

INTERVIEW

A Tale Of Two Coaches



Photo by James Terry



Photo by Joe Daniels

While the MEAC's Joe Purzycki, above, quietly builds a power at Delaware State with defense and a solid running game, the SWAC's Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, left, throttles opponents with a frighteningly potent passing attack -- and his mouth.

Cooley

Flamboyant, Frank And Successful

By LONZA HARDY JR.
Review Staff Writer

When Mississippi Valley State hired a new football coach in 1980, the tiny school off Highway 52 in Itta Bena got all it was asking for -- and more.

Selected to head the floundering Delta Devil program was a man with a personality you don't forget. He spoke his mind and made big promises. And he delivered.

His name was Archie Cooley.

A 45-year-old native of Laurel, Miss., Cooley today has earned respect which neither he, nor most of his

predecessors, could earn before. He has endured the criticism and the pressures to join the ranks of the Southwestern Athletic Conference's coaching elite, though not at all quietly.

"When I came to Mississippi Valley in 1980, I warned everyone that they'd have to make room at the top for Valley," recalled Cooley, "but everyone laughed and said, 'What do you think you are -- a miracle man? Bear Bryant couldn't win at Valley.'"

"I told them I wasn't Bear Bryant,"

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Purzycki

Patiently Building A Power

By SAM DAVIS
Review Staff Writer

My, how the times have changed.

After years of fielding mediocre and downright awful teams -- including one that dropped a game by the unlikely score of 105-0 -- Delaware State's Hornets have finally added some sting to their arsenal, much to South Carolina State's dismay.

The Hornets are off to their best start ever and, strange as it may seem to those used to watching S.C. State waltz to MEAC titles year in and year

out, are the favorites to win the league championship in '84.

Last season, the Hornets served notice that they were good, ranking second in the nation in Division I-AA in rushing offense. Can greatness be far behind?

That remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: DelState has come a long, long way.

The Hornets failed to win a league game in 1980 (the year before Purzycki arrived) and suffered a humiliating 105-0 loss to Portland State. Tired of the losing ways of the former coaching

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