

## SPORTS



**James Cuthbertson**  
Post Sports Writer

## High School Pigskin Pickings

- 1. Harding** - The Rams look like the class of the Tri County conference. Buddy Rego could be working that maroon and gold magic again.
- 2. Independence** - The Patriots keeps moving towards the state playoffs.
- 3. South Mecklenburg** - The Sabres have the strong arm of the law in Mac White to lead them to the promise land. Steve Shaugnessy does not lose. He has a golden thumb. Everything he touches turns to gold.
- 4. North Mecklenburg** - The Vikings are emerging as a force to be reckoned with in the Tri County 4A. It looks like Campagna's forces are back.
- 5. Hunter Huss** - The Huskies are being accused of recruiting Bessemer City athletes. It is going to be interesting to see how the case turns out. The North Carolina High School Athletic Association frowns on changing legal guardianship just to switch schools for athletic purposes.
- 6. West Mecklenburg** - The Indians have the talent but the OOMPH is not there yet.
- 7. West Charlotte** - It is a little early to tell what West Charlotte really has but don't count the Lions out of the title race yet.
- 8. Charlotte Latin** - This is a hot team.
- 9. Ashbrook** - The Green Wave is one of the big four in the Southwestern 4A.
- 10. Providence Day** - This is Charlotte Latin's chief rival.

### Featured Game of the Week

Friday September 8  
GARINGER at NORTH MECKLENBURG

The Wildcats of Garinger have shown that they are improved over last year's edition. In this non-conference game, both will be trying to go into next week's toughies with a win - West Mecklenburg at Garinger and North Mecklenburg at South Mecklenburg with a win.

**NORTH MECKLENBURG 21, GARINGER 7.**

*In Other Games:* Providence Day 17, Northwest Ashe 7; Catholic 14, Parkwood 7; Latin 7, Chatham Central 6; Ashbrook 21, East Gaston 7; Shelby 7, Crest 6; Hunter Huss 12, East Rutherford 10; Harding 33, Providence 7; West Mecklenburg 7, South Point 6; East Mecklenburg 12, Olympic 7.

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The Southwestern 4A conference has three playoff spots this year and the best bets are Independence, Hunter Huss and South Mecklenburg. However, Ashbrook has the talent to be a spoiler and the final spot might be decided with two season ending games featuring South Mecklenburg at Independence and Ashbrook at Hunter Huss in the battle of GASTONIA. More than 12,000 are expected to be in attendance at Hunter Huss Stadium. The big barbecue starts at 5 p.m. Come one come all.

The Tri County Conference will go down to the last week of the season also with North Mecklenburg at West Mecklenburg. This could easily decide the first or second position.

In the first round of the state playoffs which will begin November 10, the Tri County number two team is at the Central Piedmont number 2. The Tri County number one team is at home to the Central Piedmont number three and the Tri County number three team is at the Metro number one team.

The Southwestern number one is home to the Mountain Athletic number two. The Southwestern number 2 is at the North-western number one and the Southwestern number three is at the Metro number two.

The Tri County or Southwestern teams could not meet until the semifinals of the state playoffs. They are in separate brackets.

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The Metro conference is Winston-Salem Carver, East Greensboro Smith, South Stokes and Burlington Williams.

The Central Piedmont conference is Davie County, Greensboro Dudley, Greensboro Grimsley, Winston-Salem Mount Tabor, Winston-Salem Parkland, Winston-Salem R.J. Reynolds, South Rowan and West Forsyth.

The North-western conference includes Alexander Central, East Burke, Morganton Freedom, Hickory, McDowell Central, South Caldwell and Boone Watauga.

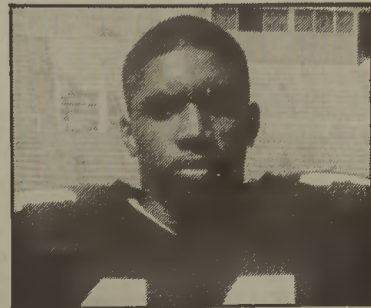
The Mountain Athletic conference is Asheville, Asheville Erwin, Asheville A.C. Reynolds and Waynesville Tuscola.

## Flowers, Jamison Tops This Week

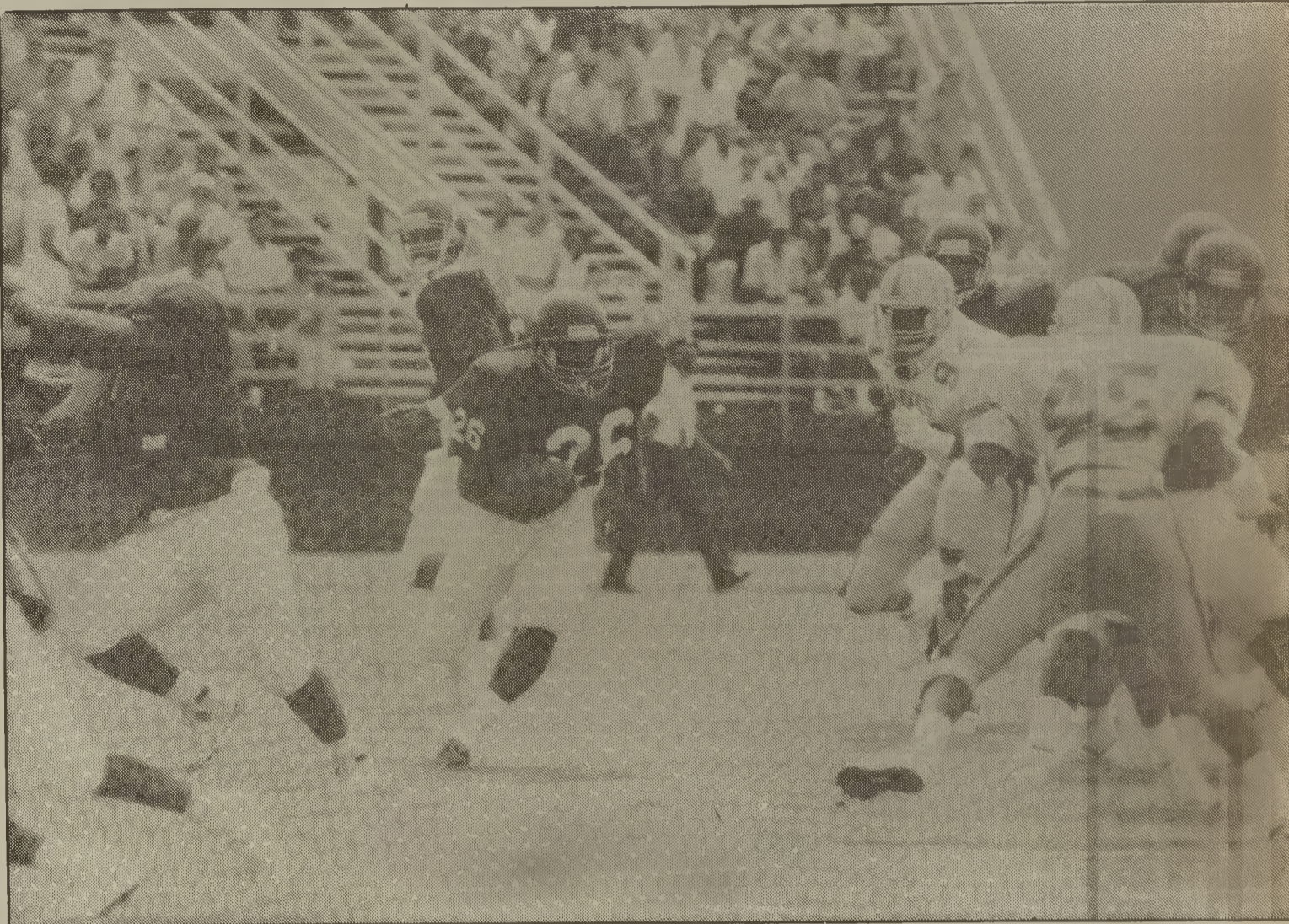
Maurice Flowers and Craig Jamison piled up the most impressive statistics for Johnson C. Smith in last week's 58-41 loss to Bowie State.

Flowers, a 6-4, 212-pound junior quarterback from Charlotte, completed 16 of 32 pass attempts for 263 yards and three touchdowns.

Jamison, a 6-0, 220 freshman linebacker from Orangeburg, S.C., had 12 total tackles on defense.



Flowers



N.C. Central running back Tim Coffield (26) looks for daylight as N.C. A&T linebacker Demetrius Harrison (45) moves in for the tackle in the Aggies' 24-6 win in Greensboro last week. A&T

plays at Winston-Salem State Saturday while the Eagles play Morris Brown in Durham.

## Smith Home; A&T, Rams Hook Up Too

By HERB WHITE  
Post Managing Editor

The second week of the CIAA Southern Division season finds most teams trying to stop skids before they get too far along while Winston-Salem State renews an old rivalry.

Johnson C. Smith's Golden Bulls hope to avoid falling into a deep hole Saturday when they open their home football schedule against Virginia Union.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Stadium.

Smith, who lost to Bowie State in a 58-41 shootout in Maryland last week, fell behind 38-0 after 16 minutes of play. After that, the Bulls made a run at the Bulldogs' regulars, outscoring them 41-20.

Turnovers were Smith's nemesis early, with Bowie cashing in to threaten a rout.

By the second quarter, howev-

er, the Bulls rallied behind quarterback Maurice Flowers, who passed for nearly 300 yards and three touchdowns.

Smith showed plenty of offensive muscle despite the loss, even rolling up 112 yards net rushing - better than any effort last season, when the Bulls went 2-7-1. The 41 points against Bowie topped every effort last year as well, surpassing 32 against Livingstone.

The Panthers, who rolled past Fayetteville State last week, has quarterback Carl Wright running the offense. He'll hand the ball off to Kurth Greene, a red-shirt freshman or passing to Donald Saunders.

The Panther defense is solid, with Tim Hall replacing CIAA defensive player of the year Leroy Gause at linebacker. He'll be joined by Randall Pearson, who will work behind lineman Her-

bert Parham.

In one of the biggest and most bitterly-fought rivalries in the state, N.C. A&T travels to Winston-Salem to play Winston-Salem State.

Aggies coach Bill Hayes brings his first A&T squad into Bowman-Gray Stadium for the 7 p.m. game, which is expected to fill the stadium near capacity.

The Aggies bumped off their other main N.C. rival, N.C. Central, 24-6 last week at home. Quarterback Connell Maynor, who came to A&T along with Hayes last year, directed the Aggies attack with two touchdown passes while the defense limited the usually high-scoring Eagles to six points.

The Rams, coached by former Hayes assistant Pete Richardson, opened with a win over Knoxville. Quarterback Kenny

Jones and running back Broderick Graves lead the Rams' offense, which led the CIAA in rushing last season.

Les Barley, Anthony McCord and Cornell Wallace lead the defense, the best in the CIAA the past two seasons. The Rams also have the league's best kicker in Dino Belligrinis, who converted 35 of 38 PATs and 17 of 23 field goals last season.

Central will try to rebound to its loss to A&T against Morris Brown at 7 p.m. at O'Kelly Field. The Eagles had trouble scoring against A&T, something that didn't happen often last season when they led the CIAA in passing. Quarterback Ed Witcher will try to get Central untracked.

After a season-opening game at Elizabeth City State, the Bears will continue on the road, this week to Atlanta, where they play Atlanta-Clark College.

## NFL Fever Draws A Big Ownership Group

### Richardson Names New Team

By HERB WHITE  
Post Managing Editor

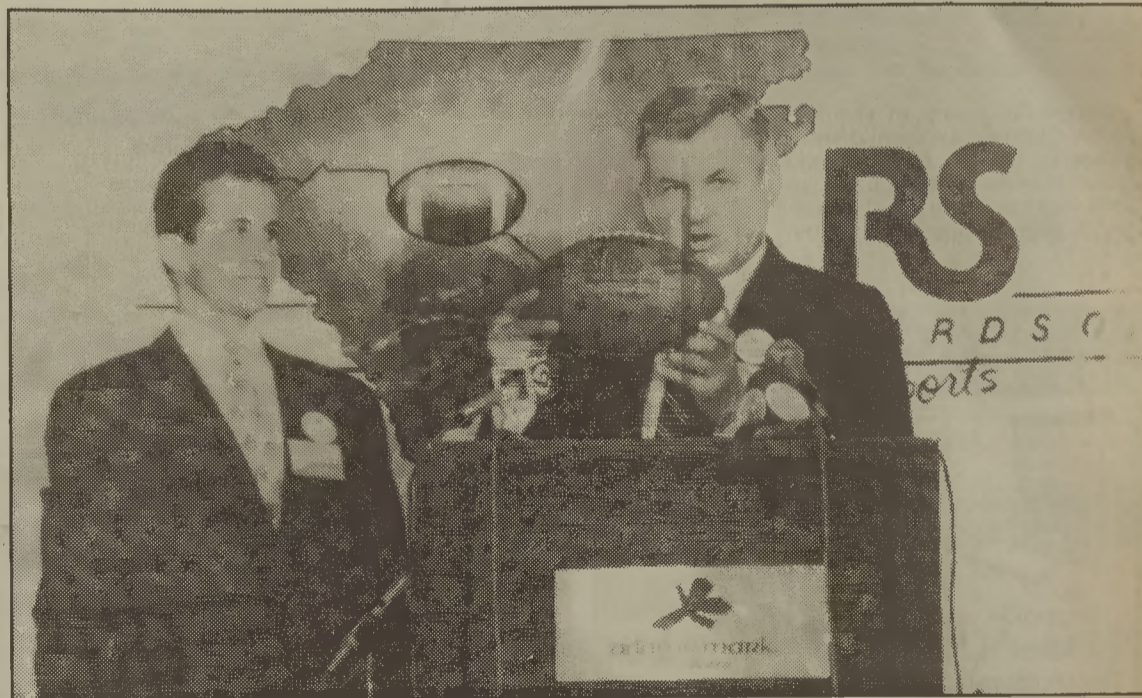
The Carolinas' bid for an NFL franchise is picking up steam, with the Spartanburg businessman Jerry Richardson announcing the formation of a partnership group to help finance the effort.

At a Tuesday press conference, Richardson, a former receiver with the Baltimore Colts, introduced the 15 people who make up the financial backing for the prospective expansion team. Along with his wife and two sons, the names behind the effort reads like a who's-who of the Carolinas richest people, such as John and Thomas Belk and H.C. Bissell of the Bissell Companies.

The group will be responsible for financing the entire expansion team effort, which is projected to cost an estimated \$200 million to bring to the area.

Mark Richardson, general manager of Richardson Sports and Jerry Richardson's son, said the effort to lure the NFL to the Charlotte area got a big boost last month when an exhibition between Philadelphia and the New York Jets drew 52,885 to Raleigh's Carter-Finley Stadium. Mark Richardson said response from league insiders was positive, especially since the exhibition took place 150 miles away from the center of the expansion team's attendance area.

Even with national coverage on ESPN, the sellout in Raleigh showed the strength of fan interest in both states, Mark Richardson said.



Mark (left) and Jerry Richardson hope to bring the NFL to the Carolinas.

"That's really indicative of the way people feel about the Carolinas today," he said. "Over the last two-and-a-half years, we've been able to educate people about the Carolinas."

Richardson acknowledged the region is still rolling after the first-year success of the NBA Charlotte Hornets, and the NFL effort is taking advantage of it to an extent.

"It's hot," Richardson said of the Carolinas market. "The Carolinas are doing real well. We're peaking at the right time."

The NFL is believed to be considering expansion, with possibly two sites to be chosen in the next year. An expansion committee consisting of current team owners is expected to be formed shortly after a successor

to league commissioner Pete Rozelle is chosen. In the meantime, said Richardson, the Carolinas delegation will continue to lobby for a team while planning for the day one is located near one of four areas near Charlotte.

"There's definitely not a timetable" for expansion, Richardson said. "The NFL's first priority is to find a new commissioner. What we need to do is have our ducks in a row."

Richardson said speculation points to new teams coming into the league by 1992. Although Charlotte doesn't have a stadium, the Richardsons plan to build a 65,000-seat facility near Charlotte.

Sites under consideration are near uptown Charlotte, Cabarrus and Gaston counties and

York County, S.C., where Hornets owner George Shinn has expressed interest in allowing a football stadium to be built on his property.

Jerry Richardson declined to say which site is likely to get a stadium, saying that still has to be studied.

"We're going to evaluate the four potential sites and decide which one is best," he said.

In the past, the league has awarded franchises to cities with stadiums in place, but not having a facility poses no threat to the local effort, Mark Richardson maintains.

"As long as we have a stadium planned, that won't hurt us," he said.