

CIAA CONTINUED

One big factor in the Rams' '84 fortunes will be whether senior Mike Winbush, who returned late for fall practice after playing minor-league baseball during the summer, can produce as both a passer and a leader.

"Winbush is a senior and we certainly look for him to provide leadership for our offense," says Hayes.

Winston-Salem's major strength the past three seasons has been its offensive line but, with the loss of Jonathon Nimmons and Alvin Powell, able replacements must be found. However, Danny Moore, a two-time all-CIAA center, will be a big plus for the Rams' "T-Bone" attack.

The Rams' offensive backfield will be their most solid area in '84. Super-sophomores Leonardo Horn (WSSU's leading rusher a year ago), Alex Cowans and Edward Byers give Winston-Salem possibly its best combination of running backs ever.

Add to them seniors Thomas "Truck" Turner, Danny Hayes and newcomer Lonnie Pulley and the Rams have the most impressive corps of backs in the CIAA.

Defensively, WSSU's major loss was CIAA Defensive Player of the Year Eddie Sauls at linebacker. The Rams also are smarting from the loss of defensive back Jack Cameron.

Daniel Bryson, an all-CIAA end, is the top defensive returnee. He'll get help up front from Mike Warren, Tim Platt and Keith Holland.

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL

Whatever hopes the Eagles have of clawing the Southern Division title away from Winston-Salem and Livingstone depend on their all-time career offensive leader, quarterback Wilson Fitzgerald Fraylon.

Coach Hank Lattimore says Fraylon will get his chances. "However many times we threw the ball last year, multiply it by three and you'll come up with the number of times we expect to throw the football this year," Lattimore says.

Fraylon has become the most visible and talked-about performer in the CIAA. He needs only 28 yards to become the most prolific offensive performer in CIAA history.

Still, Lattimore has other weapons. Sophomores Robert Clark and Robert Green give Fraylon the best pair of receivers in the CIAA. As a freshman, Clark made first-team all-CIAA.

Senior all-CIAA running back Clifton Kersey provides experience for Central in the backfield.

Linebacker looks to be the Eagles' strongest position defensively, with Stacy Ross, Gregory Tate, Maynard

Smith and Robert Skipwith all returning.

Barring injury, the Eagles could be the most productive offensive machine in the league. However, if the line allows opponents to get to Fraylon as it did at times last year, Central's hopes could go down with its quarterback.

LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE

Coach Mel Rose has brought the Livingstone program a long way in his first three seasons at the helm.

"This is our senior year," says Rose of 1984. "The first class that I recruited is in its senior season, so I expect us to do well."

Livingstone features one of the most explosive runners in Division II football in diminutive JoJo White, who figures to establish new CIAA career rushing records in his senior season. He'll clearly be the Bears' bread and butter.

If either Glen George, Hank Crawford or Greg Stroman develops at quarterback, the Bears will have a good chance to steal the Southern Division title.

Walter Hand, a pre-season all-CIAA pick, will supply the big-play threat to complement White. The 5-8, 175-pound senior wide receiver has excellent hands and is an exciting kick returner.

Defensively, Livingstone returns nine starters. Linebacker Angelo Chapman will be the defensive leader and should get ample help from Wesley Williams, Major Kay and Clarence Arey at linebacker. Mike Newman, Doug Stevenson, Mike Jordan and Steve Haywood will man the Bears' defensive front.

FAYETTEVILLE STATE

Against the top two teams in the CIAA last year -- Virginia Union and Winston-Salem State -- Fayetteville managed a tie and a seven-point loss, respectively. In fact, of the Broncos' eight losses in '83, five were by seven points or less.

Fifteen starters return, giving Coach Bill Head a core to build around.

With the exception of graduated all-CIAA tackle Tyrone Kelly, the Broncos' offensive line returns intact. Ben Knox, FSU's leading rusher in '83, also is back this year, along with veterans Gary Moore and Dwayne Parker in the backfield.

Seasoned veteran Kevin Wardlaw should run the offense but may receive a challenge from Reginald Luck or Myron Williams.

For Fayetteville State to become a contender, one of the three will need to have an excellent year.

The eight starters Fayetteville returns on defense should make the Broncos tough. Leading the defensive charge will be 5-7, 200-pound spark plug Otis Ransaw, an all-CIAA pre-season pick.

Senior Irving Drake is the Broncos' big hitter at linebacker and Gary Ricks, Ernest Haw and Anthony Roberts headline the secondary.

JOHNSON C. SMITH

The Golden Bulls will unveil a new look this season in hope that it'll help turn things around. First-year Coach Horace Small has scrapped the pro-set used by former Coach Wiley Harris in favor of a wishbone attack that will take advantage of the Golden Bulls' speed.

Though 13 starters return, the Bulls have excellent personnel in key positions and look capable of giving cocky powers that be afternoons to remember.

Offensively, Smith will feature two halfbacks that have game-breaking speed. Both Darrel Wesley and Jeff

How They'll Finish

Northern Division

- Virginia Union
- St. Paul's
- Virginia State
- Norfolk State
- Hampton Institute
- Elizabeth City

'84. Though Coach John Organ will have to replace some key people in skill positions, Bowie has a host of young players returning.

"We were in most of those games we played last season right down to the fourth quarter," says Organ. "We have just got to make up our minds that we are going to hold on to a lead and not make costly mistakes."

Mike Gaskill ranked among the better CIAA rushers as a freshman and should improve on the 632 yards he gained in nine games last season. At quarterback, senior Arthur Lee improved vastly during the season and returns to run the Bulldog offense.

Bowie's defensive unit will be led by hard-hitting strong safety Fran Stevens.

ELIZABETH CITY STATE

First-year Coach Thurlis Little found the going tough in '83 after the Vikings got off to a surprising 3-1 record then saw their offense all but fall apart, nosediving to a 3-7 finish.

Southern Division

- Winston-Salem State
- North Carolina Central
- Livingstone
- Fayetteville State
- Johnson C. Smith
- Bowie State

Easterling have clocked 4.4 40s and should comprise one of the fastest backfields in the country.

Small feels he's found the man to engineer the Golden Bulls' option attack in junior Keith Harris. Harris ran the wishbone in high school and is noted for his ability to run the football too.

The Smith offensive line will be young but massive. Junior Calvin Davis, along with 6-5, 270-pound Ben Singleton and 6-4, 260-pound Kelvin White, both of whom started last year as freshmen, will be counted on as leaders.

JCSU will be young on defense. An additional boost will come from the return of Craig Warren, a second-team all-America two years ago. The 6-2 Warren holds every defensive record at Smith.

BOWIE STATE

The much-maligned Bulldog program has been on the rise the past two years and should be better overall in

"We're going to be a much-improved offensive team this year," Little says of his '84 squad. "We have a new influx of talent that will make us better than the team a year ago."

Still, Little says his defense will be counted on heavily.

"Going into the season, we're going to be defensive-minded," Little says. "The majority of our experience is on the defensive side."

Leading the charge for the Vikings will be middle linebacker Tim Cofield. "Cofield is the strength of the team," says Little. "He's such an outstanding athlete that he could play either offense or defense."

Reginald Banks, who led the conference in interceptions and was a top punt returner a year ago, is the Vikings' top defensive back.

Offensively, the Vikings will be led by junior Eddie Morris, who came on strong at the end of the '83 campaign. He'll likely hand off to Alvin "Rockman" Smith, who had a strong rookie season two years ago, but sat out last fall with academic problems.