

By James Cuthbertson

Prep Chatter



James

Today is August 1 and the official 1985 race for the conference football championships is on.

It's a little early to predict but I have some. The new conference lineups put **HARDING, WEST MECKLENBURG, OLYMPIC, WEST CHARLOTTE, NORTH MECKLENBURG, EAST GASTON, and SHELBY CREST** in the TRI-COUNTY 4A.

Placed in the **NEW-SOUTHWESTERN 4A** are **GARINGER, INDEPENDENCE, EAST MECKLENBURG, MYERS PARK, SOUTH MECKLENBURG, GASTONIA ASHBROOK, and GASTONIA HUNTER HUSS.**

Last year, the local race ended in a tie with South Mecklenburg, 7-2, 7-3, West Charlotte, 7-2, 8-2, Garinger, 7-2, 8-2, and Independence, 7-2, 7-3, at the top of the conference.

The coin was tossed for the two playoff positions and the lucky recipients were West Charlotte and Garinger.

South Mecklenburg, the team playing the best in the league at the end of the season, and Independence stayed at home.

The two playoff recipients represented the **OLD SOUTH-WESTERN 4A** well.

Garinger beat Gastonia Hunter Huss, 39-0, and High Point Andrews, 17-9, before falling to eventual state co-champion Greensboro Page in the semifinals by a 21-7 count.

West Charlotte beat Winston-Salem Parkland, 16-14, before losing to Page in the quarterfinals, 21-7.

East Mecklenburg was the fifth place team in the conference with a 6-3, 6-4 record and were followed by Harding, 3-6, 3-7, North Mecklenburg, 2-7, 3-7, Olympic, 2-7, 2-8, West, 2-7, 3-7, and Myers Park, 2-7, 2-8.

Looking at the new setups, the power in the **NEW SOUTHWESTERN 4A** appears to belong to **SOUTH MECKLENBURG.**

The Sabres return Super Heroes Roman Phifer at wide receiver, place kicker, punter, punt returner and outside linebacker, and quarterback Greg Wilcox. That's enough arsenal to blow up Fort Knox.

The Sabres were the number one team in the Charlotte Post's Southwestern 4A rankings.

East Mecklenburg has Edward "Big" House to anchor the line at 5-9 and 270.

Rudy Abrams always cries the blues, but the Eagles are always tough. Don't look for anything to change.

Independence has Harry Fuller, Jeff Robbins, and Donald Donald, that's right, Donald Lee Donald back. He has got to have the most memorable name in the conference.

Robbins is the quarterback, Fuller is a fleet footed defensive back and Donald is a fleet footed halfback.

Look for the Patriots to be tough.

Myers Park will be trying to regroup from last year's dismal finish.

The Garinger Wildcats lost practically everyone, but Ralph McKissick's presence still makes them hard to beat.

Gastonia Hunter Huss is the defending Western 4A Conference champion. They did it with Darryl and Dirk Floyd, who lead a contingent of players coming back who should make the team tough.

Gastonia Ashbrook was down last year. Look for them to be up this year. The Green Wave like their namesake have ups and downs. It is time for an up.

The West Charlotte Lions made the playoffs. When the question of whether or not Neil Williams is eligible to start this season is settled, we will know how to predict the Lions.

The Harding Rams have a standout running back in Antonio Walker, and a standout quarterback in Anthony "Lizard" Houston. They also have Jimmy Overman and Tregg Mathias back to give additional offense.

Olympic's Trojans return Reggie Fewell and Ed Reid to anchor the line and have a good, young defense reporting in. Look for them to be better.

The West Mecklenburg Indians return a standout quarterback in Derrick McGowan and a standout running back in Ray Hughes. The Indians can't help but be decent.

North Mecklenburg lost a lot of top players, but the word is that Desi Mercer is almost as tough as his brother, Tony Mercer.

The Crest Chargers were third in the Southwestern 4A last year and East Gaston was in second division of the Southwestern 3A. Don't look for too much from either team. Both regret being members of the Tri-County Conference.

In private school ranks, as always Catholic will be tough. Country Day is strong again and so is Latin. But the question is, "Can Reggie Clark lead Providence Day to a league championship?" We believe he can.

PRE-SEASON METROPOLITAN AREA TOP 12

1. **SOUTH MECKLENBURG** - As far as we are concerned, the Sabres have every ingredient needed to make a nice state championship cake.
2. **INDEPENDENCE** - The Patriots look mighty strong. Let the firecrackers fly for a possible state championship.
3. **HUNTER HUSS** - The Huskies are seasoned and should show some power. Who was it that ran that ball in, Dirk or Darryl?
4. **EAST** - The Eagles are ready to fly again.
5. **HARDING** - The Rams have enough ammunition to stock an arsenal.
6. **WEST CHARLOTTE** - If Neil Williams plays, the Lions could stay here. Without him, look for them to drop.
7. **OLYMPIC** - The Olympic defense looks mighty tough. Maybe the Trojans are on the rampage again.
8. **WEST MECKLENBURG** - The Indians have the potential to be the best ever. They could rock the Tri-County.
9. **CATHOLIC** - The Cougars are always tough. Look for them to dominate the Rocky River.
10. **GARINGER** - Ralph McKissick leads the way for the Wildcats.
11. **PROVIDENCE DAY** - Reggie Clark leads the way.
12. **NORTH MECKLENBURG** - Another Mercer is on the lose.

Appalachian's Star Wide Receiver TV Played Major Role In Lindsey's Development

By Wade Nash
Post Staff Writer

Ten years ago Tony Lindsey journeyed to South Park Youth Center to play football. Tony watched television and envisioned being a future star in the National Football League with Earl Campbell motivating the South Mecklenburg graduate. It wasn't offense that warranted Lindsey's selection to the East-West game but exceptional defensive skills.

At 6'2" Lindsey drew attention from coaches at East Carolina, South Carolina, NC A&T, WSSU, NC State, Hampton, Western Carolina and others before the 18 year old 185 lb. star settled on Appalachian State University.

"I considered NCCU very heavily because I enjoyed the school when I visited the Durham campus. My theory on where I would go was to evaluate what the team was like the previous year, who they would lose, and I'm aware that there was someone there ahead of me on the depth chart. I intend on working my way into the lineup and contributing next year if not this season," Lindsey said.

Selecting a college to spend four if not five years of your life is a major task and Lindsey chose to heed the advice of South Mecklenburg coach Jim Seacord, his parents Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Stacy over the peer pressure that suggested other schools. Their advice was to go where he'd be happy and they reminded Tony that they'd support him regardless of his choice.

Television played a part in Lindsey's development as a player but it wasn't a factor in deciding on Appalachian. Tony played split end, strong safety, and made 142 tackles, caught five touchdowns and averaged 31 yards per catch. Those statistics earned All-Conference honors and proved Tony was a worthy captain of his Sabre squad.

Off the field Tony drove a bus, was a Key Club member, and worships at Jonesville AME Zion Church. Character gained from being around great Charlotteans will help Tony at Appalachian State. Tony is going to school with academics in mind and said, "I'll put 70 percent of my time in the books. I'll put football down if I get in grade trouble."

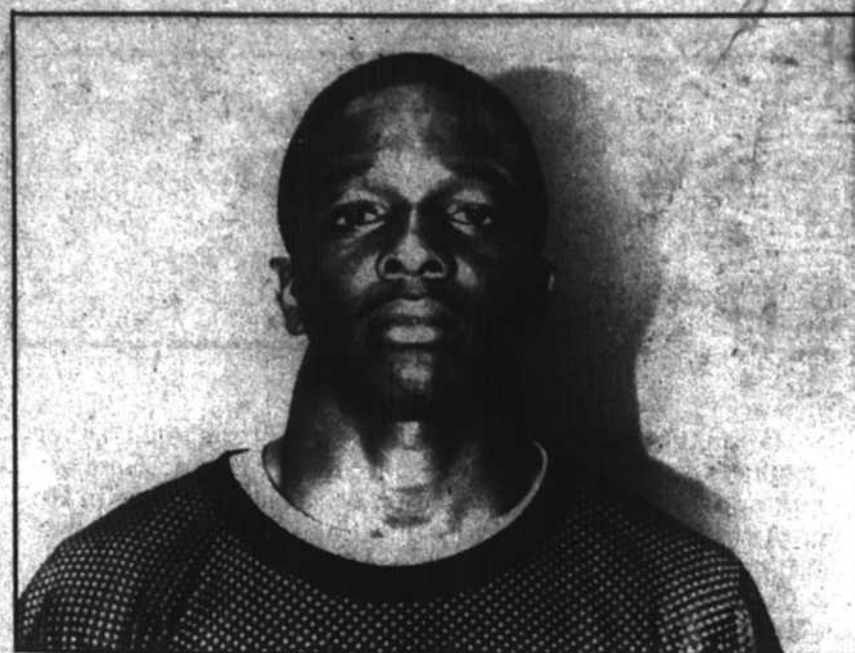
South Mecklenburg basketball coach Herb Davis had the privilege of coaching Tony as well as teaching him history. Davis was quite impressed with Tony in both situations. Davis stated, "Tony gives you 110 percent all the time. He only played basketball for one year but proved to be a well rounded athlete. He's a good student which I learned teaching him history and I believe a lot of big schools missed out on a super player. I wish I had five athletes like Tony who would just hustle all the time and be a good student. When he comes to class he's serious and I know his grade point average was higher than 2.0."

One year of basketball helped Tony stay in shape but Tony contributed at his forward position scoring 14 points per game.

South Mecklenburg also lost coach Seacord this season but defensive back coach David Williams returned and was one of Tony's favorite fans. Williams said, "Lindsey is a good player, has a lot of determination, is a hard hitter and a well rounded athlete. If you tell him to do something he does it because he's a leader."

"Tony will do a great job at Appalachian as a student-athlete and don't be surprised to see his name on the depth chart this year. Look for Tony to avoid being bombed by opposing quarterbacks because he's extremely smart." Tony understudied America's number one quarterback Todd Ellis in the East-West game practices. The game featured Todd Ellis and Tony was not in awe of the challenge. Lindsey admitted, "Todd can make you a better player. When you watch him as a defensive back he tips where he'll pass. I played split end so he looks at the last person he'll throw to. I've watched and learned from him and Todd deserves the number one ranking as a QB. I can't take anything from him because he's a gentleman, a team player. If I'd know him earlier I might have chosen USC."

Those same qualities fit Tony and the Appalachian Mountaineers will be glad Tony decided to play at ASU.



Tony Lindsey
Appalachian's star wide receiver

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