistakes."

"Now, I'm finding myself doing the same things he did. From this point on, anything else that I might accomplish in coaching will be done in recognition and in honor of my father's memory."

Hughes, who became the Mustangs track coach in 2004, has built a nationally recognized program. Last year, Parkland doubled as the Class 4-A state team champions in indoor and outdoor

track. Additionally, the Mustangs won the 4x200 relay at the New Balance Indoor Nationals.

The year before, Parkland won state team championships indoors and outdoors and claimed the national title in the 4x200 relay at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals.

"Our program has come a long way and we've accomplished a lot," said Hughes. "But there's no way that any of this would have happened without the help I've gotten from some excellent assistant coaches. I give them a ton of credit because I couldn't do this by myself."

The Mustangs coaching staff includes: Jarrell Elliott (works with quarter-milers and half-milers), Chris Stewart (hurdles/long jump/triple jump), Qmar Cladd (assists Hughes with the short sprints), Maurice Morrison (long jump/quarter-milers) and Tyrone Holman (hurdles/long jump/triple jump).

Holman had been at Parkland up until 2014 and now he's assisting with Winston-Salem Prep's girls, who won the team title at the Class 1-A state outdoor championships last spring.

Given Hughes' level of success, he's been asked on several occasions about making the move to the college ranks. Hughes makes it clear that he's not interested.

It's his intention to coach at the high school for at least another eight or nine years. That's because he wants to be available to coach his sons (9-year old Antwan Jr. and 7-year old Caleb) when they get to high school. Both run during the summer months with the Lights Out Track Club, which is owned by Hughes.

"I'm in this for the long run," said Hughes. "I've worked with so many other people's youngsters who have gone to college on track scholarships. So, it's only right that I do the same for my own kids."

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