

# MEAC FOOTBALL



"The Fabulous Few"

The use of the word "balance" is usually overstated when athletics are involved. But the past five seasons it has been no less than parity in the MEAC Football seasons. The S.C. State Bulldogs four-year reign ended in 1983; Bethune Cookman yielded its 1984 crown to Delaware State College in 1985; The Hornets (Deleware State) could not hold off Alan Hooker and the N.C. A&T Aggies in

1986, and last season Harvey Reed and the Howard Bison proved too much for the conference as they posted a 5-0 conference mark, along with the MEAC crown.

The 1988 season promises to be equally as exciting as the past five seasons. The two teams in the MEAC which posted the worst overall records made some coaching changes during the off-season. Morgan's Ed Wyche

replaced Jesse Thomas and the Aggies of N.C. A&T tabbed Bill Hayes to replace Mo Forte. The other league coaches include: Larry Little, sixth year at Bethune-Cookman College, William Collick, fourth year at Delaware State, Ken Riley, third year at Florida A&M, Willie Jeffries, fifth year at Howard and Dennis Thomas, third year at S.C. State.

The Howard Bison have been chosen by

league coaches and Sports Information Directors of the MEAC to repeat as MEAC Champions. They are followed by Delaware State, FAMU, S.C. State, Bethune Cookman, N.C. A&T and Morgan State respectively.

The 1988 MEAC Football season

promises to be both exciting and enterning as the conference enters its 18th season.

## Riley Has Rattlers on the Move in '88

By Malcolm A. Pharr

The Rattlers of Florida A&M, under the direction of third-year Coach Ken Riley go into the 1988 with high expectations. After coming off a 5-5-1 record of a year ago the Rattlers are poised and experienced with 19 returning starters.

The Tallahassee based Rattlers, who run the pro-set offense will rely on senior Andre Williams to lead the FAMU attack. Williams, who led the Rattlers to three consecutive wins at last seasons end, rushed for 139 yards and five touchdowns and passed for 283 yards and two TD's last season. Junior Rod Jackson, who completed 34% of his passes last season, will challenge Williams for his position.

Senior runningback Bryan Moore (5-9, 200) is the Rattlers top rusher returning this fall. Moore rushed for 409 yards and scored once a year ago. Junior fullback Sean Gilliam (6-0, 200) is the top candidate for this slot. Gilliam rushed for 147

yards and one TD last season. Senior Oscar Harris will also be looked upon to beef up the Rattlers backfield.

Although Morgan State returns 16 starters among 55 returning lettermen the Bears have a difficult task ahead as the MEAC grows more competitive year after year. Last seasons 1-9 record and the yielding of 30 points per contest indicates a need for concentration on the defensive end of things for Wyche and his staff. The offense was also unimpressive as

handle the pass receiving duties for the Rattlers this season. Huckaby, a speedster, led the conference in kick-off returns averaging 30.0 yards per jaunt.

Coach Ken Riley uses his tight ends as well as any coach in the conference and this season he has a pair of sure handed blockers in senior Curtis Green (6-2, 215) and Troy Allen (6-4, 230). Last season Green nabbed 12 passes for 127 yards and Allen snatched ten for 147 yards.

The Rattlers offensive

Wilson led the conference in punting last season with a 39.5 average per boot. Sophomore James Vertuno proved his kicking accuracy by nailing 15 of 17 extra points and seven of nine field goals.

All-MEAC defensive end Bryan Brewer (6-5, 230) had 13 sacks last season. He will be aided on the wall by end Terrance Lundy and nose tackle Herbert Moore (6-2, 255). Irvin Clark and Sean Brantley add fire to the Rattlers defensive machine.

Perhaps FAMU defensive strength will come from the linebacking position. Seniors Eddie Metcalf, Lamar Glover, Dwayne Butler and Darryl Davis. Glover led FAMU in tackles last season with 85, while Metcalf recorded 61. Both recorded three sacks each.


Senior safeties Matt Fair and Ken Johnson, both 6-3, 190 will man the middle while juniors Williams Evers and Lowell Crawford will hold down the corners.



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Fair and Johnson split all ten FAMU interceptions and added 74 and 75 tackles respectively.

The Rattlers are hun-

gry for their first title and Coach Ken Riley is ready to bring the championship south.



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COACH  
KEN RILEY



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