

By James Cuthbertson

PREP



Chatter



James

Eric Abrams Is Highly Regarded In Tennis Circles

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

The East Mecklenburg tennis program is blessed with one of the better players in the state of North Carolina in Eric Abrams.

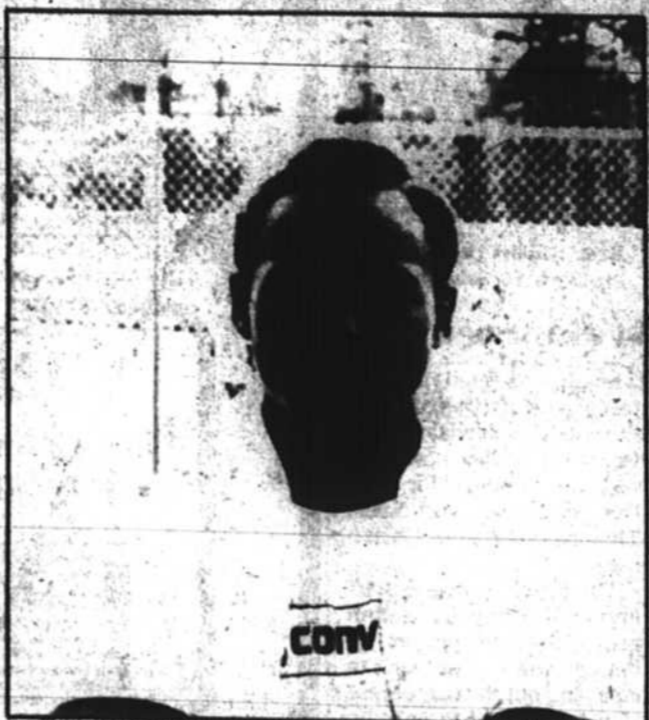
Abrams is ranked number 15 in the 16-and-under division of the state.

Only a sophomore, he is highly regarded as one of the best players in the city.

"I really like the game of tennis," Abrams said. "It is a very disciplined game and you have only yourself to blame if you make a mistake. The individuality of the game is what I like."

Abrams is presently 4-0 on the season having beaten highly regarded Taft Mills of Monroe, Scott Filgel of Country Day and the number one player from Catholic and Charlotte Latin.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Rudolph Abrams of Eastbrook Woods and is this week's Charlotte Post "Player of the Week."



CONV

Eric Abrams
.....Ranked 15th

"I was late coming out," he said. "I was playing basketball for our junior varsity team and our season ended after tennis practice had started."

Abrams was the starting point guard on the junior varsity and one of the leading scorers on the team.

"I am getting ready also for the tournaments that I will have to play to keep my state ranking," he said. "My goal is to win a state championship."

Abrams is a very good student at East Mecklenburg having an average that is well above a B.

It's something about the discipline of tennis that makes its disciples good students.

SOFTBALL
Monday, April 2

East at Olympic
Harding at Garinger
Independence at West
7:30 p.m.
Myers Park at West Charlotte
North at South

Thursday, April 5
Harding at East
Garinger at Independence
West at Myers Park
West Charlotte at North
South at Olympic

| WHERE THEY PLAY | |
|--|--|
| BOYS' TRACK Tuesday, April 3 Olympic at South West Mecklenburg at Harding | Mecklenburg Olympic at Garinger North at Harding Independence at Myers Park South at West |
| GIRL'S TRACK Thursday, April 5 Harding, Olympic at West North at South Independence, Garinger at West Charlotte | GOLF Monday, April 2 East at West West Charlotte at Garinger South at Harding Independence at Olympic Myers Park at North |
| TENNIS Tuesday, April 3 West Charlotte at East | |

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If you think last's year's Southwestern 4A Conference was competitive, wait until the next campaign rolls around.

So many of the players returning have outstanding credentials.

Returning for the conference champions, North Mecklenburg, is point guard Darryl Williams who sank the winning shot against West Charlotte in the semifinals of the conference tournament at UNCC. He averaged 3.96 points per game from his position. Joining him will be forward Todd Holden, 7.6 points per game and Letura Stitt, 5.7. Donald Bradley, 3.1 and Rodney Sims, 4.8, are the other Vikings returning.

Holden has the potential to be one of the better players to come out of North Mecklenburg. He is quick and aggressive.

Stitt, who starred at Ranson, has all the qualities of a top-notch forward.

West Mecklenburg coach John Day believes next year will be the year the Indians came out of the cellar.

Junior Milton Moore returns with a 15.6 points per game and seven rebounds per game averages. He was first team All-County Charlotte Post and is a top-notch college prospect. At 6.4, he is still growing and should be one of the prime players in the conference next year.

Joining the experienced Indians next year will be Damon Rawlinson, a dynamic guard, who came up from the junior varsity and averaged 10.1 points per game, Kevin Hughes 3.0 points per game, Robby Pope, 10.9 points per game, John White, 1.6 points per game, Scott Crisco 5.0, Tim Merritt, 2.0, Eric Trivette, 1.5 and Harry Canty, 5.3. The Indians, who missed the playoffs this year, will return 57 points per game from the last team.

The West Charlotte Lions return sensational 6'4" forward Lance Jones who averaged 6.0 points per game and 6'2" point guard Maurice Caldwell who averaged 9.4 points per game.

These two are sophomores.

Melvin Young with 4.8 points per game, Mike Cureton with 5.2 and Horace Smalls with 3.1 will return to the Lions team that finished near the top of the conference this year.

Olympic's hot-shots return super forward Antonio Howard, who averaged 7.3 points per game.

Howard, one of the conference's more exciting players as a junior, is a top college prospect with one of the best attitudes you've ever seen.

Teammate Donald Simmons is a quick youngster who should improve rapidly with more playing time. He averaged 4.0 points per game.

Lamar "So Big" Simond will be aggressive and comfortable in his center position next year. He averaged 3.1 points per game. Reggie Wilson is a 6'5" pillar of quickness who should help the Trojans on the boards.

Five feet, ten inch diminutive point guard Skip Glenn has a lot of good moves and should anchor a team that saw considerable playing time as a unit this year.

The South Sabres return Mark Scholl, 6'8" in the middle, with a 10.7 average and forward Roman Phifer with a 12.5 average. Brian Blue with a 4.0 average and Dennis Kennedy with 6.2, should give the Sabres more firepower.

The Myers Park Mustangs will be hurting. The only returnees are 6'4" All-Charlotte Post player Paul Grier with a 14.0 points per game average and Scott Wood with 2.9 points per game.

But the Mustangs returned a low number of points this year and still finished number one in the conference.

Chip Ferguson with 9.4 points per game and Keith Simpson with a 10.3 points per games average, James Jett, 3.0, Ron Downer, 3.9, Corris Davis, 2.9, Ray Finnegan, 2.8 return for the Patriots.

They join a junior varsity team that won the conference with a 17-1 record and the Patriots spell trouble again with Harry Fuller, Lee Dozier and Julia Morrison.

Returning for the Harding Rams will be Jeff Anderson 2.5, Charles Brannon 2.3, J.D. Cauthen 5.8, Derrick Coleman 3.4 and Derick Moise 2.4.

The Rams hope to better this year's performance.

The Garinger Wildcats base their hopes on All-Charlotte Post performers James Elmore 15.1 and Willie Walker 13.0.

Gene Brown with a 5.6, Aaron McKnight 3.5, Bernard Cooper 4.3, Jeff Little 2.3 and Steve Ardrey 2.4, are the other Wildcats who will probably be top-notch next year. The players received a considerable amount of experience.

Top players for the East Eagles are Austin Jones 2.3, Brian Proctor 6.7, Brett Harry 3.9 and Terry Conner 12.9.

Salvation Army Boy's Club Wins State Title

By James Cuthbertson
Post Staff Writer

The Salvation Army Boys Club on West Trade Street, has several things to celebrate.

The team won the state championship of the Parks and Recreation Programs which were held in Kinston, N.C., by defeating the home team 64-42 in double overtime.

The team of 13 to 15 year olds qualified for the tourney by winning the City-Wide Park and Recreation tourney held at West Charlotte Center.

They won the district tourney held in Mooresville.

Coached by Otis Stroud, the team was led by Cecil Jackson, Todd Henderson, Gerrin Jackson, Terry Hobbs, Tim Thompson, Reggie Miller, Roger Berry, Johnny Drakeford, Anthony Jackson, William Anderson and Wallace McCree.

Coach Stroud was elated and thanked his team for a superb effort.

The midgets of the West Trade Center were also active winning the third

annual St. Patrick's Day tourney held at the West Trade Street Center.

Gaston Boys Club, Milton Road Boys Club and Belmont Center Boys Club were the participants.

West Trade Street finished the season 23-2. In the championship game, David Jones led West Trade Street with 35 points. He was the tourney's most valuable player.

Brian Mack got 10 blocked shots for the winners.

Willie Charm led the team in assists and steals.

Two late free throws by Jones secured the win for the West Trade Street Boys Club.

J.C. Smith Adds Catawba To Its Football Slate

By Phil Basher
Special To The Post

Johnson C. Smith University will face a second team from Salisbury, N.C., during the 1994 football season. The Catawba Indians have been added to the schedule to replace the Lenoir-Rhyne Bears on September 3. The series will open in Charlotte in 1994 and travel to Salisbury the next year.

"Pete Stout is just beginning to put together what will be a very competitive program at Catawba," remarked Smith intern coach Horace Small. "I expect that it will be a tough series of games in the years to come."

Much of the CIAA will be watching the Golden Bulls' opener with more than casual interest on September 1. Smith travels to defending CIAA champions Virginia Union. The Panthers will be without head coach Willard Bailey who was hired to guide the Norfolk State Trojans program. Bailey took along several assistants. Joe Taylor left Howard to assume the Panthers' helm. Taylor will have plenty of talent returning to run his win-T offense.

J.C. Smith's home schedule features Catawba (September 3), Bowie State (September 22), N.C. A&T State (September 29), South Carolina State (October 6), St. Paul's (October 20) and Winston-Salem State for Homecoming (October 27). Away games will be Virginia Union (September 1), Livingstone (October 13), N.C. Central (November 3) and Fayetteville State (November 10).

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