Media's fascination with Miss. Valley's passing is amusing

Everybody's talking about the Delta Devils of Mississippi Valley these days.

Even the white media have taken a liking to Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley's "run and gun" offensive attack, which averages more than 60 points per game in the tough SWAC conference.

With junior Willie Totten pulling the trigger at quarterback, the Delta Devils are about to shatter every passing record in sight. Meanwhile, senior wide receiver Jerry Rice is the finest to come along in some time and has professional football scouts drooling over his enormous talent.

Those scouts and the media have been beaten a path to the tiny school in Itta Bena, Miss., to take a look at what they consider an oddity: A black college team that has a sophisticated passing attack.

This sudden fascination by the media with Mississippi Valley isn't surprising to me or many of the other writers and sportscasters who follow black college football. The Delta Devils deserve it. What is, however, annoying is the fact that Mississippi Valley isn't the only black college football team in the country that's worthy of recognition.

It's almost commonplace, for instance, for the teams in black college football to be overlooked by the people who vote on the



Chronicle Sports Editor

weekly Division I-AA, Division II or Division III polls. But when one major sports media outlet jumps on the bandwagon, as has been the case with Mississippi Valley, the others soon follow

In the process, outstanding players, coaches and teams are overlooked.

Look in our own backyard at Winston-Salem State. The Rams have one of the top coaches in Division II football in Bill Haves. but haven't broken into the Divsion II polls in the past two years. Over that period, the Rams have been 15-2-1 in the regular season with their only two losses coming at the hands of Virginia Union.

Hayes has modified the Wing-T offense to accommodate the option attack and variations of the veer. In the process, the Rams have become one of the top rushing teams in all of Division

And what about the CIAA's winningest active coach, Willard

Bailey, and his team at Norfolk State^o The Spartans are undefeated under Bailey and are the best team in Division II football against the run.

There are other teams in black college-football worthy of attention by the media. While Billy Joe's Marauders at Central State of Ohio don't use as many gimmicks as Mississippi Valley, they are a sophisticated passing team in their own right.

The Marauders have one of the finest passers in all of Division II football in senior James "Hollywood" Woody. And they were the national runnerups in Division II football a year ago.

Coach Marino Casem of Alcorn State in Mississippi could probably make the best case for "Snub-of-the-Year" honors. All the Braves have done is jump out to a 6-0 start on their collision course with Mississippi Valley for the SWAC title.

Casem's team, might, in fact, be the best in black college football. The Braves have a fine quarterback in Richard Myles, in addition to a strong running game and a tough defense.

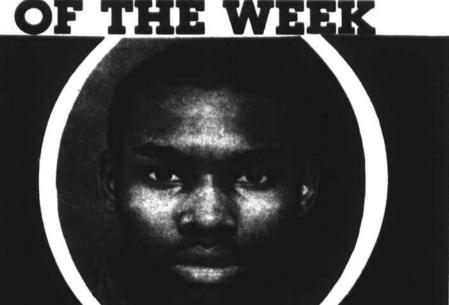
Passing is the name of the game at Tennessee State and the Blue Tigers have two of the finest in the school's history. While the legendary Coach John Merritt no longer mans the helm, Tennessee State is as strong this year as any

Please see page B6

PEPSI PREP ATHLETE







THE Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem salutes Shelton Jones of Parkland High School...He's the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Jones, a senior defensive back and wide receiver on the Mustangs' football team, returned an interception 30 yards for a touchdown and hauled in a 40-yard pass to help lead the Mustangs to a 32-0 win over Greensboro Grimsley last Friday.

N honor of Shelton Jones, the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company will make a cash contribution to the Parkland High School Athletic Program. Congratulations to Shelton Jones...the Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week!

If you would like to nominate a high school athlete for Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week, contact Sam Davis at 723-8428 or write him at P.O. Box 3154, Winston-Salem, N.C. 27102.

The CIAA This Week

The race is for second in CIAA

By SAM DAVIS Chronicle Sports Editor

The final two weeks of the '84 CIAA football season will serve as little more than a tuneup for Winston-Salem State and Norfolk State, who, unless something miraculous happens, will butt heads for the CIAA championship Nov. 17. Meanwhile, the remaining 10 conference schools will battle to determine the rest of the pecking order.

The way the Spartans and Rams have been steamrolling opponents, nothing's going to stop their meeting in Norfolk's Foreman Field for what ought to be a memorable title game. First, however, the Rams have to dispose of Elizabeth City and St. Paul's, while Norfolk has Virginia State and Livingstone to contend with in its final two regular-season games.

Perhaps the only major question to be answered is who will clinch second in the Northern and Southern divisions. In the North, it looks as if Virginia State or Hampton will finish as the runnerup. In the South, North Carolina Central needs only to get by Johnson C. Smith to sew up second place.

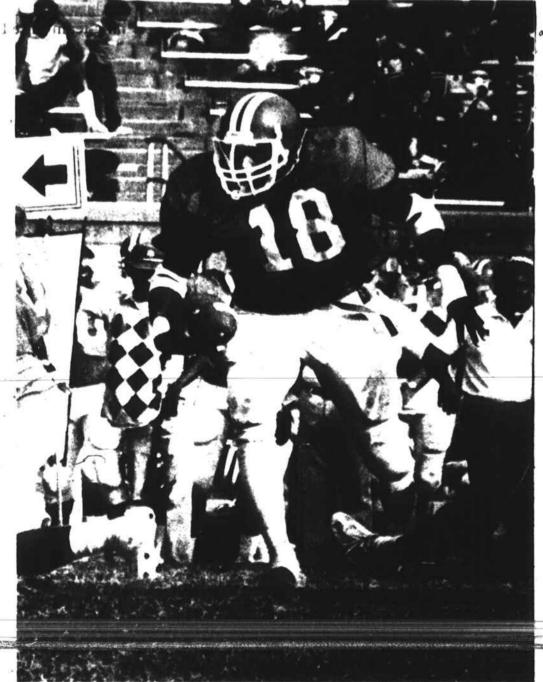
Yet, while the suspense is all but gone, there are some interesting matchups on tap in Week 10 of the CIAA season. Most notably, surging Virginia State will try to stop Norfolk from notching its ninth straight win of the season when it hosts the Spartans this week. The Troians are the only team not mathematically eliminated from the Northern Division race.

Bill Haves' Rams have clinched at least a tie for the Southern title and a win over Elizabeth City will put them in the championship game.

In other action, disappointing St. Paul's is at Hampton and Bowie State visits Livingstone.

In nonconference action, Virginia Union hosts South Carolina State and Fayetteville plays at UDC.

In the past couple of weeks, George Moody's Virginia State team has finally begun to gell. While they still haven't fared as strongly as most experts predicted, the Trojans have shown well in recent games,



One reason for the improvement of Winston-Salem State's passing game has been the development of wide receiver Masha Paul. Paul, a cornerback throughout his first year and a half at WSSU, gives the Rams a deep passing threat (photo by James Parker).

knocking off Union last week. 18-14. But Norfolk, under the leadership of Willard Bailey, won't take the Trojans lightly. While the game will probably go down to the wire, Norfolk will prevail by three.

Elizabeth City will put the ball in the air often against the Rams this week, but, in so doing, may play right into the hands of opportunistic WSSU. If the Rams get an early advantage, Hayes' young runners will light up the scoreboard. Rams by 14.

ing in his final season at Central, quarterback Gerald Fraylon has little left to accomplish. Still. Fraylon likes to win big and the porous Smith secondary will be backing up all day. Fraylon will get his arm and mouth cranked

up pretty well for this one and NCCU will win by 10.

Livingstone's JoJo White only needs 118 yards to become the most prolific rusher in CIAA history and, with Norfolk on the schedule next week, Livingstone Coach Mel Rose knows he'd better take advantage of a weak Bowie State defense this week. Barring injuries, the only thing that could prevent White from eclipsing Timmy Newsome's mark is if Bowie doesn't show up. Livingstone by 14.

With only two games remain. In Hampton, St. Paul's faces a team that has had peaks and valleys all season. Tiger Coach Dan Antolik can identify with those valleys. His club hasn't been the benificiary of many

breaks this season, but remains Please see page B4.

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