## **JACKETS**

From Page 8

Bessemer City finishes the regular season at home on November 9 against Cherryville and some say that's the perfect to wrap up the grid campaign. Unlike the first meeting on September 28, this win counts in the conference column. It's safe to say that one of western Gaston's teams will end on a winning note.

The playoffs begin on November 16 and all SFC teams will see action, thanks to an experimental decision by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

It will be the first post-season appearance for Bessemer City since the 1994 team powered by Shrine Bowl selection Phillip Crosby advanced to the 2-A playoffs.

## BEGINNING From Page 2

The Midwest 2-A includes Lincolnton, West Lincoln, Bandys, Bunker Hill, Chase, East Rutherford, Newton-Conover and football power Shelby.

Shelby - which won the state 2-A football title in 1998 - will be in line to claim the first Midwest 2-A league title, while preseason predictions show Lincolnton and West-Lincoln having all they can handle in the tough Midwest circuit.

East Rutherford falls from 3-A and joins county rival Chase - another school known for its good football program - in the Midwest 2-A.

Shelby, Chase, Lincolnton and West Lincoln were all members of the now defunct Southern Piedmont 1-A, 2-A, along with Maiden, Cherryville and Bessemer City. Shelby dominated the Southern Piedmont, taking all four SPC football crowns, and Chris Norman and staff hope for the same in the Midwest loop.

In all, over 300 North Carolina high schools in nearly 50 different conferences will see football action this fall.



Bessemer City head football coach Mike Crawford, left, and assistant coach Eric Nichols give advice to gridder Craig Dutton on tackling techniques.

## Directions to BCHS opponents

Bessemer City's Yellow Jackets will hit the road for five games during the 2001 prep season.

Here's a look at driving directions for the away games.

• August 31, Bessemer City at Chase. From Bessemer City, take Hwy. 161 to Hwy. 74 in Kings Mountain. Travel west on Hwy. 74 through Shelby and into Rutherford County. Then take the Forest City-Alexander Mills exit off of Hwy. 74 West. At light off exit ramp, turn right, go across the overhead bridge and follow Hwy. 221-A until Chase High School Rd. veers off to the right. Follow this road for a short distance and the school is located on the left.

•September 21, Bessemer City at Hunter Huss. From Bessemer City, take Hwy. 274 toward Gastonia. Once in Gastonia, Hwy. 274 becomes Garrison Blvd. and will intersect Linwood Rd. Turn right onto Linwood and proceed about a half mile and turn left onto W. Spencer Ave. Continue for another half mile onto Carolina Ave. and then onto Edgefield Ave. and the school is located at 1518 Edgefield Ave. in Gastonia.

•September 28, Bessemer City at Cherryville. From Bessemer City, take Hwy. 274 (Tryon Courthouse Road) to Cherryville. Once in Cherryville, Hwy. 274 becomes Mountain St. Follow Mountain St. until it intersects with Hwy. 150 (Church Street). Turn right at the light and proceed a short distance. The stadium is located on the right.

•October 19, Bessemer City at Polk County. From Bessemer City, take Hwy. 161 to Kings Mountain, then take Hwy. 74 West through Shelby. Continue on Hwy. 74 to Forest City and then follow the new Hwy. 74 West toward Asheville. Once in Polk County, take the Columbus-Mill Spring exit (Exit 163) off of Hwy. 74. This will be Hwy. 108. Turn right onto Hwy. 108 and the school entrance is located just a short distance on the left.

•November 2, Bessemer City at Hendersonville. From Bessemer City, take Hwy. 161 to Kings Mountain, then take Hwy. 74 West through Shelby. Continue on Hwy. 74 to Forest City and then follow the new Hwy. 74 toward Asheville. Hwy. 74 will eventually merge with I-26 West toward Asheville. Follow I-26 West to Exit 18, the Hendersonville exit. Go under the bridge and up the exit ramp which will put you on Hwy. 64 toward Hendersonville. Follow Hwy. 64 into downtown Hendersonville. Once in the downtown area, the road will veer to the right and come to a five-way intersection. At this intersection, the stadium is located on the left.

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