

Sport Beat



With Bill Johnson

SAY YOU SAW IT HERE

In Football

Mid-Eastern League Promises To Be Tough

GREENSBORO - Even before the newly formed Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) gets underway this fall, it has generally been labeled "a football conference."

At any rate, MEAC will unveil in September, with S.C. State, Delaware State, Howard (D. C.), the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore being the other members of the league.

tough on offense with quarterback Jeff Freland, All-America end Ron Mayo and 190-pound halfback John Sykes leading the attack. After suffering his first losing season last year as North Carolina A&T's head football coach, youthful Hornsby Howell has taken positive steps to guard against a repeat of that kind of performance this year.

also doubles as a defensive back and another freshman, Paul McKibbens (6-3 1/2, 190) from Atlanta.

North Carolina Central opened last season as the team to beat for the CIAA title, but the Eagles faltered at mid-season. It shouldn't be that way this time.

Head coach George Quiett has eight starters returning on offense and nine on defense. His wealth of offensive talent includes senior quarterback Garvis Stone, second leading passer in the CIAA last year; receiver Jason Caldwell, a junior who had 38 pass catches last season; and tight end Mahlon Williams, a junior who caught 24 passes in 1970. The Eagles will also be deep in running backs with Mike Carter, Nat Glenn, Kenneth Ingram and James Mitchell all experienced.

The key players on defense, according to Quiett, will be 235-pound center Ray Coleman, defensive tackle Mike Galbreath, linebacker Joe Harrell and defensive back Charles Bellingier.

Two teams that will have to be reckoned with in the new conference are South Carolina State, a former member of the SIAC, and Howard University, the largest predominantly black university in the nation.

The Bulldogs of South Carolina will have 10 of 11 starters back on defense and the entire starting backfield, led by topnotch quarterbacks Birto Benjamin and Ben Samuels.

For many years, Howard was the doormat of the CIAA, but several years ago, the Bisons began a rebirth and should have one of their finest teams ever this season. Howard will open the season with 31 lettermen, including All-CIAA cornerback Ron Mabra.

MEAC's other two teams, Delaware State and the University of Maryland at Eastern Shore, will also be much improved this season.

The Hornets finished a winner for the first time in 10 years last season.

With such small college powers as Morgan State, North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central as the nucleus of the league, the early prediction could turn out to be true.

Morgan has a tough opener against Grambling in Yankee Stadium. The Bears lost their entire offensive line, two top defensive tackles and All-America linebacker Willie Germany, but they will be

"We should be much better in all areas except defensive backs, and running backs," said Howell. "And we are working very hard on those positions."

Howell's task will be made a little easier by the fact that A&T will open the season with 32 lettermen, including probably the most solid defensive line and linebackers in the conference.

This veteran defensive line, anchored by junior defensive end William Wideman (6-4, 275), senior tackle Ben Tatum (6-1, 235) and sophomore defensive end Reggie Strickland (6-3, 250).

The Aggies' talented corps of linebackers will include massive senior Ralph Coleman (6-3, 210) and senior Ben Blackhall (6-2, 210). Both of these players are already highly regarded by the pro scouts. Coleman could easily be A&T's next Little All-American.

Offensively last season, the Aggies' main hindrance was the lack of a seasoned quarterback. Charles Middleton performed admirably for part of the season, but Middleton is really a premier running back and flanker.

Howell won't be caught short this time, as he has rounded up at least three talented signal callers. Ironically, the best of the lot seems to be Leonard Reliford, a 6-4, 210-pound freshman from Macon, Ga. Howell says: "There is no doubt that in two years Reliford will be the best quarterback in this area. And he is good enough to play right now."

Backing Reliford will be senior Maurice Williams, who

against the Chicago White Sox last week. Olando Cepeda's knee operation was so successful that Dr. Anthony Pisani has told the Braves that the Baby Bull will be 100 percent okay by next season. Bobby Bonds has taken Willie McCovey's coveted No. 4 position in the San Francisco Giants' lineup. There is not a single representative of a Negro school in the College Football of Fame. There are several Blacks in the Hall and a couple of more Bill Willis of Ohio State and Bobby Marshall of Minnesota are going this year. But all Negroes named are from predominantly white universities.

It will cost you \$15 for a box seat at the World Series this fall. The reserved seats are \$10, pavilion \$8, standing \$6, and bleachers \$4. The series will open in the home park of the American League champion on Saturday, Oct. 9. The league championship series will open Saturday, Oct. 2.

NBC's Monday night telecast of baseball games has become so successful that the network plans to have 10 TV games on Monday nights next year. Imagine the red faces around the networks' home offices. They had scheduled Joe Namath and the New York Jets for six national TV games in the first 10 weeks of the regular season before Joe got hurt. NBC's will kickoff the season at 4 p.m. Sept. 19 with the Jets facing the Colts in Baltimore. That was supposed to be a headline match up of Joe Namath and Johnny Unitas. Instead it will be Earl Morrall against Al Woodall which is not the same in the eyes of the football fans.

Attendance has fallen on by 138 thousand in American League ball parks while the National League is enjoying an increase of almost 500,000. Milwaukee has suffered the biggest loss at the gate, having a decrease of 194,892 paid spectators. St. Louis's paid admission has decreased 182,661 this season. Philadelphia is leading the teams with the biggest jump in attendance with an increase of 583,190 paying fans.

The football game between Morgan and Grambling, which will be featured as ABC's first "Game of the Week" this season, will mark the first time a college division contest has been shown on national TV. Incidentally, Grambling must be the biggest team in college football. The Tigers average 248 pounds along the line and, of the 68 players invited to practice, 35 weigh more than 220 pounds. At 305 pounds, sophomore Sylvester Bates is the biggest of the Tigers. The Tigers will make only two appearances at home this season. The most popular outfit in college football will be seen in such faraway places as Yankee Stadium in New York City, Soldier Field in Chicago, Memorial Stadium in Little Rock, the Astrodome in Houston, the Coliseum in Los Angeles and Memorial Stadium in Jackson.

Word out of Durham indicates coach George Quiett is having his troubles at North Carolina Central. It seems that six of the offensive linemen Quiett was depending on have been lost to the team for the season. Anthony McElveen, 6-5, 250 is recovering from a summer appendectomy, sophomore Bradley Richardson, 6-5, 255 defensive tackle, has not reported, junior Michael Galbreath, 6-1, 240 defensive tackle, has a twisted knee, freshman Billy McDonald, 6-5 270 pounder who was ticketed for a starting role at tackle has not passed the physical examination, Richard Richardson 6-5, 272 tackle has met with academic difficulties, and Perry Lattimore, 6-3, 255 has elected to give up football to concentrate on his studies.

Friends in the area will be happy to note that Earl Monroe is investing his money wisely. The flashy ex-Winston-Salem Ram who is now a star with the Baltimore Bullets, has purchased a \$30 thousand plus home in Philadelphia and is presently drawing up plans for a fast food franchise. Earl-the-Pearl is also investing heavily in real estate.



Al Davis

Virginia State, which lost only one player from the CIAA championship squad, had a topflight crew of freshmen reporting for practice last week. Top prospect was Leroy Jones of Richmond, Va. who starred at Maggie Walker coach Walt Lovett calls Jones "an excellent prospect."

The Philadelphia Eagles have come up with four of the top rookies in pro football. Coach Jerry Williams is very, very pleased with what he has seen of runningback Al Davis, defensive and Richard Harris, wide receiver Harold Carmichael and guard Henry Allison.

These players will be seen on national television next Sunday night when the Eagles face the Detroit Lions in the final pre-season test.

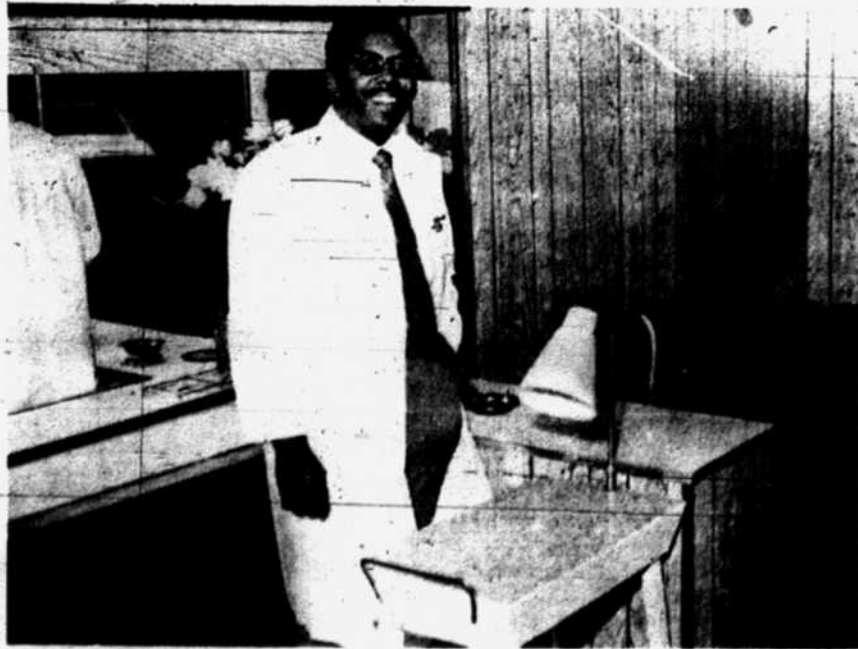
Did you notice that Frank Robinson has moved past Lou Gehrig on the All-time homer list with No. 494. Frank belted it

If you like the idea of nursing where you're needed, you'll like the Army Reserve.



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