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Delta Devils Take No Prisoners

By ALLEN H. JOHNSON
Review Editor

They tell me that this is football season. But they apparently haven't told Mississippi Valley State, which began the current year by chewing hefty helpings of lightweight opponents and indignantly spitting them by the wayside by scores that would do a basketball team proud.

Exhibit 1: The Delta Devils run all over Division II Kentucky State, at Kentucky State, 86-0.

Quarterback Willie Totten passes for an NCAA Division I-AA record 536 yards in the slaughter, connecting on 37 of 55 passes for a SWAC record nine touchdowns.

But flamboyant Mississippi Valley Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley says he isn't all that impressed by his quarterback.

"He really didn't have all that good a day because he missed some receivers," Cooley tells the Jackson *Clarion Ledger/Daily News*.

Did the Delta Devils run up the score against a hopelessly outmanned opponent?

Not according to Kentucky State Coach Bill Williamson.

"To tell you the truth," Williamson says to the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, "I couldn't tell the difference between their ones and twos. I didn't pay a whole lot of attention. They went up and down the field no matter who was in the game."

Stellar Delta Devil receiver Jerry Rice, by the way, caught 17 passes for 294 yards, breaking his own Division I-AA record of 276 yards.

Other records set in that game:

- Most touchdown passes in a game (11).
- Most touchdown passes in a game by both teams (11).
- Most passes attempted without an interception (67).
- Most passes completed in game (45).

• Most passing yards by both teams (855).

• Most touchdowns responsible for in a game (nine, by Willie Totten, which tied a record).

• Most points responsible for in a game (54, which tied a record).

• Most yards passed in a half (359, by Willie Totten).

• Most yards in a game receiving (294 by Jerry Rice).

• Most career yards (3,305, by Jerry Rice).

• Most touchdown passes caught (five, by Jerry Rice).



One Of The Victims

Even powerful Southern, with veteran quarterback Herman Coleman at the helm, couldn't stop Mississippi Valley (photo by James Terry).

- Most first downs passing in a game (24).

Exhibit 2: Mississippi Valley demolishes Washburn 77-15 in an encore performance the following week.

Totten passes for 402 more yards and six touchdowns. Rice, fighting double-coverage, snares one of those touchdown strikes with his huge, million-dollar fingers.

Exhibit 3: The Delta Devils face formidable Jackson State in one of the biggest games of the year. No patsies are the Tigers, a legitimate SWAC power that hasn't lost to Mississippi Valley in 27 years.

What's more, say the skeptics, anybody might have run up the score on Washburn and Kentucky State. But it won't happen to JSU's tough-as-nails Tigers.

Or so they think. Though it is close for a while, Valley proceeds to beat all over Jackson State — at Jackson, no less.

The Delta Devils, often lining up without a huddle -- and without running backs -- don't score as many points as they are accustomed to, but they do okay.

Totten completes 30 of 50 passes for 526 yards, six touchdowns and two interceptions.

Rice catches 15 of those strikes for 285 yards and four touchdowns.

Cooley, who has never been known as a very shy man, says he hasn't felt this happy since his first child was born. He also runs a lap around the stadium waving a Mississippi Valley flag.

I might feel inclined to do likewise if my team were undefeated, averaging 70.6 points per game and threatening to break every offensive record in the land enroute to a championship.

The Review Reviewed

Television's "MEAC Review," a