Another Barefoot a star

By BILL LEFFLER

The leading pass receiver in area high school football this year is the Princess Anne's Ken Barefoot Jr. The name should sound familiar to longtime prep followers. His dad, Ken Barefoot, was a standout end 20 years ago at Great Bridge. The elder Barefoot was a two-time All-Tidewater performer and recently was named to The Virginia-Pilot and The Ledger-Star all-time All-Tidewater team, picked for the 50th anniversary of the selections.

"I'm a proud papa," said the elder Barefoot.

Barefoot calls it "just a coincidence" that 16-year-old Ken Jr. and his younger brother Jason are playing at his old position. Jason, 14, is an end on the Independence Junior High School team.

The two boys were born when football was the big into of the Barefoot's life. He was a senior on the Virginia Tech team (where coach John Lent called him "the best tight end on the East Coast") when Ken arrived.

"I wasn't a Little League father though," said Barefoot. "They both play basketball and baseball as well as football. I was more involved with their baseball while they were growing up. But I'm not the type that drills and drills his son in the backyard."

Barefoot takes no credit for the development of his sons on the playing fields although sports discussions are mildly ratcheted up the supper table.

But dad was able to draw upon his own experiences. Barefoot mentioned having trouble getting off the line of scrimmage on some pass plays. Pop told him how.

Some things don't have to be taught. "Ken has a good pair of hands. He catches the ball well," said Barefoot. "Another plus is having Gary Minson at quarterback. He's got an excellent passer throwing to him."

Barefoot said he was slightly bigger than his son when he played at Great Bridge. He was 6-4 and weighed 217. Blocking and defense were more his forte than receiving. But he pulled in three touchdown catches as a senior.

"I was bigger than Ken but I was a year older," said Barefoot. Ken Jr. is 6-3 and weighs 192. He is a junior. In four games this season, all losses for Princess Anne, Ken already has pulled in three touchdown receptions. He has 23 catches covering 366 yards. No other receiver in the area has reached 250 yards.

Ken Jr. has put away the trophies and pictures from his own outstanding athletic career. "That's done and past," he said. "Now we're making room for some for the kids."

He admits he's hoping his sons follow his footsteps into the college and professional football ranks. This week they will be going along with mom and dad to the 15th reunion of his Virginia Tech class. And then it's on to the Redskins' game with the Los Angeles Raiders.

The Barefoot's also have two daughters. And they are becoming cheerleaders — just like mom used to be. Kaith Barefoot was a cheerleader and a homecoming queen at Norview.

Ken Barefoot

Can a team lose its first three games and come back to win its district's championship?

That possibility certainly exists in the Eastern District for Granby. The Comets lost their season-opener to Lafayette, 20-0. In that game quarterback Todd Payton sustained a leg injury and missed all but two contests. Granby then bowed to First Colonial, 25-6, and to Ferguson, 16-14. The Comets had a chance to win the Ferguson game in the waning seconds when a 37-yard field goal was missed. Payton also is Granby's kicker and sent five field goals through the uprights a year ago. One three-pointer beat Kellam.

Last week Payton returned to the lineup and led the Comets to a 14-13 victory over Menchville Saturday in Newport News. He completed 11 passes, one for a touchdown, and kicked a pair of field goals (26 and 27 yards).

Payton now has passed for 302 yards in just two games, which places him only four yards behind Eastern District passing leader Rudy Elliott of Booker T. Washington.

"If he hadn't played against us, we would have won," said Menchville coach Charles Nuttycombe. "He picked us apart. He did everything a quarterback can do against us. He's a great athlete."

Granby coach Bill Holt said, "If our receivers were catching everything he threw right into their hands, he'd have at least 100 more yards."

Friday night the Comets go against Booker T. Washington. Lake- er coach Cal Davidson said he expects Payton to come out throwing.

"Why not?" asked a swollen "We have the worst pass defense in the City of Norfolk."

All games count in the conference standings for Eastern District teams. At 1-3, Granby now stands one and one-half games behind Franklin, Lake Taylor and Maury (both 2-1-1). The Comets play both of the co-leaders:

"We'll have to win these next two games (Booker T. and Lake Taylor) and if we do, we're not out of it," said Holt.

Wilson coach Darnell Moore calls his Presidents' Friday night encounter with Norcom as "looking for the um "the battle for neighborhood, bragging rights for a year."

"President's" leading receiver, Chris Williams, is suffering from a hip pointer. The Greyhounds will be without tackle Solomon Ashby, who has a fractured foot. Norcom receiver Andre Fields is on the doubtful list from a bruised shoulder. Lake Taylor running back Fonzo Wiggins, the leading rusher in the Eastern District, left with a swollen knee, but will play against Cox.

Anthony Crenshaw, the Booker T. Washington graduate, is leading the West Virginia Intermountain Athletic Conference in rushing as a freshman with 375 yards for tiny Shepherd College. Crenshaw, who ran for a 74-yard touchdown on his third play from scrimmage, has topped the 100-yard rushing mark three times in his seven games. "He's just a natural," said Walter Barr, the Shepherd coach. "He's got that God-given talent. Not many freshmen could run for 100 yards in any college game, regardless of what level."

Two-way tackle Doug Miller will miss Frederick Military's Saturday game at Pocomoke, Md. He has a severely sprained ankle. Miller, a former all-state, all-Gator Creek, coach Bob Parker says, Oscar Smith is the master of the, bend-but-not-break club. They always seem to come out on top of the big stop, whenever they're needed. "Oscar Smith could face an aroused Cradock team Fri- day. It will be the showdown of the day, the game of the week."

The area's newest nickname is the Gators. That's the nickname given by Christian Academy in Chesapeake has select- ed. Kangaroo originally had been chosen but the alteration of Green- brier Gators was out.