

# SPORTS

## NAT'L FOOTBALL LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON ENDS

### S.C. State Takes 4-0 Mark Into Holiday Break

ORANGEBURG, S. C. - A year ago when the South Carolina State College basketball team took its holiday break, the Bulldogs had struggled to a 2-5 record. Tim Autry's team is 4-0 this season as S. C. State prepares for its Christmas break.

The Bulldogs will have a two-week layoff before returning December 27 to prepare for the Winston-Salem (N. C.) Holiday Festival December 30-31.

Autry, who guided the Bulldogs to a 15-11 record and the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title last season despite the poor start, attributes this year's fine start to determination on the part of his veteran squad.

"We are more mature this season," said Autry, "but the big factor, I feel, is the determination and cohesiveness this team has shown thus far. We don't know what the new year holds in store for us," continued the Bulldog mentor, "but we have been playing good ball and should continue to win if we do not let up. Right now, we are looking toward the Winston-Salem tournament."

Autry, named top coach in the MEAC last season, noted that scheduling may have something to do with his team's unblemished mark. Two of the Bulldogs' four victories have come at home. Last season, S. C. State played its first nine contests on the road.

In posting its four victories, S. C. State downed Savannah State (85-81) and Armstrong State (109-107) in winning the sixth annual

Shrine Classic and took regular season triumphs over Armstrong (104-90) and College of Charleston (108-97).

In the upcoming Winston-Salem tournament at the Winston-Salem Coliseum will open against Elizabeth City State on Friday. The host Rams will play Delaware State in the second contest. The winners will meet for the title on Saturday.

In other action, play off-bound powers, Dallas and Denver dueled in Texas Stadium. The Cowboys won 14-6 and both clubs finished with 12-2 records, the best in the league. Oakland made it 11-3 with a 21-20 squeaker over Kansas City. The other playoff team, Minnesota, got by Detroit Saturday night 30-21.

Tampa Bay, who had lost 26 games in a row, won for the second week in a row after a 17-7 victory over a tail-spinning St. Louis team. Another team that backed up was the Cleveland Browns. They dropped a 20-19 decision to the expansion Seahawks, who have had a good year. Atlanta crushed New Orleans 35-7 to finish with a respectable 7-7 record. In the other games, Philadelphia shut out the Jets 27-0, and Green Bay beat San Francisco 16-14.

The AFC will start the Playoffs this Saturday with Oakland at Baltimore, and Pittsburgh at Denver. On Monday, Chicago will travel to Dallas and Los Angeles hosts Minnesota.

The predictions:  
Oakland has too much character and personnel -

By LARRY BARBER

Now there are only eight teams left, but some of those play-off slots were not decided until the final gun on Sunday. There was no Monday night game.

The Baltimore Colts went into their game with the New England Patriots needing a win to reach the playoffs. The Patriots were knocked out of contention by Miami's victory over Buffalo on Saturday. But New England playing on pride was leading 24-0 late in the third quarter, and it looked like the Dolphins might sneak into the post season. Bert Jones then threw two touchdown passes to pull within one point. Linhart missed an extra point. On the Colt's winning touchdown drive, an apparent New England fumble recovery of a Jones' scramble was nullified because a referee, Fred Silva, said the whistle blew. Baltimore won the game 30-24 and a playoff berth.

Another team had the opportunity to write their own destiny on Sunday. The Chicago Bears had to beat the

Oakland 27, Baltimore 17; This is strange time for Denver, Pittsburgh's been there - Pittsburgh 20, Denver 13;

Chicago's just not ready yet - Dallas 31, Chicago 14; Minnesota still crippled, Los Angeles will be ready - Los Angeles 24, Minnesota 10.

Giants to make the playoffs, and Walter Payton needed 199 yards rushing to break O. J. Simpson's season's mark. The weather was bad in New Jersey, and Payton did not have a chance at the record. More importantly, the Giants put up a good fight, and pushed Chicago into an overtime. Now if the Bears tied for lost, the Redskins, who had beaten Los Angeles, Saturday, would go to the playoff. Chicago place-kicker Bob Thomas missed two field goals in the extra period before hitting a 28-yarder with only a few seconds left to play to win 12-9. They will be in the championship chase for the first time since 1963.

The Cincinnati Bengals, also had control over their season. All they had to do was beat the Oilers down in Houston, and represent the AFC central instead of Pittsburgh. It was not to be. Houston played the spoiler by beating the Bengals 21-16. The Steelers are again in the final eight, and even though they won over San Diego, 10-9, it would not have mattered.



Halley's Comet will next be seen in 1986.

## Rams Move Into First Place In CIAA So. Division

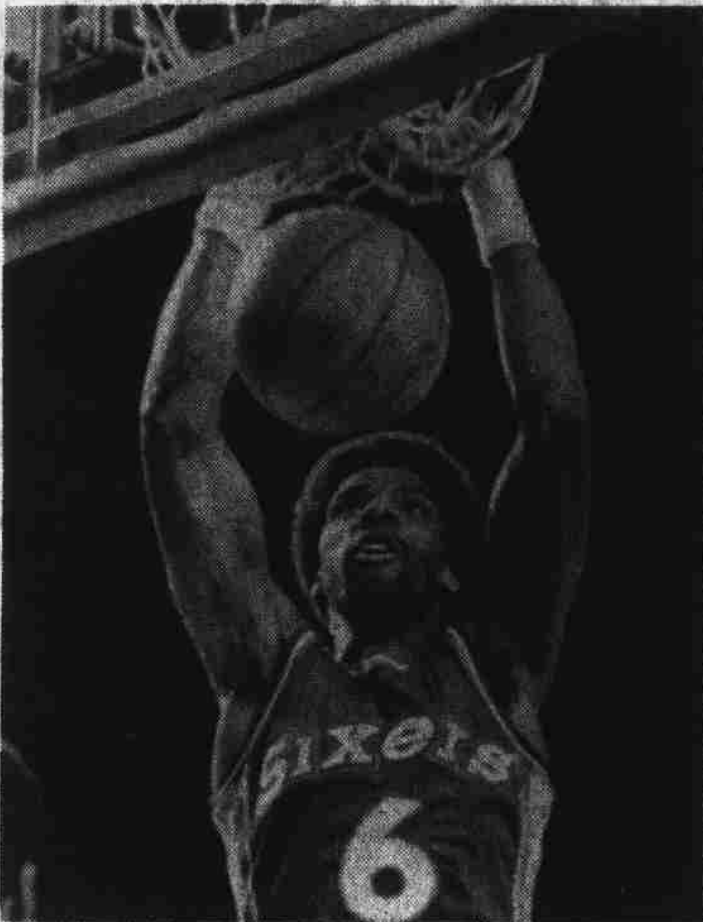
WINSTON-SALEM - The Winston-Salem State Rams moved into first place in the CIAA Southern Division with Conference wins over Livingstone 91-73 and Shaw University, 78-56. Four non-conference wins give the 1977 CIAA defending champions an overall record of 6-0 going

into the Christmas break. Their non-conference wins were over Delaware State 111-58, High Point, 83-71, North Carolina Central, 80-66, and North Carolina A&T, 84-74.

Carlos Terry last year's CIAA Tournament's Most

Valuable Player is leading the team and the conference with a 28-6 scoring average. He is getting strong support from Reginald Gaines (14.5 PPG) and Mike Robinson (12.1 PPG). The Rams would like to regain their regular season CIAA title from the St. Augustine's Falcons.

The next appearance of the Rams will be in the Winston-Salem Holiday Festival on December 30th and 31st when they will serve as hosts to Delaware State, Elizabeth City and South Carolina State.



THE DOCTOR OPERATES - Philadelphia forward Julius Erving slams home two of his 29 points during action in game with the Milwaukee Bucks. Erving's effort was not enough as the 76ers lost 129-117. UPI

## Greetings

May the simple country joys of Christmas be yours! Happy holidays to you and your family!

### Peter Pan Market

517 BACON STREET      DURHAM, N. C.



Bibb lettuce was not named for its shape but for John Bibb, a Kentucky farmer who developed it in his garden.

## Christmas Joy

Here's hoping your Christmas is auto-matically wonderful! Drive safely over the holidays and enjoy all the warmth and merriment of the season.

**CASH'S USED CARS**  
1810 HOLLOWAY ST.  
DURHAM, N. C.



## Buick Regal for '78. It's one reason why so many people want Buick.

This year, you're going to see a thoroughly redesigned Buick Regal. An impressive mid-size car at an affordable price.

The new Regal Limited has an elegant interior of crushed-velour covered seats, plush carpeting and easy-to-read controls. And wait 'til you check out the ride. Smooth, quiet, comfortable.

The new Regal has something else people want, too. A trim new style. But with more head and leg

room and more usable trunk space than last year.

No wonder so many people love going places in Buicks. Once you test drive the Regal at your Buick dealer, you'll want to join our fan club too.

Buick Regal for '78.

