



SCS, Fla. A&M Picked To Lead MEAC Conference

By Elson Armstrong, Jr. GREENSBORO — The Bulldogs and the Rattlers will battle this season for the league crown in the Midwestern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

This is the assessment of MEAC coaches and sportswriters who attended the annual Media Day luncheon. The luncheon was in the Dowdy Administration Building on the campus of A&T State University, and it provided the coaches and sportswriters with a forum to discuss predictions for the coming football season.

While the coaches agreed that the Bulldogs of South Carolina State and the Rattlers of Florida A&M will probably wind up battling for the league championship, they also concluded that the league is relatively balanced for this season.

Bill Davis who led the S.C. State Bulldogs to outstanding 10-1 and 10-3 seasons for the past two years said that this year, as in the past, he recruited for size.

"Some of our players are so big," Davis said with a smile, "that you'll need a flashlight and a lunch to get around them."

Davis said his team will use a pro set on offense and he's looking for a number two quarterback. In the past the Bulldogs have been very successful using a two quarterback system.

Davis who's team advanced to the semi-finals of the NCAA Division

I-AA playoffs last year said that he recruits the same type and caliber of players that Clemson and South Carolina do.

"Once a high school in South Carolina called me and said that I had a player who couldn't play for Clemson or South Carolina so I thought they he could play for you," Davis described, "I told him that I was not interested because I go for the same type players that the big schools in this state go for."

Rudy Hubbard of Florida A&M echoed similar sentiments. The Florida media always ask Florida or Florida State who the "Blue Chip" players are in Florida," Hubbard said, "but they never ask me. I'm not complaining about the quality of players that we recruit."

Joe Purzycki the headman at Delaware State said "In our area many fans have heard of S.C. State and Florida A&M but they don't know much about the calibre of other teams in our league. Last year Rhode Island of the Yankee Conference played Bethune-Cookman of the MEAC in Miami and were beaten 41-6. I think that shows that we can hold our own against even Division One teams."

Purzycki said that his program is progressing. "Last year we lost about eight games by a touchdown or less, our players are more experienced this year."

Floyd Keith of Howard University said that he hopes that the Bison are ready to break out of the middle of the pack. He also said that he wasn't going to go out saying that the Bison would be the league's best team thus providing ammunition for his opponents.

Allen Rosenberg stood in for Bethune-Cookman's Bobby Frazier and he likewise forecast a competitive, balanced race.

Mo Forte of N.C. A&T is the only "rookie" head coach in the MEAC this season. Forte seems to be inheriting a program that has a major rebuilding job this fall. "Right now we really don't know how many of our prospective recruits will show up until they register for school. I think we will have 12 new scholarship players."

Last season the Aggies were picked to challenge S.C. State for league honors. Instead due to a variety of problems A&T was a big flop and plummeted to an 0-5 league slate (3-8 overall) which was topped off by a 35-7 trouncing by bitter rival North Carolina Central of the CIAA, A&T's first loss to the Eagles since 1976.

Forte who was a former Duke assistant coach knows that Aggie fans are accustomed to winning teams. "We will work hard to get A&T back on top. We will bring in players that we think can help us beat



BULLDOGS' HENRY ODOM LOOKS FOR RUNNING ROOM

Howard Football Staff Makes Changes

WASHINGTON, DC — Howard football coach Floyd Keith has made three personnel changes in preparation for the 1982 season.

Joe Taylor, who joined the Bison staff in March as running backs coach, has been elevated to the position of defensive coordinator. He replaces Carl Angelo, who left to assume a similar position at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Taylor, a native of Washington, D.C., came to Howard from Virginia Union University, where he served two years as offensive coordinator.

Assuming the offensive backfield slot will be recently hired Bob Owens, a veteran of 12 years of coaching in college and high school

the top team(s) in this league."

It may be a long first season for Coach Forte. The Aggies presently have a squad of 40-players compared to 75 at most other league schools.

The media vote for the coming season was: 1. S.C. State, 2. Florida A&M, 3. Howard, 4. Bethune-Cookman, 5. Delaware State, and N.C. A&T.

The coaches voted Florida A&M as the League favorite.

athletics. His coaching background includes three years at Portland State, and one year at Oregon, where he coached the receivers last season.

Also joining the Bison this fall is Tom Seward,

former team captain of the 1978 NCAA Division II Champions, Eastern Illinois. Seward will coach the defensive line, the same responsibility he held last season at the University of Illinois.

Barney Mason Wants To Give Best Effort

By John B. Henderson Sports Information Director FSU

FAYETTEVILLE — Fayetteville State University All-CIAA candidate Barney Mason talks rather quietly about the coming Bronco season and his role a defensive end.

Off the field, the 6-3, 230-pound senior physical education major from Fort Meyers, Florida is a very gentle, soft-spoken young man whose ambition is to work with handicapped children in a recreational or institutional setting.

"I've been working hard this summer with weights and I've been doing a lot of running," said Mason who was injured last season in practice and played in only three games.

Mason has had an "up and down" career at FSU but second-year coach "Bill" Head knows that he has a strong leader and tremendous player in the person of Barney Mason.

"We will be depending on Barney this season along with other veterans on the unit to improve our record (3-6 last year) over last season," said the amiable Bronco skipper.

Mason also talks about his "new" position in the Bronco defensive alignment. "This year coach has me playing the strong side on defense. In the



MASON

past I've been playing the weak side. I think I'll like the switch, he said.

I want to play aggressively since this my last year. I really want to go all out."

Barney/Mason is a team person and believes that his personal goals should never overshadow team accomplishments.

"I feel that our squad has improved this year and we should have a good year," said Mason whose mother teaches second-graders in Florida.

Mason says that he would like a crack at pro ball but that he would also settle for a teaching career. "My mom inspired me by allowing me to help with her class and I was quite impressed with this level of teaching." CIAA opposition will likely be impressed this fall with you also, Mr. Mason.



COOPERSTOWN, N.Y.—Mrs. Rachael Robinson, widow of baseball immortal Jackie Robinson, joins in the applause as the new stamp honoring the black pioneer is formally introduced to the public. Robinson, the first Negro to play in the major leagues, paved the way for the fine blacks athletes which followed in his footsteps.



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