

SPORTING SCENE

# Football Playoff Pairings Announced

BY JOHNNY CRAIG

The North Carolina High School Athletic Association has released the pairings for the 1987 state football playoffs in all four classifications. For Waccamaw 2-A Conference playoff participants, this season's pairings will be nearly identical to those from a year ago.

The top three teams from the Waccamaw Conference will again advance to the playoffs and paired to the top squads from the East Central Conference.

Only the WC champion will have a first-round game at home while the second and third-place teams will go on the road. The Waccamaw champ will host the third-place ECC team while the WC and East Central runners-up will play at the site of the EC team.

Also, the third-place Waccamaw team will visit the East Central champion.

Last year, champion South Brunswick, runner-up Whiteville and third-place East Bladen all advanced to the state playoffs from the Waccamaw Conference.

East Bladen was eliminated in the first round while South Brunswick was ousted in the second. Whiteville missed the state finals by a mere one game after advancing to the eastern finals before falling to Ahoskie.

The post-season playoffs begin November 13 with the championships in all four classifications scheduled for December 11.

Of the 322 NCHSAA member schools that field football teams, 32 from each classification will qualify for the playoffs.

These teams will come from 10 1-A conferences, 11 2-A leagues, 12 3-A conferences and 13 4-A loops. The number of teams in a conference help determine the number its playoff berths.

The 2-A playoffs have had a similar look the past two years as western

champion Lexington and eastern representative Fuquay-Varina have met to decide the title. Lexington has come out on top both times and will be seeking its third consecutive state title this season.

The Lexington-Fuquay Varina rivalry appears similar to that of the Whiteville-Randleman series in the early 80's when the two teams met two straight years for the 2-A championship. Randleman came out a winner both seasons tabbing the local Wolfpack team as the "bridesmaids." However, that was a situation (playing in the state finals) nearly every 2-A team across the state would have liked.

Other state champions out to defend titles this season are Murphy (1-A), Shelby (3-A) and Seventy-First (4-A), the only eastern team to win a title in '86.

### Honored

Nearly 2,000 student-athletes across the state were honored for academic achievements during the spring semester earlier this year at last week's North Carolina Coaches Association summer convention.

The NCHSAA award recognizes both personal and team achievements for the entire spring semester as well as individual sports. For individual recognition, the student-athlete must attain a 3.5 GPA (grade point average) on a 4.0 scale while an overall 3.1 is required for the team award.

Seventy teams in eight different sports qualified for the honor during the spring semester.

The Central Davidson cheerleading squad topped the list with a 3.78 GPA while the Surry Central girls track team finished with a 3.63 GPA.

The only nearby school to claim academic honors was the Hoggard (Wilmington) boys tennis squad which won the team award with a 3.33 GPA.



PRE-SEASON DRILLS—Timmy Clemmons (right) holds Garrett Gore (left) during a neck exercise in practice Tuesday. West Brunswick officially kicked off pre-season drills Monday with 42 varsity players in attendance.

## Trojans Open Pre-Season Football Practice

The West Brunswick football coaching staff welcomed 42 players to the first day of practice Monday morning with the number expected to increase to 50 in the next several days.

While some schools opened practice Saturday (the first day of practice being no sooner than August 1), most area teams began Monday.

North Carolina High School Athletic Association stipulates that the first six days of practice shall be used for physical conditioning only. Practices during this time is limited to one a day and not to exceed two hours

in length.

While players can work out only in headgear, t-shirts and shorts during the first three days, the fourth, fifth and sixth days allow gridders to dress in complete uniforms.

However, no body contact is allowed during the first six days.

Players and coaches in Brunswick County have been forced to combat the extreme heat and humidity that has blanketed the area during the past week with plenty of water breaks.



READY, SET, GO—Center Mark Bennett (front) snaps the ball to quarterback Raymond Howard while runningback Randy Daniels (back) prepares for a quick pitch at West Brunswick football practice Tuesday. Standing behind the play is Boney Clemmons.

## Columbus Wins State Tourney At Southport

Columbus County topped Chapel Grove 6-1 last Wednesday to win the North Carolina Dixie Boys (ages 13-14) Baseball Tournament at Smithville Park near Southport.

Winning pitcher Derrick Randall threw a two-hitter and struck out five while Bart Clewis and Gant Hewett added home runs to lead Columbus to the title after going unbeaten in the six-team tournament.

Columbus County pitcher/first baseman Richie Blackwell and catcher John Sherbert were named most valuable players of the tournament.

The 1987 state championship was Columbus County's fifth in the last 10 years.

The winners will now advance to the Dixie Boys World Series which begins Saturday at Rock Hill, SC.

Columbus County and Chapel Grove advanced to the tournament finals with wins over Kannapolis and Dallas the day before. Columbus ripped Kannapolis 9-1 and Chapel Grove nipped Dallas 8-6 to oust both losers

in the double-elimination tournament.

Outstanding performances in the semifinal games included Columbus County winning pitcher Brian Smith

who threw a two-hitter and struck out eight against Kannapolis.

Dallas' Ben Griggs had two singles and a double in the loss to Chapel Grove.

## Leland Advances To Third Round Of DYB Tourney

Leland blanked Caswell County 15-0 Monday to advance to the third round of the N.C. Dixie Youth Baseball Tournament for 11-12 year-olds.

Winning pitcher Adrian Black fired the second round while striking out 10 in leading Leland to the blanking.

Al Waddell and Rick Lowery added home runs to power Leland at the plate.

Leland was to face Sealand in third-round action earlier this week at the double-elimination tournament being held at Fayetteville.

## Squad Presents Tourney Plaque

A commemorative plaque was presented by the Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad to Ricky Moran, manager of Carolina Shores Golf Club, host of a recent golf tournament to benefit the new ambulance fund.

Kathy Morfit, secretary of the rescue squad, said \$2,100 was raised by the tournament, which had 144 players from the community.

Morfit said the squad hopes the tournament will become an annual event. "Cooperation such as this helps the squad to continue to provide competent 24-hour emergency service to the area we serve," she added.

She said the squad is grateful to the American Golf Association, owners of Carolina Shores Golf Club, for hosting the tournament.

## Brierwood Women Play A Nassau

On July 28 the Brierwood Ladies Golf Association played a Nassau in two flights.

Points were awarded for the best scores on 18 holes less full handicap, for the front nine less one-half handicap and for the back nine less one-half handicap, reported Suzanne Greiner.

In the first flight, winner Peg Sawyer had 87-25-62 for 18 holes. On the front Inky Remais with 45-13.5-31.5 won over Sue Greiner on a match of cards. Ann Hierman with 42-8-34 won on the back nine.

Anne Gentles was the winner in the second flight, with 90-28-62 for 18 holes. Maureen Farley won on the front with 46-15.5-30.5. On the back Lou Akers won with 52-20-32.

Gladys Bowen had low putts with 28.

The only chip-in was Marie Dolan's at No. 5. Also on this hole, birdies were scored by Ginger Sugrue, Inky Remais and Dolan.

## Karate Students Win Trophies

Two Brunswick County students from the David Marshall School of Karate in Varnumtown brought home trophies from the Louisburg Karate Open held Aug. 1.

Renee Holden of Supply won second place in fighting for ages eight and under in the orange belt division.

Kelly Stepp of Holden Beach won first place in weapons. Keith Holden of Supply also participated in the event.

## Cougars' McCracken Receives Leadership-Track Honor

South Brunswick senior Quentin McCracken was among 300 high school track and field athletes honored in Durham last week by receiving the Glaxo Leadership Award. The award is given to the top track athletes across the state who have shown outstanding leadership on and off the field as well as in their respective communities.

McCracken has received numerous county, conference and state awards and is a standout performer on Cougar football, baseball, basketball and track teams.

All recipients of the award were honored with a luncheon and awards

ceremony after attending the track and field events of the U.S. Olympic Festival held at Duke University.

McCracken was the only track standout honored with the award in both Brunswick County and the Waccamaw 2-A Conference.

Mike Gminski, New Jersey Nets professional basketball player, and Willie Banks, current world record holder of the triple jump, were guest speakers at the awards ceremony.

Glaxo is a national pharmaceutical company located in the Research Triangle Park and a sponsor of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

## Leverence Memorial Tourney Set Aug. 22 At Eagle's Nest

Golfers will get off to an early start in the 3rd George Leverence Elks Memorial Golf Tourney on Aug. 22 at Eagle's Nest Golf Course, North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The captain's choice tournament begins with a 8 a.m. shotgun start. It is sponsored by Calabash Elks Lodge No. 2679.

Numerous prizes donated by area

merchants will be awarded.

Entry fees are \$100 a foursome or \$25 per individual. Checks are payable to Elks Lodge No. 2679, and should be sent to Mike Healy, 12 Calabash Court, Carolina Shores, Calabash, NC 28459. For more information contact Healy or Jim Reagan, also of Carolina Shores.

## Western Cagers Dominate

The western boys and girls teams swept both east-west all-star basketball games from their eastern opponents last Wednesday during the 39th annual North Carolina Coaches Association summer clinic in Greensboro.

Eastern teams had dominated past boys all-star games winning nine of

the last 10 until the west took a 119-113 victory Wednesday. The win also snapped a three-game losing streak for the west. The east still leads the series 21-18.

The west girls won by a more decisive margin with their 78-54 decision. West Columbus' Treka McMillian and Leigh Waddell were both on the east girls squad and the only players from the Waccamaw 2-A Conference to participate in the all-star games.

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