

Prep Chatter

With James Cuthbertson



North Mecklenburg's Orlando Liles has been doing a lot of running, lifting weights and jumping ropes in anticipation of the 1979 football season.

Liles, a 5-9, 170-pounder, is a candidate for a running back or defensive back position on the Viking squad. He was a defensive back on last year's team that finished 7-2 in the conference and 7-3 overall.

"I have been running up hills in the Coulwood neighborhood," Liles said. "I do this to build up my leg muscles. The legs are one of the first parts of the body to get tired in a long football game. I want to make sure that mine are strong."

The weight program goes on at North on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. He runs every day.

Liles thinks the Vikings can be tough.

"With senior running backs Chris Cook and Scottie Williams, we should be quite capable

of playing well," he said. "Scot is also a candidate at the quarterback position. He is throwing the ball quite well."

"The dude has an arm," he added.

The college coaches are already inquiring about Liles. He has gotten leaders from Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association champion Winston-Salem State and other area colleges.

Liles' teammate Jimmy McCoy believes in his team also.

"I believe that we are in the toughest conference in the state," he said. "We have the power to win it. And if we do, we should win the state championship. The teams from Charlotte always do well in playoff competition."

That may be an understatement. In 1977, the East Eagles won the state championship. In 1978, the West Charlotte Lions were the conference champions and finished second in the state playoffs.

Some of the other top athletes in the Southwestern 4A Conference may refute North's claim to the Southwestern 4A Conference championship. Personally, I think a 7-2 record is good enough to win the conference championship. The league gets one berth this year.

West Charlotte Maurice Montgomery is a legitimate major college prospect. Montgomery has great hands and speed. He was a vital reason West Charlotte floundered in the state championship game. He was injured and could not play.

Montgomery, a wide receiver, has been running and lifting weights.

"I think that I am ready," he said. "I am expecting a good year out of the Lions. I think we will be an even stronger offensive team than we were last year. We will get a good indication in our opening game with Pinecrest. They should be improved over last year also. They had a junior quarterback last year who was sensational."

Montgomery reminds one of Notre Dame and former West Charlotte great David Waymer.

Another who refutes the Viking claim is Olympic quarterback and defensive back Chuck Barnette.

"We have been practicing hard, every day," said Barnette. "I think we will have a good chance. We have been running options and perfecting the veer offense."

"If we beat the people outside and in the middle we will be okay," he said.

"Chris Wells, Van Chilton and Charles Beatty are all so big and quick," Barnette said.

The Olympic backfield will feature either Barnette and Foy White at quarterback and Angelo Grier, Ty Wright, Chip Hand or Reggie Hood at the halfback positions.

Of Hood and Hand, the two sophomores in contention, Barnette says: "Hand is very quick and Reggie has the moves."

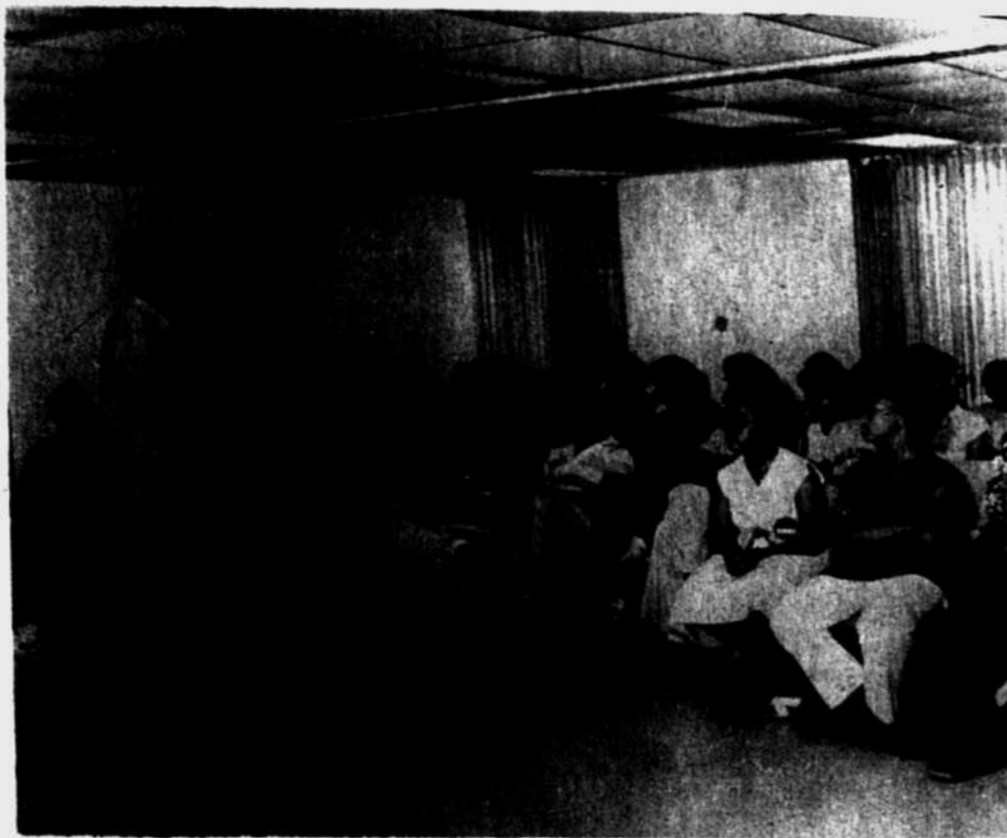
"We will definitely be in the upper division," he said. "I think the competition will include West Charlotte, North and East and Myers Park."

Olympic also expects to get some good runs out of junior safety Jamie Johnson and flanker Tony Crockett.

Over at Johnson C. Smith, John Elliott's Upward Bound program is providing academic enrichment and athletic fulfillment for a bunch of youngsters from the Charlotte area.

Elliott discussed his program at a recent Carolina Charger football game saying that most of the black athletes of today have not been taught early that the books are just as important as the sport.

He reports that two of his top basketball players, Dan Pearson from Myers Park and Cedric McAfee of Harding are learning how to play tennis and doing great in their pursuit of the sport.



UPWARD BOUND SEMINAR

Participants in the Upward Bound Project at Johnson C. Smith University attended a career awareness session last week at the school.

Career placement counselor William Green, the guest speaker, addressed 52 students (rising 10th-12th grade), on the theme of motivation and success.

Green emphasized the necessity for reading, and mastering basic skills, according to Otis Roberson, a counselor for the program. S.A.T. tests and the college selection process were also discussed.

For success, Green stressed the importance of developing leadership skills, creativity and wearing the appropriate clothes to create a

success image. "People who are successful have developed leadership skills," Green said. "Upward Bound proves the ideal opportunity for this," he continued.

During the six week campus residence phase representatives from various professions speak to Upward Bounders about job preparation.

Green is a native of Charlotte and a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University. He has an M.A. and a PhD in education from Michigan State University.

Speakers attend these sessions to inform students how they can prepare for a career in the represented field.

Presbytery Orders Church's Pulpit Vacated

Continued from Page 1.

D.C., Virginia and North Carolina.

In October 1978, the Synod ruled that the Metropolitan "call" was in violation of church law, and in May the General Assembly, the national church's "supreme court" concurred with that ruling.

"The matter ended at that point," Walton said. "There was no longer reason for debate or resistance. The General Assembly's decision is binding on the whole church."

Hawkins, however, disagrees with that assessment.

"I'm really not involved in this thing personally," Hawkins said, "because the Synod's action was against the Presbytery, and we contend the Presbytery has the right to correct its mistakes, even to the extent of suspending the rules. But the presbytery has an obligation to me and to this church, and I will take them to court, if they try to lift my contract."

Hawkins also said he's appealing the local presbytery's decision to accept a decision by the church's regional synod, and he feels the appeal shortstops any action by the local presbytery.

But Rev. Robert L. Walton, moderator of the Catawba Presbytery, said in an interview before the presbytery's regular meeting Wednesday that the group had no choice but to order the pulpit vacated.

"This is no longer a matter for discussion," Walton said. "The church's highest body has ruled, concurring with the ruling by the Synod, and we (the presbytery) have no choice, but to abide by that ruling."

According to church officials, the Metropolitan congregation has but two courses of action available to it following Sunday's action.

+ The church's session (an individual church's ruling body) can appoint a moderator to serve as interim pastor.

It can look for another pastor, or they can wait six months, follow procedure and reissue its call to Hawkins.

+ The church can disobey the ruling, and risk being dissolved by the General Assembly.

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He's Not Saying Where

Peters Heads In New Direction

by Gary Gregg
J&A News Service
Special to the Post

On Christmas Eve, 1978, Curt Peters, then a news reporter with WSOX-TV, Channel 9 in Charlotte, shivered slightly as he shot film outside a Grier Heights apartment complex in South Charlotte. He was reporting on a police search for a black man who had minutes earlier robbed a bank in southeast Charlotte.

Peters, a Johnson C. Smith University graduate, who got into news after five years in college public relations, had been at the search scene but a few minutes when a young black man walked up and began talking.

"After a few comments," Peters said during an interview this week, "he leaned over and whispered in my ear that he was the man they were looking for."

Recovering from his initial skepticism, Peters took Leonard Harris back to the television for an exclusive interview, and later went with him to surrender to the FBI on robbery charges. Harris was later sentenced to a long prison term.

Peters, 35, who Monday resigned as news director at WRET, Channel 36, lumps that story, a piece he did in Rock Hill, S.C. on the Ku Klux Klan, and covering the 1974 Eastern Airlines plane crash together as highlights of a six-year career in Charlotte television news, five of them with WSOX.

"I didn't do any stories that broke backs, or put people in jail," Peters said, "but I did what I was assigned to do, or the stories I came up with. I worked hard not to be the 'black reporter', and I had no pressure from management in that direction. When I went to the black community to cover a story, I made sure it was because I was the one at the station who knew the most about it, not because I was black."

Peters has been with WRET since June 1978 when he and Atlanta newsman, Hal Suitt, organized the station's first news operation from scratch. WRET, previously owned by Turner Broadcasting, and re-



Curt Peters
...JCSU graduate

cently sold to Westinghouse Broadcasting, the nation's fourth largest television network, had to organize a news department last year after winning NBC affiliation in a multi-station network switch here.

"We hired 28 people, bought more than \$2 million in equipment and put together a news operation in about 10 weeks," Peters said. "I'm proud of the opportunity WRET gave me to be a part of that. But at the same time I learned what slavery was like. Slavery is management."

Peters, who said he resigned the top news post at 36 for "personal reasons," refused to talk about the reasons in detail, but he did say the job entailed many long hours, and had taken a toll on his home life. Peters lives at 6507 Woodfield Drive with his wife Jacki, 26, daughter Janeen, 8, and son, Damian, 4.

"For example," he said, "with my children leaving early for school, and me getting home late from the office, I could go as much as three or four days without having

much time for them and that gets to be rough after awhile. When I turned in my resignation yesterday (Monday), it was like a great weight was lifted from my shoulders."

Though he won't say what other jobs he has lined up, Peters says he doesn't plan to be out of work long. Peters' last day at WRET is August 3, and despite the problems of management, he wants another management slot.

"It would be a waste of somebody's money to hire me as a reporter, and it would be a waste of my experience to take a reporting job," he said. "So I expect to be in some phase of management wherever I go. My ultimate goal is to be a general manager at a station somewhere, and I know that one day I'm going to be a general manager."

In less than 10 years, Peters has accomplished a climb in television news that a lot of southern black journalists see as highly improbable, if possible.

Breaking into news in 1972 with a reporting job at WSOX, after working five years as assistant public relations and sports information director at Johnson C. Smith, Peters' next move was to WLOS in Asheville.

He got to Asheville via a job offer in Miami.

During 1977, Peters was negotiating with WTVJ-TV in Miami, the top station in the market, owned by the Wometco Broadcasting Company.

They offered Peters a job in station public relations that he accepted at first, and later turned down. Then about nine months later, according to Peters, WLOS, Asheville, also a Wometco station, contacted

See Peters on Page 15.

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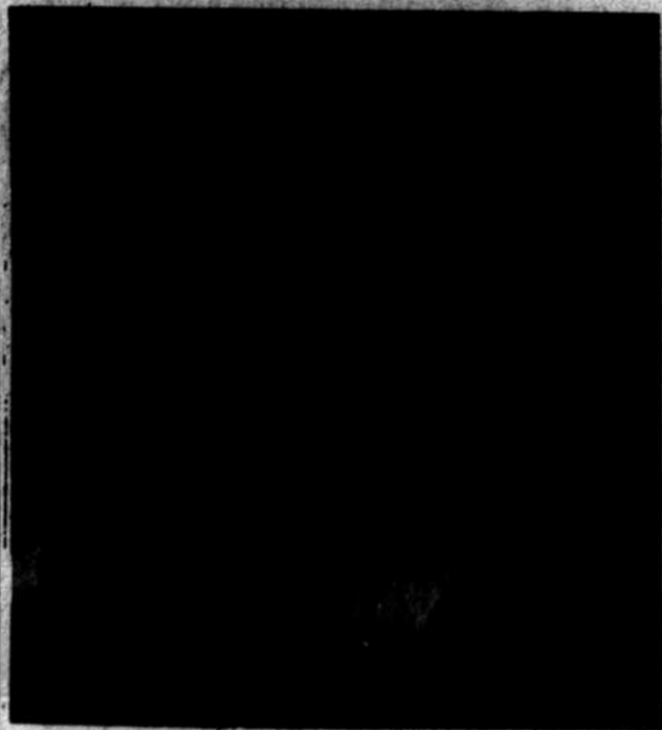
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