

PROFILE

"Gunslinger" will Lead Norfolk State

At Norfolk State, winning football games is like religion. Coaches get paid — for Division II schools at least — big money and are given big perks. In return, the students, the fans and the alumni all want the Spartans to not just win but win every time.

And if you don't win, it's simple; you go somewhere else. Willard Bailey, Norfolk's last football coach, had won and won and won, but last season, he struggled a little. And when his team lost to Johnson C. Smith, which had annually been to the CIAA what the Tampa Bay Bucs are to the NFL, Norfolk's support group had seen enough.

It was basically common knowledge after the Smith game that Bailey, whose offensive schemes weren't producing many points, would be leaving. Now with the naming of Archie Cooley as Norfolk's new head man, scoring shouldn't be anything close to a problem.

Cooley comes in with a fancy nickname and a record to match it. Friends and enemies call him the "Gunslinger" because Cooley doesn't mind taking chances. His run-and-shoot offense produced some wicked numbers at Mississippi Valley State in the mid 1980s. His teams averaged better than 60 points per game.

After that, Cooley brought the wide-open style to Southern University, where he worked as the Jaguars' offensive coordinator. And as Cooley returns to a head coaching position, he promises that CIAA fans will see the same kinds of things Cooley has done in the past.

That may not be the best of news for defensive coaches in the CIAA.

"We'll do some things that have not been done lately," Cooley said, "and we hope to put some excitement, along with a

return to the winning tradition, back into the game at Norfolk State."

Cooley is best known for his exotic formations, using a no-huddle approach along with four and sometimes five wide receivers and no running backs. But in the past, Cooley has had lots of talent to make the system work.

At Mississippi Valley, Cooley utilized some guy named Jerry Rice to execute his mad offensive schemes. And while Norfolk doesn't have a Rice in its lineup — who does? — the Spartans do have more than enough talent to make the transformation necessary to play the Gunslinger's style.

Quarterback Aaron Sparrow is a mobile, strong-armed quarterback, and receivers James Roe, Steve Hines and Travis Ramseur are capable quality receivers with lots of speed.

"A winner is not far away here," Cooley said. "There are many things we can do to make the offense go. And we'll find a way."

Cooley is Norfolk's 13th head football coach and a graduate of Jackson State, where he was an all-American football player. Cooley holds a masters degree in education from Southern Mississippi.

"We are pleased to name a coach with the impressive credentials that Cooley brings to this vacancy," said Norfolk athletic director Dick Price. "If I could use two words to describe him, I would say he's an innovator and a motivator."

Price hopes Cooley can motivate the Spartans towards a winning season. And if a guy named "Gunslinger" can't do that, Norfolk's program may be in more trouble than many believe.

— LANGSTON WERTZ JR



Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley

SPORT NOTES

Alabama A&M Women's Track Team Wins Title

The Alabama A&M University Women's Track Team won the NCAA title for the second consecutive year in outdoor competition by edging host Abilene Christian University 92-86 recently in Abilene, Texas. Pictured from left to right Germaine Crocker (400 meter relay); Kim Golden (400 meter relay); Wallace Jackson (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Commissioner); Shelly Beckford (400 meter relay, 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash, and the 1600 meter relay); Taiwo Aladefa (100 meter dash, 100 meter hurdles, and the 400 meter relay); and Dr. Joseph Henderson (Head Coach).

Seventeen of the 22 athletes representing the SIAC earned All-America status. Henderson was named the National Coach of the Year for the third time in the last five years.

► Pro-Am Classic Showcase Highschool Basketball

The Third Annual Pro-Am/D.C. Summer Classic will showcase the best high school basketball of the season on June 19-20. The tournament will feature

high school all-star teams from Washington, New York, Chicago and Virginia. The theme of the Pro-Am/D.C. Summer Classic is "Combining the power of athletics and education for our youth

." This tournament is unique in that its focus is on education as well as athletic excellence for our future MBA/NBA MVPs. Educational activities will include distinguished guest speakers discussing topics as: career planning; AIDS awareness education; substance use prevention; college preparation; motivational speaking; leadership workshops; and Prelimi-

nary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) tips.

The tournament will take place at the Smith Center on the campus of George Washington University, in northwest, Washington, D.C. Speakers for the educational activities are Len Elmore, Chair, Pro-Am/DC Summer Classic and CBS Sports Analyst; Dexter Manley, former Washington Redskin; Calvin Hill, former Washington Redskin; Ed Tapscott, Director, Administrative Affairs, New York Knicks; Desmond Howard, Washington Redskin.