

By James Cuthbertson

Prep Chatter



Coach Nathan Kelton is very proud of the letter that was sent to his team from coach Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Tar Heels.

Dated February 15, the letter from coach Smith congratulates coach Sain and coach Kelton and their players on winning Quail Hollow's second Conference Championship in three years. He ended it by saying, "I know you are pleased with the team's effort and determination."

The Quail Hollow team received the sportmanship award while winning the conference title.

Kelton is a math and algebra teacher at Quail Hollow. He started coaching there in 1975 with the junior varsity. In 1977 he moved up to the varsity.

He won the conference title two years in a row going 10-2 in 1977 and 11-1 in 1978.

His teams are characterized by showing a strong winning desire.

TENNIS RANKINGS

1. South Mecklenburg, 2. Myers Park, 3. East Mecklenburg, 4. North Mecklenburg, 5. Garinger, 6. Independence, 7. West Charlotte, 8. West Mecklenburg, 9. Olympic, 10. Harding.

Cicero Junior McGill bested Richard Wike of Garinger, 6-2, 7-5, in a tough match with Garinger that was won 5-4 by the Vikings.

McGill is number two on the team.

Keith Chisholm, playing number three for the Vikings, won the first set, 6-3, lost the second, 6-1, and came back to beat Richard Jennings of Garinger, 6-3, in the third.

McGill and Chisholm teamed in doubles to beat Wike and Anderson, 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (10-8), in the tie breaker in the number one doubles spot.

I am going to address an issue this week that is of tantamount concern to the coaches in the Southwestern 4A Conference.

It is about the QUITTERS.

Several coaches have expressed concern over how much one has to do to keep a player happy nowadays.

Here's a poem that says it all.

This was reprinted from the Wall Street Journal. Champions once sat where you're sitting, kid. The Football Hall of Fame (and every other Hall of Fame) is filled with names of people who sat, week after week, without getting a spot of mud on their well-laundered uniforms.

General, senators, surgeons, prize-winning novelists, professors, business executives started on the end of a bench, too.

Don't sit and study your shoe tops. Keep your eye on the game.

Watch for defensive lapses.

Look for offensive opportunities.

If you don't think you're in a great spot, wait until you see how many would like to take it away from you at next spring practice.

What you do from the bench this season could put you on the field next season, as a player, or back in the grandstand as a spectator.

I believe athletes have become too pampered by our society. They are accustomed to getting everything NOW. Life does not work this way.

There is a statement that is forever true.

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT.

Wait your turn and remember for all the pain you are going through from peer pressure that there is a statement that can keep you moving forward.

It is "And this too shall pass."

As the stranger said when he looked upon the ruins of Ozymandias in the desert, "He was a great man."

BASEBALL RANKINGS

1. Garinger, 2. Myers Park, 3. Independence, 4. Olympic, 5. South Mecklenburg, 6. East Mecklenburg, 7. West Charlotte, 8. West Mecklenburg, 9. West Charlotte, 10. Harding.

Myers Park's Kevin Huffstallar struck out 14 in a Myers Park win last week.

Brian Dillon of West Mecklenburg had three hits including a three-run homer.

Darren Puckett had three hits of which one was a triple.

West Charlotte's Jerry Hollifield had a three hitter as West Charlotte beat North, 6-2.

SOFTBALL RANKINGS

1. West Mecklenburg, 2. South Mecklenburg, 3. North Mecklenburg, 4. East Mecklenburg, 5. Olympic, 6. Independence, 7. Harding, 8. Garinger, 9. Myers Park, 10. West Charlotte.

East Mecklenburg's Christy Black went five for five in a 17-8 win over Harding. Homeruns for the Eagles in that game were by Michelle Young, Tamara Jarrett and Black.

Laura Curtis of South had four hits including two homeruns as South blasted Olympic, 20-0, on a 27-hit tirade against Trojan pitching.

GOLF RANKINGS

1. South Mecklenburg, 2. Myers Park, 3. East Mecklenburg, 4. Garinger, 5. North Mecklenburg, 6. Independence, 7. West Mecklenburg, 8. Harding, 9. West Charlotte. (Note: Olympic does not field a golf team.)

Eric Montgomery is excited about North Carolina Central's chances on the gridiron this season.

The 6-0, 225 center was co-captain of the team as a sophomore. He helped lead them to a 7-3 record which was good enough for second in the CIAA.

They lost to champion Winston-Salem State who was eventually beaten by Virginia Union.

A big game for the Eagles comes on September 21 when they travel to Yankee Stadium to play the Grambling Tigers from the tough Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

"I am excited," said Montgomery. "It is a great promotional game for us."

Philadelphia Eagles' Receiver Enjoying Vacation In Charlotte

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Who says there are no celebrities in Charlotte? Just ran into Melvin Hoover, wide receiver for the Philadelphia Eagles the other day. A native Charlottean, Hoover is in the Queen City enjoying his six months' vacation from pro football.

How's life in the NFL? "Luxurious," admits Hoover. "A single man can do just about anything he wants," he smiles. Incidentally, Hoover informed that he was leaving the next day for Philadelphia to pick up his newly purchased Mercedes.

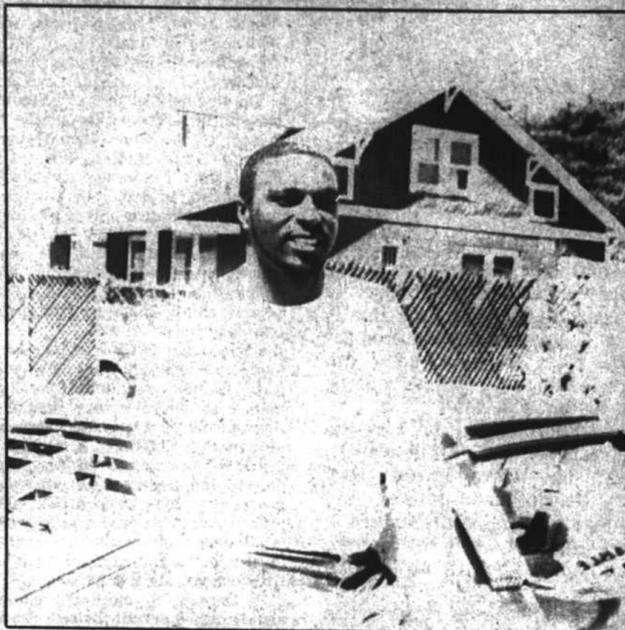
A graduate of North Mecklenburg High School, Hoover attended Arizona State. While in high school, Hoover remembers, "I knew I was going to go to college but I didn't believe I was going to the pros."

Today, he says the highlights of his sports days have been making All-American in high school and college, being named "Most Outstanding Player" at college and being drafted. He has played with the Philadelphia Eagles for four years.

Hoover reveals that the public sees the image of a pro football player as being "macho" but he claims, "I look at it as God gave me the athletic ability to do such things." He says he is proudest of the fact that out of all the colleges in the nation, only 300 players are drafted annually and he was fortunate enough to have been one.

The wide receiver also admits what he loves best about playing ball is "people's admiration."

Not being able to name the football player he most admires, Hoover remarks that he "has a lot of respect" for John Jefferson of the



Melvin Hoover
.....Four-year veteran

Greenbay Packers, who was Hoover's teammate in college. "All the guys (in the NFL) are good," he concludes.

"The Philadelphia Eagles," says Hoover, "are in the process of rebuilding and have the potential to go far. Our division, the Eastern Conference, is the toughest in the NFL," he adds.

Hoover's one goal is to make All-Pro before he retires from pro-

fessional football. He also says that playing pro ball is as hard as it looks and he's grateful he hasn't suffered any serious injuries.

Six months out of the year Hoover lives in Philadelphia and on his six months off, he enjoys visiting his family in Charlotte, traveling or participating in football engagements.

Hoover is the son of James and Doris Withers of Charlotte.

Eric Abrams Paces East Meck To Unbeaten Tennis Campaign

By James Cuthbertson
Post Sports Writer

Eric Abrams, star tennis player for the East Mecklenburg Eagles, breezed to a 7-1 personal record while leading the Eagles to an 8-0 team mark.

Losing to top ranked Brian Birchfield of Concord, the junior is playing Number One for the second straight year and anxiously awaits the beginning of the tough conference stretch.

The big three—East, Myers Park, South—will determine who wins the Southwestern 4A.

Last year Abrams advanced to the Western Regionals in Hickory where he lost to the eventual state champion.

His goal this year is to make it to the state championships and to win the conference by rising over South and Myers Park.

"The tennis race is not a big difference over last year," he said. "The faces are all the same. You just have to keep getting better. You have to practice as often as possible. You need to use all your free time to practice. The conference competitors may not be tough every match, but you know that once you hit the sectionals and the regionals that you are going to be playing some very good tennis players."

Abrams, who also plays basketball, gave up the sport last year to concentrate on tennis.

Among area professionals who have helped him with the finer points of his game are Pender Murphy, Bev Culbertson and Cal-

vin Davis, the who's who of Charlotte area tennis.

Eric, the son of Thomas "Rudy" and Joan Abrams of Quiet Cove Court, is looking forward to a Friday match with Myers Park that could decide who goes on to win the conference championship.

Gardner Webb, Appalachian State, High Point College and Johnson C. Smith are the schools getting in the race for the services of this week's Charlotte Post "Spring Sports Player of the Week."

Last year Abrams was an All-Southwestern 4A Conference in tennis and it looks like he will make the team again.



Eric Abrams
.....Tennis "whiz"

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