

# Positive Changes Highlight Origin of 1988 Season

The worst of summers blistering heat has gone into hibernation and the cool fresh air of fall is upon us. After one of the hottest summers on record it is a relief to know that soon the green leaves of spring and summer will transform into yellows, oranges, reds and combinations that are not only symbolic of autumn, but also hits the coming of Americas true game...football.

The 1983 issue of Winston-Salem State's campus paper, *The News Argus*, was the origin of what we know today as the A C Phoenix CIAA-MEAC Football Preview. Times have changed, and so have I, but each year at this time when the earth is most beautiful in death (fall of the year), and coaches whistles bellow on dusty, but lonely, practice fields it gives me a feeling of a new awakening...a fresh start.

The AC Phoenix is proud to be associated with two of the most competitive predominantly black conferences in the country, and as usual wishes the best of luck to each and every team in the two conferences.

Things have changed somewhat since that fall of 1983 in both conferences.

The MEAC, and Commissioner Ken Free, are pleased with the progress of the

conference, which includes the addition of Coppin State (non-football) and the balance in the league as a whole. Balance may be an understatement when a conference can have five different conference football champions in five years. In addition to post-season play the MEAC teams have appeared in eight NCAA-sanctioned bowls, and two Orange Blossom Classic. The

NFL features a number of former MEAC players. The conference has also kept its dream alive in the form of the annual Freedom Bowl All-Star Classic.

The CIAA, and Commissioner Bob Moorman, are equally proud of the progress made throughout the past five seasons. The Northern Division holds a decisive edge in championships with Winston-Salem State winning the only title from the Southern Division in 1987 over Hampton, 22-12. The Northern Division did suffer a blow this season as they will be without the St. Paul's Tigers on the gridiron. After struggling through losing seasons and loss of revenue, the administration felt that dissolving the program at this point was in the universities and the conferences best interest.

One of this season's most talked about events was the resignation of A&T

State's Mo Forte and the hiring of W.S.S.U. All-time percentage winning Coach William "Bill" Hayes. The loss of Hayes was not only a blow to the Rams, but a void is left in the conference. Hayes' never quit attitude made the conference more competitive and kept respectability in the CIAA South by placing a formidable opponent opposite the Northern Division powers.

If that's not news enough how about Division II's most prolific passer and total offensive leader, Earl "Air" Harvey. Harvey, (a senior this season, finally) began the 1987

MEAC Football Preview will consist of basically the same subjects we covered in 1983. A composite schedule of each conference along with a brief, but informative preview of each team is included in this issue. Trivia, which we all enjoy, is also a part of this September issue, and as usual commentary by some of the most knowledgeable writers in the Triad area is also highlighted.

AC Phoenix Publisher Rodney J. Sumler could not bare to miss this golden opportunity to speak out to Black businesses and consumers about the

myself have inserted some interesting comments, just as we have the past five seasons. There is nothing more descriptive as pictures, and as always we want you to understand what we are saying even if you don't read a word.

We are excited about this season and the economic potential it carries throughout our communities. We ask that you support Black

College Football this season and patronize those businesses that have your interest at heart. If you see an advertisement in this issue that you patronize regularly, tell them where you saw it, and continue to do "good business" with them. Write us and let us know how you feel about us. Have an outstanding academic and athletic year CIAA-MEAC and surrounding public school systems.

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One of the season's most talked about events was the resignations of N.C. A & T State's Mo Forte and the hiring of W.S.S.U. All-time percentage winning Coach William "Bill" Hayes.

campaign with over 8266 total yards in his three seasons as the NCCU signal-caller. It would be a surprise to myself, and those who have followed Harvey's career if he does not go in the NFL drafts first three rounds.

The 1986 edition of the AC Phoenix CIAA-

economic impact of the football season, specifically the WSSU-A&T clash. Phoenix staff writer Nathan Ross Freeman gives

some solid hypothesis on the televising, or non-televising, of Black College Football. Co-editors Sam Davis and

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