

CIAA Preview

Continued From Page 10

the Northern Division cellar and now they want to make amends. It's not that Bowie, 3-6 overall, was that bad. Three of those losses could very easily have been wins had it not been for fourth quarter miscues.

But this is another season, which brings on renewed enthusiasm to recapture the glory years of '88 and '89 when BSU made the Division II playoffs and won the CIAA title.

On offense, the emphasis is on the ground game with linemen Scott Messick and Andre Crawley opening holes for running back Butch Wilson (721 yards, 5 TDs).

The quarterback situation isn't settled and probably won't be until the season opener on Sept. 7. Richard Thomas is the leading candidate going into training camp. Even so, the Dogs are a threat to score anytime they reach the opponent's 35-yard line. In Mark Fitzpatrick, Bowie has one of the nation's best field goal kickers. In three seasons, Fitzpatrick has nailed 71 of 76 PATs and made good on 15 of 19 field goals from 40 yards out and beyond.

Jason Herold, the CIAA punt leader last year (40.3 yards per kick average) should allow the Dogs to gain favorable field position when there's a change of possession.

Defensively, linebacker Ed Gregory is the man. In nine games last season, Gregory was in on 104 tackles. Cornerback Steve Smith and safety Gary Beckford are proven performers in the secondary.

Bowie's fate will be determined by how well the new batch of talented recruits mesh with the returning cast members. The quicker they are able to gel, the better off Bowie will be.

Hampton University

Coach Fred Freeman could be in for a long year if no suitable replacements are found for DeRocke Croom, Tim Dudley, and Pete Holloway, all of whom finished their college careers last November.

QB Croom and running backs Dudley and Holloway carried the bulk of the offensive load for the Pirates last season. That threesome accounted for 2,859 total yards and 28 TDs in '90.

Shannon Wallace, a back-up for the past two seasons, is Croom's likely replacement.

Things will only get better for the Pirates if they do come up with a solid QB who can get the ball to a trio of speedy receivers. Johnnie Barnes, an All-American track performer, is the leading pass catching returnee (26 receptions, 621 yards, 23.9 ypc). Terrence Warren (two-time NCAA Div I 100 meter sprint champ)

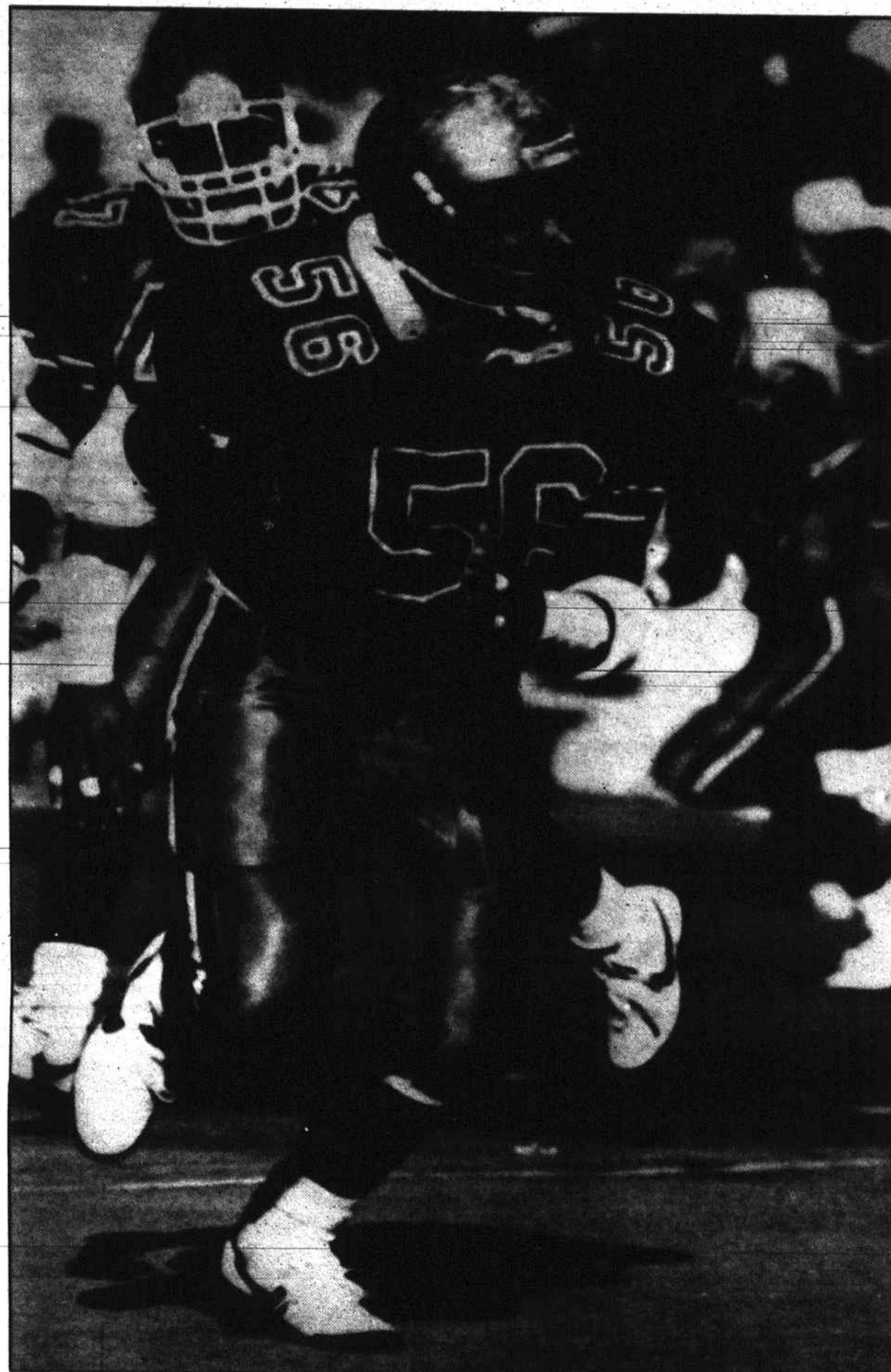


Photo courtesy of Norfolk State University
Norfolk State's Chris Booker, an outside linebacker, is one of the reasons why the Spartans are favored to win the division this year.

mans the other slot and prevents defenses from constantly doubling Barnes. Shaun Parker is also a very reliable target.

Because it will take some time for the offense to become a cohesive unit, the defense will be asked to do more than hold its own. And the good news is that they are more than capable of doing so. Last season, the Pirates were the league's No. 2 unit in rushing defense (yielding 115.3 ypg) and No. 3 in scoring defense (allowing 18.7 ppg).

Steve Brannon, Donald Holland and Norman Brown are seasoned performers on the defensive line. The linebacker positions are in good hands with Douglas Wynn and Gar-

reth Bonds (94 tackles, 5 sacks).

The Pirates secondary looks to be in excellent shape with Johann Fuller, Darien Parker, Craig Rainey, and Troy Fullwood returning. All four started last year.

Virginia State

Louis Anderson, the newly installed VSU gridmaster hopes to take the Trojans to a higher level than their .500 finish of a year ago.

Eight offensive starters return with giant tackle James Brown (6-8, 310) leading the charge. Brown was a prime reason why the Trojans amassed 327.3 total yards a game last season — third-best in the CIAA.

Brown and friends should make life comfortable for quarterback Gre-

gory Clark, who emerged as a top-notch leader as a sophomore. Clark finished the year as the conference's No. 2 passer — 1,805 yards, 11 TDs. David Patterson is a productive running back who has refined the art of finding the end zone. He scored 10 touchdowns in '90.

The defense could have a few problems since all of its linemen are gone. Tim Williams is being counted on to take up the slack at nose guard and Edward Lofties is an up and coming performer at defensive end. Andre Brickhouse is a crafty veteran at linebacker and Raymond Massenburg is a fixture at cornerback.

If the defense solidifies early, look for the Trojans to make some noise in the division race for the title.

Elizabeth City State

The Vikings will rely on defense and ball control to keep them in contention for the league crown.

Alvin Kelly takes over as head coach for Johnnie Walton who is now an assistant coach in the World League of American Football. Kelly, however, is no stranger. He's the guy who built Liz City's defense, a unit that was the league's No. 1 overall (256.5 ypg) and against the rush (111.1 ypg). The Vikes were also second in pass defense (allowing 145.4 ypg).

Just about everybody from last year's defense is back, which makes Kelly's job a bit easier. Everett McIver, a two-time, all-league pick, is the prime-time guy at defensive end. Lee Macon and Brian Scott are mainstays at linebacker and the secondary is solid with the return of cornerbacks Manuel Smith and Tracy Green.

On the other side of the ball, the picture gets a little fuzzy. The issue of who will be the starting quarterback hasn't been settled. Juan Langford and Tim Johnson will battle for the starting call during pre-season camp.

Look for Andre Nelson to become one of the league's top rushers after enjoying a satisfying rookie season. Phillip Sevier will also get his share of opportunities to tug the pigskin.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Winston-Salem State

The defending CIAA champs are ready to rumble and capture their fourth title in five years. And given the new format for determining a conference champ, it seems that the only thing that can stop the Rams is the Rams.

Coach Pete Richardson is an advocate of power football. And realistically, who can argue? Thanks to a

Please see Page 14