

## Football Outlook For '79



SENIOR  
CHRIS JOHNSON—DEF. BACK



SENIOR  
JOHN DEVINE



SENIOR  
NOEL WISEMAN—NOSEGUARD

Thirty lettermen return to the 1979 Gardner-Webb football squad and first year head coach Tom Moore likes what he sees in Bulldog country. Moore arrived from Clemson after the departure of Billy Kinard to the New England Patriots coaching staff. Unfortunately for coach Moore, spring practice was already over, but not for long. Moore had a meeting with the coaches and players and it was decided that spring practice be re-opened for a period of eight days. "I wanted to get to know my players and I wanted them to get to know me before summer vacation," stated Moore. He continued, "The team looks to be in good shape and I'm optimistic about the upcoming season in the SAC-8."

Offensively, Gardner-Webb will return six starters and four of them are in the line. Steve Crane, 6-2, 220 pounds, returns at center along with 6-1, 250 pound guard Bobby Hopkins, 6-3 221 pound tackle Wayne Hughes, and 6-2, 228 pound tackle Mark Fried. Freshman Brian McNeely, 6-2, 226 pounds, is expected to start at the other guard spot.

The Bulldogs lost all three of its top receivers but the coaching staff feels that their replacements can be better. Duane St. Thomas and Duane Williams are the two top candidates for the split end spot with Craig Harris as flanker and Randy Page at tight end.

All-American candidate Robbie Barnes returns at tailback in the offensive backfield. Barnes made the All SAC-8 and NAIA Honorable Mention All-America Teams last season as



JUNIOR  
DAVID HOWARD—LINEBACKER

he rushed for 1,001 yards in only eight games. After a very good spring practice freshman Chip Stuart is the number one man at the quarterback spot.

On defense the Bulldogs have seven starters returning. All SAC-8 nose-guard Noel Wiseman, 6-0, 220 pounds, returns at anchor of the defense that held SAC-8 opponents to less than 14 points a game in 1978. Also returning in the defensive line is 6-3, 223 pound tackle Roy Johnson. Bob Price and Ricky Burkhalter are back at the defensive end. James Austin, 6-2, 238 pounds will move into the other defensive tackle position.

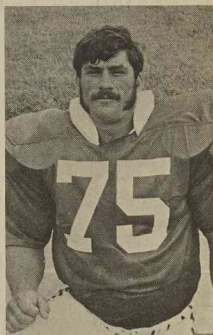
David Howard returns for his last season at strong side linebacker. He is the leading tackle returning to the 1979 team. Stanley Kearney or Chip Helms will be at the weak side linebacker.

All-American candidate Chris Johnson returns at cornerback. He has 20 career interceptions and he made 10 of those last season. He made the All-District 26 Team and the NAIA Honorable Mention All-America Team in 1978. The other starter returning in the defensive backfield is strong safety John Devine. Charles Harbison or freshman John Smith will be the top candidates for the other cornerback position and Tommy Brinhall or Randy Rappé will be at free safety.

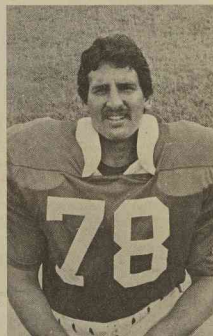
The Bulldogs had a good recruiting season and will be looking to improve on the 4-5-1 finish in 1978.



JUNIOR  
ROBBIE BARNES—RUNNINGBACK



JUNIOR  
BOBBY HOPKINS



SENIOR  
MARC FRIED



JUNIOR  
STEVE CRANE—CENTER