



North Carolina High School Athletic Association
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NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION)

I. NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name Monty Carroll Davis Nickname (Taz)
Address 3020 Ashton Court, Yadkinville, NC, 27055
Age 81 Date of Birth 01/04/1941 Place of Birth Durham
Telephone (Work) 336-679-4472 Telephone (Home) 336-679-4472
Deceased No
Name of High School Northern Durham Graduated 1959
Name of College UNC-Chapel Hill Graduated 1963

II. SPONSOR INFORMATION

Name Tony Arthur Bazen
Address Room 909, Building 4, Antai Street, Konggang, Shunyi District, Beijing, China
Telephone (Work) +86 15001146919 Email tonybazen@gmail.com
Title/Position High School Principal
School International School of Beijing
Signature Tony Bazen Date 07/25/2022

III. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

POSITION	DATES	SCHOOL OR SYSTEM	HONORS	COACHING RECORD
Assistant Football Coach; Head Baseball Coach	1965-1967	Tarboro HS	Team won East State Title	
Head Football Coach	1967-1984	Southern Durham HS	Coach of Year 1969, 1973, 1979, 1983	109-59-6
			Conference Champs 1976, 1978, 1979, 1983	
			Assistant Coach 1977 Shrine Bowl	
			Assistant Coach 1978 East/West All-Star Game	
			Head Coach 1984 Shrine Bowl	
			1984 -School Field House Named After Him	
Head Football Coach	1991-1994	Riverside HS (Durham)	Started football program	11-19
			Led team to playoffs in only 3 rd year of existence	
Head Football Coach	1994-2000	Forbush HS (East Bend)	Conference Co-Champions	
			Made playoffs twice	
			4 winning records	

IV. CIVIC/CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Instrumental in Smooth Racial Integration of Southern Durham in late 1960's

Exceptional Work with Steve Mitchell (Down's syndrome)

Long-time Sunday School Teacher

COACH MONTY DAVIS

NCHSAA Hall of Fame
Candidacy



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The Case for Coach Monty Davis

Looking through the annals of the National Football League, there have been a number of players whose on the field exploits were so spectacular that after their retirement, they were deemed worthy of a spot in the hallowed halls of the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Some of these elite enshrined there were good but not great players, but they played on all-time great teams which won multiple Super Bowl titles. Their starting role on championship squads combined with their consistent performance was the impetus needed to get them a bust in the Hall. There are many others enshrined there, however, whose exceptional performance overcame the fact that they never won a title.

Dick Butkus was one of the greatest defensive players ever, but the Bears didn't win a championship during his nine-year career. He made eight Pro Bowls and was a five-time All-Pro. He terrorized the opposition as he led the "Monsters of the Midway." He never won a title, but he's in the Hall of Fame.

Bruce Matthews is known for his incredible durability and consistency. This incredible offensive lineman made 14 Pro Bowls during his 19 NFL seasons and was an All-Pro seven times. He started 293 games, second in NFL history. His Tennessee team got close to the ultimate prize in XXXIV, but came up one yard short, leaving Matthews without a Super Bowl ring. Matthews didn't get a title ring, but he received a ring on the telephone from the Hall of Fame.

Tony Gonzalez helped redefine the tight end position, making 14 Pro Bowls and becoming a six-time All-Pro during his 17-year career. He currently ranks third all time in receptions and sixth all time in receiving yards. Despite his individual heroics, he never played on a championship team. No title on the field but given the title of a Hall of Famer in 2019.

Barry Sanders is considered by some to be the greatest NFL running back of all time. He was a six-time All-Pro and led the league in rushing four times, peaking with 2,053 yards in 1997. He also won the MVP that year. Despite his individual exploits, his Detroit Lions never even sniffed the Super Bowl, but Sanders smelled the roses at his Hall of Fame induction.

Dan Marino ranks among the greatest quarterbacks to ever take a snap. Among his awards was 1983 NFL Rookie of the Year, 1984 MVP, nine Pro Bowls, and three First-Team All-Pro designations. He still ranks fifth in career passing yards despite playing in an offensive era not nearly as pass-happy as today. He never wore the title of super Bowl champion, but he was fitted for a gold jacket at the Hall of Fame.

Earl Campbell...Eric Dickerson...Gale Sayers...Steve Largent...James Lofton...Dan Fouts...Jim Kelly...Warren Moon...Fran Tarkenton...this list is but a drop in the bucket of NFL players who enjoyed illustrious careers yet never felt the ecstasy of lifting a Super Bowl trophy.

This plethora of players whose plaques adorn the walls of the Hall are mentioned to draw attention to the career of Coach Monty Davis. His career parallels that of these men in the sense that his accomplishments on the gridiron were extraordinary, but like them was not able to win a title.

Sadly, however, unlike the men mentioned earlier, his amazing career and contributions to North Carolina High School Athletics have not been memorialized in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. This is a wrong that we hope will be righted this January when the selection committee meets to decide on the new Hall of Fame class for 2023.

Why does Monty Davis deserve this honor? A look at his career highlights, his contributions to high school athletics in this state, his service to the community, his impact on countless youth, and the words of former players will be the outline for this appeal for his induction into the state high school Hall of Fame for 2023.

Highlights of High School Career

Davis played football and baseball at Northern Durham High School, and he made the All-Conference team in football as an undersized 5-9, 142-pound center.

Highlights of Career at Tarboro High School (1965-1967)

Davis was the assistant football coach, highlighted by the 1965 team winning the Eastern Class 3A title. He was also the Head Coach for the baseball team, which finished in the thick of the Northeastern Conference championship fight both years.

Highlights of Career at Southern Durham High School (1967-1984)

The man who had been nicknamed the Tasmanian Devil because of his short stature and fiery disposition ignored the advice of colleagues in the coaching community and took the reins as Head Coach at Southern High in 1968, taking the helm of a long-suffering program that had never had a winning record. By year two, he had the team on the winning track, a season highlighted by a win against crosstown rival Northern, his alma mater. He quickly established a perennial power, ultimately winning five Triangle 3-A Conference titles and making multiple playoff appearances. He was Coach of the Year in 1969, 1973, 1979, and 1983 and was selected as an Assistant Coach for the North in the Shrine Bowl in 1977, Assistant Coach in the North-South All Stars in 1978, and Head Coach for the North in the Shrine Bowl in 1984.

Coach Davis was interviewed on November 10, 1976, as the Spartans prepared for a playoff game against an undefeated opponent. What he said back then could have applied to any year, and his words are indicative of his coaching philosophy and acumen.

"It's always been the same. We never have the numbers, and we never have many real big kids. But we've always played with a lot of heart and a lot of desire. That's made up for a great deal over the past seasons. We're going into every game now knowing the other guys are going to be bigger and maybe quicker. But we never go into a game thinking they can beat us just because of that. We try to out-desire them."

Former player Tony Thomas was one of so many who can testify of Coach Davis' uncanny ability to take a little and make a lot out of it. Thomas, who struggled with weight problems and would not have been given a second look by many coaches, was the team's manager but Coach had noticed him punting the ball after practice. Coach Davis gave him an opportunity, and in his senior season, Thomas punted for the top-ranked team in the state. Thomas spoke about this coach who was never given a full cupboard but took the ingredients available and consistently mixed them together and cooked up winning teams. "He was a great coach who inspired many. He got the best out of his players."

Coach Davis decided to leave Southern after he completed his seventeenth season as Head Coach. The '84 team was special as it was his last at Southern for this coaching legend. The 1984-1985 Southern High School yearbook was dedicated to him, and the words on this page were poignant. "Eighteen years ago, there was a small football team at Southern High School that was not very well known. The next year the Southern football team got a new coach. This coach began to work his magic, and there was a dramatic improvement in the performance of the team. For seventeen years, Coach Monty Davis has worked his 'magic' on the Southern High School football team. He has helped make our team very well known. Other teams look at our team with respect and admiration. Not only other teams, but the Southern football players look on Coach Davis with respect and admiration. The team members tease him with the nickname 'Taz,' but some have said that he is 'a superb leader,' not only in athletics but also in his business classes. This school is really going to miss the 'magic' of Coach Davis."

- 17 years at SHS
- Led SHS to first winning record
- Transformed SHS into a perennial threat to win the conference and led them to numerous playoff berths
- Coached numerous players who played on the collegiate level and one who played on the professional level
- Career Record at SHS: 109-59-6

Highlights of Career at Riverside High School -Durham (1991-1994)

After a seven-year hiatus from coaching, a new school in Durham was able to woo Coach Davis to return to the sidelines. In 1991, he started the football program at Durham Riverside. He didn't start with a senior class, but by the third season, the team made the playoffs.

- 3 years at Riverside High School
- Started football program
- Led RHS to the playoffs in their third year of existence
- Career Record at RHS: 11-19

Highlights of Career at Forbush High School -East Bend (1994-2000)

- 7 years at Forbush High School
- Started strength and fitness program
- Led Forbush to the playoffs twice
- Winning record four out of seven years
- Career Record at Forbush: 40-37

CAREER RECORD: 160-115-6

Accomplishments Off the Field

While many remember his long tenure at Southern Durham High School only for the powerhouse football program that he established, a deeper dive into his early years there reveals a significant contribution that Coach Davis made off the field. When Coach Davis arrived at SHS, the school mascot was the Rebels, complete with a Confederate Army clad soldier carrying a Confederate flag. When the federal government mandated the integration of public schools, many in the Durham community feared there would be violence at SHS when black students arrived on campus. Rick Barbour was a sophomore when Coach Davis came to SHS in 1967, and he recalled the impact that he made during this crucial time of transition in Durham.

"It was also a tumultuous time in history as county schools were about to integrate. His first squad was an all white group of boys that would go 4-5-1 and be ecstatic from the success. Our mascot was the Rebels, and rumors of upcoming integration horrors were spreading at a rapid pace. I was in Coach Davis' business math class. I remember him talking to us about the crazy things being said. He explained how everybody was getting excited over nonsense. He also talked to our Captains and seniors about being leaders and helping make the transition go smoothly. When the new school year began, we had a black student influx of about 20%. Seven black players joined our team. As the year went forward, I became aware of the pressure these guys were under from our opponents and some other black students, plus the racist element in our school. Coach Davis and his staff were everywhere for that team. He visited our homes and talked with our parents, answering questions and encouraging all of us to make good choices. We went 7-3 and beat our big rival Northern Knights for the first time in 10 years and only the second time in school history. My senior season, we still had the Rebel mascot, but we had a lot of young black players (eight) on the JV team and two on the varsity. We went 6-3-1, and at the end of our season, the Coach asked all the seniors to come in for a meeting. He let us know that we were going to change the mascot name, and he was counting on us to be leaders and help our fellow students understand that it was the right thing to do."

Coach Monty Davis. Program Builder. Tactician. Molder of men. Winner.

72-132
THE SPARTAN

Just how good are the '83 Spartans?

What's it all about, Al? The Spartans are the best team in the state. They're the only team that can win a national championship. They're the only team that can win a national championship.

Al is all about it. He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

Al Caruso

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

He's the only one who can win a national championship. He's the only one who can win a national championship.

They're ready to come in and show the Spartans.

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These were life-giving words. These were life-changing words. These were the words of a champion!

Based on his career record, based on his selection to coach in three different high school all-star games, based on his amazing ability to build and resurrect programs, taking into consideration the key role in played in the integration of SHS, and based on the enormous impact he had on so many people over so many years both on and off the field, Coach Monty Davis is worthy of selection into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

7

Tigers Coach Going To Southern Durham

TARBORO — Tarboro High School coach Monty Davis announced this week he has accepted a coaching position with Southern Durham High School at Durham.

The 26-year-old mentor will be assisting Coach Jim Blake in football this fall but his other coaching duties have not been outlined thus far.

Davis leaves Tarboro after a two-year stay during which he assisted head grid coach Doug Alexander and coached baseball. His diamond teams were in the thick of the Northeastern Conference championship fight both years and the 1965 grid team Eastern Class 3-A title.

Southern Durham is also a 3-A school and a member of District Three which includes arch rival and Davis' alma mater, Northern Durham. The coach is a

Durham native and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He graduated from UNC with an A.B. degree in business administration.

Davis began his coaching career at Lancaster, S. C. in 1963 where he coached football.

He returned to college in 1964 before coming to Tarboro. He played football and baseball in high school and was an all-conference gridder.

He plans to move his family to Durham the first week of June and will begin teaching driver's education then. Southern Durham, a 12-year-old institution, has an enrollment of 596 in the top three grades.

Davis is married to the former Penny Cates of Durham and the couple has one child, a daughter which was born last week.

Monty Davis Leaves Tarboro High to Coach at Southern High School

May 31, 1967

Perry Holland, Sanford product, has resigned as Northern Durham basketball coach after four years, to enter private business. Roland Miller, who has been at Durham's Carrington Junior High the last three years, will succeed Holland. . . . **Monty Davis** has been named football coach at Southern Durham, where he is baseball coach, to succeed Jim Blake, who will continue as athletic director and basketball and golf coach. . . .

Monty Davis Named Southern High Football Coach

May 26, 1968



Preseason Preview of 1969 Southern High School Team

The Durham Sun August 19, 1969

Monty Davis Optimistic—

Things Looking Up At Southern

By FRANK DASCENZO
If optimism were money, then Southern High's football coach Monty Davis would roll in it.

The Rebels, 4-5-1 last season, are spanking strong with gleam in their eyes. Davis indicates Southern, for the first time in a long time, has depth and a little experience to work with this season.

"And it's one pleasant thing to know, too," Davis adds.

The Rebels open Sept. 5 at home with Graham and then play host to Chapel Hill on the 12th.

Davis is beginning his third season at Southern, his second as head coach. Thus far he's been associated with two losing teams. As an assistant in 1967, the Rebels wound up 1-9.

"But we have a much-improved team mainly because of our passing game," Davis points out.

Southern is counting on two quarterback hopefuls, senior Van Gregory, a 5-8, 150-pounder and junior David Freer, a 5-11, 170-pounder.

"We also have Bobby Byrd who started at quarterback for our junior varsity last season who could give Gregory and Freer a battle for the starting job," Davis says. Byrd is a junior and ranks as one of the quickest players on the team.

Gregory has improved a lot and is hitting his targets well in practice while Freer has exceptional speed and can give the Rebels a four-man "running backfield."

"David can really go down-town when he gets some blocking," Davis adds.

Elsewhere in the backfield Davis points to senior running back Eddie Eubanks, a 5-9, 150-pounder who does the 100-yard dash in 10.4 seconds as Southern's top ground-gainer. "He's the fastest man on the team," Davis says.

Eubanks ranked sixth in the conference last season in yards gained and expects to become even better this year.

"He has the ability to do it all . . . run, block and even pass," says Davis.

Southern has been fortunate in obtaining six transfer students from Merrick-Moore High School, which is no longer a senior high.

"We've been aided mostly on the line from Merrick-Moore," says Davis.

Joining Southern's blockers will be transfer Otis Jones, a 6-1, 175-pound tackle, who expects to work with 5-11, 165-pound junior letterman Ronnie Bowen at that position.

Southern is also rich in guards. Charles McAlexander, 6-2, 185, an All-County and All-Conference choice in 1968, will team with 5-9, 163-pound senior letterman John Covington, a transfer from Merrick-Moore.

Three other boys, Robbie Clayton, Ken Inscoe and Bill Smith are battling for a starting guard spot. "It's one position," Davis says, "that we're deep at."

Davis, unlike some of the other coaches in the area, plans to have a double-team setup.

"We're working on some kind of a five-six ratio, splitting our

offense and defense," he says. "I'm hoping we can work it out. Of course, some of the boys will be going both ways, too."

Davis points to his quarterback situation, especially with Gregory in the slot, as a strong passing attack. On the receiving ends he'll have ace ends Kevin Thomas, a 6-0, 180-pound senior letterman along with three others battling for a starting spot, Steve Rigsbee, Steve Walters and Rick McLean.

The Rebels are counting on 5-11, 210-pound senior letterman Craig Gill, said to be all-state material by Davis, to snap the ball.

"But Craig might be moved to a tackle position. He could play it as well as center, in fact easier. Perhaps Bowen could be shifted to center, but we'll have to wait and see about that."

Southern's card proves far from easy. Following the game with Chapel Hill, the Rebels travel to Orange on the 19th and are at Jordan on the 26th.



MONTY DAVIS — Southern High grid boss.

—Staff Photo.

Games are also scheduled with Henderson, Cary, Webb, Roxboro, Garner and the battle with arch-rival Northern is set Nov. 7 at Southern.

"We lost to Northern, 28-6 last season," Davis reports. "I hope things will be different this year."

Coach Davis Selected 1973 Conference Coach of the Year



Tops In Triangle

Monty Davis, coach of the Southern Spartans, and Ronnie Dowdy, standout performer for the Andros Falcons, have been

chosen coach and player of the year in the Triangle Conference. Davis is shown at left in action as the selection and a cleanup

inset. At the right is Dowdy in action and also a glowing inset. —Sam Reid Photos.

Selected Coach And Player Of Year In Triangle Conference—

Monty Davis, Ronnie Dowdy Honored

By AL CARRISON
Durham Sun Sports Writer

The Jordan Falcons, Triangle 3-A Underclass champions, and the Southern Spartans, conference second coach, clinched the coaches' All-Conference team.

East players can place on the first team, with Jordan getting three players each on offense and defense and Southern getting five men on offense and one on defense.

Jordan's star player, Art, Boston Dowdy, was named to both first teams of the end and also was selected Most Valuable Player in the conference.

Wade Farnsworth, Clay Adams, won the runner-up for the MVP award.

The Spartans' head coach, Monty Davis, was selected to his fellow coaches as the Coach of the Year while the Falcons' Larry Parrish finished second in the voting.

Both coaches led their teams to the best records in the history of the two schools.

The Spartans finished the year with a 10-1 record, while the Falcons finished with a 9-2 record.

Dowdy was named to the MVP of the Triangle Conference and he has been named to the first team of the year in the school's history, and a 3-A star.

Michael Jackson and Westwood, Jr. were named to the first team of the year in the school's history, and a 3-A star.

Michael Jackson and Westwood, Jr. were named to the first team of the year in the school's history, and a 3-A star.

of the two schools. The Spartans finished the season with a 10-1 record and the Falcons with a 9-2 record.

"I was a little surprised," remarked Monty Davis, after hearing of the final tally for Coach of the Year. "I haven't given it much thought. I guess I figured the conference chairman would get the award."

Davis, an eighth year, his team was well represented in the voting. He had two players on the second team in addition to the one on the first team.

"I think we had a good year and I guess the other coaches must have thought we had a pretty good team from the voting."

Davis agreed completely with the MVP choice, and praised the versatility of Ronnie Dowdy. "He can play in as many positions," he said. "He should be well in evidence."

The Spartans placed five men on the first team offense with a tackle guard running back and both the line and punter.

Mike "Mac" MacAlexander was the choice of tackle and Mike Johnson was picked as one of the line men.

Steve Lee, the Spartans' full back, was chosen as an All-Conference running back and David Hunt, the Spartans' quarterback, was named to the first team offense.

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the year and also was selected to first and to help with blocking and punting.

The Spartans got another dunking man in David Crutcher, a player who was selected to the center position on offense and the linebacking and on defense.

The other two Falcons to be honored with a spot on the first team were Gilbert Armstrong, a defensive tackle, and Art Johnson, an offensive tackle.

Wade Farnsworth was the center three times in the voting, with five players on the first team. Wade had three players on defense from Jordan, and picked up two more spots on offense.

Geord James Perry, linebacker, Northern O'Neil and defensive back Glen Miller were the selections from Wade's team, for defensive back while quarterback Clay Adams and running back Roy Lee Gil were the offensive choices.

Michael Webb placed three men on the first team with two on offense and one on defense. Phil Heston, a first team receiver, got one of the spots at wide receiver and Mike Dunn was chosen as an offensive guard.

James Boyce, a defensive back, was the third pick from the first team.

Highland Orange got two players, with a wide receiver, and a defensive back.

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year on top with 14 followed by Jordan with 11 and Orange and Vaiden-Widley had 10. Michaels while Wade Farnsworth and Wade Farnsworth eight players in the All-Conference squad.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

- TE — Ronnie Dowdy — Jordan
- T — Mike MacAlexander — Southern
- T — Glen Johnson — Jordan
- C — Mark Duran — Southern
- C — Mike Dunn — Webb
- C — Dickie Crutcher — Jordan
- WR — Phil Heston — Webb
- WR — Rod Eagle — Vaiden-Widley
- QB — Clay Adams — Wade Farnsworth
- RB — Roy Lee Gil — Wade Farnsworth
- RB — Steve Lee — Southern
- K — Mark Smith — Southern
- P — Mike Farnell — Southern

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

- DE — Ronnie Dowdy — Jordan
- DE — John West — Orange
- T — Larry Adams — Orange
- T — Gilbert Armstrong — Jordan
- CB — James Perry — Wade Farnsworth
- LB — Dickie Crutcher — Jordan
- LB — Mark Farnell — Southern
- LB — Mike Dunn — Webb
- LB — Wade Farnsworth — Wade Farnsworth
- LB — James Boyce — Wade Farnsworth
- DB — Tim Whiting — Vaiden-Widley
- LB — Glen Miller — Wade Farnsworth

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

- TE — Mike Dunn — Webb
- T — Mike Dunn — Webb
- C — Dickie Crutcher — Jordan
- WR — Phil Heston — Webb
- WR — Rod Eagle — Vaiden-Widley
- QB — Clay Adams — Wade Farnsworth
- RB — Roy Lee Gil — Wade Farnsworth
- RB — Steve Lee — Southern
- K — Mark Smith — Southern
- P — Mike Farnell — Southern

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

- DE — Ronnie Dowdy — Jordan
- DE — John West — Orange
- T — Larry Adams — Orange
- T — Gilbert Armstrong — Jordan
- CB — James Perry — Wade Farnsworth
- LB — Dickie Crutcher — Jordan
- LB — Mark Farnell — Southern
- LB — Mike Dunn — Webb
- LB — Wade Farnsworth — Wade Farnsworth
- LB — James Boyce — Wade Farnsworth
- DB — Tim Whiting — Vaiden-Widley
- LB — Glen Miller — Wade Farnsworth

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- WR — Rod Eagle — Vaiden-Widley
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- DB — Tim Whiting — Vaiden-Widley
- LB — Glen Miller — Wade Farnsworth

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- DB — Tim Whiting — Vaiden-Widley
- LB — Glen Miller — Wade Farnsworth

Preseason Article on 1975 Southern Durham Team

Davis' Spartans Could Go All The Way

By AL CARSON

As far as coaching football goes, Monty Davis appears to be in the right place at the right time. Of course, he's been in the same place for the last eight years as a head coach—Southern High.

But this year times have changed. This year the eight years of working at Southern will be rewarded with, hopefully, his best team ever, and that should be good.

Davis has had some good teams, some championship teams in the past, but the 1975 crop has the potential to be a world-beater.

"It still remains to be seen," he said yesterday afternoon, after only two days of conditioning practice. "But we have the chance to be the kind of team that Northern was last year, in our classification."

Northern? The cross county rival is a 4-A school that was 12 straight last year before bowing in the semifinals of the state 4-A playoffs.

Davis, then, feels that the Spartans have a chance to go a long way in the 3-A ranks. Maybe all the way. You can hear the confidence in his voice as he gives statistics.

"We felt last year that this would be our year," he said. "We have good experience, good balance and a shot at going a long way."

He's also got what is probably the quickest team he has ever had, with 11 players ducking under the 3-foot mark in the 40-yard dash.

And in addition he's got a quarterback with what he feels has one of the best arms in the state.

Add that all together, along with 15 returning lettermen, 12 of them starters last year and four of them starters both ways a year ago, and you have to feel Davis is standing on solid ground.

Of those 15 lettermen, an even dozen are seniors and that is a good situation.

"A senior dominated club? By all means," he answered. "We've got an awful lot of experience there, too. Most of those people were starters. They're well seasoned. This should help us out along the way."

Last year the Spartans surprised most everyone, even the coach. At the first of the year he was looking toward rebuilding. Instead the team struggled through the non-conference slate with a 3-3 mark, added a 4-1 conference mark to

tie Hillsborough and lost to Chatham in the playoffs, finishing 4-3.

"We started the year real green," explained Davis. "We only had seven lettermen back and only three had been starters. But we still could've been 3-3 in the regular season. We lost two non-conference games by two points each."

"But," he added, "We put it together when it counted."

Compare this season with last. Seven lettermen last year, 15 this year. Three starters back last year, a dozen this year.

There are 42 students out for the team, and Davis expects to end with 37 when the season begins. That includes variety and jayvees.

That's not a lot, in terms of numbers, but Davis is used to it.

"We have good numbers for a 3-A school, maybe better than average, but we couldn't compete regularly with 4-A schools."

"But I don't want too many people," he laughed. "If you get a lot of people on the sidelines they're hard to look after."

"Many of our kids know two offensive and two defensive positions. They have to. We try to get the 11 best players, period, and go with that."

In addition to the 15 returning lettermen, Davis is blessed with six solid players up from last year's jayvee team, and one transfer.

The transfer is Ben Norton, from Germantown. He played center and defensive tackle there and Davis feels he has potential. "He's real strong, but I don't know about his skills yet."

Some of the top Spartans will be college material, but one player is a bona fide major college prospect. That's John Morris.

At 6-2, 180 pounds Morris was watched closely last season by many scouts. Clemson seems to have shown the most interest.

Morris started at fullback and defense tackle last year. This year he'll be joined by three other two-way starters.

Nicky Clayton started at offensive guard and defensive end, while Freddy Cannady was a starter at tight end and outside linebacker and Tim Brown went both ways at split end and safety.

Morris was first team all-conference last year at both positions. Cannady was second

team defense and Brown was honorable mention. Another returning all-conference player is Bubba Fowler, 5-11, 200 and an offensive tackle.

Morris, Cannady, Fowler and Brown join Doug Harward (5-10, 204, offensive tackle) and Robbie Hilliard (starting running back and substitute linebacker) as Davis' best bets for college play next season.

Of course, he didn't include jockers, since they are a year away, but one factor, if he lives up to expectations, may set many honors and offers before he graduates. That's Mike Michael.

Michael played some at quarterback last year and Davis feels he has great potential.

"At this point he has the experience and he's a hustler, so he'd have to be considered as my first choice to start," said Davis.

Michael has a special talent, something you won't find often in high school, according to Davis.

"He can just throw the football, plain and simple. In 12 years of coaching I've had a lot of good quarterbacks, but never as good a thrower. He's awfully accurate. When he throws the ball our receivers seldom have to break stride to catch it," said Davis, shaking his head at the wonder of it all.

But Michael will get plenty of help from his teammates. Martin Thompson at defensive tackle and Kenny May at inside linebacker are two more juniors who started last year.

Ronnie Wilson returns at a linebacking spot and Ronald Payne returns at a defensive halfback spot. Darryl Daniels is another returning defensive halfback and his 4.7 speed in the 40 is best on the squad.

Paul Barbour alternated at center last year and Bob Matthews alternated at slotback. Both will try for the center position this year.

The jayvees up for starting spots this year are J. E. Mathison (DE), Len Harris (TE), Terry Hicks (QB), Jody McCas (QB-DE), Mark Johnson (QB-DE) and Jeff Pate (QB-DE-LB).

EXTRA POINTS — The new press box at Southern is complete. . . . The concession stand is now ground level, with a weight room on the second floor and press row on top. . . . Southern fans are building interest in a booster club,



(Staff Photo by Don Thompson)

Southern's Monty Davis

probably to be called the Spartans Club. . . . Davis coached two years as an assistant before taking over at Southern. . . . He was at Tarboro before that. . . . The Spartans will run their hairy series all tackle and options. . . . Davis prefers a ground oriented attack, with throwing, he believes. . . .

The Spartans run a 4-4 defense. . . . Anthony Daniel, 6-3 and 220, a third year fullback, linebacker from last year, and a senior this year, didn't come out for the team.

1978 High School All-Star Game North Team -Assistant Coach

Raleigh Hosts Game

Boys Home Football Coaches Selected

Marion Kirby, head football coach at Greensboro Page, and Don Patrick, head mentor at Newton-Conover, have been named to direct the opposing teams in this year's Jaycee Boys Home Game.

Joining Kirby in leading the North team will be Monty Davis of Southern Durham and Manteo's Jerry Cahoon. Clinton Coach Bobby Robinson and Hal Stewart of Richmond County will assist Patrick with the South squad.

Popularly known as the North-South high school All-Star football game, this year's 16th annual contest will be

played July 22 at 7 p. m. in Raleigh's Carter Stadium.

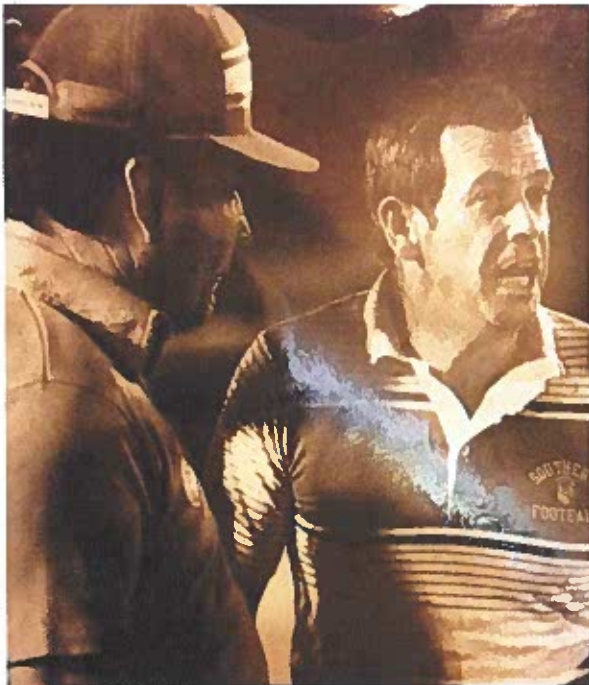
The game is sponsored by the N. C. Jaycees and for the past 15 years has been conducted by the Greenville Jaycees and played in ECU's Ficklen Stadium. This year's game, however, is being organized by the Wake County Jaycee chapters and will be played in N. C. State's Carter Stadium.

The contest annually pits the state's top high school players from the North against those from the South, with net proceeds going to support the Boys Homes of North Carolina Inc.

Players for the game will be selected by nomination from their coaches. Nomination forms will be sent to all high school football coaches this week. Any coach who fails to receive a nomination form is urged to contact Jaycee Boys Home Game, P. O. Box 212, Cary, 27511, to place his nominations.

A&T Gridders Set Drill In Charlotte

GREENSBORO — The North Carolina A&T football team will hold the first of two scheduled Blue-Gold intrasquad football games in



Coach Davis has a special friendship with Worth Hill, his longtime assistant. Hill was elected Durham County Sheriff and served in that role for many years.



Coach Davis was a Master Organizer

THE DUNHAM SUN

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Organization key to successful high school football?

A head football coach in high school:
(a) Coaches football
(b) Administers
(c) Sits back while others do the work
(d) Gets in the way
(e) All of the above

Answer: (e) All of the above. (If he's got a sense of humor like Southern coach Monty Davis).

There's a lot more to coaching high school football than meets the eye, as is evidenced by the vast strides made in the sophistication of the game, on and off the field, in the past two decades.

Prep notes

Davis is in his 16th year as head coach at Southern. He doesn't do a lot of the things he used to do, like scouting opponents, or mental but necessary chores related to housekeeping. And he does a lot of things he didn't used to do, like keeping up with over 20 "assistants."

Davis has five designated assistant coaches, but he has a whole tier of spear carriers in addition.

James Lillie, Keith Dodson, Bob Bickel, Worth Hill and Pete Shankle join Davis as the official coaching staff. These five have specific duties. Lillie has the offensive line and the jayvee team, while Dodson has the defensive tackles and inside linebackers. Bickel has defensive ends and outside linebackers, while Hill has offensive backs and Shankle has the secondary, and works with receivers. Lillie teaches receivers blocking techniques, and Hill works with them on their passing routes.

So far, so good. Routine coaching work.

So what does Davis do?

"They say I get in their hair," he laughed.

"He frolics," said Hill.

"Yeah, I meddle," said Davis. "Sometimes I meddle with the secondary or the backs. When they (the assistants) see me coming, they say 'Oh no, here comes the boss.'"

It's up to Davis to oversee the entire picture. He doesn't do so much as he tells his assistants what to do.

The assistants also scout games, two each a season, but they get help from junior high coaches David Davis (Lowes Grove) and Tommy Bialock (Chewning).

On a usual game night, there seem to be more than 100 assistants. Red shirts are all over the place. Who are all these guys? They're volunteers.

Bobby Pender is Davis' shadow. He keeps a play chart of offensive and defensive calls so Davis can see at a glance the tendencies in the game.

Shankle and Hill are usually on the sidelines with phones to Bickel, Lillie, Dodson or Bialock upstairs.

Davis helps with the bench organization.

Organization. That's a key to successful coaching. Davis has not only got to organize his team, but his helpers, so that the team stays organized. When

and responsibilities. It eliminates that responsibility from me. The job gets done.

"After the game I used to help clean up. Back then, newspapers didn't interview coaches. Now someone else does that and I talk to the reporters."

Southern is 7-0 and 5-0 in the Triangle Conference and is the top-ranked 3-A team in the state. The Spartans are off this week, and return to action at home Oct. 21 with Western Harnett.

THE LOSS OF Eric Brandon

is the first for the Northern Knights via serious injury (knee) this season, and it's a loss that rightfully concerns coach Kenny Browning. Brandon has been a ringleader for the Knights. He's the only player who has been a two-way starter (guard) all season.

But Browning feels the loss of more than just a good athlete.

"It's the type of person he is. He's such a positive influence for us," said the coach.

Northern, 6-0, plays Chapel Hill tomorrow night in County Stadium. Game time is 8 p.m.

THE CHEWNING Junior High Jayvee football team

is off to a 4-0 start this season, cruising past Warrenton 6-0, Neal 30-8, Lowes Grove 12-6, and Githens 32-6.

NORTHERN'S CARLA McLaughlin

has been named to the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Track All-America team. McLaughlin, who is a sprint specialist, earned the berth with her 11.94 clocking in the 100 meters, 10th best in the nation last spring.

There were 360 athletes from 40 states on the team, and North Carolina had 10 of them.


DARRYL McGILL

Southern's record-breaking running back is a strong young man, leg pressing 450 pounds and bench pressing 250, but that's just a preview of things to come, according to coach Monty Davis.

"He hasn't really worked on that (upper body strength)," said Davis. "When they get him in college they'll have him benching 350 and leg-pressing 600."

McGill is known for his power. He'd just as soon run over a defender as go around him.

"When they get him like that (350 and 600), call me, because I want to come watch his games and watch them carry the linebackers off the field," Davis said with a big smile.



(Sun Staff photo by HAROLD MOORE)

Sideliners, l-r: Tony Harris, David Young, Davis, Bickel and Shankle

a team isn't organized at game time it can be costly by penalty or wasted timeouts.

John Blake is Southern's certified trainer. He's on the sidelines with Arvis Bridges (Lowes Grove teacher), and four student trainers—James Trough, Tim Lassiter, George Whitfield and Keith Foster.

Coaches used to have to worry about taking care of injuries during a game. Now the trainers take over that burden.

As for managers, they come and go. Davis has three different junior varsity players but each week.

Statistics are important, as well. High school football leads to college football. How many yards does Southern fullback Darryl McGill have in seven games? 1,180. How do we know? Because former players Ronnie and Ricky Jarnon walk the sidelines keeping stats.

What's the down and yardage situation? Look at the chains on the sidelines. Who works the chains

Marvin Utley (a former player), Norman Glenn, Paul Rigbee and Dickie Denning. Glenn and Denning have sons on the jayvee team. Rigbee is the father of a cheerleader.

At jayvee games, it's parents of varsity players on the chains—Max Boswell, Richard Dixon and Donnie Davis.

How do the players grade out after the game? There's a video camera upstairs, with former manager Tim Grady at the helm.

Who gets new balls into the game, and keeps balls dry when it's raining? The ball boy, Steve Mitchell.

Who are all these people? Mainly volunteers, each with important duties, all coming under the direction of the head coach.

"It's evolved gradually," said Davis. "I guess we had 10 or 12 people helping when I started. (Now it's usually 23 or 24). Organization is the name of the game, but you have to be careful you don't get too many people. Each person has specific duties

TAZ

Because of his short stature and fiery disposition, Coach Davis was affectionately nicknamed “Taz” as in Tasmanian Devil.



1980 Preseason Article

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 1980

THE DURHAM SUN

PAGE 3-D

Davis finds ecstasy outweighs agony

"The greatest thing about sports is it carries you to the heights of ecstasy and the lowest of all depths. It can put you at the highest you can be for the moment."

"Once you get past that moment in exhilaration, it all comes back in perspective and that's the way it should be — the proper perspective. The next day you're not getting millions of people in China who couldn't care less whether you won or lost."

— Monty Davis



Al Carson

If you've ever watched little cartoons on Saturday mornings, you may have seen a character they call the Tasmanian Devil.

He's short and stocky, and full of energy. A real terror — sort of a whirling dervish. Many times he's just a blur on the screen and other times he's jumping up and down and growling.

That same description fits Southern football coach Monty Davis, so well, so it's no real surprise to find out his nickname is "Taz."

He's only 5-6, so he usually paces the sidelines alongside of much taller football players. But his energy is contagious. He brings it to a fever pitch in the heat of action and the players feel it. He often jumps up and down on the sidelines, grabs players and hollers instructions.

Davis seems to be an extensible individual. He's everywhere at once, going with the flow of the game. And he does growl. By the time the game is over, his voice is usually so hoarse he has a hard time being understood.

Some people have said they go to Southern's games just to watch Davis on the sidelines. It's a possibility.

But there's a lot more to him than meets the eye. Monty Davis loves his football. There's no question about that. And while he's fairly serious about it, he enjoys it immensely.

We felt, after talking with him in depth, that this is a story of the agony and the ecstasy. Davis is so very high when he wins, so very low when he loses. But when you win over 70 percent of your football games (over 50 percent in the last three years), the ecstasy far outweighs the agony.

Davis has been at Southern for 12 years. We've watched his team for the past seven. He's still a sight to behold on the sidelines during a game, and his kids always seem to be ready to play when they take the field.

But whereas we used to think he had a unique ability for psyching his players up, now it seems more that he has a special talent for getting his team prepared.

Oh, he's still a bundle of energy once he gets in gear. It's his nature to be pumped up about things he really cares about. But we no longer look at what he does in the simplistic terms of just "psyching up" the team.

"We tell our kids not to try to get psyched up. If you try, 90 percent of the time you'll come out flat," he said. "What we ask our players to do is to think about what they've supposed to do once the game starts. We're basically quiet in the dressing room before a game. We have meetings, but intense instructions and reviews."

"In my earlier years we were handicapped not in the proper manner," he recalled. "I think my talent was bordering

more than maybe the last few years. I'm not saying that they weren't talented teams, but due to the fact we were really playing in a 4-A league, I know that many times we had to play above our capabilities just to be competitive."

But the Spartans have settled in as a power in a 3-A league and Davis doesn't sell the psyche job as much now.

"Well, it's kind of like Coach (Wesley) Mount at Hickory used to tell me. 'When you stop showing how to block and how to tackle, you start teaching — coaching.' In other words, when you're younger, you want to get down and show them how to be in position. You're the demonstrator, instead of talking to him and getting him down and then telling him, 'You've got your foot here, move your foot there, move your hand here and your neck should be here.' Then you're coaching," explained Davis.

We feel that's a lesson well learned by Davis, who has the knack for picking up on useful coaching techniques. He's matured over the years and Southern's program has benefited by it.

"I think the older you get, you can't stay at that high peak as much as you'd like to," he said. "The energy's just not there."

Davis still "gets up" for football. There's little doubt about that. He's always on hand for the high school all-star games in July, which lead into the pre-season practices in August. But he builds to a peak, rather than coming out fired up for the first practice days.

"As the season progresses, I get into the swing of it more and more. By the third game, I'm in full swing. I'm ready."

Last season the Spartans met Apex in the second game of the season. The Cougars were picked to be the number one challenger to Davis' Spartans in the Triangle Conference race.

"Now I was high that night," recalled the coach. "I was probably as high as I've been in a long time. I had a lot of concern all week — anxiousness. In the first half we probably played as fine a football game as we were capable of."

"But I had that frustration and worry (before the game). The kids got no going. In the dressing room everybody was standing around, nobody was saying a word. But everybody was just ready."

"It looked about like they were going to knock the wall down. Tommy Harris said 'God knows, let's get on the field! Let's go. We can't wait in longer. Let's go!' He really had me going."

The Spartans jumped all over the Cougars in the first half, grabbed a big lead and coasted to the win. It was one of those games when everything goes right. And Davis knew the ecstasy.

Later in the season the Spartans played East Wake. It was at Southern, and certainly Davis was ready for the game. He had a 10-game winning streak on the line. It was another big game.

"It was a ball game where we were just not getting the small things to happen," he recalled. It was one of those days. The Spartans lost 7-0. And Davis knew the agony.

Monty Davis is a native of Durham. He was a 3-4, 160-pound center on North-ern High's football team. He and his wife Penny have three daughters, Amy, Buffy, Elizabeth and Wendy Carson.

In the immediate hours after a football game, his family has learned he may be distant.

"Let's just put it like this," explained Penny. "I don't speak to him after a loss. I say clear, because I really don't know what to say. I'm sorry."

"I've actually seen times that he's walked up and down the hall at night, shaking his head. He doesn't ever blame the team. He blames himself."

Even after a win, which is usually the case, it still takes a while for him to rejoin his family.



The Davises, from left: Wendy, Amy, Buffy, Monty and Penny

"I can't talk to him then, because I can't get up in the clouds that high," said Penny.

Davis knows football is not a life or death matter. He takes it seriously, but he tempers that with a feel for reality. Football is a big part of his life, but not all of it.

"The purpose of life is to try, and whether you fail — Well, you know it's better to try and fail, than fail to try," he said.

"I think many people tell themselves short, by not trying. The great thing about football and our team, is we're going to go in and try. Yes, we may fail, and failing makes you feel low. It puts you down in the doldrums for that few moments or maybe that night."

"But you come back. You've got another game the next week. You have to revamp and go on," he said.

"And then you have your high moments of ecstasy. When you win like we did in the Apex game. It was a real ecstatic moment for the program, the whole team. It was a big ball game and we knocked them out in the first half. It was a moment of really excelling and playing well and doing a good job."

Davis is a winner. His record points it out. The record shows in the past eight years 6-4 in the 1970s and that year Southern made the playoffs. And yet, winning is only a part of football for Davis. And it's not necessarily the biggest part, either.

"We all want the outcome to be on the plus side of the ledger, but there are a lot of great plays in a football game, whether you win or lose," he said. "A lot of fans and coaches don't take the time

to recognize that great play. "I think that's part of what I enjoy about football. I can see a great play — a great hit by a linebacker — and that really psyches me up."

"I think, 'Hey! That's a super play.' And I really enjoy seeing that one play, like a beautiful run, or a blocked kick."

"I'll never forget one play probably as long as I live. One time David Case was my assistant coach, and David and I were on the sidelines together and we were playing West Montgomery at our place."

"The West Montgomery quarterback dropped back to about the one to throw the ball. Mark Parnell stuck that quarterback so hard from the side, he spun him so hard we could see the kid's head about go off his shoulders. Of course, the ball went in the end zone and we recovered it for a touchdown."

But the six points weren't what had Davis jumping up and down on the sidelines as some people may have thought.

"We didn't get excited about the touchdown. We got excited about, 'Hey, this is football.' That kid really flat did the number on the kid — you know, really. The real fair, good hit. That's the game David and I both went crazy on that hit, not the touchdown, on the hit. See? That's the part I appreciate about football."

"Now (he came probably got all excited because we scored. True, I was glad we scored. I don't want to take away from that, but the hit was what I really enjoyed."

"They call me Taz," Davis will add. See THEY CALL ME TAZ, Page 4-D

1983 Southern High School Football Program

COACH MONTY DAVIS

Years at Southern: 16 years

Responsibilities: Head Football Coach

Previous Coaching Experience:

1 year as Assistant in Lancaster, S.C.

2 years as Assistant at Tarboro Senior High

1 year as Assistant at Southern High

Education: High School-Northern Graduated in 1959

College-B.S. Degree in Business at U.N.C.

Personal Data: Married to Penny Cates

Three daughters-Amy, Buffy, Wendy

Honors: 1977 Assistant Coach in Shrine Bowl of the Carolinas

1978 Assistant Coach in North-South All-Stars

Coach of the Year-1969, 1973, 1979



From the Coach:

As last year's successful season came to a close, many players, fans, and coaches have looked forward to the 1983 season with optimism. A solid nucleus of starters and lettermen return, which should help in establishing the Spartan football team of 1983 a team to watch. Several outstanding performers are ready to excel on the field with high hopes of being recruited from area colleges and universities. The fans of Southern High have a rare opportunity to see these young men perform while



Monty Davis Coached Some Great Players



Darryl McGill was selected to the All City-County Team, All-Conference Team, All-Area Team, All-State Team, and was chosen as the All-Area Back of the Year and 1983 N.C. Player of the Year. He was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl that pitted the best players from NC against the best from South Carolina. Coach Davis summed up Darryl's career at Southern. "I've been in coaching for 19 years, but I've never had a back quite like Darryl. He's a rare kid... probably the best to come out of the Durham area in a long time. There are other backs around who probably have more speed, and there might be some backs who can cut a little better -though I don't know where -but I don't think anybody combines all those qualities like Darryl."⁵¹ He received a scholarship to Wake Forest University and was a 4-year letterman. He led the Atlantic Coast Conference in touchdowns in 1986 with 11. He was drafted by the Washington Redskins in 1988, but his career was cut short by a knee injury. The World League of American Football (WLAFF) was founded in 1990 and lasted one season. In 1991, he played for the Raleigh-Durham Skyhawks. Darryl currently resides in Tampa, Florida.

Kevin Sowell was selected to the All City-County Team as an offensive lineman and linebacker, All Conference Team on offense and defense, All-Area First Team on offense and Honorable Mention on defense, and All-State Team on offense. He played football at Western Carolina University.

Mike McClure was selected to the All City-County Team on offense and defense, All-Conference Team on offense and defense, All-Area Team, was chosen All-Area Lineman of the Year, was named to the All-State Team on offense, and was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl. He turned down numerous scholarship offers and stayed in Durham, where he resides today.

Mac McClure was selected to the All City-County Team as a tight end and linebacker, All-Conference Team on offense and defense, All-Area Team Honorable Mention, and was All-State Honorable Mention. He turned down numerous scholarship offers and stayed in the Durham area.

Vincent Ford was selected to the All City-County Team, All-Conference Team, and All-Area Team. He accepted a scholarship to play football at East Carolina University.

Antuane Simmons was selected to the All-Conference Second Team and All-Area Honorable Mention in 1983. In his senior year in 1984, he received numerous accolades and played football at East Carolina University.

Clark photo by M. GALT 1983

Mack, left, and Mike McClure flank Monty Davis

Southern seniors seek first perfect record

The Southern Sportsman of coach Monty Davis are set and ready to what could be their first regular season record of 1983.

This opportunity may seem a little premature, since the Spartans are presently 1-4 with six games to go. But considering Southern has dispatched its chief rivals recently (Tulsa 28-0 and Oxford 28-0), things are looking up.

ready to go. We're fired up and ready to play every game," said Davis, a 5'11, 225-pound offensive tackle and quarterback.

"After the Durham High scrimmage I was kind of nervous. We were shaky. I didn't think we had everything together," said Davis. "Just after the Orange game (a 20-0 win), I knew it was under control. We had some in which we let for injuries. We're not enough of them already."

TALENT. The Spartans have. Davis, they lack. Senior running back Stanley Wilson has been bad for the season with a knee injury. The Spartans can't afford to lose anyone else. They really couldn't afford to lose Wilson, but they've adjusted well.

Darryl McGill, a powerful fullback and defensive back at 5-9 and 185 pounds, has taken up his share of the short, but confident the Spartans are on their way.

"It's time," he said. "It's all just fitting together. This team will be the winning team. Everybody has a great attitude. We believe if we go out, and do our job, we'll win it. We're determined to win it this year. It's serious business."

VINCENT FORD, a 6-3, 250-pound defensive tackle and place-kicker, needs his sophomore season, and the Spartans.

THE EXPERIENCE factor isn't lost. Davis, a 1964 graduate, and his

Al Carson

Having any mental issues, and a strong sense of direction, this team could be a force to post upon play.

Davis coached the 1st in the state during the 1980s. He was the Associated Press All-American in 1980. He was named the 1st in the state during the 1980s. He was named the 1st in the state during the 1980s.

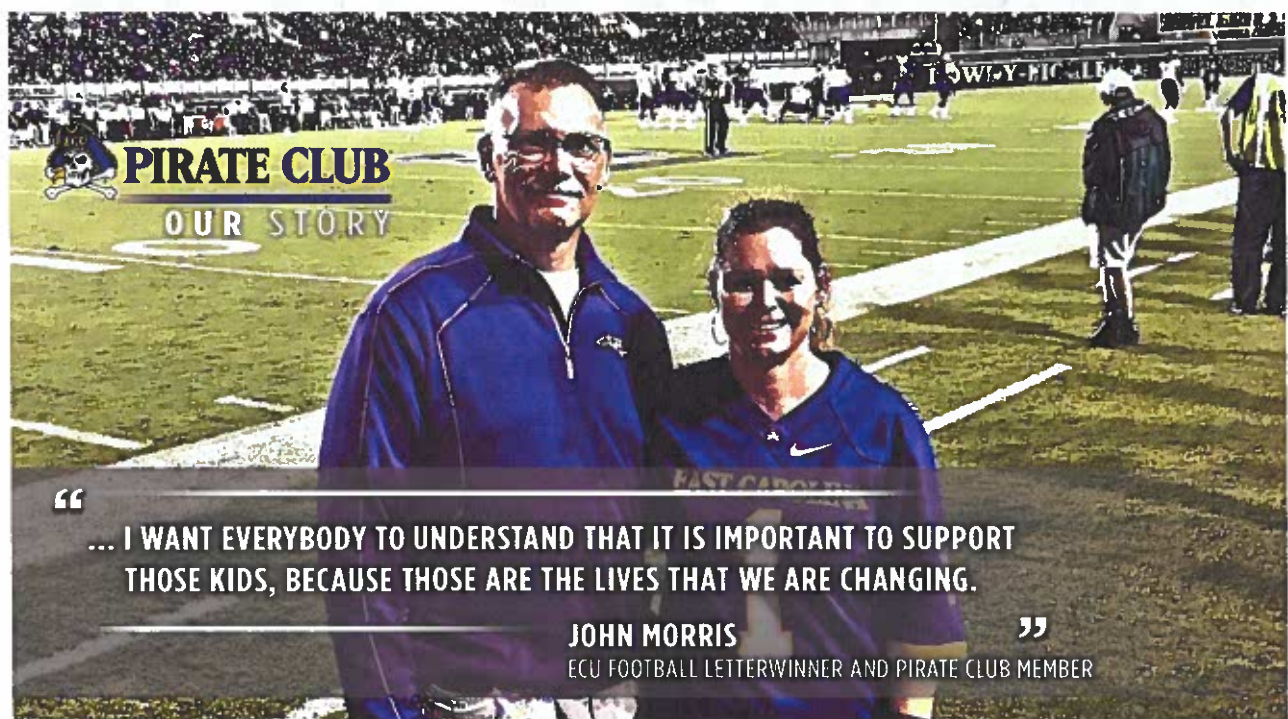
Todd Wright started at tight end in 1983 but was moved to offensive guard his senior year. He earned numerous honors in 1984, including being selected to the Shrine Bowl. He went to Elon College after graduation, choosing baseball over football.

Arthur Wiggins started at offensive tackle in 1983. He was a standout on the '84 SHS team and played football at Elon College.

Ronnie Snipes was a standout lineman at SHS in the late 1970s who went on to play for UNC-Chapel Hill.

Johnny Morris was a standout fullback/defensive lineman for SHS in the 1970s who was a standout at East Carolina University.

Otis Jones played for SHS in 1969 and went on to play professional football for the New York Jets.



Monty Davis Took Average, Undersized Players and Maximized Their Potential

Size no barrier to Southern's Bazen

Where there's a will, there's a way. Tony Bazen is a "Will" linebacker for the Southern Spartans and he's got the will to win. It's amazing that Bazen can start for a high school football team, since he's only 5-10 and 139 pounds (dripping wet). It's even more astonishing



Al Carson

that he's a major cog in the defense for the number one 3-A team in the state.

COACH MONTY DAVIS has a talent-laden team, no doubt. Its record is a sparkling 8-0 and the Spartans are cruising toward a Triangle 3-A Conference title and a playoff berth.

Bazen, though, is an unlikely candidate for defensive honors, when you look at the likes of inside linebackers Kevin Sowell (6-1, 221) and Mack McClure (6-1, 220), or defensive tackles Mike McClure (6-1, 217) and Vincent Ford (6-3, 217). Even the "Sam" (strongside) linebackers, Tommy Upchurch (5-7, 181) and Todd Wright (5-10, 165) dwarf Bazen.

Ironically, Bazen is backed up by Stacey Winston, who is only 5-8 and 140 pounds. Last week in a 28-6 win over East Wake, Davis went to a double-Will alignment, with Bazen and Winston starting at the outside linebacker spots.

"THE WILL LINEBACKER is a run-oriented linebacker, with a lot of pass flat responsibilities," said Davis. "He's kind of like a strong safety in a four-deep secondary."

So against East Wake, which likes to throw the football, the Spartans almost shifted out of their 4-4 defense



(Sun photo by AL CARSON)

Monty Davis, right, directs linebacker Tony Bazen

and into a 4-2, with five defensive backs.

"It depends on the type of offense we're facing," said Davis. "Any time we face a real good passing attack, or a team that throws a lot off the option, we use a double-Will."

Davis has been high on Bazen all season, and after Winston's first starting assignment, the coach was equally pleased.

"He did real well. I'm proud of him," said the coach.

BOTH FIT THE MOLD for Davis' Will spots, although he wouldn't mind either being a little heavier.

"Usually our Wills aren't big people. They're small, quick kids who can play, but don't have to battle one-on-one."

Bazen was a whopping 5-6 and 102 pounds as a sophomore, and started for a 9-1 jayvee team. A year ago he ballooned — all the way to 121 pounds. Because of his size, Davis left him with the jayvee team as a junior. Winston didn't play as a sophomore,

but backed up Bazen on the jayvees as a 155-pound junior.

Winston's real talents lie on the wrestling mat. He's one of Southern's best grapplers.

Bazen's forte is in the classroom (he was fourth in his class as a junior), a factor that carries over nicely on the field.

"HE'S A VERY intelligent player," said Davis. "He's academically strong. He understands the defenses and knows his responsibilities. He stays in the proper alignment. That helps him, because with his size, he can't afford to make a mistake."

"He's not fast. He's about a 5.0 (in the 40-yard dash), but he's a heady, steady player."

Bazen is also an alternate starter at running back for the Spartans, and despite the size handicap, he's a hitter.

"He's one of our better blockers ... he knows the rules ... he has good hands ... he catches punts ... he returns kickoffs. He just doesn't have a

lot of speed or weight, but he has a lot of talent," said Davis.

IT DOESN'T MATTER to Bazen, whether he's running the ball at 200-pound linemen, or trying to tackle 190-pound backs.

"No. When I've got the pads on, I'm just as big as they are," he said.

"Really, it doesn't seem that hard." He goes fulltime on defense, but he's still anxious to get in on offense at every opportunity.

"I like to participate," he said. "I don't like to sit on the sideline."

Bazen played junior high ball at Neal, after a successful youth career with the Bethesda Cowboys. He's in his ninth year of organized football.

THE COWBOYS TAUGHT him to win, but at Neal he had to adjust to losing. At Southern his record is more pleasant — 22-2-1 in two-and-a-half seasons.

"I'm just happy to be playing now," he said. "I had my doubts about whether I could play high school football or not. But I grew up a lot since last year (gaining 15 pounds). A lot for me, anyway."

Bazen and Winston are competing for the same position, but it hasn't hampered their friendship.

"We're real good friends," said Bazen. "We've got a friendly competition. We like to see each other do well. When one of us is playing, the other is encouraging him."

And with the double-Will alignment, they both are happy.

After all, where there's a will, there's a way.

NOTES — Southern visits Apex Friday night in a big Triangle Conference matchup. The Spartans are 6-0 and 4-0, while Apex is 3-1 and 3-2.

"They're quick on defense," said Davis, "and they've got a good nose-guard and defensive ends."

"Overall they're a good, balanced high school football team; their tail-back/fullback isn't a bad duo."

"I look for it to be a real physical game. We haven't had one yet that wasn't physical."

The Spartans defeated Apex last season 15-0.

"When I weighed in my freshman season, I weighed a whopping 109 pounds. By my junior year, I had grown to 142 pounds. I was, believe it or not, chosen to the All-Conference team at Offensive Center. I guess that's the reason I always had a special place in my heart for the small, competitive players that became a part of my teams I coached."

Monty Davis

S. Durham tops 3-A poll again

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Southern Durham, two weeks after losing its hold atop the 3-A division, regained the No. 1 spot in this week's Associated Press high school football poll.

Fayetteville Byrd is the No. 1 4-A team for the second straight week while Randleman remained atop the 2-A and 1-A division. Randleman, 9-0, has been No. 1 for all nine weeks of the poll.

Southern Durham, 9-0, received 11 first-place votes and 168 points overall to claim the top spot from Kannapolis, 8-1, which lost to South Rowan 33-32 in overtime.

The Spartans routed Western Harnett 61-0 as running back Darryl McGill had 214 yards rushing and scored six touchdowns. McGill has now rushed for 1,398 yards.

Asheville Reynolds, 9-0, is No. 2, having received three first-place votes and 149 points. Thomasville is No. 3. Clinton is No. 4 and Crest is

No. 5. All three teams are 9-0.

Kannapolis dropped to No. 6 and is followed by West Henderson, East Surry, SouthWest Edgecombe and Eastern Alamance to 17 yards rushing and a minus-27 in the second half en route to a 20-8 victory.

Byrd, 9-0, was named No. 1 on 18 ballots and got 167 points while Northern Durham, 9-0, picked up a pair of first-place votes and 158 points. Greensboro Page, 8-1, is No. 3 followed by Charlotte Myers Park, 9-0, and Roxboro Person, 9-0.

Northern Durham and Person meet Friday for the Big Six Conference title to highlight the final week of the high school regular season.

The second five consists of defending 4-A champ Jacksonville, Fayetteville Reid Ross, Wilson Hunt, Smithfield Selma and Fayetteville Westover.

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Here are the top North Carolina high school football teams according to the Associated Press, as voted by a panel of sportswriters in the state. First-place votes are in parentheses. To read the top record and total scores.

4-A	
1 Fayetteville (12)	9-0: 167
2 N. Durham (2)	9-0: 168
3 Greensboro Page	8-1: 158
4 Charlotte Myers Park	9-0: 157
5 Roxboro Person	9-0: 158
6 Jacksonville	8-1: 157
7 Fayetteville Reid Ross	9-0: 156
8 Wilson Hunt	9-0: 155
9 Smithfield Selma	9-0: 154
10 Fayetteville Westover	9-0: 153
3-A	
1 S. Durham (11)	9-0: 168
2 Asheville Reynolds (3)	9-0: 149
3 Thomasville (1)	9-0: 149
4 Clinton	9-0: 147
5 Crest (2)	9-0: 146
6 Kannapolis	8-1: 145
7 W. Henderson	9-0: 144
8 E. Surry	9-0: 143
9 S.W. Edgecombe	9-0: 142
10 E. Edgecombe	9-0: 141
2-A and 1-A	
1 Randleman (10)	9-0: 167
2 Spartan (11)	9-0: 166
3 W. Harnett (1)	9-0: 165
4 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 164
5 T. Harnett (1)	9-0: 163
6 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 162
7 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 161
8 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 160
9 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 159
10 E. Harnett (1)	9-0: 158

Spartans post perfect record

By AL FEATHERSTON

Southern High School completed the first 10-0 football season in its history last night, routing Jordan High 45-7 at Claude Currie Field.

The Spartans had more trouble with the cold and with a slew of second-half penalties than with the outmanned Falcons. Monty Davis had his playoff-bound team simply line up and run it right at the Jordan defense.

"THEY'RE AS GOOD as any team we've played," said Jordan coach Hal Keith, who watched his team finish the season at 4-6. "Monty's got some big kids. He's got a very balanced team. They didn't have to use their passing game tonight."

Indeed, Southern threw for just 74 yards. The damage was done on the ground, where senior running back Darryl McGill closed out a brilliant career by rushing 21 times for 234 yards and five touchdowns. As a team, Southern rushed for 405 yards.

McGill opened the game's scoring with a 46-yard TD run around right end in the first quarter, had a 10-yarder called back in the second quarter due to a holding penalty. He then added TD runs of 14 and 15 yards right before the half.

McGILL, A 5-9, 183-pounder, broke a 60-yard TD run on the third play of the second half. He added a two-yard plunge on the first play of the fourth quarter, then took the rest of the night off.

"McGill's the type of back who can make an average team great," said Keith, who quickly added, "but they've got some great linemen too."

Davis, who will take his team into the playoffs next week against Clinton, emphasized the balanced nature of Southern's power. The Spartans are the top-ranked 3-A team in the state.



(Opp. staff photos by KEVIN KEISTER)

Southern's record-setting Darryl McGill rips Falcons

Super Spartan

Southern High's
Darryl McGill:
1,829 yards;
31 touchdowns



Southern High's Darryl McGill

McGill named star

RALEIGH (AP) — Southern tailback Darryl McGill, who gained more yards and scored more touchdowns than any back in the state during the regular season, has been selected The Associated Press high school football player of the year.

McGill, a 5-11, 181-pound senior, rushed for 1,829 yards and scored 31 TDs in 10 games — both school records — and edged Randleman running back Tony Goss with 12 votes to 10 in a poll of 25 North Carolina prep sportswriters.

The voting was based on a player's performance during the regular season.

Goss, a 6-4, 262-pound senior, rushed for 1,699 yards and had 29 TDs in nine regular-season games. He rushed for another 716 yards and added 12 TDs during the playoffs to finish with 2,465 yards and 41 TDs.

"It's quite an honor. I'm surprised," said McGill. "I never expected this."

"One of my goals was to make all-state, but to be player of the year — that tops it all," he added.

McGill led Southern to a 10-0 mark and the Triangle 3-A Conference championship during the regular season. The Spartans, who finished the year ranked No. 1 in the state, lost to another 10-0 team, fourth-ranked Clinton, in the first round of the state playoffs, 16-14.

"WE KNEW WE HAD a good team the first day of practice," McGill said.

As an example, McGill pointed to his offensive line, which featured two other players named to the AP all-state team. Mike McClure (6-1, 225) earned the honor as a center, while Kevin Sowell (6-1, 224) was at guard.

"I did my job and they did theirs," he said. "Whenever they opened a hole or I scored, I congratulated them."

He also said he could not have gained the yardage he did without his line.

"Whenever anybody interviewed me, I told them to make sure they put the line in (the story) because if it wasn't for them, I wouldn't get the yards," he said.

BUT SOUTHERN COACH Monty Davis said McGill's ability had a lot to do with his performance.

"I've been in coaching 19 years, but I've never had a back quite like Darryl," said Davis. "He's a rare kid — probably the best to come out of the Durham area in a long time."

Davis said McGill reminds him of former North Carolina State running back Ted Brown, who now plays for the Minnesota Vikings in the NFL.

"He's very strong in the lower body and has strong hands" Davis said. "His second and third effort is what's made him what he is."



(Two sport photos)

Southern's Monty Davis, left, and Darryl McGill sweep top honors

All-City-County Spartans lead all-star team

By AL CARSON

The Southern Spartans, who posted their first perfect regular season mark in football this season, dominated selections for The Durham Star's All-City-County Football Team, with 11 picks on the 24-man squad.

Southern was 10-0 in the regular season, sweeping to the Triangle 3-A Conference championship. The Spartans lost in the first round of the state playoffs to undefeated Clinton, 16-14, and closed with a 10-1 record.

The Northern Knights, who were 6-1 and 4-1 in the Big Six 4-A Conference behind 10-0 Roxboro Person, were next in line with seven picks for the all-star team. Northern defeated High Point Andrews 21-12 in the first round of the state playoffs, but fell to North Forsyth in the second round, finishing 10-2.

IT WAS an record-setting offensive season for Southern, which was led by Coach of the Year Monty Davis and Player of the Year running back Darryl McGill.

Davis, who completed his 18th season at Southern, saw his team set schools records for not only points scored in a season, but most points in one game and largest winning margin (61-0 over Harnett Central).

- ★ OFFENSE
- ★ Quarterback
- ★ Randy Leathers, Southern
- ★ Running backs
- ★ Darryl McGill, Southern
- ★ Brad Sullivan, Hillside
- ★ Flanker
- ★ Kenny Brooks, Northern
- ★ Split end
- ★ Charlie Knott, Jordan
- ★ Tight end
- ★ Mack McClure, Southern
- ★ Offensive line
- ★ Mike McClure, Southern
- ★ Clifton Whicker, Northern
- ★ Kevin Sowell, Southern
- ★ Andrew Young, Jordan
- ★ Clarence Rogers, Northern
- ★ Kicker
- ★ Tim McClain, Jordan

Coach Davis Takes the Helm at Riverside

Davis named Riverside High football coach

By DAVID DUFFEL

Senior sports editor

Riverside High school has taken an other step toward building a successful athletic department.

Monty Davis, who coached Southern High for a 14-year period over 17 seasons, has been named the first head football coach of the Riverside Panthers.

After a search of athletic classes in 1984, the selection was approved by the Durham County Board of Education.

In addition to Davis, named Southern High basketball coach Larry Farnish and Northern Durham girls basketball coach Lane Blake have recently been named to head their programs at Riverside.

"We're putting the pieces together," Davis said.

Davis last coached basketball in 1984 when the Panthers finished 7-3 and lost only one game during a hard season.

"When I left, I didn't have a chance to say goodbye," Davis said. "But the circumstances are different than they were then. My girls, Andy, Buffy and Wendy were growing up, getting ready for the real world."

The first year of this season is not bad, but after the second year, things get tougher and I don't know how many years it will take to get back into the groove.

Davis is an advocate for building high school basketball programs. Southern High's first season in 1984 ended with Davis named and named 4-11 in his first year.

His first job was as a basketball referee. "I had three seasons and finished 7-3 for the school's first winning record."

Davis' father was the highest at Western Union of the world players and he coached them. Northern Durham where Coach Larry Farnish's team have dominated the Durham County Conference and regularly advanced in the state playoffs.



By RIVERSIDE 34 Riverside coach Monty Davis

He-e-e-e's back!

Davis looks to build another powerhouse

By AL CARSON

The Herald Staff

Monty's back.

That's Monty-with-a-Y, and he fits Riverside High School's needs to a T.

Monty Davis, who coached football at Southern High School from 1968 until 1984, is returning to coaching after a six-year "retirement."

Calling Riverside the new kid on the block is fine, if you remember the kid's name is Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The school on Rose of Sharon Road draws its students from the Northern Durham and Jordan districts. Northern has been a 4-A powerhouse for over a decade under Coach Kenny Browning.

Davis built one of the strongest 3-A programs in the state at Southern, and he realized success quickly. He took over a team that was coming off 0-10 and 1-9 seasons and had a 4-5-1 record the first year. In his second year, Southern's football team posted the first winning record in the school's 14-year history, 7-3.

From that point on, Davis' teams often were contenders, and his 1983 squad reached the zenith, posting a sparkling 10-0 regular-season mark. His final squad was an over-achieving 7-3, and Davis left for the lure of a career in real estate.

"It became a battle of time and finances," said Davis, who turned to real estate sales in the early '70s as a way to supplement his income in the summertime.

By the '80s, Davis was more and more involved in the business. His family life with wife Penny and daughters Amy, Buffy and Wendy, was feeling the crunch of the demands on Davis' time.

"My kids were reaching teen-age years, and it was a time factor more than anything," Davis said. "Something had to give."

"It had been maturing for about a two-year period. Then in 1984, I got sick with bronchitis and it was the first time I had ever missed practice. I knew I needed some rest."

With his daughters coming along through junior high, high school and college, another factor entered the equation—money.

"Finances had to be a priority," said Davis, who had moved from just selling real estate into the development arena. Coaching is technically a part-time job for teachers, and the coaching supplement doesn't come close to adequate compensation for the hours involved. Davis made the decision to leave coaching and divert those hours to a more lucrative outlet.

Even when he left coaching, Davis couldn't leave football. He stayed on as a teacher at the school for one year full time and two years part time. He attended football games and the same attraction that originally pulled him to the game remained a factor.

"About three years ago, I started feeling like it would be to my advantage to get back to something I enjoy," Davis said. "If the right situation came along, I knew I should think about it."

"I really hadn't given Riverside a thought. I figured between Durham, Wake, Granville and Orange counties, something might open up."



NO RESPECT? Monty Davis directs Riverside's first football team

Davis even entertained the thought of joining someone else as an assistant, but that wasn't in the cards.

"I didn't necessarily think I had to be a head coach," he said. "I guess once you've been there it would be hard not to stay there, but not necessarily."

"I think everybody has some talent, something that they do best. After some evaluation and soul searching, I felt my talent was in coaching. I felt I related to kids and could get something out of kids. And I missed the camaraderie with the kids and the coaching staff. I felt I should get back into something I knew."

Davis played center and linebacker at Northern High. After graduating from the University of North Carolina in 1963, he moved to Lancaster, S.C.

"I was working at the Spring Cotton Mill and lived about two blocks from the high school," he said. "I volunteered to be an assistant coach."

A year later he was back at UNC, and he helped out with the jayvee team at Southern in the fall of 1964. In the spring he did practice teaching at Southern and in the fall of 1965 he was at Tarboro High school teaching, assisting in football and coaching baseball.

He returned to Southern in 1967 as an assistant to Jim Blake and stepped into the head coaching spot the next year.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Davis' teams usually proved to be small in size and numbers—but feisty. They were well-coached and stressed the fundamentals of the game. As the program evolved, the 4-4 defense grew more and more sophisticated and the "belly" offense from the power-I and multiple sets showed Davis knew what to do with a full-back.

Davis surrounded himself with quality assistants, and his program produced many excellent players who continued to come back and contribute.

"The key to success is having good assistant coaches," Davis said. "That's one thing I can say I'm real pleased with at Riverside. I have a very fine, very experienced staff."

All in all, the kids' attitude has been very exceptional," Davis said. "We've been working hard to form unity among ourselves, and the kids are taking a genuine interest."

"We've got a lot to learn. I told the kids we're the Rodney Dangerfield of the conference. We won't get any respect. We'll have to earn it."

Coach Davis Leads Riverside to Playoffs in 3rd Year of Existence



PLA 81

THE OREGONIAN-SUN DUNSMUIR BC
HIGH SCHOOLS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1983



PLAYOFF BOUND: Riverside coach Davey Davis leads his team to the playoffs.

Pirates excited about trip to football playoffs

By ELSON ARMSTRONG JR.

The Riverside football team is set to play the first round of the playoffs on Saturday at the Riverside Sports Field. The team is excited about the opportunity to compete at a higher level.

But the most important fact is how hard the players have worked during the season. They have been preparing for this moment since the beginning of the year.

Riverside is now at 4-1 and is looking for a win to move into the playoffs. The team has been playing well and is confident about their chances.

Riverside played at home on Saturday night, which is a home advantage. The team is looking forward to the game and is ready to give it their all.

Riverside coach Davey Davis said that his team is ready for the challenge. He said that the players have been working hard and are now ready to show what they can do.

But Davis is not the only one who is excited. The players are also excited and are looking forward to the game.

In 1979 and 1980, Riverside was a good team. In 1981, they were even better. This year, they are looking to make a big statement.

at Dunsmuir in 1983

"There are many reasons," Davis said. "First, we have a great coach. Second, we have great players. Third, we have a great schedule. Fourth, we have a great fan base. Fifth, we have a great tradition. Sixth, we have a great future."

"They're the best I've ever seen and a very good football team that likes to run 70 percent of the time"

**DAVEY DAVIS
RIVERSIDE HEAD COACH**

There is no doubt that this team is one of the best in the state. They have a great coach and great players. They are looking forward to the game and are ready to give it their all.

Coach Davis said that his team is ready for the challenge. He said that the players have been working hard and are now ready to show what they can do.

In 1979 and 1980, Riverside was a good team. In 1981, they were even better. This year, they are looking to make a big statement.

we are now the best," Davis said. "I am proud of this team. I am proud of the players. I am proud of the fans. I am proud of the tradition. I am proud of the future."

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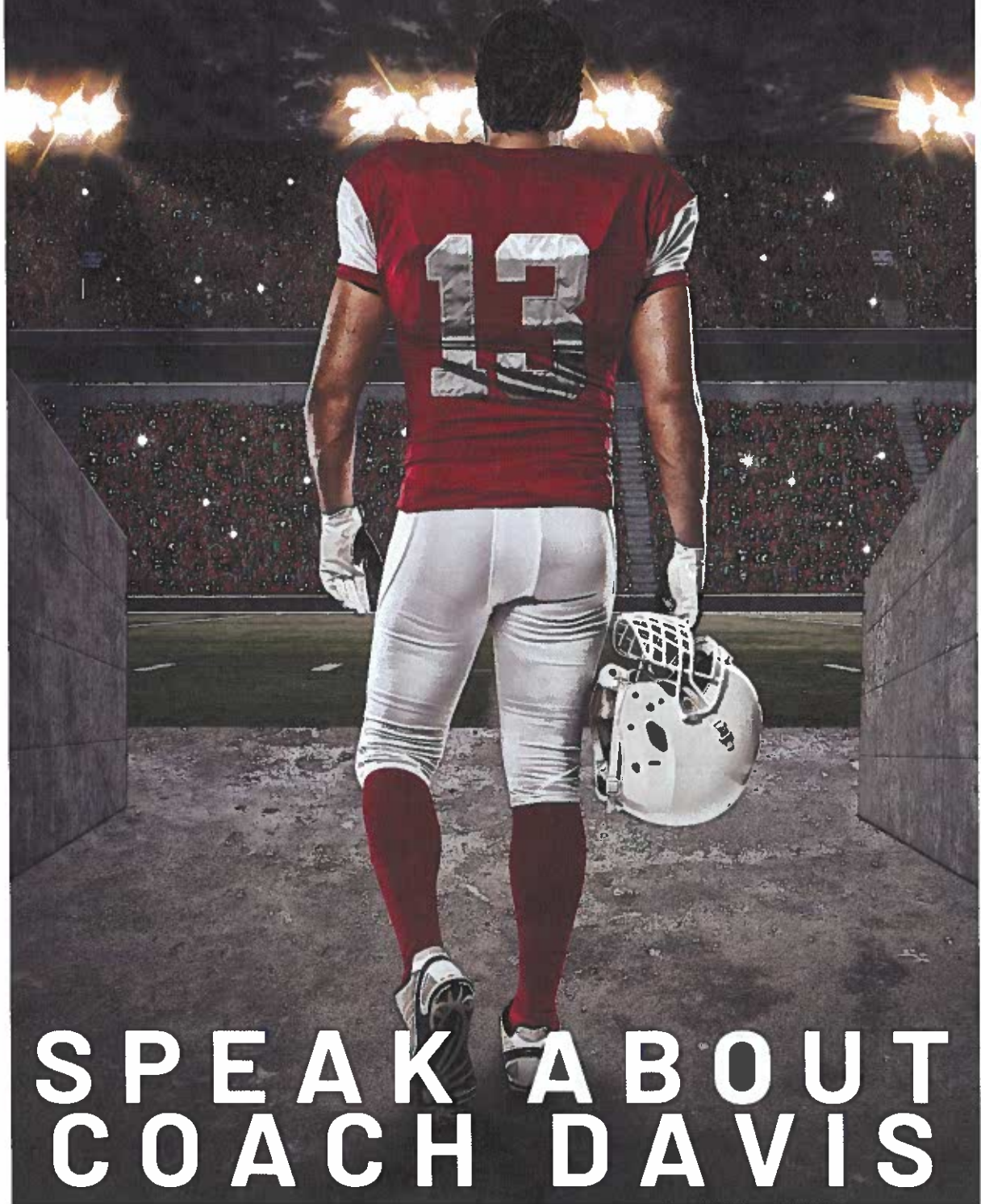
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FORMER PLAYERS



SPEAK ABOUT COACH DAVIS

To:
NCHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

July 10, 2022

Greetings!

I was a sophomore when Coach Monty Davis came to Southern Durham in 1967. He inherited a team that had won one game in two years. It was also a tumultuous time in history, as county schools were about to integrate. His first squad was an all-white group of boys that would go 4-5-1 and be ecstatic from the success.

Our mascot was the Rebels and rumors of upcoming integration horrors were spreading at a rapid pace. I was in Coach Davis's business math class, and I remember him talking to us about the crazy things being said. He explained how everybody was getting excited over nonsense. He also talked to our Captains and seniors about being leaders and helping make the transition go smoothly.

We also started lifting weights and off-season workouts. He encouraged us to get good grades and participate in other school sports and clubs. When the new school year began, we had a black student influx of about 20%. Seven black players joined our team. We were the Rebels, and as the year went forward, I became aware of the pressure these guys were under from our opponents and some other black students, plus the racist element in our school. Coach Davis and his staff were everywhere for that team. He visited our homes and talked with our parents, answering questions and encouraging all of us to make good choices. We went 7-3 and beat our Big rival Northern Knights for the first time in 10 years and only the second time in school history. In my senior season, we still had the Rebel mascot, but we had a lot of young black players (8) on the JV team and two on the varsity. We went 6-3-1 and at the end of our season, the Coach asked all the seniors to come in for a meeting. He let us know that we were going to change the mascot name, and he was counting on us to be leaders and help our fellow students understand that it was the right thing to do. Our basketball team switched to the Spartans a few games into their season. (Coach Davis liked the mascot "Bears") but a school-wide election chose the name! My two younger brothers also played for Coach Davis, and we always talk about our playing days (football & track for me; football, wrestling, and baseball for them).

He was a great coach and now is a good friend. I look forward to seeing him in the Hall of Fame.

Thanks,



Rick Barbour



To HOF selection committee:

I played for Coach Davis from 1968 to 1971 at Southern Durham High School. He was a tough, fair coach whose influence helped me prepare for life. He taught me to strive for improvement and instilled self confidence. He stressed teamwork and striving for a common goal. Through his instructions on the field, he taught me to work hard for what I wanted and to measure corresponding improvement honestly. Watching his leadership was an example of excellence I could emulate. I never forgot his half time X & O adjustments that often turned games around for our team and helped me embrace change.

I thought of Coach Davis often and carried his lessons with me thru life. Working hard and confidence helped me attain an engineering degree. The self confidence he built in me helped me succeed in my career and overcome personal and professional disappointments. Partially because of his early life instruction, I knew there was little that I could not do with the right amount of thought and perspiration.


I often think that the basic values instilled by Coach Davis was a big part of the reason for my career success. At 23, I was the project manager of a \$20+ million construction project. I was the Leader of a \$600M roadway improvement program for the City of Jacksonville, Florida that included planning, design, public information, property acquisition, bidding and construction management. In this role, I managed over 30 engineering firms. In other assignments, I personally managed the construction of over 300 construction projects for local governments. I managed local, regional and statewide engineering consulting services for medium sized thru large international firms. I served as the Public Works Director for a small town. I am now retired and currently serve on the National Board of Directors for the American Public Works Association, a 30,000 member professional associated dedicated to the advancement and education of the Public Works Profession. Coach Davis deserves part of my success.

His influence reaches into the next generation. I have a family with 2 successful, grown children that tire of my stories about Coach Davis and high school football. I recently attended my 51st high school reunion and had several conversations with former teammates about Coach Davis and his impact on our lives.

I don't know how I can stress strongly enough how disserving Coach Davis is for this honor.

Please give him you highest consideration,

Douglas E Layton, PE, PWLF
All City/County
All Conference Offensive Guard 1970





To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mike Michael and I played for Coach Monty Davis from '74-"77 at Southern Durham High School.

I believe he is under consideration for the Hall of Fame and I wanted to voice my support for him. We went to the playoffs 2 of those years and had a powerhouse program thanks to Coach Davis. I played QB and was Player of the Year for our conference my senior year.

He was a great leader and one of the finest coaches I ever played for in my career.

Sincerely,

Mike Michael
919-949-2084



To the Hall of Fame Committee,

I played for Coach Davis in High School from 1974 to 1977. I would say that Coach was one of the most influential people in my life.

Coach Davis was a father figure to his players and because of him many of us have gone on to live very successful lives. Coach Davis demanded that we give our best both on and off the field. He also pushed us to reach our full potential.

I was fortunate to have a Coach like Coach Davis. I went on to play in college and later would coach high school football and baseball because I wanted to make the kind of impact in young men's lives that Coach Davis made in mine.

Anyone who played for Coach Davis would have the same story. Coach was hard nosed. Coach was very demanding. Coach was going to get your very best, and he gave his very best.

I love Coach Davis and there is no doubt he is a big reason I have been successful in my life.

Thanks,
Kenny May
Southern Spartans 1974 - 1977
#62



To NC Hall of Fame Committee:

I played football at Southern High School in Durham NC 1973-1975. I had the pleasure of playing for Coach Monty Davis. Coach had a huge influence on my life.

I've never played for a coach who was so organized. Practices were conducted with not one wasted minute. His scouting reports were detailed and spot on. We were the most prepared team in the state. He never cut a kid. If you could get through the conditioning and physicality of pre season practices you had a spot on his roster.

My senior year we were ranked in the top 10 in the state. He built the program from nothing to a perennial 3A power. The things he taught me I have taken with me throughout my life. Coach Davis was a master at teaching discipline, toughness, organizational skills, motivational skills, and teamwork.

Please consider Monty Davis as a candidate for NC High School Hall of Fame. He is most deserving!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Bowen

July 30, 2022

To whom it may concern,

I have had the honor, privilege, and the lifetime blessing as one of Coach Monty Davis' football players as well as being a student in his classroom.

In the 3 years I played,(75-77) our football team compiled a 23-5 record. In those years only one team per conference was allowed to participate in state playoff games, which meant that each and every game was huge.

Coach Davis was innovative, but was also an outstanding coach in getting the most out of less talented and undersized teams. His teachings of fundamentals, emphasis on conditioning, and motivation for each player on an individual basis were amazing.

As a teacher and mentor, his impact within the school was as splendid as his coaching.

I certainly hope your committee considers Coach Davis, for induction, for he was truly an outstanding North Carolina high school coach.

Milford Evans



To Whom It May Concern,

My experience with Coach Davis was an exceptional one.



He helped me grow as a man and as a human being. He taught me emotional love for teammates and friends. To study, and to be studious on and off the football field.

I had heard from my childhood about Southern High School football. I was glad to be a part of Southern High School football and its winning tradition.

I sincerely hope you consider Coach Davis to be inducted into the North Carolina high school sports hall of fame, because he was truly a winner and mentor.

Sincerely,

Darrell Evans
SHS Class of 1980





North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Emergency Management

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffalo, Jr., Secretary

William C. Ray, Director

July 1, 2022

Bobby Wilkins, President
NCHSAA Board of Directors
222 Finley Golf Course Road
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

I am writing this letter to express my support for Coach Monty Davis to be inducted into the North Carolina High School Sports Hall of Fame. I had the privilege to play football at Southern Durham High School in Durham County for Coach Davis from 1982-1984. In 1984, I was fortunate to be selected to play in the North Carolina Shrine Bowl with Coach Davis as the Head Coach. That week of the Shrine Bowl, like many of my high school football and baseball playing experiences, are fond memories that are lasting a lifetime.

The 1983 Southern Durham High School Football Team was a special team as we went undefeated during the regular season, ending our season in the playoffs to another undefeated team, the Clinton Darkhorse Football Team. Our running back, Daryl McGill was selected as the North Carolina High School Football Player of that year. I was fortunate to be a starting tight end on that high scoring offense.

Coach Davis was a coach who had high expectations form his players. He expected his players to give 100% every time they stepped onto the football field. Coach Davis was a coach that expected continuous improvement as the season progressed. He was a coach that believed in his players and led by example, always finding an effective way to motivate his players. Every year, at least once during the season, he would challenge the players in a 40-yard dash. Any player that beat him, would not have to run the final conditioning sprints.

It wasn't until later in my life that I realized how much Coach Davis had influenced the kind of person I had become. The very same values that Coach Davis instilled in me as a high school football player are reflective in the person I am today.

Mailing Address:
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www.ReadyNC.gov



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Office Location:
1636 Gold Star Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
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As a person who has served in leadership roles for the last twenty-five years, I have high expectations for our organization. I expect our staff to give 100% in everything we do. I have created a culture of continuous improvement. We measure our effectiveness through performance measures and are always looking for ways to improve. As a fire department training officer, I would always at least once during the recruit academy, challenge the recruits to a race in the last half mile of our 3-mile run.

Coach Davis was a very successful high school football coach in North Carolina. The positive influence he had on the many young men that he coached over the years is far more reaching than his success on the football field. There is no one more deserving to be in the North Carolina High School Sports Hall of Fame than Coach Monty Davis.

Thank you for considering this request. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail. I can be reached by phone at 919-215-1672 or by email at todd.wright@ncdps.gov.

Sincerely,

Todd Wright

Todd Wright
Assistant Director-Recovery
North Carolina Emergency Management

From the Lips of Coach Davis

"I demand excellence. I'm very demanding. At the same time, I let the kids know I'm proud of them when they do well."

"I knew and understood I had a daunting task of building a winning program. The football history of the school had never had a winning season, much less a conference championship. This history did not deter my determination. I had already experienced many hard tasks. Having been a small player in a game of larger and more physical players, almost not being accepted at UNC, and having to sell pots and pans in direct sales, had prepared me to have confidence in my ability. The task lying ahead would be to convince our players that we could be and would be "winners." Therefore, I began to players, fans, students, family, neighbors, and press that we were going to become known as a winner."

Coach Davis on beginning program at Southern Durham High School

"The greatest thing about sports is that it carries you to the heights of ecstasy and the lowest of all depths. It can put you the highest you can be for the moment. Once you get past that moment in athletics, it all comes back in perspective and that's the way it should be -the proper perspective. The next day you've got millions of people in China who couldn't care less whether you won or lost."