

A bumpy start

The team got better on the year.

Coach Eric Boland knew the road would be bumpy in the early going and that his football team would get better as the year went on. "We played the top schools on our schedule all at the start of the season," Boland said. "Those schools finished first, second and third in the league."

After a disappointing 1-8 season last year, the Spartans returned to the gridiron with a new attitude. Despite having to replace 14 starters and having only two weeks to practice, CMA rang in the new season with a 29 point victory over Waccamaw Academy. Runningback Evan Samli rushed for 106 yards and two TDs. Neil Jackson returned a fumble 29 yards and Ron Landers caught a 13 yard pass to complete the scoring.

Next for the Spartans were the Hammond Skyhawks who were on their way to a state championship. Led by all-state quarterback Chad Wood, Hammond used an explosive passing attack to obtain a 41 point lead. Quarterback Happy Taylor connected with Landers for a 76 yard touchdown to avoid the shutout. A week later, a strong Heathwood Hall blasted CMA 41 to 0.

In Thomas Sumter's homecoming game the Spartans jumped out to a 6-0 lead on a flea-flicker from Lonnie Broome to Landers that covered 30 yards. Another Spartan TD was called back by a penalty. But TSA scored to 22 unanswered points to secure the victory.

At Wilson Hall's homecoming, the Barons broke open a close game with 34 second half points. The lone bright spot was an 86 yard kickoff return by Landers that accounted for CMA's points.

The Spartans returned home to face archrival Asheville School. Led by Greg Baxter's receiving and Broome's running, CMA was ahead 8 to 6 at the half. But the Blues came back to score late and intercepted Taylor's pass with 30 seconds left. A 40 yard reception by Baxter with less than a minute left was called back on a penalty. Final score: Asheville 14, CMA 8. Christ School, in a continuation of that weekend's journey to the mountains, exploded for 14 third quarter points to beat CMA 32-6. Taylor scored for the Spartans.

After six straight losses, CMA went to Bamberg to face Andrew Jackson Academy. The Confederates recovered a fumble and scored early in the first quarter, but it was the only good thing they would do. A fearsome "Mad Dog" defense sacked the quarterback five times and completed four interceptions. Davidson made three sacks and Jackson intercepted two passes, both of which set up touchdowns. Wide receiver Ron Landers enjoyed his finest game of the season. He returned a fumble 40 yards, caught a 70 yard pass, and returned a kickoff 80 yards, scoring three TDs. Final score: CMA 38, Andrew Jackson 20.

With a forfeit win over Hilton Head

Prep, the Spartans journeyed to Asheville for a rematch with the Blues. Asheville scored on their first possession, but from then on it was a defensive battle. CMA's defense, led by Ted Dailey, Billy Dial, and Mike Aaron, held Asheville School numerous times. With five minutes left in the game, Happy Taylor connected with Landers for a 60 yard Score. Samli rushed for the two-point conversion to give CMA an 8-6 lead. This time it was CMA who intercepted a pass in the last minute. Aaron, with the interception, sealed the Blues' fate. The Spartans finished 3 and 5, the best CMA record in five years.

Bright spots for the team were: Landers finished third in the state in receptions and set a school record; Taylor threw for over 500 yards on the season; Dailey had 13 primary tackles vs. Andrew Jackson; Broome rushed for over 60 yards in his first game as quarterback. Coach Boland concluded, "We really came around at the end of the year and played well."

FOOTBALL SCOREBOARD

29-0	Waccamaw Academy
6-41	Hammond Academy
0-41	Heathwood Hall
8-22	Thomas Sumter
8-41	Wilson Hall
8-32	Christ School
38-20	Andrew Jackson
8-6	Andrew Jackson



Varsity. Front: Settlemyre, PO Davidson, Landers, Jackson, De La Guardia, Rice, Taylor, Serpas, Powell. Middle: Robinson, Broome, Boiter, Hughes, Isom, JW Mitchell, Felice, Baxter, Samli, Perdue, Wilkinson.

Back: Coach Boland, Coach Hesson, Whitmire, Benham, Christenson, Dial, Dailey, Whisenhunt, Strickland, McCoy, Gadlage, Goff, Morgan, Coach Barlow, Mgr. TW Brown.