



CHRONICLE

SPORTS

Black on Sports



Robert Eller Sports Editor

With a convincing season opening win over MEAC power North Carolina A&T last Saturday night at Groves Stadium before the biggest crowd in Ram football under their belts, the WSSU Rams will open the defense of their first CIAA championship this Saturday night at Bowman Gray Stadium when they take on the Hampton Institute Pirates.

The Rams trounced Hampton 34-6 last season when the Pirates were picked to win the CIAA title and the Rams were picked to finish sixth. This year however, the Rams are the pre-season choice while Hampton has been chosen to finish fifth.

The Pirates are coming off back-to-back 7-4 seasons and return 39 lettermen. The Pirates lost ten starters from last years team including record setting quarterback Russ Seaton and super receiver Reggie Midget as well as three linemen from the offense.

The Pirates were a passing team last year but are expected to show a more balanced attack this season. Jenson Baker, a 6-2 195 lb. senior will be the starting quarterback. He is a strong runner and completed 63% of his passes last season. He is also accustomed to running the veer which Hampton will use.

Behind him will be what some are calling the best backfield mates in Hampton's history. 5-10 175 lb. senior Lewey Hale was slowed by injuries last year after amassing 638 yards his sophomore year with a 5.1 average.

He led the Pirates in four offensive categories that season and has fully recovered from last seasons injuries. Donnell Jones picked up 370 yards last season with a 4.1 average, while Howard Jackson and Carl Turner, (6-1 255) RETURNS AFTER missing last season with an injury.

The defense which limited five opponents to 50 yards rushing returns three starters, that is if 6-9 300 lb Ernie White can go after suffering a severely cut arm during the summer. If White doesn't play the line will be anchored by Brod Hauser (6-2 220) and Darryl Grant (6-4 205). Linebacker Calvin Felton and defensive back Don Rose are the other returning starters.

Lovett has one of the biggest budgets in the CIAA however and had a fine recruiting year. Just how quickly the freshman and new members of the defense can fit in will determine the Pirates season, while the offensive line will have to perform well for the Pirates to change their attack from pass oriented with Seaton, to run oriented with Baker.

The Rams are super against the run but may be hurt with the pass as shown on one play against A&T. Offensively the Rams have more fine running backs than Al Roseboro has suits and the revamped offensive line showed well against the manmouth Aggie defense. Kermit blount has indicated that he will throw more and Billy Diggs, Antonio Howard and Bill Murrell have shown they can catch the ball. This writer doesn't think the Pirates can run on the Rams and Baker will have little time to throw. Last years 34-6 win was a surprise but this year the only surprise will be the size of the rout.

PREDICTION WSSU 44 HAMPTON 6

Tennis Tourney Won by Richmond

The Richmond Recking Crew has won the Southeastern Racquet Association Team Tennis Championships held at Hornet's Nest Park in Charlotte by edging the Winston-Salem Smokers 16-14.

Other scores in the inaugural contest were Charlotte 2, Raleigh 2 and Gastonia 0.

Individual winners (in order of finish) were:

Men's singles: 1. Tony Hewett, Rich; 2. David Lash, W-S; 3. Charles Kennedy, W-S; 4. John Mickle, W-S.

Ladies singles: 1. Tamela Penny, Rich; 2. Conita Hunt, W-S; 3. Joan Mickle, W-S; 4. Deborah Wilkerson, Ral.

Last Year No Fluke For Hayes' Rams

The WSSU Rams gave notice to the football world that the 1977 season was no fluke last Saturday night when they trounced the North Carolina A&T Aggies 25-7 before 23,500 fans at Groves Stadium. The win was the second in a row for the Rams over the Aggies after 18 consecutive losses to the next door rivals.

The win was also the 13th straight for the team in regular season play. The Rams have not lost a regular season contest since the ninth week of the 1975 season.

The Ram defense set the tone for the game early. After the Aggies received the opening kickoff, the smaller Ram defense led by

WSSU 25,
A&T 7

Willie Jordan and Anderson Noble held and forced the first of nine A&T punts. The Rams took over on the 30 and marched to the Aggie 17 before losing the ball on the first of Randy Bolton's three fumbles. The Rams fumbled again late in the first quarter after moving to the Aggie 17 for the second time.

The aggressive Ram defense however took up the slack for the mistake prone offense in the early part of the second quarter. After an Aggie interception foiled another Ram scoring bid at the three, Winfred Mack recovered a fumble by A&T quarterback William Watson on second down at the one yard line. Bolton scored on the next play and the Rams led 6-0 at the 12:27 mark. A bad snap from center doomed the extra point attempt.

A&T took a brief lead with their only score of the game with 7:24 left in the half when Watson found Frank Carr behind the Ram secondary and hit him with a 72 yard scoring bomb. Nolan Jones PAT put the Aggies up 7-6.

The Rams took the lead for good with their next possession. With the aid of a 63 yard pass from Kermit Blount to Antonio Howard they marched 80 yards in 8 plays. The score coming on a 2 yard run by Timmy Newsome with 3:56 remaining in the half. The point after failed when holder John Turner got another bad snap from center and his pass was no good.

The Ram offensive and defensive lines continued to control the game in the second half. With 5:04 left in the third quarter they went up 19-7. After a short Aggie punt second string

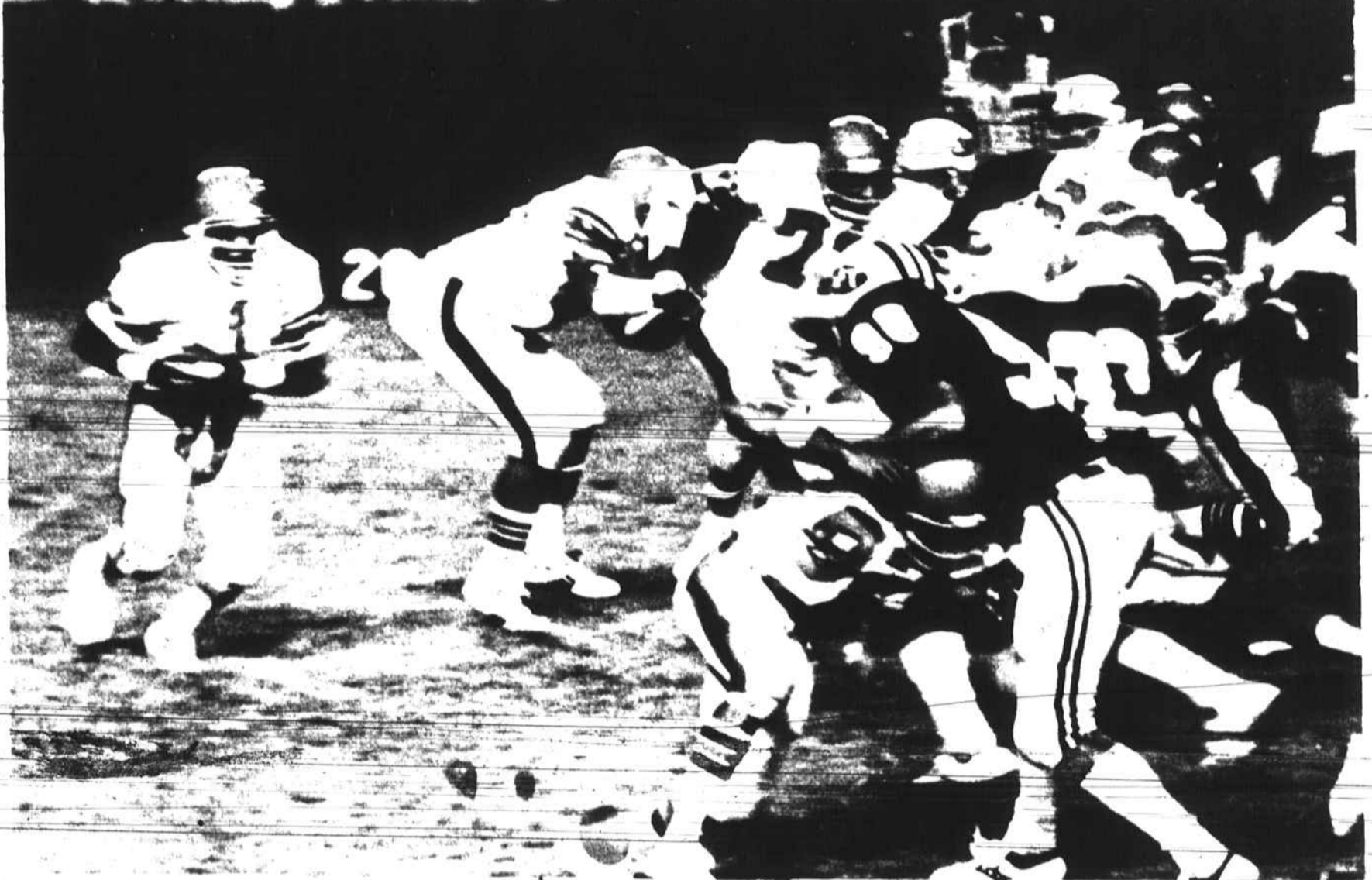
quarterback David Fraley moved the defending CIAA champs 31 yards in 8 plays. The score coming on a 2 yard pass from Fraley to Arrington Jones. With a good snap from center Derrick Brewington split the uprights with the point after.

The Rams added their final score with 1:20 remaining when John Turner hit freshman John Hagen with a nine yard scoring pass. The score came after the defense held on fourth down at the Aggie 14.

Ram coach Bill Hayes said the tone of the game was set early. "We stopped them cold on their first series and went on a long drive to let them know we could run and throw the ball. Our defense was just super and ermit did a great job directing the offense."

A dejected A&T coach jim McKinley credited Blount with his teams demise. "I said we had to control Blount and we didn't. The Rams are every bit as good as they were last year. Their defense was outstanding and they kept us in the hold all night."

The Rams open defense of their CIAA title this Saturday night against Hampton at Bowman Gray Stadium. Game time is 7:00.



Rams Picked To Win CIAA

CIAA coaches have voted Winston-Salem State the pre-season favorite and placed 7 Rams on the 33-man pre-season All-CIAA team.

According to information released by the CIAA Commissioner, Bob Moorman, WSSU was followed in the poll by Virginia Union University in team standing and in number of players (6) on the roster.

In order of finish the

results of the coaches poll follows: WSSU, Virginia Union, Norfolk State University, Virginia State College, Hampton Institute, Johnson C. Smith, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University.

On the offense the Rams placed Antonio Howard, wide receiver; Gary Raiford, tackle; Kermit Blount, quarterback; Timmy Newsome, running back; and

Derek Brewington, place kicker. End Anderson Noble and tackle Willie Jordan are on the defensive unit.

Blount (5-8½, 170) was last year's CIAA leader in total offense with 1363 yards passing and rushing, earned All-CIAA honors and landed on the honorable mention list of the NAIA's All American team. A junior from Armstrong High School in Richmond,

Virginia, Blount is a physical education major.

Newsome, from Ahsokie, North Carolina, stayed in the Ram, CIAA and NAIA backfield with Blount last year. A junior, Business Administration major, Newsome's size, 6-3, 220, makes him a punishing runner, and he lead the conference in scoring with 14 tds and rushing with 908 yards.

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