



SPORTS



A Glimpse of CIAA Gridiron Teams for 1979-80

JOHNSON C. SMITH — 1-0, 1-7. Coach Wylie Harris (2nd year, 1-10). 30 lettermen returning, 27 lettermen lost. Top returnees: DE Alfred Wring, DB Mike Jamison, DB Ronnie Armstrong, OG Jeff Coan, C Ray Ellis, RB-DB Cal Gill. Top newcomers: OT James Stevenson, DB Mike Heath, RB Leslie Knox, OG Cecil McManus, OT John Westoverland. Strengths: added muscle, defensive secondary. Weaknesses: inexperienced offensive line, passing game.

When the Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls ended their 1978 football season by losing 56-0 to N.C. Central, the Smith football program hit bottom.

A 1-10 record went into the books, and regrouping was the first priority.

Coach Wylie Harris met with the team the day after the final loss and set forth an ambitious off-season weight training program. The returning players, eager to make amends and encouraged by Harris's patient insistence that they could be a good football team, stuck to the regimen.

Now, all Smith linemen are well ahead of last year's bench-press capacity, and players like Alfred Wring and Sidney Montgomery are talking about winning big.

Harris, it should be noted, isn't talking about winning big YET. He forsores a more respectable record this year, THEN maybe a conference championship or two.

Nobody wants to tell that to Wring or Montgomery, though one reason is that Wring, after a year of pumping iron, now weighs a slim-waisted 260 pounds, though he stands but 6-2½. He can bench press 415 pounds. Montgomery's measurements and capacities are similar.

Wring moves from defensive tackle, where his play was a rare bright spot last season, to defensive end. Montgomery was an offensive lineman last year — Harris said a major problem in his first year at Smith has getting everybody lined up at the right spot — but he's the starting middle linebacker now.

The Bulls return most of their secondary from last season, including Mike Jamison, a good bet to win all-conference honors.

Offensively, junior quarterback Cal Gill has seen action the past two seasons but not as much as he or the Smith coaches would like. He's been plagued by injuries to the point that discussions in the spring centered on moving him to running back in hopes of keeping him healthy.

If Gill survives fall practice, he'll be the starting quarterback, though, and he'll have a deep, talented pool of running backs at his disposal.

Fullback Reginald Sanders is the only member of that group who's logged substantial playing time, though.

The offensive line, anchored last year by Montgomery, will be young, as will the receiving corps.

Harris, a respected figure in CIAA and MEAC circles, made a vow last fall, and those who know him figure he'll soon be in a position to keep it.

His team had just absorbed another one-sided pounding and Harris was shaken, but his voice was firm. "Someday," he said: "Somebody's going to pay for all this. Someday soon."

—LES BOWEN
Charlotte Observer

LIVINGSTONE — 5-4-1, 4-3-1. Coach Andrew Littlejohn (2nd year, 5-4-1). 41 lettermen returning, 12 lettermen lost. Top returnees: QB Marshall Meadows, OT Glenn Bullock, RB Charles Norris, OT Willie Martin. Top newcomers: RB Tom Reddy, OT Roddy Johnson, OT Mel Jones, TE-OT David Page, TE-OT Mike Topping. Strengths: experienced defense, depth. Weaknesses: offense, inconsistent defense.

It looked like 1978 was going to be a long year for coach Andrew Littlejohn and his Livingstone College Fighting Bears after the team dropped a 36-10 decision to Norfolk State and then a 10-6 decision to Bethune-Cookman (Fla.). At that point, though, the Salisbury school caught fire and won three of its next four games to throw itself into the thick of the CIAA race.

The Bears return six offensive and nine defensive starters from that team.

"We've got a lot of key people returning," admits Littlejohn, who starts

his second year as Bear Boss, "and we think if our veterans perform the way we think they will, we'll have an outside shot at the CIAA title in 1979. We think we've got one of the best quarterbacks in the league in Marshall Meadows and also one of the best offensive linemen in Glenn Bullock.

"Defensively, we should be much better this year, with two of our top tacklers from a year ago — Tony Chambers, a defensive end, and tackle Willie Martin — returning after each collected over 100 tackles last season."

Littlejohn has even more reason for optimism, though. He not only has one of the best signal-callers in the conference, but also two of the better running backs in Charles Norris and Leroy Nesmith. Tight end Jessie Long also returns and should be the prime target of Meadows on passing plays.

Once again, with those nine starters back on defense, the Bears are expected to be one of the nation's NCAA Division II leaders in total defense. Livingstone has been the nation's most stingy team twice in the last five seasons and 1979 could be No. 3 if the Bears live up to their potential. However, in order to reach that plateau, the Bears will have to be a little more consistent than a year ago.

While Livingstone shutout two foes (St. Paul's 23-0 and Shaw 11-0), and tied Fayetteville State 6-6, that same defense let up in the loss to Norfolk, a 37-36

victory over Maryland-Eastern Shore, a 55-29 loss to league champ Winston-Salem State and, finally, a season-ending 57-7 thrashing at the hands of Virginia Union. The latter loss cost the Bears an opportunity to play in the Gold Bowl. A victory would have put Livingstone in the prestigious classic, but the loss elevated Union into the event.

In addition to help from the returnees, Littlejohn is also counting heavily on at least five new people. One of those is Tom Reddy, a 1,000-yard rusher in his final high school campaign in 1978. Another is offensive tackle Roddy Johnson, who with fellow freshman Mel Jones, is expected to battle the returnees for starting slots at offensive tackle.

David Page and Mike Topping are two more freshmen Littlejohn calls excellent receivers and who are versatile enough to play either tight end or offensive tackle for Livingstone.

"We think the key to our season will be our early play," says Littlejohn. "Three of our first four games were on the road last season and three of the first four are at home in 1979. We hope the home field will help us get going a little better this time around." "If we can get a few breaks, we could be right up at the top or at least close to the top of the league when the season ends," Littlejohn comments.

—KENNY SNELLING
Norfolk State Sports Information Dir.



'ORDER ARMS' was the command when these Durham High School flag girls lowered their flags to the ground. The Durham High marching Bulldogs practiced recently at Forest Hill Park in preparation for the new football season.

NCCU Eagles to Play Wide Open Football

NCCU mentor Hank Lattimore is expected to feature wide-open football when the Eagles take to the gridiron at home, Saturday September 8 against Virginia Union.

"We are pleased with the attitude of the ball players. They have exhibited hard work and we are thinking in terms of winning this year," added Lattimore.

The Eagles, 3-8 last year, lost their starting quarterback Alvin Cauton, who set a school record with 1621 yards passing, including 339 yards against North Carolina A&T three-time All-SEC tight end Joe Mack, two-time All-SEC punter Eric Hines two time All-SEC line-backer Walter Odom, se-

cond team All-SEC line-backer Dennis Warner and starting tackle Joe Samuels and defensive backs Kenny Thomas and Al Douthit.

"We have our work cut out for us in terms of replacing these quality players. We have several freshmen who will fill the void left by seniors and other key personnel lost," added Lattimore.

Junior Charlie Yuille could be under center for the opening play. He has been converted from safety, but was recruited in 1977 as a quarterback. He will be pushed by senior Ken Pugh, a recruited quarterback who has been converted from wide receiver; sophomore William Marbury and freshman Daryll Lind-

sey. Junior halfback Andre Cooper and Johnny Thornton are the only experienced backs at tailback, but they could be severely tested by freshmen Roscoe Burnette, Carl Hill, Rodney Birth, Julius Henry. Junior fullback Anthony Judd of Durham is expected to retain his starting fullback slot. Ken Blackwell, Ken Dean and Ronald Tate are expected to lend backup support to Judd.

Four starters will grace the offensive front—tackle Kenny Collins, guards Robert Jacobs and Gary Smith and center Anthony Griffin. Freshmen Robert Waddell and Kenneth Shepard are expected to battle for other starting tackle spot. Freshmen Sammie

Stroud, Curtis Little and vets Fred Pruitt, James Noble and Antonio Southern will provide support for the offensive front. Freshman sensation Phil Rice is expected to push Ron Tate for the vacated tight end slot. Greg Peak, Wallace Barnes and Carl Sanders are expected to rotate at the wide-receivers positions.

Defensively, the Eagles should be vastly improved. Vincent Pearsall, an offensive tackle for the past three seasons, has been shifted to defensive tackle and will vie with Terry Brown for playing time. Ken Ramsey will play alongside them with Vernon Wilder and Sam Battle expected to man the end posts. William Owens Gregory Wyly, Chris McKinstry and Gary Harris are expected to open as line-backers. Veterans Isaac Hamilton, Jerry Davis and David Riley will be severely

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TOUGHEST SCHEDULES IN BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL

1. Central State	6344
2. Morris-Brown	6261
3. Albany State	6164
4. Grambling State	6074
5. Southern	6019
6. Alabama A&M	5966
7. Alabama State	5935
8. Alcorn State	5787
9. Mississippi Valley	5729
10. Texas Southern	5726
11. Tennessee State	5726
12. Johnson C. Smith	5714
13. Florida A&M	5641
14. Tuskegee	5593
15. Jackson State	5478
16. N. C. Central	5433
17. Bethune-Cookman	5420
18. Prairie View	5391
19. Norfolk State	5375
20. Delaware State	5367
21. Elizabeth City	5200
22. Cheyney State	5200
23. Fayetteville State	5000
North Carolina A&T	5000
Saint Paul's	5000
Morgan State	4950
Fisk	4932
Howard	4918
28. Knoxville	4840
30. Savannah State	4787
31. Hampton	4779
32. Arkansas-P. B.	4760
33. Bowie State	4757
34. Livingstone	4748
35. Kentucky State	4712
Miles	4709
37. Winston-Salem	4580
38. Lane	4538
39. Maryland-E. S.	4518
40. Langston	4486
41. Virginia Union	4412
42. South Carolina State	4306
43. Fort Valley	4286
44. Virginia State	4274
45. Morehouse	4226
46. Clark	4118
47. Bishop	3876

FLY WITH THE EAGLES

NCCU "Eagles" vs. Va. Union "Panthers"

1:30 P.M. O'Kelly Stadium

Adults—\$5.00 Students—\$3.00 (IN ADVANCE) All Admission \$5.00—Day of Game

TICKETS: Ampix, Durham Sporting Goods, Sears NCCU Athletic Department.

Season tickets are still available for \$20.00 and may be obtained from the NCCU Athletic Director's Office.

Tickets for the October 27th game against South Carolina State can be bought for \$7.00 from the NCCU Athletic Director's Office.



HARTFORD, Conn. — Hartford's Mayor Gene Athason, along with most of those in attendance, we kept in stitches as Muhammad Ali arrived in town for two day visit. The former heavyweight boxing champion was given a hero's welcome by Hartford's black community.