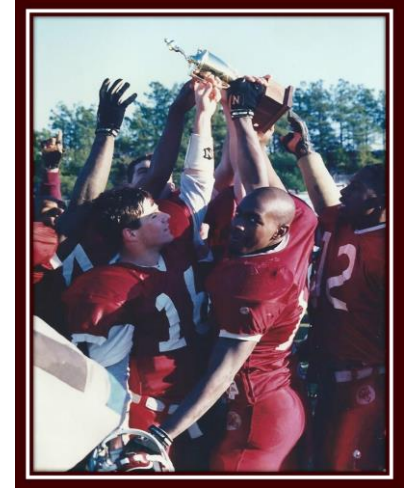


1995 LANCER FOOTBALL TEAM

Following the otherwise undefeated 1994 Lancer season, ending in a loss to Spotsylvania in the state championship football game, the coaches and team, comprising many returnees, set their sights on getting back to the finals and bringing home the trophy. Little did they know how many unexpected twists and turns their season would take in order that they accomplish this goal. Amherst opened at home against Appomattox, and suddenly experienced a power failure, resulting in more than an hour's delay. There was no loss of power with the team, however, as they trounced the opponent that night, in one of many romps that season.

However, it was not a smooth road to the finals, as the Lancers suffered two one-point district losses. An inability to adjust to William Campbell's strengths allowed the Generals to overcome a halftime deficit and win 21-20, and, on a cold and rainy night, a late-game score by Liberty, followed by a tipped pass on the PAT which conveniently fell into the lap of the receiver, sent Amherst to a second-place finish in the district, in need of some good fortune to make the playoffs. All necessary factors aligned in the Lancers' favor.



An 8-point win in the rematch with Liberty avenged the regular-season loss and the team was on its way. The next three games, against Salem, Grundy, and Sherando, provided Amherst with the chance to showcase its powerful ground game, and to hoist the state championship football trophy for the first time in the school's 40-year history.

The final game became legendary before the coin-toss was ever made. Predictions indicated that a significant snowfall would move through the area the night before the game, to be played on the Brookville field. The previous year's championship game had been played at Spotsylvania in 20-degree weather, with snow, somewhat surprising to the team that had left warmer weather at home. The 1995 snowfall, however, was met with considerable advance planning.

Local industry, Glad Manufacturing, provided a field-size "Glad" bag (probably not available at your local supermarket), which then became covered by a 6" snowfall, necessitating a herculean effort in removal to provide a perfect playing surface.

From power outages to snowfalls, this season became special, according to Coach Mickey Crouch, because of the players and their approach to everything – with determination and no jealousy, in a cohesive atmosphere in which everybody was supporting everybody else to achieve a common goal. The final game had its lighter moments, even as the team quickly fell behind 6-0. Cabell Brockman calmly brushed off his coach with a "Don't worry about it, we've got it" comment. The leadership of quarterback Mitch White, and the running game of Camm Jackson, Maurice Clark, and T.J. Cashwell, provided a victory that was really never in doubt.

1995 ACHS Football Season

Appomattox	W (51-6)
Rustburg	W (48-0)
Brookville	W (35-18)
William Campbell	L (21-20)
Buckingham	W (60-6)
Altavista	W (70-7)
Staunton River	W (74-0)
Liberty	L (8-7)
Jefferson Forest	W (45-6)
Nelson	W (53-14)

Playoffs:	
Liberty	W (20-12)
Salem	W (36-29)
Grundy	W (34-8)
Sherando	W (56-12)