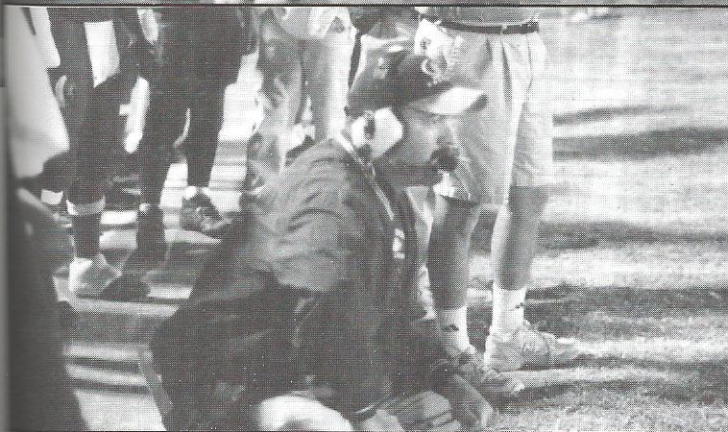
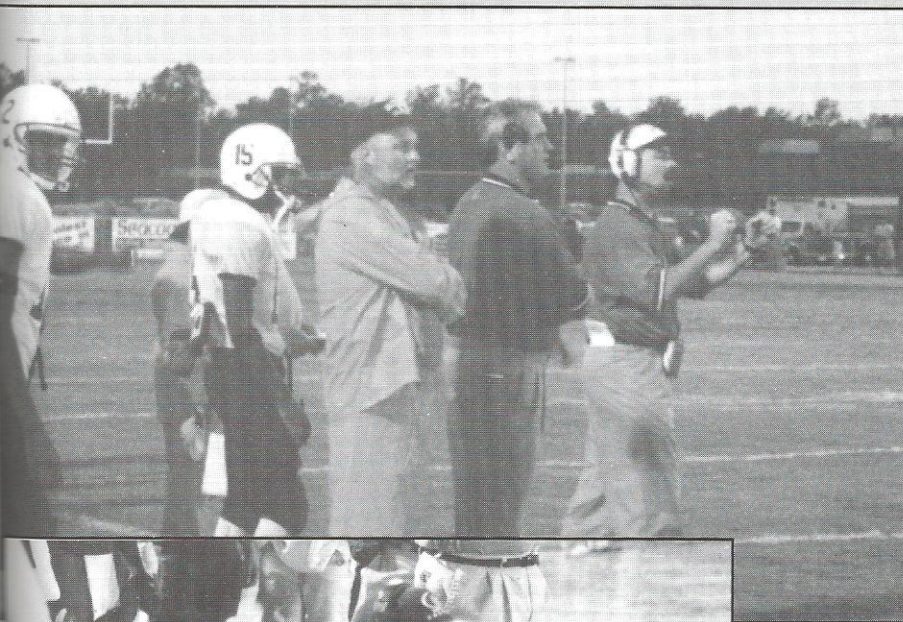


"When it finally is time to play on Friday nights, I rush to the gym because I'm so excited about the game I'm about to play. I like to watch a few minutes of the girls' game, but I always have to leave during their game to get ready for mine. After I get changed into my uniform, I try to relax for a few minutes, so I can get my thoughts together. During this time, I usually pray or think of ways to improve my game. Before I know it, I'm rushing onto the court. I hit the court, and when I hear the buzzer, I start to hustle. I fly up and down the court, trying to steal the ball and earn points for my team. It becomes impos-

Laron Bennett 10th

sible to think of anything but the game because my goal is to score as many points as possible while keeping my opponents away from the ball. Even though I'm so exhausted after playing, I go home, finish my homework, and head straight for my bed. But of course, I dream about the game I'll be winning next week."



Fridays during football season are always the longest days of the week for me. After a long day of teaching I put in a full night of coaching. After scarfing down the pregame meal with the players, I drive out the stadium. I usually gather up my linemen and go over plays to make sure they know exactly what to do. I help the other coaches give the players a pep talk in the locker room, and players take the field, I stand on the sidelines with the other coaches where we call the plays to the boys on the field. Of course I watch them closely to make sure that everything goes right, and every now and then, I have to give a player a talk. Our minds are

Coach Strickland

always set on winning and doing the best we possibly can do. I get so caught up in the game, I barely even notice the time, and when it's all over, I rush home so I can spend

some quality time with my wife and kids."