

Danny Moore

From Page 11

While Moore has been a first team all-CIAA center through his first two seasons, this year has posed some nagging problems. Moore sustained an ankle injury early in the season that would have prevented most people from even walking. But Moore refused to stay out of the lineup. As if that wasn't enough, he also hurt his arm.

"He played two or three games with a broken arm," says Hayes. "We didn't even know that he was hurt. I sent him to have it looked at and the doctor said his arm had been fractured.

"That's what the players really respect about Danny," Hayes says. "He's a leader because he's going to be there when I need him. I never have to worry about whether or not Danny Moore is going to play up to his potential. Injured or not, he's always going to do his best."

Moore has also had to adjust to a change in position this year. The Rams lost all-CIAA guard Alvin Powell to graduation and Hayes needed a strong

blocker who can pull when the Rams run outside. Hayes asked for volunteers and Moore was quick to step in.

"He picked it up in a matter of minutes," Hayes says of Moore's transition to guard. "Once he found out who he was supposed to block it became second nature for him. It's the easiest transition I've ever seen anyone make."

For Moore, it was simply a matter of helping out the team.

"As long as I'm helping the team it doesn't really matter what position I play," says Moore, who had been a center since the 11th grade. "I knew a lot of the things that a guard has to do, so it wasn't that bad making the change to guard."

It might seem that, since he's a cinch to earn all-CIAA honors for the third straight year, Moore doesn't have anything left to prove. However, Moore insists there's still room for improvement.

"I have to put out more effort now

than ever before," he says. "You have to come in with the attitude that you aren't the best and there's always someone else out there better than you. Right now I'm making myself work hard because you have to work hard to keep yourself on top."

In doing so, Moore hopes that he'll get his chance to fulfill one of his dreams -- to make it as a professional football player.

"That's probably in the back of every college athlete's mind," he says. "I would like to get a chance to play in the pros."

There are other goals as well.

"I'd also like to get my degree," Moore adds. "Hopefully I can use my degree to get a job working with handicapped children. I've worked with handicapped children on and off since before I came here to school."

Helping others is important to Moore. A shy, reserved young man, he operates on his inner feelings.

In fact, he chose to attend Winston-Salem State because of the way he felt

that people treated him there as much as anything else.

"I felt at home when I came to visit," Moore says of his decision to attend WSSU. "The atmosphere was nice and I thought I could get a good education in an area that I was interested in."

Moore turned down offers from several major colleges to come to Winston-Salem, including Clemson and South Carolina.

"I thought that I would have an opportunity to play early in my career if I came here (to WSSU)," he says. "It was a decision I had to make and I knew what I wanted."

Apparently so. In addition to earning all-CIAA honors for the past two years, Moore has played on Ram teams that have gone 16-2-1 at this writing. He's also performed well in the classroom.

To add a new twist to the old James Brown lyric, Moore is "Talking a little and saying a whole lot."

David Parker

From Page 11

already within 1,200 yards of the NCAA passing record. However, because of rainy weather and Bishop's increased emphasis on its running game, Parker hasn't thrown as much as he once did.

Still, instead of making a big deal of going for the passing record, he has been content to win football games.

"We've had a lot of different circumstances this year," says Parker. "As long as we're winning, I don't care about how many yards I throw for. Winning comes first."

What's more, Parker says, he's enjoying this season more than previous ones.

"We're winning this year," he says. "Why bother with passing the ball? I'm not going to do anything different than what's been working for us. I just want to try and maintain the same type of performances that I've had in the games we've won this season."

At this stage of his passer's career, Jones says, he couldn't be more pleased with Parker. And, while there are plenty of talented quarterbacks in black college football, Jones says, he rates his hard-throwing signal-caller second to none.

"David has done a super job for us," says Jones. "He's a good kid that's worked hard and done everything we've asked of him. He's developed into a leader for us. What I like about him is that he's matured a

lot and he's doing what it takes to win games.

"David knows our system as well as the coaches do," Jones says. "In one of our games this season, he kept audibling at the line of scrimmage and every time he did it worked. I asked him why and he said, 'You told me that when the linebackers do this I'm supposed to change the play.' That showed he's thinking on the field and reacting to the other team."

While Willie Totten of Mississippi Valley is widely considered to be the class of the black college quarterbacks, Jones says Parker is better in some areas.

"I've watched them (Mississippi Valley) on cable television and I think David has a better release and he's bigger than Totten," Jones says. "We don't have the personnel to do what Archie (Mississippi Valley Coach Archie Cooley) does. But it would be a good war between Totten and David."

Despite playing for a Division III school, Parker believes he stacks up favorably with any quarterback in the country.

"They put on their equipment the same way I do," says Parker. "I feel I can play with anybody."

Already this season Parker has led Bishop to victories over NCAA Division I-AA Prairie View, two Division II schools and highly-touted Texas Lutheran. That ought to impress the

pros, say Parker and Jones.

"Somebody's going to give him a shot," says Jones. "He has the height, speed, weight and range to make it. Once he learns the system that's used, it shouldn't be too hard for him to make it."

If he gets the chance, Parker says, he'll do his best to make it as a pro quarterback.

"Ever since I was a little kid I've

Virginia Union

From Page 16

crippling injuries.

"We've had 17 players, on offense alone, miss at least a game with an injury," says Taylor. "We average about four or five missing a game."

Things got so bad against Norfolk that Taylor had to switch two defensive regulars, David Robinson and Keith Young, to the offensive line.

"I didn't like doing it," said Taylor. "It was out of necessity."

While the offense has been disappointing, the defense has remained unflinching under coordinator Richard McFee. In fact, middle linebacker Sam Grooms rates right up there with Herb Scott and Malcolm Barnwell as one of Union's all-time greats.

Still, as the losses mount at Union, Panther alumni have begun talking

always thought about that," he says. "I've been playing football since I was about 10 years old and it's always been there.

"I really want to get my shot at it. I'm going to try to do my best. I know that, once I get started, it won't take me long to learn the formations and plays. I'm going to be all about studying and being serious because professional football is a business."

season as head coach at Howard. No one doubts that Taylor was dealt a weak hand at Howard, but his 1-10 record is still there as an eyesore on the resume.

Taylor was dismissed after that one season, and replaced by Willie Jeffries, one of the top coaches, black or white, in America. Jeffries produced a I-AA powerhouse at South Carolina State, and went on to compile an excellent record at Wichita State in the I-A ranks.

So, what now? What does the future hold for Union's proud program?

Was this a fluke season, one overloaded with injuries and mitigating
Please See Page 21