

# Prep Chatter



James

Charlotte's Henry "Struggy" Smith is a celebrity in Greenville, S.C.; Davidson, N.C.; Huntington, West Virginia; Charleston, S.C.; Johnson City, Tennessee; Lexington, Virginia; Boone, N.C.; Chattanooga, Tennessee; and Cullowhee, North Carolina.

You see, these fans were lucky enough to see the outstanding exploits of the defensive back while he was in the process of laying the foundation for his first team position on the All Southern Conference Football team.

"My best game?" pondered Struggy recently. "I believe that my best game was against East Tennessee State when I caught two interceptions, one of which was a one-handed catch in the end zone," said the senior Criminal Justice major.

Struggy caught five interceptions this season and was third in the conference in that category.

It was his third year starting in the defensive backfield; he was a receiver during his freshman year and moved to the defense his sophomore year.

The 6-2, 187-pounder is 25 pounds bigger than he was during his high school reign as one of the best quarterbacks in West Charlotte history. He led the Lions to the playoffs during his junior year when they lost to North Forsyth and to the semifinals his senior year when they lost to eventual state champion South Mecklenburg.

"Appalachian State has been a great experience for me," he said. "It was not too big, 11,000 students. It was a good size and I knew I had a chance to play from the beginning."

"The best advice that I can offer someone who has to adjust from high school to college is that they must always remember to hang in there," said the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Smith of University Park North. "It is hard and you will get homesick at the beginning but you must concentrate on the books and learn the football program."

The Apps were 8-3 this year, losing to South Carolina, Furman, and Wake Forest by narrow margins.

Smith is now getting ready to do his senior internship with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department.

He is one of our local products "who has done well."

Congratulations to East Mecklenburg's Tony Hamer and to East coach Rudy Abrams for having the only local player selected to the All-State team.

Selected as a linebacker, Hamer has 117 tackles this season. The 6-3, 225-pound senior was All Charlotte Post on offense and defense.

It has been reported that one of the local colleges that he is interested in is Johnson C. Smith University. It would be very exciting for Tony Hamer to stay here in the Queen City and excite the same Charlotte fans that he excited at East Mecklenburg. With the great Craig Warren graduating, Hamer would be a great replacement at linebacker. The young man can hit, y'all.

## METROPOLITAN AREA RANKINGS

1. West Charlotte - The Lions keep moving and grooving.
2. North Mecklenburg - The Vikings are just a step behind.
3. South Mecklenburg - The Sabres are back near the head of their class.
4. Hunter Huss - The Huskies won the state last year. It won't be easy, but they could go back to the playoffs.
5. Garinger - The Wildcats lost a narrow one to Huss. They tell me Darren Stinson is one helluva basketball player.
6. Myers Park - The Mustangs always figure out a way to win the regular season championship in the Southwestern 4A.
7. East Gaston - Let's give the newcomers their due. East Gaston, under former UNCC player Jim Turpin, is a class act.
8. Independence - Don't sell the Patriots short.
9. West Mecklenburg - As long as John White is around, the Indians are armed and extremely dangerous.
10. Harding - Anthony "Hank" Houston and Anthony "Lizard" Houston lead the Rams.
11. Olympic - The Trojans can be thankful to former player Decky Floyd. He taught his younger brother Patrick a lot of what he knows and Patrick is doing a great job.
12. Crest - The Chargers have had a rude awakening to 4A basketball.
13. Ashbrook - The Green Wave are not the same in basketball that they were in football.
14. East - The Eagles have almost as many wins as they did last year, but the competition is not as tough.
15. Providence Day - They are the best of the private schools.
16. Charlotte Latin - The Hawks could improve.
17. Country Day - The Buccaneers are struggling.
18. Catholic - The Cougars had a great football season but basketball could be so-so.

Under new stars on the horizon, let's look at South Mecklenburg sophomore Harry Davis, the nephew of the Phoenix Suns star Walter Davis, and Olympic's Patrick Floyd.

Davis scored 25 points in South's 74-64 win over Olympic and 34 in South's 98-78 win over West Mecklenburg.

He is a Master Scorer and is one of the big reasons the Sabres have vacated the cellar of the conference for the penthouse where I am sure coach Herb Davis would rather be living during the Southwestern 4A season.

Floyd, a junior, scored 21 points in Olympic's 67-48 loss to Myers Park, 19 in a 79-75 loss to Garinger, and 25 in a 59-52 loss to Myers Park. He is extremely talented and a lot of colleges are already looking at him.

Also Ronald Hargett of Olympic is a senior who scored 27 in a 76-70 loss to South and 23 in a 59-52 loss to Garinger.

North Mecklenburg's Kenneth Wylie scored his career high of 20 when the Vikings beat East Rutherford, 67-46.

West Mecklenburg's John White scored 33 in the Indians' win over Hickory and 24 in a 98-78 loss to South.

Garinger's Pervis Thomas is averaging 18 points per game.

## West Charlotte's Number 1!

# Closer Look At The High School Basketball Picture

By James Cuthbertson  
Post Sports Writer

Do not attempt to adjust your set. The funk you hear is real. It's basketball disco time and everybody is scampering for a place in the two record collections called the Southwestern 4A Conference and the Tri-County 4A Conference. We are going to have an extended play from December to February culminating in the crowning of the state champion.

Let's look at the Southwestern 4A album of picks to click first and see who is number one.

1. "We are the champions" - That's the theme song for the Hunter Huss Huskies of Gastonia, North Carolina. Coach G. C. Harrill's squad took the state title with a 40-37 win over Fayetteville E.E. Smith last year and en route to the state finals bumped off West Charlotte and Myers Park at the Western Regionals in Icard. They return three starters from that team.

They are 6'2" forward Dirk Floyd who averaged 15 points per game last year, 6'1" twin brother Darryl Floyd who averaged 11 and 6'4" guard Reggie Ampley who averaged 10.5 per game last year.

The Huskies were 20-9. Six-two forward Bobby Smith, 6'2" center time he laid eyes on his team this quick unit. Rate the Huskies 95. Easy to dance to.

2. "Didn't We Almost Make It This Time" - The Myers Park Mustangs were a step away from the state championship and now they find themselves in a new conference with a ready made rival in the Huskies.

The Mustangs were 21-8 last year and return 6'1" Tony Burris with 15 points per game average, 6'2" James Glover with 8 points per game, and tantalizing Terry Massey with 15 points per game. Terry is a junior. They will be joined by Jeff Leak, Reggie Kirby, and Julius Jant as the top backups. Bob Nastase is the coach. Rate the Mustangs 90. A whole lot of shaking will be going on.

3. "Please Pardon Me, You Remind Me Of A Friend" - Coach Dave Christenbury got a surprise at Independence when former Patriot star Jeff McGill's cousin, Nate Baskins, arrived. Nate reportedly plays like Jeff and that is a good sign. McGill is now at Wake Forest. He helped lead the Patriots to the Western Regionals.

The Pats were 14-11 last year and return 6'7" center Mark Jackson who averaged 8 points per game last year, and defensive whizzers 6'3" Harry Fuller and 6'2" Greg Clifton. The Pats also have sophomore Rodney Farrington and senior Anthony Rozier on which they can count. The junior varsity team was 20-6. Rate the Pats 85. Stop on by.

4. "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" - Coach Herb Davis of South Mecklenburg said the first time he laid eyes on his team this year, he could tell that they would be stronger than last year's 7-18 team.

Roman Phifer, 6'2", 216 pounds, is back with his 16 points per game average. Damon Rawlinson, 5'10", 180 pounds, will run the offense. Spencer Miller, Jeff Hagans, Reggie Hunter are all well over six feet, giving the Sabres some height that has been lacking in previous years.

Then there is Herb's nephew Harry, 6'2", 175 pounds, who comes from the famous basketball family that includes Herb, Harry, Walter, and nephew Lew Massey.

Rate the Sabres 80. We Are Family.

5. "What A Feeling" - Ashbrook coach Joe Shepherd has the feeling



Harry Fuller  
.....Patriots' defensive whiz



Roman Phifer  
.....South's point maker



Anthony Houston  
.....Harding's "Main Man"



Ronald Hargett  
.....6'4" forward



Letura Stitt  
.....6'4" center

that his team has more talent than ever before in 6'4" forward Fred Patterson, 6'3" forward Peter Caprise, 6'1" forward guard Rodney Patterson, 6'4", 210 pound center Steve Bean and 5'11" guard Bradley Poag. Rate the Green Wave 75. The Green Wave was 14-10 last year. Could this be magic?

6. "Come Round Here" - The Garinger Wildcats of Bruce Kreutzer were 14-11 last year and return Pervis Thomas, 6'3", with his 13 points per game average; 6'4" junior forward Darren Stinson; 5'7" junior guard J. R. McIlwain; 6'1" senior guard Kelley Hill; 6'4" Charles Peoples; 6'3" Johnny Dickinson; and 6'6", 195-pound Juan Mason. Of Mason, the coach says he is coming round quickly. Rate the Wildcats 70. Get it right.

7. "Bye Bye Baby, Goodbye" - The East Mecklenburg Eagles lost 73 percent of their offense when Byron Dinkins departed for UNCC. Maurice Flowers, 6'4" wing; Jimmy English, 5'7" point guard; Phillip Cauthen, 6'5" center; and William Brown, another wing, are the only Eagles returning from last year's 7-16 team. Mark Carter is the Eagles' head coach. Newcomers are Onda Collier, 6'1" wing; Antoine Peaseley, 6'3" post player; Tony Clawson, 5'10" wing; and Alvin Hill, 6'0" wing.

Rate the Eagles 70. It's going to take some time this time.

The picks to click in the Tri-County Conference are just as hard to pick.

1. "Number One With A Bullet" - West Charlotte head coach Charles McCullough believes this team is better than last year's and if this is true, the rest of the conference is in trouble. The Lions were 21-7 last year, advancing to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Returning are 6'4" center Kevin

Reid with his 13 points per game average; 6'2" guard Maurice Caldwell with his 13 points per game average; 6'5" Lance Jones; 6'2" A.J. Morgan; 6'4" Jules Springs; 6'3" Brian Halstrom; and 6'2" Duane Montgomery. This is a lot of talent, folks.

Supplementing the team will be 5'10" guard Brian Ellis, 6'2", 190-pound center Gerald Smith, 6'5" Chris Welch, 6'4" Mark Hubbard, and 6'4" center Venton Bell off an outstanding junior varsity unit last year. Clay Overcash and Anthony Johnson round out the Lions. Rate the Lions 100. Don't stop until you get enough.

2. "Once, Twice, Three Times A Viking" - The Vikings of Leroy

Holden will return the big three: Todd Holden, 6'0" guard, averaged 16.6 points last year; Letura Stitt, 6'4" center who averaged 16.3 points and 7 rebounds; and 6'1" Donald Bradley who averaged 8.4 points per game. They were 18-4 last year.

Bobby Moore, 6'0" junior, is the son of Johnson C. Smith University basketball coach Robert Moore. Six-four, 210-pound senior center Hayson Grier, 6'3" sophomore standout Kenneth Wylie, and 6'0" senior Mark Duncan will round out the Vikings. Rate the Vikings 98. They are hot.

3. "Everybody Rejoice: It's A Brand New Day" - Everyone felt for coach John Day last year when the now-departed Milton Moore broke both his wrists and had to sit out for most of the season. Moore was the franchise and the team went down at that point.

Now, the Indians can get happy again. John White, 6'7", 200-pound center, is the franchise for the Indians this year. Harry Canty, 6'4", 180-pound forward, is back. Derrick McGowan is back from a broken arm that made him sit out most of the season.

Helping the Indians will be 5'9", 182-pound guard Ray Hughes, 5'8", 180-pound guard Deron Davis, 6'3", 180-pound Brewer Hearn, 6'3", 170-pound Trey Caldwell, 6'5", 180-pound Chip Bean, 6'0", 180-pound David Burns. Rate the Indians 90. They are too tough.

4. "Brother to Brother" - Olympic

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