

Turnovers spell doom for Pirates Friday

Mistake-prone PQ falls 42-0 at Williamston

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Coaches hate the "T" word. And after Friday night, Harrell Thach wants to remove "turnover" from his vocabulary. Fifth-ranked Williamston used five Perquimans turnovers on the way to a 42-0 win over the Pirates in the sea-

son finale. "You just can't make that type of mistake against a good football team or it's going to hurt you," Thach said. "They're a very, very good football team. I would say they're the best football team we've played this year. They could hurt you in a variety of different ways." Thach said the Pirates drove deep into Tiger territory early in the game before penalties crippled and a turnover killed the drive. "We took the ball to their 10. If we could have scored then, it may have been a closer game.

Things just went downhill from there." The team, however, did not quit. "The boys didn't give up. They played hard." Bevon Miller rushed for 64 yards; Joel McClenney, 44; Clifton Jenkins, 33; Phillip Brent, 19; Justin Roberson, eight; and Brent Potichko, two. Roberson was 7-16-3 for 58 yards for the evening. McClenney gained 22 yards in the air; Monte Tunnell, 18; and Miller, 10. Thach said Williamston coach Harold Robinson's solid, established program had the

Tiger players much further along in fundamental development than the rebuilding Perquimans program. "That's (Williamston) an established program, a good team. I have great respect for Harold Robinson and his program. He's been there for over 20 years. His players are well-schooled in issues such as the first defender tackles, the next one strips the ball. That's what we're working to establish here." Thach also said that Robinson runs a classy program. "He probably could have

punched it in again, but he knelt on the Perquimans two (yard line) at end of game," Thach said. Now Thach and his squad of experienced coaches are looking on 1999 as a very positive step in the rebuilding program at PCHS. After a two-win season in 1997 and a one-win season in 1998, the 1999 team went 5-5, a tremendous improvement. And Thach added that the team's losses were to quality teams with established programs. "We're looking forward to next year," he said. "I'm ready to get started on it. I feel like

we made a lot of positive moves this year that will help us next year. We've got some excellent jayvees coming up that will definitely help the program." Thach said the weight room will be open for training in January at both 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. He hopes to see football players and prospective players working out during the off season. "To establish a program (like those) that have been established at other schools such as Williamston, you have to work out all year. They do," Thach said.

Caddy 9th in state 1-A cross country meet

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Dayton Caddy sprinted to a Perquimans record at the state 1-A cross country meet Saturday to claim 9th place. Caddy turned in a time of 17:43, anchoring the 8th-place Perquimans team. "Dayton Caddy ran a super

race," said a proud Pirates coach Sadot Mendez. "That was the best performance from any cross-country runner of Perquimans ever at that level. He missed all-state by two positions. But I am glad that he finished his last race on a high note since he is a senior. I'll miss him greatly as a friend and as an athlete."

Mendez said Caddy joined an elite group of cross country runners at Perquimans, among the best since Mendez started the program. All-time top runners who have come through the program include Caddy, William Ponton, Jeremy Cram, Buddy Hollowell, Calvin Johnson and Patrick Gregory. In Caddy's shadow is Ben

Godfrey, a junior Mendez expects to take the leadership role on the 2000 team. Godfrey finished 18th at the meet, the second runner from Perquimans to finish. "Definitely Ben Godfrey will be the leader next year," Mendez said. "He ran an excellent race." In addition to Caddy and

Godfrey, Adam Reynolds, David Byrum and A.J. Overman scored for Perquimans. Bryan Jennings and James Caddy were just seconds behind. As a team, the Pirates moved up two notches in state competition from 10th last year. For the Lady Pirates, Erica Sinkovic and Charlsie Perry

finished 62nd and 68th, respectively. Mendez said the pair ran very well, and he expects the duo to be the axis of a rebuilding effort for the girls team next season. Mendez said the team represented the county and school system in an excellent manner, as did the 18-20 fans who made the long trip to Charlotte for the meet.

PCMS loses big game in OT JVs fall to Williamston, 27-12

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

It was football at its best Saturday night as two top middle school teams went head to head at PCHS for the PCMS homecoming game. Perquimans and River Road battled hard for four quarters, only to see the score knotted at 20 when the final buzzer sounded. The Rockets nipped Perquimans, 26-20, in OT. Jevone McClenney, Shavoris Lewis and Chris Hartsfield scored for Perquimans. John Hoggard passed for a touchdown.

On defense, John Wolfe recovered two turnovers and Corey Hunter and Eddie Gilbert, each had one recovery. The outcome of the game left Perquimans, River Road and Manteo tied for the top spot in the conference, each team with one loss. A coin flip on Monday sent Manteo to the Coastal Athletic Conference East-West championship to represent the east division. The game was played before a packed house with lots of excitement. The Marching Tigers, the school's 8th grade band, did an outstanding job, making director David Ziemba very proud, he said.

At halftime, Mr. and Ms. School Spirit were crowned for each grade level. Winners were Brock Thomas and Shawanda Johnson, 6th grade; Brent Bass and Whitney Jones, 7th grade; and John Hoggard and Tamesha James, 8th grade. The Pep and SADD clubs sat together and wore black and gold to cheer on the Tigers under the direction of Kim Hunter-Layne and Linda Layden-Mewborn. It was Kindness Month, so the SADD Club passed out mints and suckers with the message: Tigers were 'mint' to be kind. Everyone agreed it was a great night for PCMS.

The JVs lost 27-12 to a strong Williamston squad to end the team's season Thursday night in Hertford.

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

season next year." Spruill said he was impressed with the success of the middle school team this year, and hopes to see all eighth graders next season at PCHS.

"We need all of them," he said. Spruill also wants his team's fans to return. "We really had some good fans, good support in the stands," he added.

Byrum running well for Barton

Winslow's bat expected to be big for Bulldogs

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Amanda Byrum is running her way through the Carolinas-Virginia Athletic Conference. Just as in her days as Perquimans' record-setting cross country athlete, Byrum's work ethic and ability puts her in the front of the pack. Barton College cross country coach and sports information director John Hackney

said Byrum is "a diamond in the rough" whose already strong performances will only get better as she cruises through her years at Barton. "She's doing great," Hackney said. "I've been really impressed with her. She's been in the top 10 in six of seven meets." The All-Conference and All-East performer during her days as a Lady Pirate finished ninth and earned All Conference honors at the CVAC championships at St. Andrews College in Laurinburg. Her time was 2 seconds off her college best, 20:54. Please see Byrum page 9



Amanda Byrum

Michael Everett powered the ball in for a touchdown, and quarterback Jamel Sutton hit Josh Phillips for a 27-yard touchdown strike. The loss, though disappointing, does not overshadow a very positive season, Spruill said. "We lost so many valuable players to varsity and that caused us to have to regroup early in the year," he said. "These guys really responded and overall, I think we played extremely well. "With the guys we have returning and those moving up from the junior high level, I think we'll have a real good

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