

Sports

Talkin'
SportsBy John
Cate

Why is Richmond so darn good?

I had a discussion with a Garner football fan Thursday night during that long delay for lightning that brought to mind one of the theories about why Richmond County is so good every year.

The argument goes like this: Richmond County has but one high school in the entire county. Wake County has many, and adds new ones often, so the talent here is diluted and keeps Wake County teams from competing with the Raiders.

But it's a fallacious argument. On the surface one would think Richmond County derives a huge edge over any Wake County school. But look closer.

Wake County has a population of 655,642. Its largest city is Raleigh, with a population of 276,093. Richmond County, on the other hand, has a population of 46,677. Its largest city is Rockingham, which has a population of 9,672—about half the size of Garner. Richmond County's average population growth is 0.2 percent a year, Wake County's is 4.4 percent.

To serve its people, Wake County currently has 16 high schools, each one serving an average of 40,978 people. Richmond County has one high school, serving an average of 46,677.

And what does that mean in terms of student enrollment?

According to this year's NCHSAA enrollment figures, Enloe is the largest school in Wake County, with 2,308 students. Green Hope is second, at 2,011, followed by Leesville Road at 2,004. Garner is a little ways down the list, at 1,815.

Richmond County is at 2,131. It would be a large school even by Wake County standards, ranking second overall. But...if Richmond County is better because it has about 300 more students, why does Garner pound Enloe, with 500 more students, into the ground year after year?

The truth is, there is no conspiracy that keeps Richmond County as a dominant football team because the county has just one school. Richmond County has only one high school because that's all they need. Wake County has 16 because that's how many it needs to have. It doesn't give the Wake County teams less students to choose from vis-à-vis Richmond County—it's about the same either way.

Richmond County is better at football than any Wake County school because it has better talent, and coaching that is as good as the best Wake County has to offer.

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Primus does triple duty in Trojans' win

By John Cate
Managing Editor

passing by completing 22 of 36 attempts. Ten of those completions went to Nieves, who gained 119 yards and converted several key third downs in the second half.

Nieves' last catch of the game came with 48 seconds to play, and gave the Tigers a first down at the Garner 30-yard line. Horton immediately spiked the ball into the ground to stop the clock. During the break, Primus went to the coaching staff and asked to enter the game on defense, so as to give the Trojans an experienced cover man against Nieves.

The 5-9, 165-pound senior co-captain had already had an incredible game, for better and occasionally for worse. In the first quarter, his fumble following a pass reception had led to a Chapel Hill touchdown drive and a 7-3 Tiger lead. But on the ensuing kickoff, he ran the kick back 88 yards to give the Trojans a 10-7 lead with four minutes to go in the quarter.

Primus then chewed up 52 yards of prime Chapel Hill real estate on Garner's next drive, which took about two hours to complete. After the Trojans had moved from their 20 to the Tigers' 19, lightning forced a 90-minute delay with 11:04 left in the second quarter. After the delay, during which more than half the crowd left, the Trojans ran four more plays and took a 17-7 lead on Hamrick's 12-yard pass to Robert Jarman.

Garner's biggest lead of the season didn't last long. Horton struck back quickly. On Chapel Hill's second play from scrimmage, a Trojan defender missed a tackle and Rodney Farrington romped 70 yards with one of Horton's deliveries, cutting the lead to 17-14 with 8:50 left in the first half.

The Trojans went back to work with a 1-2 punch of Primus and fullback Richard Medlin after Primus had set them up on a 42 with a 30-yard kickoff return. The two backs did all the work before Primus crashed in from six yards

out with 3:45 remaining. But Farrington returned the ensuing kickoff 39 yards to the Trojans' 46, and three plays later, Chapel Hill was back in the end zone on a 26-yard strike from Horton to Mark Howard.

Garner's offensive line had taken over, though, and the Trojans moved from their 35 to the Tigers' 8 in just five plays. Then Primus, trying to blast his way into the end zone, fumbled at the 5 and Garner watched in anguish as it rolled out of the end zone for a touchback with a minute left. The Trojans had to settle for a 24-21 halftime lead.

The Tigers dominated the second half, as Garner's offense repeatedly shot itself in the foot until it was almost too late. Chapel Hill, meanwhile, moved the ball from its 47 to the Trojans' 6 on their first drive of the third quarter. But then Horton lost three yards on a fumble and was flushed out of the pocket for another loss, and kicker Brian Glish missed a field goal wide.

The Trojans fouled up their next series with a 16-yard holding penalty, then had to punt the ball to the Tigers, again in excellent field position. As time ran down in the third quarter, Chapel Hill again drove into Garner territory and appeared to take the lead on a 33-yard strike to Nieves, but it was called back due to an offensive pass interference penalty that incensed the Tigers' coaching staff. The Tigers had to punt, but again Garner was unable to move the ball. With 10 and a half minutes left, the Trojans punted

again. This time, Chapel Hill got it done. They were flagged for another offensive pass interference right away, but overcame it with a pass to Nieves for a first down. Four more completions moved it to the Trojans' 3, and with five minutes remaining, the Tigers took the lead on a three-yard plunge by Lawrence Williams.

But Garner's Tim Lovick ran back the ensuing kickoff 36 yards to the Chapel Hill 43. On the very next play, Primus ran off right tackle, where the Garner line had flattened the Chapel Hill defense, and sprinted to the end zone with 4:36 to play.

The run completed Primus' night on offense with 197 yards on 22 carries. He now has 455 yards rushing on the season to rank 10th in the state.



Photo by Johnny Johnson

Garner fullback Richard Medlin (10) looks for daylight between two Chapel Hill defenders in Friday night's game. Medlin ran for 50 yards on 11 carries.

Trojan football stat leaders

RUSHING

Player	att	yds	td
Trevor Primus	53	455	4
Richard Medlin	24	108	0
Brian Jackson	1	7	0
Team	2	-2	0
Adam Hamrick	6	-3	1

RECEIVING

Player	rec	yds	td
Richard Medlin	11	182	2
Tim Lovick	7	115	1
Trevor Primus	3	75	1
Robert Jarman	2	29	2
Brandon Banks	1	14	0
Justin Byars	1	5	0

PASSING

Player	c-a-i	yds	td
Adam Hamrick	25-64-1	415	6

The yardstick

Garner 10 14 0 7 - 31
Chapel Hill 7 14 0 7 - 28

GARNER - Jacob Wescoe, 30-yard field goal, 9:21, 1st quarter.
CHAPEL HILL - Lawrence Williams, 2-yard run, 4:16, 1st quarter (Brian Glish kick).

GARNER - Trevor Primus, 88-yard kickoff return, 4:00, 1st quarter (Wescoe kick).

GARNER - Robert Jarman, 12-yard pass from Adam Hamrick, 9:21, 2nd quarter (Wescoe kick).

CHAPEL HILL - Jonathon Johnson, 70-yard pass from Ryan Horton, 8:50, 2nd quarter (Glish kick).

GARNER - Primus, 6-yard run, 3:45, 2nd quarter (Wescoe kick).

CHAPEL HILL - Mark Howard, 26-yard pass from Horton, 2:36, 2nd quarter (Glish kick).

CHAPEL HILL - Williams, 3-yard run, 5:00, 4th quarter (Glish kick).

GARNER - Primus, 43-yard run, 4:36, 4th quarter (Wescoe kick).

Ch. Hill	Garner
First Downs	20
Rushes-yards	21-51 37-249
Passing	24-36-2 4-13-1
Passing yards	353 39
Total yards	404 288
Return yards	75 210
Punts-average	2-41.0 3-34.0
Fumbles-lost	3-0 4-2
Penalties-yards	10-75 5-37.5
Time of Poss.	23:40 24:20

The Trojans opened the game with some trickery, as kicker Jacob Wescoe launched a poach kick which the Chapel Hill players failed to field. Garner recovered the free ball at the Tigers' 27, and it led to an early 30-yard field goal and a 3-0 Trojans lead.

Garner plays its fourth road game of the season Friday night, against old rival Cary. The Imps are 2-1, having beaten Leesville Road and Athens Drive since an opening 20-6 loss to Broughton.

Around the horn

WCA soccer team plays Clayton High to a 2-all deadlock

The Wake Christian Varsity Soccer Team rallied from a two-goal halftime deficit to tie Clayton High 2-2 on Thursday, August 28, in an exciting match at WCA. Clayton advanced to the 3rd round of the NCHSAA 3-A State Playoffs last year while Wake Christian finished as the N.C. Christian School Association Class 3-A State runners-up.

The Bulldogs fell behind early due to pressure by the quick Comet forwards. Clayton got their second goal with 26:31 remaining in the first half on a beautiful counter attack. From that point, the Bulldogs carried much of the attack. WCA just missed on several chances before the half, but went to the break trailing 2-0.

Wake Christian offensive pressure finally generated a goal with 32:37 remaining in the match. Senior midfielder Ben

Wickel tapped home a long throw-in from senior Chris Hilliard to get the Dawgs on the board. WCA continued to attack and tied the match when Wickel redirected a header from Matt Brewer with 17:44 remaining. The Bulldogs had repeated chances to win it—missing on several free kick opportunities in the final 10 minutes.

WCA junior keeper Rob Van Houten made several key saves to thwart the Comets during the second half. The Bulldog Academy for a 7:00 match on

Tuesday, Sept. 2. WCA then travels to Henderson to compete in the Burger King Classic held Thursday-Saturday, Sept. 4-6. The Dawgs take on Northern Vance High at 6 p.m. Thursday in the first round at Kerr-Vance Academy. The rest of the field includes J.F. Webb High, Franklinton High, South Granville High, Person High, Kerr-Vance Academy and St. David's School.

Submitted by WCA
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SHOOTERS BILLIARDS

At 1-40 and Hwy 42 (Across from Lowes)

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Draft Beer 75¢

Tuesday Nights
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Domestic Beer \$1.50

Wednesday Nights
Pool League Play 7:00PM
Thursday Nights
Karoke 9PM-1AM

Jello Shooters \$1.00
Sunday Nights
9 Ball Tournament 3PM
Draft Beer 75¢

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McDonald's Player of the Week



McDonald's Salutes TREAVOR PRIMUS

For the Week of September 3, 2003

Primus, a senior on the GSHS football team, accounted for 347 all-purpose yards in the Trojans' 31-28 win over Chapel Hill. He scored on touchdown runs of 6 and 43 yards and on an 88-yard kickoff return, then came back on defense and grabbed the game-winning interception.