

With James Cathbertson

Prep Chatter



James

Practice was the key word for Mark Sanders as he embarked from the dorm to the football practice field at Lenoir Rhyne College this summer.

"The coach kept saying that he liked my effort and that I had a shot at starting," said the affable youngster from Garinger High School. "I was competing against an All American wide receiver named Terence Stewart, so I knew I had my work cut out for me. As the season progressed, the coach designed two special plays for me and I alternated with one of the juniors who was playing ahead of me. After the fifth game, I was a starter."

The Bears did not create any smoke with a 3-8 record under coach Jim Perry, a former assistant at Furman University.

But the Little Wonder who ran for nine touchdowns in high school while making All Conference in track and field and football had a great year.

Recruited by A&T, Furman, Gardner-Webb, Catawba, Livingstone, Presbyterian, and S.C. State, Mark picked Lenoir Rhyne because he wanted to go to a school with good academic standards as well as a good athletic program.

Although the school was a tremendous transition from his high school because of only 1,500 students, only 50 are black, he felt he made it academically with a projected 2.7 average and athletically.

In a loss to Newberry, he scored a touchdown on a Hail Mary pass as he fell in the end zone for a touchdown. The Bears lost 31-20.

He also ran a 67-yard punt return back in a 22-21 win over Presbyterian.

Mark said the players are a lot bigger in college and the defenses and offenses are much more complicated.

His goal for next year?
"The coach said I had to gain some experience. I feel that I was successful. The coach said he was impressed by me."

His advice for high school seniors?
"Study hard and try to get your grades up," Marks said. "That's what it is really all about."

Mark is uncertain of his profession, but said he plans to major in computer science or accounting.

He has been a winner since junior high school and his list of trophies include MVP baseball at Hawthorne. Coach's Award in football at Hawthorne, Coach's Award in track at Garinger (two years), All Conference football (wide receiver), and All Conference (track).

Mark is getting ready for spring practice, saying he can't wait until March.

"I am looking forward to it," he revealed. "If I do well there, I will earn my position. That is why I am not playing baseball."

"The fans really support us at Lenoir Rhyne," he added. Mark has a blinding 4.3 speed in the 40 and has used his quickness to his advantage.

He had three receptions for 137 yards against top rated Mars Hill in a game the team lost, 40-7.

Solidly built, Mark is 5-4, 147 pounds, with 42 inch shoulders, a 31 inch waist, a 28 inch chest and 22 inch thighs.

Remember his name. We will be hearing more of it as the years go by.

... Things I would like to see in 1986:

... The return of Elliot Dunlap to the Olympic High basketball team. Before the young man was declared academically ineligible, he had great potential. He is a super talent. And the team needs him.... Roman Phifer get the scholarship that he truly deserves. The Shrine Bowlers in North Carolina keep wondering why they can't win. Leaving Phifer at home was a big reason. He is one of the best players in the Southeastern United States. He will hopefully get a big plum. Being partial to North Carolina because I went to school there, I hope that Roman picks the Blue and White and plays his four years in beautiful wooded Kenan Stadium.

... Harry Fuller, Independence's outstanding defensive back, in a Blue and Gold Johnson C. Smith University football uniform. Harry is a great student and a great athlete. He could help pack the fans back into Memorial Stadium and get the Bulls back on track.

... A great year for an outstanding player at North Mecklenburg. Point guard Bobby Moore has all the talent in the world to be a truly great one.

... Anthony "Lizard" Houston of Harding in a Blue and Gold uniform for the Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls' football team.

... Ditto - Tyrone Fuller of West Charlotte, Broderick Graves of West Charlotte, Tony Harner of East Mecklenburg, and Derrick McGowan of West Mecklenburg.

METROPOLITAN AREA RANKINGS

Hot On The Charts

1. West Charlotte - "You're a knockout."
2. North Mecklenburg - "Say, Say, Say Vikings, Number one."
3. Hunter Huss - "They're a winner."
4. South Mecklenburg - "Hold that Tiger."
5. Garinger - "Moving on up."

THE REST

In sixth place is East Gaston, 7. Independence, 8. West Mecklenburg, 9. Myers Park, 10. Ashbrook, 11. Harding, 12. Olympic, 13. East Mecklenburg, 14. Crest, 15. Providence Day, 16. Latin, 17. Country Day, 18. Charlotte Catholic.

For UNC-Charlotte

Human Services Major Is "Mr. Consistent"

Number 5 on the UNCC team is Keith Williams from Queens, New York, where he played for coach Bob Cohen at Bayside High School and averaged 23 points and six assists per game as a senior.

The human services major is "Mr. Consistent" for UNCC. One of the oldest members of the squad, he scored 22 against Davidson for his career high and pulled down six rebounds against Jacksonville for his rebounding high.

He set a UNCC record with 15 assists against UNC-Wilmington on December 28, 1985 as a freshman.

He also holds the Sun Belt record for most steals with seven against South Alabama on January 31, 1985. He tied UNCC's Kevin King for the distinction.

Williams led the squad in steals last year with 72.

Coach Jeff Mullins called Williams "my top returnee" with 11.3 points, 2.3 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.7 steals per game last year.

"I think we have a good blend of old and new here," said Mullins. "Our staff is excited about the

Speaking Out:

Let's Assume The CIAA Does Breakup!

Dear Editor,

Let's assume that the CIAA does indeed break up and the Northern Division and Southern Division schools go their separate ways. How would this affect the Southern schools in a new charter league called the Carolinas Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the Tar Heel Conference, or Interstate Conference? Any name would be just as sweet. FOOTBALL.

With five of the members playing football, you could play four conference games and seven non-conference or you could opt to play each team twice in football with three non-conference games. That would give a team like Johnson C. Smith several options. You could schedule Northern schools like Hampton that have good followings in the South.

Option A: Your football schedule would look like this. Let's take JCSU, for example, Knoxville College, Morehouse, Wingate, Hampton, N.C. A&T, Lenoir-Rhyne, Gardner-Webb, Fayetteville State, Winston-Salem State, North Carolina Central, and Livingstone. That's a great schedule.

Option B: Your football schedule could look like this. Again, let's take JCSU, for example:

At Home: Livingstone, Winston-Salem State, Fayetteville State, N.C. Central, Hampton; Away: Livingstone, Winston-Salem State, Fayetteville State, NCCU, and N.C. A&T.

In basketball, each team could play each other twice for 14 conference games and pick up a pool of area teams to play that could in-



Keith Williams
... Sets UNCC record

possibilities that exist with our personnel. We are going to have some depth. But, we don't have tremendous size. We do have good athletes."

"I think I am much more at ease now and I have a tremendous confidence in our coaching staff and in my teammates," Williams

pointed out. "I feel relieved out there and I like the pace that coach Jeff Mullins has designed. But, I know we still have a lot to do. I think I react better when I am under pressure and I am looking forward to every second of this season and next."

"I am having fun again," he said. "I am really excited about the offense coach has set up and I am involved in it more," he informed.

"I don't feel the pressure I felt my first two seasons," he added, "because now I can take a shot when I

want and run a game plan that I am used to running. Coach wants us to shoot if we have an open shot and that is a tremendous change from my last two years. Everyone is in the offense and we have a strong group of players that can come in and play a number of different positions. We are a deep ball club and the coach is not afraid to substitute."

The 49ers take on Wofford Friday night in the Mine Shaft at 7:25 p.m. Then on Thursday, January 9, they travel to the South Florida Brahams in Tampa, Florida.

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