Harrison, who is regarded as one of the best in the country, and Tony Scott of Burns High School who is one of the top pass defenders in the ACC.

As always, Virginia will be among the top teams in the ACC and in the top twenty in the country. Veteran Coach George Welsh lost some great backs, but has the people necessary to reload.

High School All-American Dan Ellis will take over the quarterback post vacated by the graduated Aaron Brooks. Ellis is not the runner Brooks was but will be a better passer.

The Cavaliers return the ACC's top rusher in Thomas Jones, who gained 1,303 yards, but Antwoine Womack, who gained over 700 and was All-ACC, is off the team after being indicted on a felony.

The Cavaliers return their #2 receiver from a year ago, Kevin Coffey, and three of their five starting interior linemen. They lost All-American defensive lineman Patrick Kerney and All-American defensive back and ACC defensive player of the year Anthony Poindexter.

Mew Duke Coach Carl Franks inherits a team that returns 18 of its 22 starters, but it will still be difficult for Duke to stay in the thick of the battle for the conference crown.

Like Clemson, Duke may dump is run-oriented offense for a more wide-open, passing attack. Franks, a former Duke player, is a former offensive coordinator for Steve Spurrier at the University of Florida.

Juniors Spencer Romine and Bobby Campbell will be running the show at quarterback, and they have some of the best receivers in the ACC to throw to. Scottie Montgomery, a former Burns High standout, was one of the top receivers in the ACC last year with 60 catches for 793 yards, and Richmond Flowers, the son of a former pro star of the same name, caught 48 passes for 704 yards and was also one of the top return men

in the ACC. Both will welcome

Franks' wide-open offense.
Tailback B.J. Hill is coming off a banner freshman season and could develop into one of the best running backs in the ACC.

A future running star for the Blue Devils could be freshman Brian Clemmons of Crest, who led the Chargers to the state 4A championship a few years back. He will likely be red-shirted

Duke's defensive line is said to be one of the best in the ACC, led by All-ACC end Chris Combs who has 18 career sacks and 42.5 tackles for loss. He should go high in the NFL

■ Wake Forest returns some good players, but probably not enough to make a lot of noise in

The Deacons lost their staring quarterback Brian Kuklick, and last year's backup Ben Sankey is listed as the Deacons' starter on the preseason depth chart.

But don't be surprised if Coach Jim Caldwell goes with true freshman C.J. Leak of Charlotte, who was one of the top-recruited quarterbacks in the nation and who stunned all the recruiting experts when he chose Wake over Notre Dame.

The Deacons have a good class of receivers, despite the loss of the ACC's career reception leader, Desmond Clark. Jamie Deese returns and several other players are rated as excellent receivers.

Wake may not have a Travis Minor in the backfield, but the Deacons have a couple of capable running backs in seniors Morgan Kane and Kito Gary.

Defense has not been one of the Deacons' strong suits, but Caldwell does have six starters back this year. He also has two of the best placekickers in the ACC in Matthew Burdick, who hit 13 of 18 field goals and 24 of 25 extra points last year, and his back-up, Tyler Ashe of Shelby.

■ Maryland has made gradual improvement under thirdyear Coach Ron Vanderlinden. The Terrapins won't improve drastically on last year's 3-8 record, but could climb out of the ACC cellar.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Crest edges KM girls in '99 tennis opener

Crest's Stephanie Cody and Jennifer Martin won the finals doubles event of the day as the Lady Chargers edged Kings Mountain 5-4 in the season's opener for both teams Thursday at Crest.

Singles winners for the Lady Mountaineers were Stacy Costner, Ashley Wilson and Charlotte Fulton. Wilson and Fulton also won their doubles

CREST 5, KMHS 4

(Singles)
Liza McCurley (C) d. Marylee
Dilling 7-5, 6-0; Stacy Costner (KM)
d. Kim Hardin 7-5, 6-1; Ashley
Wilson (KM) d. Stephanie Cody 6-1, 3-6, 6-3; Charlotte Fulton (KM) d. Jennifer Martin 7-6, 3-6, 6-0; Elizabeth Cheek (C) d. Isha Simmons 6-0, 6-1; Adrian Hamrick (C) d. Jenny Bullington 6-3, 7-5.

(Doubles) McCurley-Hardin (C) d. Dilling-Costner 10-7; Wilson-Fulton (KM) d. Hamrick-Arthur 8-5; Cody-

Martin (C) d. Simmons-Bullington (Extras) Nikki Harmon (C) d. Southavsay

8-3; Misty Greene (C) d. Hanh Tran 8-1; Hanh Tran (KM) d. Rebecca

Freddy Smith is 5th in Hav-A-Tampa points

With eight races remaining, Kings Mountain's Freddy Smith is fifth in the Hav-A-Tampa points standings.

Wendell Wallace leads with 4487, followed by Dale McDowell 4472, Steve Francis 4414, Scott Bloomquist 4366, and Smith 4265.

The series moves to Florence Speedway in Union, KY August 28 for the \$15,000 to win North-South 100.

JV Mountaineers open at East Gaston

Kings Mountain High's junior varsity football team will open its season Thursday at 7 p.m. at East Gaston.

The junior varsity will play the same schedule as the varsity Mountaineers, except that their games will be on Thursday night and the sites will be reversed.

There will not be a JV game on the week of the KM-Bessemer City game because BC does not field a JV team.

pep rally where they got some applause from their new dance choreographered by Roxanne Brown, a senior on the squad.

"My sister and I like to make up dances. I would like to apply for college at the North Carolina Performing Arts

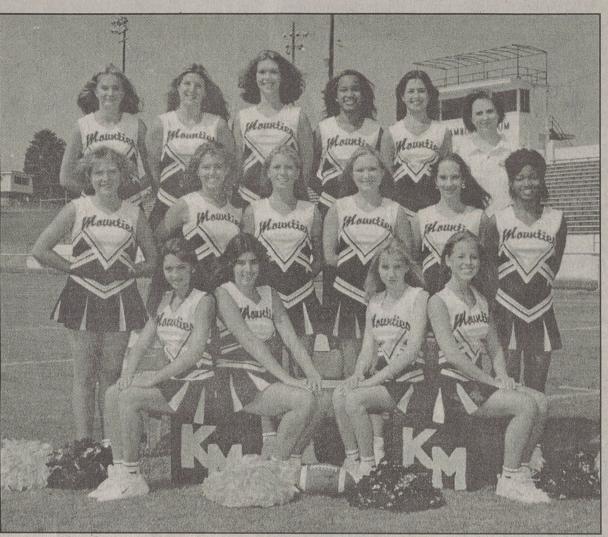
College," said Brown. Some new highlights to this year's squad is some new faces that will stand in front of crowds. This year tenth graders were allowed to try out for varsity. Jennifer Fredall is new to cheerleading altogether and has joined the squad.

"Fredall is getting faster at picking up the routines every-day," said Heather Causby, one of the squad captains.

"I think this year the crowd will be seeing a lot of cheerleaders they never thought could be cheerleaders do very well," said Shanna Boiter, one of the squad captains.

Fans can rest assure they will get action out of the cheerleaders. They have three new dances for the season and are working with the band as usual to get the popular band dances together.

"I believe we have talented cheerleaders and should have a good successful year," said



Kings Mountain High School cheerleaders seated from left to right are Jennifer Scism, Lindsey Gaffney, Ashley Cooke and Lauren Causby. Standing in the first row from left to right is Ashley Hamrick, Shanna Boiter, Heather Causby, Maegan Spicer, Jenny Kliever and Roxanne Brown. Standing in the second row is Georgia Dawson, A'me Mauney, Jennifer Fredell, Haley Gingles and Anna George. Not pictured is Kissia Wilson.

