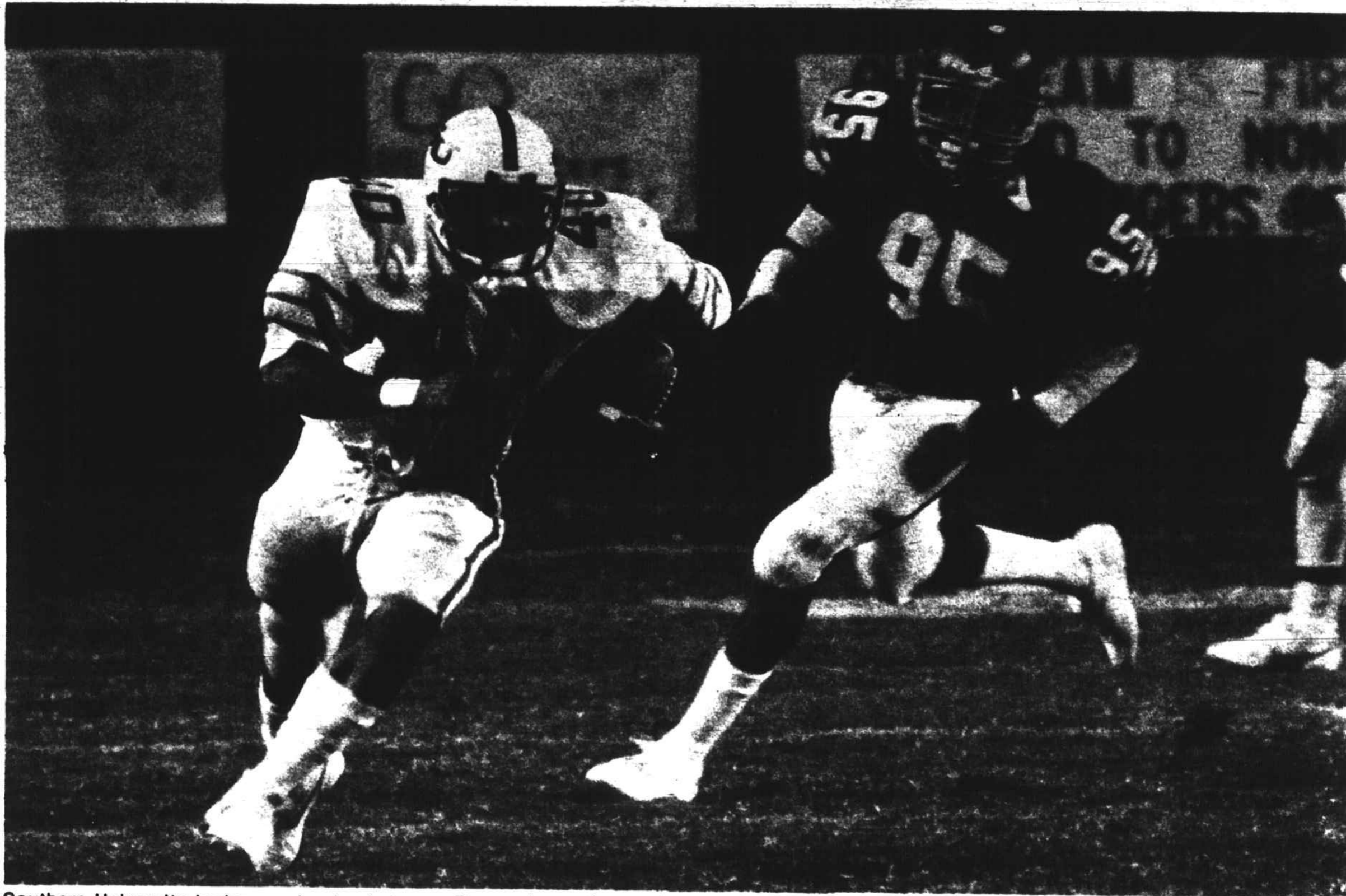


'Black America's Team' Hunts Another Crown



Southern University junior running back James Evans churns for yardage against Jackson State (photo by James Terry).

By LONZA HARDY JR.
Review Staff Writer

More than one-third of the head coaches who'll pace the sidelines during Southwestern Athletic Conference football games this season will be newcomers, thanks to the exodus of three SWAC coaches since the end of 1983.

Lionel Taylor at Texas Southern, Conway Hayman at Prairie View A&M and Jim Parker at Alabama State represent the latest additions to the ranks of SWAC head football coaches, the largest number of newcomers in years. And all three are confident they can bring about a renaissance in their respective fledgling programs.

At Texas Southern, Taylor replaces three-year Coach Joe Redmond, who was ousted after compiling a 9-22-2 slate between 1981 and 1983. A former professional player with the Denver Broncos, Chicago

Bears and Houston Oilers, Taylor hung up his cleats in 1967 as the American Football League's all-time leading receiver with 563 catches for 7,105 yards and 51 touchdowns.

Following his productive career as a professional, Taylor returned to his alma mater, New Mexico Highlands University, to launch his coaching career. He served as offensive coordinator there from 1967-69 before moving back to the pro ranks, where he coached receivers for the Pittsburgh Steelers and served as offensive coordinator for the Los Angeles Rams.

"I have no predictions on how long it'll take, but I plan to put together a winning program at TSU," says Taylor. "I'm a believer in good, sound fundamentals and in having good football players and a good staff."

Hayman, at Prairie View A&M, assumed the head Panther post after

two-year Coach Jim McKinley was dismissed. Like Taylor at Texas Southern, he brings years of professional playing experience (14 years) to the job, having been an offensive lineman with the Washington Redskins, New England Patriots, Los Angeles Rams and Houston Oilers.

"I believe in being unpredictable," Hayman notes. "To become predictable is an open invitation to defeat. We plan on using all of the football field on offense and developing strong fundamentals and techniques on defense".

At Alabama State, Parker replaces veteran Coach George James, who saw his team plummet to records of 2-6-1 in 1982 and 2-9 in 1983. Parker served a prior stint as head coach for the Hornets in the early 1970s.

"I don't think this team will finish at the bottom of the SWAC," Parker predicts. "I think we'll

finish the season in a representative manner.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

The words of Sports Information Director Bennie Thomas may give the best indication of where the Jaguars plan to be in '84. Writes Thomas: "No longer are the Jaguars thought of as SWAC stepchildren. No longer are they winning paupers. A solid 'rags to riches' saga could be in the making."

After two winning seasons -- especially last year, when Southern went 7-4 overall, 5-2 in the SWAC, and lost the league championship in its season finale -- Head Coach Otis Washington feels 1984 bodes well for his upstarts.

"I'm confident that we'll have a better team this fall," Washington says. "We are more mature, both physically and mentally, and if we

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