

Totten: Snubbed?

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scoring passes. "If Totten went to a big school, he would have won the Heisman Trophy," Cooley said.

Third, critics say Totten has trouble reading defenses. "I think a lot of that is incorrect," Totten responded. "I think I can read defenses very well."

Totten set numerous Division I-AA records, among them marks for most total offense yards per game, with a 325.2-yard average; most games gaining 400 or more yards in a career (13); highest yard average per play (7.2), most points responsible for in a career (946), most yards gained in a game (621), most yards gained in a season (4,572), most touchdown passes in a game (nine), most touchdown passes in a career (139), most touchdown passes in a regular season (56), and most completions in a game (46).

With that in mind, then is Totten, no pun intended, on the NFL's blacklist? There are other quarterbacks -- Tom Ehrhardt (ranked eighth) of Rhode Island and Bubba Briser (11th) of Northeast Louisiana -- rated ahead of Totten, who is ranked 12th among quarterbacks in Mel Kiper's "1986 Draft Report." But they played, as Totten did, on the small-college level.

Is it a black-white thing, and is being a black quarterback from a predominantly black school in the

Deep South an obstacle? "Not really," Totten said. "A quarterback is a quarterback. Why label him ... black or white if he's getting the job done?"

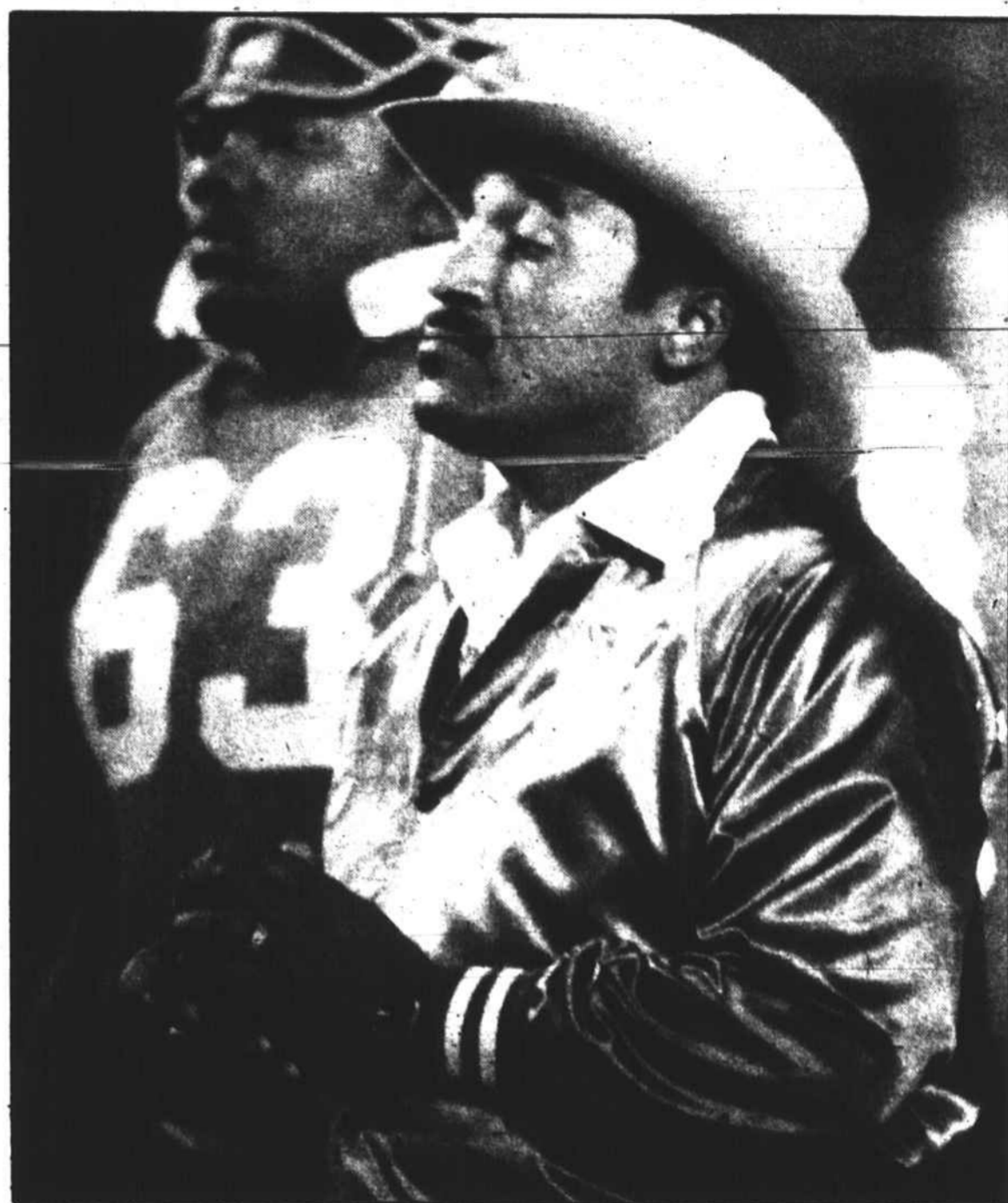
Last year, Pittsburgh Steelers Director of Player Personnel Dick Haley said, "I don't think there's any unusual pressure (for black quarterbacks nowadays). It's a matter of making the conversion to the pros from Mississippi Valley."

Cooley fumed, "This kid (quarterback Dave Krieg) at Seattle came from a small school (Milton College, which no longer exists). Neil Lomax (St. Louis Cardinals) came from a small school (Portland State). Now they say Totten can't play."

"They said something was wrong with Richard Dent. He was an eighth-round draft choice (from Tennessee State) with the Bears. Now he's an all-pro. They said something was wrong with Everson Walls (Dallas Cowboys cornerback who played at Grambling). Now he's an all-pro. It's embarrassing, man. It's awful. They (the pro teams) get them (black-college players) cheap, then they make all-pro."

"They said Jerry Rice couldn't block and couldn't go deep. But look at him now (with the San Francisco 49ers)."

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Archie Cooley: If Totten had played for a big school, he'd have won the Heisman Trophy (photo by Mark Gail).

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turned at the combine workout when he twice clocked under 4.6 (in the 40)," Kiper says.

Cofield is "the type of player who looks like a high pick in the computer, but has to learn to better utilize his skills on the football field," the report says. "Not real instinctive, failing to read/react as well as you would prefer. Often gets caught up in traffic, and is not a form tackler."

Wayne Dillard (6-foot-2, 228) from Alcorn State runs a 4.79 40-yard dash with a 5.8 rating as the 21st-ranked outside linebacker. He's a "productive linebacker with the Braves, possessing good size, average speed and improving strength," the draft report says. "Rose to the occasion in the big games, coming through with a number of top efforts during his college career. Worked hard to improve his skills in coverage, but is still deficient in this area. Could make the grade as a reserve at linebacker; should also be a real headhunter on special teams."

Eddie Anderson (6-foot-½, 193) of Fort Valley State runs a 4.57 40 and registers a 6.5 rating as the No. 15 safety. "He's a virtual unknown out of the small-college ranks who has climbed up the charts within the last two months," the report says. "Outstanding athlete with great straight-ahead speed, top strength and incredible leaping ability. Ran under 4.6 at the combine workout, and was clocked at 4.48 late last season. Had the top vertical jump of all the defensive backs at the New Orleans combine, while impressing onlookers with his upper body strength."

Tennessee State's Gilbert Renfroe (6-3, 188), runs a 4.72 40 and is rated 5.5 as a quarterback. The 22nd-ranked quarterback in the Kiper report, Renfroe completed 188 passes in 395 attempts (47.8 percent) with 15 touchdown passes and 12 interceptions in 1985, his first season as a starter. He also ran for six touchdowns.

"Gilbert Renfroe will be drafted

before Willie Totten," said Tennessee State SID Stephens. "First of all, we ran a pro-set offense. He can throw long and short with accuracy."

Other players from black schools who may or may not be drafted include:

- Victor Hall (6-2¼, 222), tight end, Jackson State, 4.89 speed in the 40, 5.8 rating, 20th-ranked player at his position.
- Robert Goins (6-foot-¼, 191), safety, Grambling, 4.72 speed, 5.5 rating, 31st-ranked at his position.
- Robert Kearney (5-11, 185), safety, North Carolina Central, 4.65 speed, 5.0 rating, 41st-ranked at his position.
- Riley Walton (6-3¼, 221), tight end, Tennessee State, 4.75 speed, 5.0 rating, 27th-ranked at his position.
- Darren McAllister (6-6½, 266), defensive tackle, Prairie View A&M, 5.38 speed, 5.0 rating, 27th-ranked at his position.
- Merlon Jones (6-1½, 229), inside linebacker, Florida A&M, 4.79 speed, 5.0 rating, 33rd-ranked at his position.
- William Tolbert (6-2½, 234), outside linebacker, Alabama State, 4.95 speed, 5.0 rating, 29th-ranked at his position.

- James Harris (6-2, 208), safety, Grambling, 4.84 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Doug Maddox (6-0, 193), safety, Langston, 4.73 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Willie Brown (6-1¼, 222), outside linebacker, Florida A&M, 4.88 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Darrell Woods (5-9, 177), cornerback, Jackson State, 4.6 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Carlton Thomas (6-0, 187), cornerback, Elizabeth City State, 4.67 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Vernon Moland (5-9¼, 173), cornerback, Alabama A&M, 4.71 speed, 4.0 rating.
- James Polk (6-9, 330), defensive tackle, Grambling, 5.55 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Lavelle Moore (6-2, 268), guard, Grambling, 5.12 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Lorenzo Clark (6-2, 300), guard, Mississippi Valley State, 5.38 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Kelly Arthur (6-3½, 252), defensive end, South Carolina State, 4.96 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Reginald Carr (6-2½, 268), defensive end, Jackson State, 5.35 speed, 4.0 rating.
- King Green (5-10¼, 218), fullback, Bethune-Cookman, 4.81 speed, 4.0 rating.
- Sebastian Brown (5-11¼, 177), wide receiver, Bethune-Cookman, 4.73 speed, 4.0 rating.

Gregory Clay is a sports copy editor for Newsday in New York.