

SWAC CONTINUED

can convert this into consistency, things should fall into place."

Southern lost 12 lettermen from last year's team, nine of them starters, but the Jags still rank high in the SWAC in the number of monogram-wearers returning.

On offense, the best of the veterans is quarterback Herman Coleman, who completed 87 of 202 passes for 1,610 yards and 15 touchdowns a year ago. Though he'll be in the line-up come September, Coleman was sidelined after the Jags' spring game, suffering a separated shoulder.

The running game may be Southern's most questionable spot on offense. Gone from the team is leading rusher Tony Good (699 yards), now with the New Orleans Breakers, and backup Aaron Kent, now with the Washington Redskins.

Defensively, Washington says, his unit had a problem reading opponents' offenses too much last year and not pressuring the passer enough. Consequently, he says, "We've got to put more heat on the passer this fall. In the spring, we worked hard on being aggressive up front and blitzing.

"We're going to do a lot less reading and be more aggressive and pressure people."

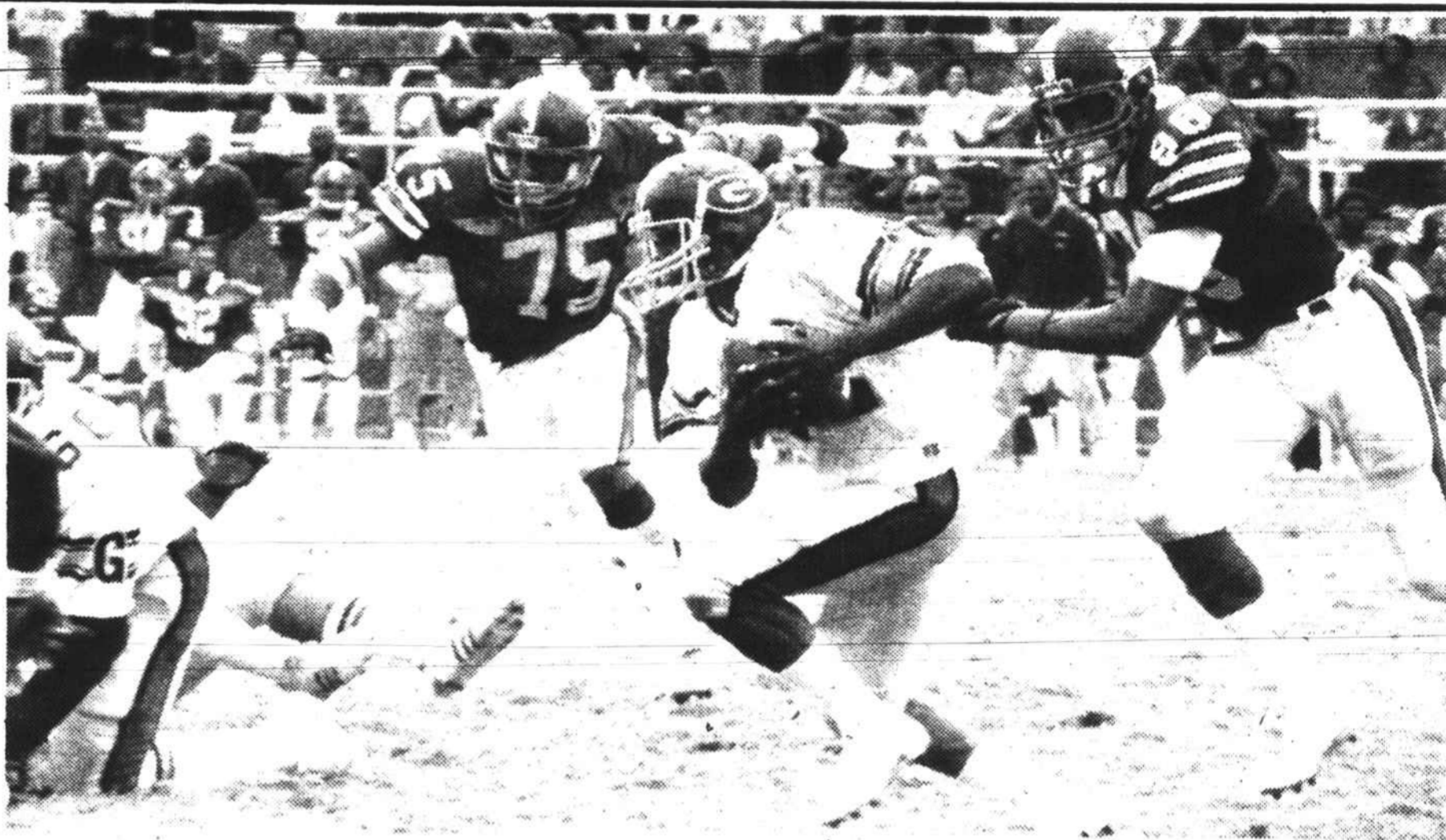
GRAMBLING STATE

Defending SWAC champion Grambling State lost a slew of stars from last year's 8-1-2 team, including Robert Smith, Mitch Montgomery, Rufus Stevens, Garrett Chase, Ed Scott and Darryl Nichols, all USFL draftees. Gone, too, are pacesetters Mike Dennis, Mike Harrington and Hollis Brent. Nevertheless, "Black America's Team," which hails from the university "where everybody is somebody," is again expected to be no less than awesome.

Motivated by the legendary Eddie Robinson's quest to become college football's winningest coach ever, the Tigers simply do not seem ready to relinquish their crown. Despite returning only 28 lettermen from last year's team, the lowest total among league schools, the Tigers do have eight offensive starters coming back as well as five defensive first-stringers.

"Sometimes you get caught up in all this record stuff and overlook what the team accomplishes," said the 65-year-old Robinson, whose 42-year career total of 313 wins is just 11 victories short of Paul "Bear" Bryant's record of 323. Robinson also is quick to note that his "team" has either won or shared the SWAC title in nine of the last 13 seasons.

On offense, the Tigers remain formidable, even though Brent, their



Good Hands, Quick Feet

Grambling wingback Dwayne Jupiter, a senior, boasts speed and good hands (photo by James Terry).

quarterback, is gone. The SWAC's No.4 passer a year ago, Brent completed 109 of 306 passes for 1,673 yards and 18 touchdowns. Stepping into his shoes will be a 6-2 sophomore named Anthony Anderson who completed 19 of 37 passes for 376 yards in 1983.

The strength of Reginald Pugh at the fullback position, though, is the strength of the entire GSU team. Molded in the likeness of the legendary Tank Younger, the 6-2, 225-pound senior led

experience and talent to bring the SWAC championship to Itta Bena, Miss., for the first time since they joined the league some 16 years ago.

What's more, a greater desire to win could key Mississippi Valley to an even better showing than its 7-2-1 record last year, the best ever by an MVSU team.

Add to those ingredients 40 returning lettermen, 16 returning starters and four potential all-Americans and this

off fireworks on the field. His 1983 figures tell the story - 2,566 yards passing, 27 touchdowns, just nine interceptions, a 62.4 completion percentage and a Division I-AA record 167.5 pass-rating points.

Rice, who also is a senior, is no less than sensational. The SWAC Player of the Year and *Black College Sports Review* Black College Player of the Year in 1983 led the nation last year in receptions with 198 (a Division I-AA record), receiving yards (3,011) and touchdown catches (23).

Don't think, though, that the Delta Devils will be a two-man team. Ample assistance on offense will come from the likes of fullback Carl Byrum, guard James Thompson, tackle Lorenzo Clark and wide receiver Joe Thomas.

"We are looking for other players and ways to score and become a balanced team," notes Cooley. "We'll continue to work on our passing game but we've got to work on our ground attack".

Defensively, MVSU will not be as strong as Cooley would like. Tackle Willie Green, the backbone of last year's defense - which gave up an average of 302 yards per game -- has graduated as has highly-touted end James Haynes. In the secondary, however, SWAC Freshman-of-the-Year Clarence Trotter should again play a key role.

Should there be a downfall for Mississippi Valley this season, look for it to be a lack of adequate depth on

How They'll Finish:

Southern University
Grambling State
Mississippi Valley
Alcorn State

Jackson State
Texas Southern
Alabama State
Prairie View

the SWAC in rushing in 1983, garnering 831 yards and scoring six touchdowns.

Defensively, Smith, an all-American end who was the heart of the Tiger defense, has graduated. But his high school all-America brother, Sean, a hefty 6-5, 255-pounder, could assume his big brother's role.

Robinson may have nightmares, however, at the linebacker positions, where all three starters have departed, and at defensive back, where three of last season's four starters are gone.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

Up front, the Delta Devils have the

team could be frightening.

Mississippi Valley's notoriety, for sure, comes from its feisty offensive attack, where Head Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley continually pledges to "live by the pass or die by the pass." With all-America Willie "Satellite" Totten leading the way at quarterback and fellow all-America Jerry "World" Rice leading the way at wide receiver, it's no wonder that the Delta Devils led the SWAC (even Grambling) in passing and total offense in 1983 and are expected to do the same in '84.

Totten, a senior who was born on the Fourth of July, knows how to set