

SPORTS DEAL



BY
BILL JOHNSON

Prep Football Series

Rams Have The Horses To Do It!

by James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer
Last season was a season of several near misses for Harding High School coach Bruce Hardin. But everyone knows that near misses do not count in the win column. They are recorded as losses.



Chris Hill
...Rams' Lost

The Rams hope to rectify this situation in the fall. They hope to redeem a 7-6 loss to arch-rival West Mecklenburg, a 28-26 loss to Myers Park and a 10-0 loss to defending conference champion West Charlotte.

The Rams have the horses to do it. Perhaps the most sensational player on the team and the one all the scouts will be watching is number 10. That's 6-0, 170-pound quarterback Mike Eppley.

"Eppley is an outstanding athlete," said Hardin. "He does everything that you ask of him. You couldn't have a more coachable person. He

throws the ball well. He runs the offense well and the boys respect him."

Respect is something the team offers for Coach Hardin also. He came to the Rams as an assistant from Olympic High School and in two years has turned the Harding program from the conference doormat to a legitimate contender for the Southwestern 4A Conference championship.

The Rams have a bevy of quarterbacks to aid Eppley. Included are 5-10, 150-pound sophomore named Keith Davis who quarterbacked for the junior varsity last year.

In the backfield, 5-7, 135-pound Greg Gettys and 5-9, 165-pound Danny Robinson, are mainstays.

Gone are Chris Hill who gained hundreds of yards during his three year stay at Harding and James Springs who aided the Rams' cause.

All was not lost last year. The Rams came up with big wins over Garinger 26-6, Independence 20-0, Olympic 14-2 and state 2A runnerup Charlotte Catholic 21-10.

The overall record for the team was 4-6. They were 3-6 in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

Rams who figure to make contributions to the Ram cause are junior split end Lewis Cornelius, junior tailback Reggie Floyd; senior tailback Johnny Love, junior fullback Danny Robinson, senior center Tracy Kiser, senior center Cliff Traylor, senior tailback Jeff Wright, senior offensive guard Steve Johnson, junior guard Bobby Shoemaker, junior tackle Carl Hubbard, junior guard Chip Helms, senior tackle Mike Kydd, senior tackle Rick Lahm, senior defensive end Rocky Lewis, senior defensive back Charles Baker and senior defensive back Zack Wallace.

The Harding Rams are ready for the opening of the spring summer football practice. "We should have a good year," said Bruce Hardin. "We had a good junior varsity and we will get several outstanding athletes from that team."

Some schools may have to reach their heads up to the sky when the new improved version of the Harding Rams pass by.

Morris Field Rangers Win

Three Out Of Four Ball Games

by James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

The Morris Field Rangers had a good week on the local semi-pro baseball circuit.

They won three out of four ball games and sport a 21-2 overall and a 16-2 league record as a result.

The Rangers celebrated the Fourth of July with a 17-5 win over the Charlotte Redbirds.

They had 11 runs on 18 hits to support winning pitcher Darrel King's seven hit performance. King struck out 15 and gave up 5 bases on balls. His record is now 7-0.

The leading hitters for the Rangers in their rout of their Triple County League cousins were Darrel King with a single, two doubles and three runs batted in; Alfred Thompson with two singles, a double and three runs batted in; Albert Turner with a single, a home run and three runs batted in; Londell McClary with a single and a triple; Bill Davis with two singles; and Charlie Houston with two singles.

The leading hitter for the Redbirds was Mark Cole with a single, a home run and three runs batted in.

On Sunday the Rangers were upset by the Northside Bombers by a 10-9 count. The losing pitcher for the Rangers was Rickie Summers, now 3-2. Summers who pitched in relief of William Harlee came to the mound in the third inning.

The Rangers committed six errors and the pitchers gave up 11 bases on balls.

Northside scored the winning run in the top of the ninth with two outs.

Saturday, the Rangers play the Mecklenburg Hornets at 3:30 p.m. at Horner's Nest Park.

Emmett Cherry will pitch his first game as a Ranger.



Charlie Houston
...Hit two singles

On Sunday, the Mecklenburg Orioles are the foe at Crockett Park at 3:30.

BATCH All-Stars

Will Take On

Norfolk Netters

The BATCH Traveling All-Stars travel to Barrad Park in Norfolk, Virginia this weekend to hopefully clinch a tie for first place in the Southeastern Racquet Association regular season standings.

Winston-Salem beat Raleigh 18-13 Saturday to finish the season at 4-1 in the conference. BATCH is 3-1.

The meeting at Norfolk will also pit the conference's number one junior squads against each other. BATCH is 4-0. Norfolk is 3-0.

The locals warmed up with each other in the fifth annual Greater BATCH Invitational.

The winners were Stan Law and Ron Johnson in junior doubles, Madelyn Simpson in ladies singles, Tyrone Holland in men's singles, Bill Carles and George Krajack in men's doubles, and Keith Haywood and Darlene McCullough in mixed doubles.

The Rangers will play the Senior Babe Ruth League All-Stars at Harding High School at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Exceptional local talents will be on display for the team coached by Harding High Baseball Coach Don Atrip.

Atrip coached Crawford Sprinkler to a 16-1 record with which was good for first place in the regular season standings.

SCSC To Face

10 Tough

Opponents

ORANGEBURG, S.C.—A ten-game 1979 football schedule, featuring six home games, has been announced by South Carolina State College.

In addition to a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference lineup, the Bulldogs will meet Alcorn State, Johnson C. Smith, Grambling and Morris Brown who returns to the S.C. State schedule after a seven year absence, replacing Maryland-Eastern Shore.

The Bulldogs open the 1979 campaign Sept. 1 at Richmond against Virginia State. Other road games include Alcorn, Sept. 29; Johnson C. Smith, Oct. 6; and North Carolina Central, Oct. 27.

Games at Bulldog Stadium are Delaware State, Sept. 8; North Carolina A&T, Sept. 15; Howard, Sept. 22; Morgan State, Oct. 13; Morris Brown (Homecoming), Nov. 3; and Grambling, Nov. 10.

All games at Bulldog Stadium will be at 2 p.m. with the exception of the Delaware State and North Carolina A&T games which have a 7:30 p.m. starting time.

Minnie Mendoza, Herman

Thomas To Manage Stars

by James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Everybody in Charlotte is getting excited about the Jackie Robinson League's All Star baseball game at Crockett Park on July 20 beginning at 8 p.m.

The managers of the West All Stars are Minnie Mendoza of the Mecklenburg Orioles, Herman Thomas of the Morris Field Rangers and Larry Burns of the Union County Dodgers.

The East Managers are Rufus Mingo of the Northside Bombers, Mack Rivens of the Davidson Jets and Andrew Brown of the Kings Mountain A's.

The trainer is Harold Clawson of the Morris Field Rangers. The scorer is Tony Tompkins of the Kings Mountain A's and Jonathan Rivens of the Davidson Jets.

The East players are Martin Rivens, Grover Rivens, Javet Wilson, Marcus Rivens and John Patterson of the Davidson Jets; Fred Rembert, David Shirely, Sammie White-side, Johnnie Taylor and Mark Windle of the Northside Bombers; Willie Hancock and Richard Harris of the Hoskins Giants; Mark Hager, Scott Vause and Danny McDowell of the Kings Mountain A's;

Darryl Jackson, Ira Simpson, Larry Spears of the Charlotte Hawks and Ed Thompson, Jim Irvin and David Yost of the Mecklenburg Hornets.

The West All-Stars are Garry Morrow, Eddie Latta and Melvin Latta of the North Charlotte Bombers; Darryl King, Alfred Thompson, Bobby Reynolds and Londell McClary of the Morris Field Rangers; James Williams, Ronnie Doster and Melvin Cuthbertson of the Union County Dodgers; Ricky Carelock, Jackie Jennings, Jerry Alexander of the Charlotte Mets; Phil Harris, Dalvin Eggeston of the Royal Bums; Allen Smith, Bobby Harrison, Rick Siler, Steve Helms, Micky Ledford, Nestor Velazquez and Luke Vasser of the Mecklenburg Orioles.

MEAC To Hold

Football Clinic

Durham—The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference will conduct its annual football officials' and coaches' clinic here July 13-14, according to Commissioner Ken Free. Registration is set for 6 p.m. Friday at Ramada Inn 1-85, which will serve as headquarters.

Atlantic Coast Conference Supervisor of Officials, Norvell Neve, is the two-day clinician. Neve grew up in western Kansas, attended Fort Hays State, did graduate work at Colorado, and began officiating in 1935. He has been at his present post since 1969.

Ron Pinkney, long time sports announcer, and now the voice of National Black Network Sports out of New York, will be in on Saturday. He will discuss different phases of sports media with the coaches and Sports Information Directors tentatively scheduled for 2 p.m.

Five new MEAC head coaches will be introduced during the weekend: Tyrone Caldwell (UMES), Henry Latimore (NCCU), Bill Davis (SC ST.), Floyd Keith (Howard), and Charles Henderson (Delaware St.). The other two are Clarence Thomas (Morgan) and Jim McKinley (NC A&T).

These gentlemen will be available for interviews both days of the clinic.



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