

# A Win Over Elizabeth City State University Could Help Rams Clinch Southern Division

By ROBERT ELLER  
Sports Editor

"This situation is nothing new for us. We have been in it almost every week," said WSSU Coach Bill Hayes early this week as his team prepared to take on Elizabeth City in another must-win contest this Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium.

A win by the Rams Saturday would put them in position to clinch the Southern Division title next week with a win over tough St. Paul's. But a loss, coupled with a win by North Carolina Central against Johnson C. Smith in the Eagles' last league contest, would give Central the title.

Winston-Salem State has not beaten Elizabeth City since 1979, but the 3-5 Vikings have had their problems this season under new Head Coach Thurlis Little.

The Vikings looked like contenders for the Northern Division title after beating Norfolk State but were shutout by Hampton the next week and have now lost their last four games.

Still, Elizabeth City is a formidable opponent for the Rams. "Some teams just get up for

other teams and Elizabeth City has always played well against us," said Hayes, who has seen his Rams play just well enough to win in their last four outings.

In each of those games, the Rams' offense has done a better job of stopping themselves than the defense of their opponents has. "None of those games should have been close," said Hayes after looking over the stats. In each game, the Rams dominated their opponents, outgaining them by a wide margin. But turnovers and penalties have stopped numerous drives.

In Elizabeth City, the Rams will face a team that sports the top pass defenses in the CIAA, having allowed only 97 yards per game through the air. The key to the pass defense has been the play of Elizabeth City's outstanding secondary.

Teams haven't thrown at all-CIAA cornerback Bobby Futrell much this season but Reginald Banks ranks among the league's leaders in interceptions, including one return for a score. Chris Pendergrass is another fine secondary performer.

The linebackers are also solid with Lloyd

Jackson, Kenneth Rodgers and Tim Cofield forming a crew that rivals Johnson C. Smith's linebacking corps.

The Vikings' defense ranks fifth in the league in total defense and has allowed little more than 16 points per game.

Offense has been the Vikings' problem. They rank dead last in the league in rushing offense and have depended heavily on the passing combo of quarterback Eddie Morris to Reggie Langhorne. Morris has passed for more than 600 yards this season while Langhorne leads the conference in receiving.

Bill Hayes missed a chance to go head-to-head with Wylie Harris again last week but this week's match against Little will be another reunion. Little played center and linebacker for Elizabeth City when Hayes manned the same positions for North Carolina Central. So the two are not strangers when it comes to knocking heads.

However, Hayes has a little more equipment to use than Little this time around. WSSU by 10.

# Delaware State's Purzycki Eyes Top Coaching Honors

By BARRY COOPER  
Syndicated Columnist

In a few weeks, the college football season will end, and some coaches will point to next year, while others will bask in the glory of this year's accomplishments.

Still others, like Delaware State's Joe Purzycki, will do both.

Barring an unexpected collapse by his Hornets over the next few weeks, Purzycki will be a prime candidate for Black College Coach of the Year honors.

Imagine that. Purzycki would be the first white man ever to win such an honor, not that the color of his skin has had anything to do with the Hornet's success.

There will be other candidates for black college coach of the year accolades, including Jackson State's W.C. Gorden, Tennessee State's Joe Gilliam Sr., Mississippi Valley's Archie Cooley and Fort Valley's Doug Porter.

None of them, however, has managed the turnaround that Purzycki has enjoyed at Delaware State. Purzycki (pronounced Pur-zee-kee) took a program that only three years ago compiled a 2-9 record and, in the process, lost one game by a stunning 105-0.

After seven games this year, Delaware State is 6-1 and ranked No. 12 in the Division I-AA Top 20 rankings. Clearly, Purzycki has brought the Hornets along faster than anyone had imagined, especially for a team that had experienced but one winning season in the 10 years prior to Purzycki's arrival.

When the Hornets fired Charles Henderson after that disastrous 2-9 1980 season, newspapers in Delaware immediately began trumpeting Purzycki for the job. He was an ultra-successful high school coach in the state at the time, and he has duplicated his success on the college level.

Because of that success, it pretty much has been forgotten that he is the only white head coach at a black college, and it should be that way, since color means nothing when it comes to telling folks how to block and tackle. It will be interesting, however, to see how the black media and the other black coaches regard Purzycki

once coach-of-the-year balloting begins. He stands as much of a chance of being discriminated against as a black man would in a reverse situation.

But enough about race and color. The Hornet's and Purzycki's success is a story of a college administration that searched for a good coach, found him and gave him some money to work with.

Even Purzycki is surprised at how well things are going. In fact, when he began at Delaware State, his goal was to win two games his first year, four his second and six his third.

With four games to go, the Hornets have already reached his season's goal. "What we have done," says Purzycki, "is win the close games. We have won two or three games in the closing minutes."

Delaware State's six wins this year represent the most games the school has won since 1977. This could become an even more outstanding season if the Hornets go on to make the Division I-AA playoffs, as some think they might. That won't be easy, though. Two tough Division II schools -- Towson State (5-1) and Central State of Ohio (7-0) must be dealt with before the Hornets can breathe easy. Those will be among the toughest of a not-too-difficult schedule.

Still, the Hornets have won their big games. They knocked off Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference foes Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M, and narrowly lost to defending champion South Carolina State. Along the way, at least one Delaware State player has been named MEAC Player of the Week for the last seven weeks.

Because of Purzycki's coaching and the running of junior Gene Lake (762 yards, seven touchdowns), Delaware State is a contender in the MEAC for the first time.

"We need help from Bethune-Cookman," says Purzycki. "If they knock off South Carolina State, we'll finish the season tied for the best conference record, even though the title would go to them because they beat us."

Finishing the year tied with mighty S.C. State would have been unthinkable for Delaware State only a few years ago. Now, it would be but another feather in Purzycki's coach-of-the-year hat.

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# North Forsyth

From Page B1

that if we scored the touchdown there, our defense could hold them the rest of the game."

And hold them it did. While North gave up ground outside its 20, it refused to yield inside that point. Schriber, Reynolds' 6-4 quarterback, was able to engineer several threats, but his immobility in the pocket resulted in eight Viking sacks for the game.

Schriber teamed with split end Donald Baker for a 47-yard pass play to set up a first and ten at the North 16-yard line early in the fourth quarter. Schriber then hit tight end Jeff Shore two plays later for an apparent 14-yard touchdown. But a holding call against the Demons nullified the play. North then shut down Schriber and the Demon offense to regain possession.

North held the Demons' stand-out tailback, Clifton Mack, to only 21 yards in 12 attempts. Mack, coming off an injury that sidelined him for most of Reynolds' previous two games, could not crack the Viking defense and his longest run covered only five yards.

With the win, the Vikings are assured of being one of the two Central 4-A, District 8, teams to make it to the state playoffs. The Vikings are 4-0 in their conference games and 7-2 overall. They face Greensboro Page Friday for the conference title.



Hagler will be making the eighth defense of the crown he captured back in September of 1980 and the 29-year-old Brockton, Ma. native has not lost a bout in more than seven and a half years. Duran, 32, of Panama, who beat Davey Moore in June to win the junior middleweight title, will become boxing's first-ever four-time champion if he defeats Hagler. Also featured on the live telecast will be a 10-round middleweight elimination fight between Frank "The Animal" Fletcher of the United States and Argentina's Juan Roldan.

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