

**OHS Dennis Hicks**

**All - Buncombe Coach**

Warhorse football coach Dennis Hicks, rookie coach at Owen High, who led his football team to its best record in ten years 9-1 since the 10-0 record of the 1965 team, was selected All-Buncombe Coach.

It is a tremendous feat for a coach to win his division or conference championship in his first year at the helm but Hicks did just that this past season when he led the Owen High to a tie with Hendersonville in the Little Mac Division of the Mountain Athletic Conference. At the same time Owen won Buncombe County honors outright.

These accomplishments earned Hicks the Buncombe County Coach of the Year selection by the Citizen-Times.

Hicks Warhorse team posted a 9-1 record season, but that one loss, to Hendersonville, cost the Warhorses sole possession of the Little Mac crown and a shot at Pisgah, which eventually went on to win the state 3-A crown for the second straight year, in the second round of state playoffs.

Both Hendersonville and Owen posted 6-1 league records. The Bearcats, as a result of their win over the Warhorses, earned the playoff berth. They later fell to Pisgah, 40-13, in the playoffs.

"I feel greatly honored," said Hicks, when told he had been named coach of the year. "It is something every coach dreams about and hopes for. I feel very fortunate to have gotten the award in my first year as a head coach.

"I owe a lot of the credit to a lot of people - my assistant coaches, cheerleaders, students, faculty, the good folk of Swannanoa Valley for their great support, and of course to my hard working players," Hicks added.

Hicks, who has been in the coaching ranks for nine years, didn't lack for competition in consideration for the coaching honor.

His top competition came from North Buncombe's Felton Stephens and Christ School's Bill Sewell.

A graduate of Tennessee Tech, Hicks began his career as an assistant to Ed Emory (former Brevard High coach) at Wadesboro. He made his first appearance in Western North Carolina as an assistant at West Henderson. After that he spent a year as an assistant at Owen, moving to there where he worked under Lou Fogle for a year and then Bruce Peterson for two years before becoming head coach at Owen.

Hicks said that the main thing the Owen team had to learn and that he had to convince them of when he took over the coaching job was "that they could do things they didn't believe they were capable of doing. Once they realized that it was smoother."

The young coach paid tribute to Jim LeVine, whom he succeeded, for having built a strong foundation at Owen and for instilling strong fundamentals. "LeVine did a fine job with them and that made it easier," he said. (LeVine had two 8-2 seasons in his four years at the school.)

By the same token LeVine hailed the work of Hicks. "He came in under adverse conditions and brought the team along. He built it into a real power."

Hicks noted that the Warhorses started slowly but after losing to Hendersonville won six straight. "Kerner Long was a big key in our success," he said. "He ran and passed well, set up plays and was outstanding on defense," he said. He noted that the 160 pound Long rolled up 1,372 total yards and eight touchdowns passing and running. "We haven't had too many coaches asking about him. I just hope somebody doesn't miss him," Hicks said. The coach termed him the best in WNC.

Hicks also heaped praise on junior running back Randy Scott, who gained 992 yards.

Others coming in for particular praise were defensive performers David Ford, Gary McIntosh, Brad LeVine and Frank Butler. Other players getting special acclaim were tackle Keith Pope and guard Ken Dotson.

Hicks stated that when Owen beat Sylva-Webster, 7-6, it matured as a team. He said he was looking forward to next year, noting that there will be a strong nucleus back from this team.

Coach Hicks and his young inexperienced team adopted as their motto for the year "We Believe" - and "Believe" they learned to do - in their coach; in themselves; in their ability to win and most important to believe in each other.

Congratulations Denny, you have done a great job not only as a coach but as an example of what and how such be for your team.



COACH DENNIS HICKS

**Lassies And Warhorses Win One Lose One**

The Owen Warhorses and Warlassies won one game and lost one last week.

Sixth ranked Owen ran into an inspired group of Falcons Friday night, as a West Henderson press destroyed the Warhorses poise, 66-50, in a Little Mac basketball game played at the Falcons' home court. Owen jumped out to lead at the end of the first quarter, 17-14, but the Falcons outscored the Warhorses, 16-10 in the second period to take a 30-27 lead at the intermission. Dennis McGraw hit for five for the Falcons in the crucial second half.

Terry Twitty led the Warhorses, 4-2 overall and 2-1 in the conference, with 10 points.

The second ranked Owen Warlassies were ambushed by West Henderson, 66-57, at the Falcons' home court Friday night in a Little Mac contest.

The two teams exchanged baskets until the fourth quarter when the Falcons poured it on. Connie Creasman led the fourth quarter West charge with nine points. The sophomore center led all scorers on the night with 21 markers.

Owen took a slim lead, 13-12, at the end of the initial period and still hung onto the one point advantage, 34-33, at the intermission. West came back in the third period to wrestle the lead from the Warlassies, 49-45.

Owen was led by Teresa Smith with 15 points. She was followed in the scoring column by Mary Ann Myers who

netted 14 points. Debbie Muckelvene completed the double figure scoring with 10 markers.

On Tuesday night, the 14th, the teams played fired up inspired ball as they downed the Sylva Webster teams.

The Owen Warlassies, second ranked among area 3-A, 4-A schools, had little trouble disposing of Sylva Webster in a no-contest contest 75-42 Tuesday.

Owen, whose record stands at five wins against no losses, two in Little Mac play, took a 22-6 lead after one quarter and coasted from that point.

Mary Ann Myers led the Owen attack with 22 while Theresa Smith contributed 20 and Susan Wilson 14, Cindy McMahan was the Sylva-Webster scoring star with 12.

After a cold shooting first quarter which ended with the Owen Warhorses leading Sylva-Webster 9-6, the Warhorses opened up and won the contest 66-64.

Kerner Long, who played the entire game with an injured ankle, was the mainstay for Owen, scoring 18 points while counting nine assists. Mike Black was the only other Owen player in double figures with 11.

Owen took a 33-23 lead into intermission and held on for a 49-40 three quarter margin. Philip Howell got 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, however, and Steve Streater netted nine of his 18 at the same time to close the margin to two.

**Warhorse Representatives**

**All - Buncombe County Prep Football Team**

Five of the Owen Warhorse Football Squad joined their Coach in receiving honors as they were named to the All Buncombe Team.

David Ford, Junior Linebacker for Owen is the lightest and smallest man on the 24 man All Buncombe Team. David, at 140 lbs., makes up in determination and effort what he lacks in size. He made 33 tackles during the season and seven tackles during one game. Ford was one of the outstanding pillars of strength in the Warhorse defense.

Brad LeVine, Placement Kicking Specialist, is the only sophomore to make the squad. Brad missed only one of 14 attempts in eight games.

Kerner Long, a 5'11" 160 lb. Senior, who had been highly ranked by his coaches all year was finally given his richly deserved honors by other Buncombe County Coaches. A real work horse on the field in addition to quarterbacking the powerful Warhorse aggregation, he rated as one of the foremost defensive backs. He had a total of 1,372 yards as a passer and runner while making 18 key tackles. He scored 7 touchdowns.

Randy Scott - 6'1" - 185 lb Junior back was the guy who always came through in a pinch, he was in a sense the bread and butter man for the team totaling 992 yards in 10

games and 19 tackles. Gary McIntosh - 6'1" - 187 lb. Senior End could always be counted on for key blocks and tackles. Gary racked up 16 tackles for the season.

Owen Warhorses receiving Honorable Mention were Frank Butler - End, Tim Wright - Guard and Jay Robinson - End.

We Salute You Fellows!!! Congratulations to eight fine young men. Also to the whole Warhorse Squad and Coaching Staff - you were all superb.



GARY MCINTOSH



KERNER LONG



BRAD LeVINE



RANDY SCOTT

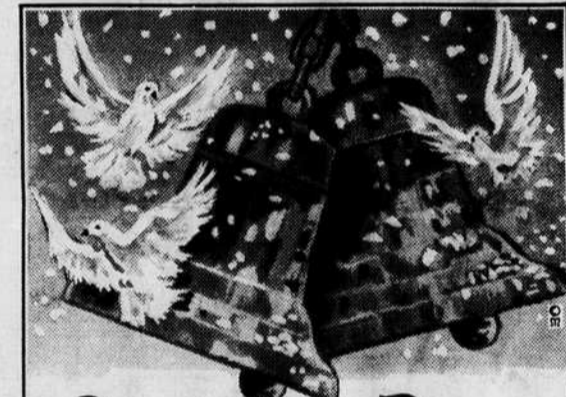


DAVID FORD



We wish you the very best holiday ever.

from the staff of Black Mountain News Grant Martha Uva Gina Phyllis



**Christmas Peace**

As we celebrate the Christmas season, may the symbols of peace and freedom enkindle a fraternal spirit in all.

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**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL!**

Deck the halls with Christmas Greetings for all. Good wishes for a very Merry Season.

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**SILENT NIGHT**

May the peace of that first Noel shine brightly on you. May its true meaning fill your heart and home with love, understanding, happiness.

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**Go to the World**

When we think of good times and happy holidays, we think of our dear patrons who have visited us throughout the year. Have the happiest of holidays.

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**Christmas Blessings to All**

Madonna and Child, bathed in light,  
The symbols of a promise bright  
To mankind given thru prophets old,  
A hope to generations yet untold.  
This Holy Babe with loving Mary,  
In His small Self a gift does carry  
From God the Father: God the Son,  
To men that they may be as one.  
Now Mary smiles upon the Child  
Who comes in such a manner mild  
To take His place as King of Kings,  
Who with His birth salvation brings.  
For this sweet Babe and mother young  
Let homage joyously be sung;  
Let painters praise them with great art;  
Let there be praise in every heart!



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