

# Randolph ready to lead Deacs

Wake Forest's junior quarterback Cory Randolph put himself in an elite group of past ACC quarterbacks after his performance against ECU last Saturday. He became only the third quarterback in conference history (Charlie Ward and Woody Danzler) to total more than 300 yards passing and 100 yards rushing in a single game.

He finished that game with 344 yards in the air after completing 16-of-21 passes and two touchdowns. And, he rushed for 107 yards and added a third touchdown — on the ground. Cory is a great passer, but he's always on the run. As a matter of fact, he and I had to conduct this interview fairly quick because he had to be in class in 15 minutes. Interviewing Cory in that short amount of time was easier than I thought. He's so easy to talk to. And, he's one of those guys that you feel like you've known for a long time after one conversation. So, it's easy to ask him things. He's simply a people person.

But, he's got a game against N.C. A&T to get ready for. I wanted to see what he thought about the game against the Aggies on Saturday, and to see how much he could tell me in a little over 15 minutes.

**Anthony:** What's good, Cory?

**Cory:** (Smiles.) Nuthin' much, man. We're getting ready for our third game. We're 1-1. We could be 2-0, or we could be 0-2. We're happy to be where we're at. We played a pretty good game last week, and we have to continue to build on that.

**Anthony:** OK. How are your classes this semester?

**Cory:** My classes? (Smiles.) Oh, they're not too bad. I had a test on Monday. It was pretty tough. It was a geography test. I've got another presentation for Thursday (today). So, I am getting ready for that. Everything is starting to pick up, and this semester is moving fine.

**Anthony:** That's good to hear. (Smiles.) I see that you have a new hairdo this year. Why did you cut the braids off?

**Cory:** (Laughs.) Everybody has been asking me that. (Both laugh.) I got my braids my freshman year. That was like three years ago. (Smiles.) I just got tired

of them.

**Anthony:** (Smiles.) Why? **Cory:** It's a lot of work, man. (Smiles.) You have to get it (your hair) washed, picked out and then, braided. After a while I was just like, "Just cut it short." I got the brush, and now I'm saving myself a lot of time and effort. So, I cut it off.

**Anthony:** Does this mean that Cory Randolph is more mature now? Are you all grown up now?

**Cory:** Nah, I'm still the same. I'm the same guy, except I have less hair now. I just cut it so that I could go back to my lil cute look. (Both laugh.) It's all good.

**Anthony:** Cute look, huh? (Smiles.) What do the ladies have to say about that?

**Cory:** They like it. I mean, I don't think that it makes any difference, really. (Both laugh.)

**Anthony:** I guess I need to

seeing quarterbacks with your talent. They're used to running quarterbacks that are willing to gun it down the field. Do you think your style of play is a lot like quarterbacks at HBCU's?

**Cory:** (Giggles.) I mean, I guess so. I wouldn't really say it like that. But, I guess some of my attributes are very similar to a lot of black quarterbacks at an HBCU. I don't know if they're used to the type of running game that we have. We run the ball extremely well.

I don't know if they've seen that yet. As far as me, I'm just like any other quarterback. I do what I can to help the team, whether that's running or throwing. I don't really have a particular style. (Smiles.) We'll find out a lot on Saturday.

**Anthony:** Cory, I have to ask you this, man.

**Cory:** What's up?



Randolph



ask you about N.C. A&T now. (Both giggle.) You have A&T this week. Of course, they're an HBCU, and really don't have anything to lose this game. Does that scare you a little bit right now?

**Cory:** Nah, I wouldn't say that they scare me. It's going to be a tough game though. We're definitely not looking past them. We realize those guys (A&T) can play. Like I was telling the guys earlier, they have some former Division I guys on the team now. So, they've definitely got some athletes. HBCU teams are usually aggressive. So, we're gonna have to be ready to play.

**Anthony:** I think it's really going to be a challenge for you to get off because they're used to

**Anthony:** Does it pressure you to have a back-up that's right behind you? I mean, is that the reason why you had such a great game last week? Did you kind of feel like you would get pulled like you did in week one?

**Cory:** Um, not really. Everybody ask me something like that every week. I mean, Ben (Mauk) comes out here and does his thing. He's a good quarterback. We pretty much push each other. There's a lot of things that I do well. We kind of trade skills and try to learn from each other. It's great to have him on the squad. I feel like he let's us do a lot more things this year. And, if anything happens to me, we know that we

have a back-up that can get the job done.

**Anthony:** That sounds good to me. Let's move on. Um, it seems like a lot of teams have improved in the ACC, not to mention the addition of Miami and Virginia Tech.

**Cory:** Yeah. **Anthony:** Where would you say the conference ranks amongst football conferences now?

**Cory:** Whoa. That's a tough one. (Smiles.) I'd have to say that we're number one. If we're (ACC) not number one then we're tied for number one. The ACC has really improved after acquiring Miami and Virginia Tech. That's bringing in more recruits. As you saw, in the off season we (ACC teams) were given a lot more television time. I think that's a great thing for the ACC. That puts us on the level of an SEC or a Big Ten conference. The ACC is moving up there, and we're close to being one of the powerhouse football conference in the country.

**Anthony:** With all of the great teams in the ACC, could this team be the sleeper in the conference?

**Cory:** (Giggles.) I don't know if we're a sleeper. I definitely think the little "sleeper" phase is over with. Everybody knows that Wake Forest is a tough team, and you'd better be ready to play. So, I don't think we're a sleeper. Everybody knows that we're on the rise, and we're very competitive in the ACC.

**Anthony:** Have you watched any football on television lately?

**Cory:** Let's see, I watched college football on Saturday. I watched a little bit of NFL games on Sunday. And, I watched the Carolina and Green Bay game for a little while on Monday.

**Anthony:** Did you see Steve Smith (Panther wide out) break his leg?

**Cory:** No, I didn't see it. It's probably a good thing that I didn't see that.

**Anthony:** (Both laugh.) Yeah, it was nothing nice. Speaking of injuries to wide outs, you're top wide out, Jason Anderson is also hurt. How does that make you feel heading into this game?

**Cory:** It's tough to see a great guy like Jason get hurt. A big part of our offense is definitely going

See One-on-One on B4



N.C. A&T's Chris Jones finished the game with 107 yards on 27 carries last Saturday.

# N.C. A&T loses to Alcorn State

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

For the second-straight week, the Alcorn State Braves have beaten their opponent at the last minute. Two weeks ago, they defeated No. 14 Southern in the final minutes. This time, it was the defending MEAC champions, N.C. A&T.

"We grew with this win," said Alcorn State head coach Johnny Thomas. "Champions are born with a win like this. We never quit. We persevered. My hats go off to our defensive and offensive linemen, who are nearly all underclassmen, for a courageous effort."

A Robert Lester touchdown with 36 seconds remaining in the game lifted Alcorn State to a 16-13 win over North Carolina A&T at Alcorn State last Saturday. Trailing by four points with under a minute remaining, senior quarterback Donald Carrie hooked up with sophomore wide out Nate Hughes on fourth and 17 on the Aggie 27 yard line for a 23 yard gain to keep the drive and hopes of defeating the defending Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champions alive. After two rush attempts went for naught, senior tail back Robert Lester plunged into the end zone along the near sideline with two Aggie defenders draped upon him for the game-winning score.

The Alcorn State defense was

huge, despite giving up 224 rushing yards. Depth and good use of rotating linemen, played a huge role in the young line not getting worn down. The Aggie offense really dominated the game, early. North Carolina A&T dominated the time of possession and tempo of the game all the way to the fourth quarter. The Aggies led 6-3 at the half on two Carlos Davalos field goals, after trailing the Braves 3-0 in the first quarter. Christopher Jones led the way in his first start as an Aggie with 107 yards and a touchdown on 27 carries. Senior running back Micheaux Hollingsworth added 84 yards on 13 carries.

With 3:25 remaining in the third quarter, Aggie defensive lineman Darrell Hamilton recovered a Lester fumble and returned it to the Braves 32-yard line. Hamilton's fumble recovery set up a Jones 3-yard touchdown, giving the Aggies a 13-3 lead with 14 minutes remaining in the game. The Aggies (1-1) held the same lead until Braves quarterback Donald Carrie led the Braves on a four-play, 52-yard drive that used just 37 seconds. A Carrie to Charlie Spiller 34-yard pass set up a Lester 3-yard run.

The Aggies face their first Division I-A opponent in their 81-year history when they travel to Groves Stadium to face Wake Forest on Saturday. Kick off is set for 6:30 p.m.

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