

Pirates hit gridiron Saturday for scrimmage

By SUSAN R. HARRIS

New Perquimans High head football coach Jim Stewart is guardedly optimistic about the 1998 varsity and junior varsity Pirate football squads.

"I think we're going to be competitive," Stewart, in his first year as a head coach, said of the squads.

Stewart said the players seem to have adapted to his style of coaching quickly, and he is pleased with their progress so far.

This week will tell Stewart even more about the teams that will wear the black and gold this season. The squads donned shoulder pads and began hitting Monday, although lightning and rain hampered the first session. On Saturday, Stewart and staff



Jim Stewart

will see the teams in action in a five-way scrimmage at Memorial Field. Manteo, Creswell, Mattamuskeet and Columbia are expected for a 7

p.m. controlled scrimmage.

"This is going to be our evaluation," Stewart said of the scrimmage. "This week we're going to be hitting against each other. At the scrimmage, we'll hit against people we don't know. This will give us a chance to correct our mistakes before the endowment game with Atlantic Shores (on Aug. 21)."

Saturday night's performance will tell Stewart how well the teams have learned what the players have been taught since hitting the field Aug. 3.

While a few players have caught Stewart's eye, he said starting positions remain open until after he and junior varsity head coach Bob Turner see the teams in action at the scrimmage. Also under consideration after Saturday will be

whether to place any under-

classmen on the varsity squad. Stewart is very pleased with the numbers on the field this season. He said 52 young men will be split to make up the two teams, more than have gone out for football in several years.

"I think we've had a great turnout of players," he said. "We're very pleased with that. We're excited. Next year, we hope to have even more come out."

Stewart said he has also been impressed with the leadership of the seniors and some of the juniors. He said Andrew Harris, Aaron Burke, and Clifton Jenkins, he said, are providing that leadership and, along with returners such as Chris Weatherington, are taking an active role in teaching the underclassmen about play

at the high school level.

The football staff includes head varsity coach Stewart, head junior varsity coach Turner, and assistant coaches Daniel Mullens, Richard Thach, Robert Spruill, Donald Stepney and Kevin White.

Stewart and his wife, Michelle, both accepted teaching positions at Perquimans County High School earlier this summer. Jim Stewart will be teaching science, Michelle Stewart, Spanish.

The Stewarts have three children — the oldest will start kindergarten at Central School in August — with child number four on the way.

"We just do things big," Stewart laughed.

The family, as a matter of fact, is one of the things that brought the Stewarts to Perquimans.

"Basically, we were looking for a place to raise our kids," he said. "My wife and I just really loved the northeast part (of North Carolina)."

The Stewarts were here several years ago teaching in Creswell, where Jim Stewart served as an assistant football coach.

Stewart's last assignment was Dean of Students at Afton Central School in Afton, N.Y. The former U.S. Marine has eight years of coaching experience.

His athletic philosophy is simple: Keep your priorities in order and work hard. Those priorities, Stewart said, are faith, family and football, in that order. Success comes to those who remember those priorities, he said.

There will be a \$2 admission for the scrimmage.

Local SOS volunteers honored by Hunt

Gov. Jim Hunt recently recognized the achievements of more than 200 students, volunteers and community leaders involved with the Support Our Students (SOS) after-school initiative at the fourth annual SOS Blue Ribbon Awards ceremony at Southeast Raleigh High School.

Among those honored were student Madonna Garner, volunteer Ruby Bateman and Perquimans 2020 Director Leo Higgins, all of Perquimans County.

"SOS has made a tremendous difference in the lives of thousands of our state's children," said Hunt. "Many of these youngsters have been given the chance to expand their horizons, try new things and discover that the options for their future are endless. That is what SOS is all about."

The Support Our Students (SOS) after-school initiative was launched by Gov. Hunt and funded by the General Assembly during the 1994 special session on crime. SOS is designed to help reduce juve-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Perquimans County Support Our Students volunteers honored by Gov. Jim Hunt (second from left) were (left to right) Outstanding Student Madonna Garner, Outstanding Volunteer Ruby Bateman and Perquimans 2020 Director and SOS volunteer Leo Higgins.

nile crime and strengthen student performance, providing at-risk students a safe, interesting place to go in the afternoons. Through SOS, students get help with homework, get

involved in activities or clubs, or work on community service projects. Hunt and his wife Carolyn volunteer in the SOS program each week at two Raleigh middle schools.

Across the state, 76 local SOS programs serve more than 12,000 students, most in middle school, with strong volunteer and financial support from the community. Last year more than \$3.4 million dollars in cash and in-kind contributions were made to SOS programs across the state. Also last year more than 3,500 volunteers devoted almost 88,000 hours of their time to SOS.

Since October 1996, SOS has also operated the Saturday Academy program. The program is designed to expose SOS middle school students to university life in the hope that they will attend college. East Carolina University in Greenville, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte and North Carolina Central University in Durham all operate Saturday Academies.

For more information, contact Rebecca Banks at (919) 733-3011.

Schools prepare for coming year

Final preparations for the 1998-99 school year are underway, according to school officials.

Letters went out to students and parents earlier this month containing important information.

Among the items in the packet were facility and transportation changes, the school calendar, applications for free and reduced lunches and an end-of-grade testing calendar.

The first day of school for students is Aug. 24.

Again this year, all students in Perquimans County Schools will receive a free breakfast. Lunch prices are pre-K—\$2.15 and grades 3-12, \$1.50. Extra milk is 30 cents. The reduced price for lunches is 40 cents for qualifying students. Parents must complete the free and reduced lunch application in order to qualify for the program.

Central School in Winfall will house pre-K—second grade this year in preparation for the completion of the new building. Teachers will begin calling next week with class assignments and other information.

An open house will be held, but no date has been set for the event.

Hertford Grammar School's construction has postponed the school's open house, which will be held after school begins. Letters were mailed this week with information about teacher assignments and needed supplies. Parents are asked to call before visiting the school prior to the first day due to the construction.

An open house is set at Perquimans Middle School for Aug. 20, 5-7 p.m. A Meet the Superintendent and Principal Session is scheduled for 5-5:30, with time to meet teachers, 5:30-7. Letters are being mailed containing class schedules and

a list of needed supplies. A supply list is posted in Wal-Mart, K-Mart, CVS Pharmacy, Woodard's Pharmacy and Dollar General.

The Perquimans County High School open house will be held Aug. 19, 5-7 p.m. Students should already have class schedules, which arrived at the end of July in the mail.

A senior orientation regarding senior projects, financial aid and college requirements will be held Sept. 3 at 7 p.m.

The 1997-98 yearbooks have arrived at PCHS. Students should bring receipts for proof of purchase to the office to pick up yearbooks. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday.

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Albemarle Hospital is pleased to present a program about personal safety. Have your questions answered by Master Sgt. Williamson of the Elizabeth City Police Department and learn how to protect yourself.

It's FREE so seating will be limited. Register soon for this interesting presentation.

Thursday, August 20, 1998 - 12:00 noon

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