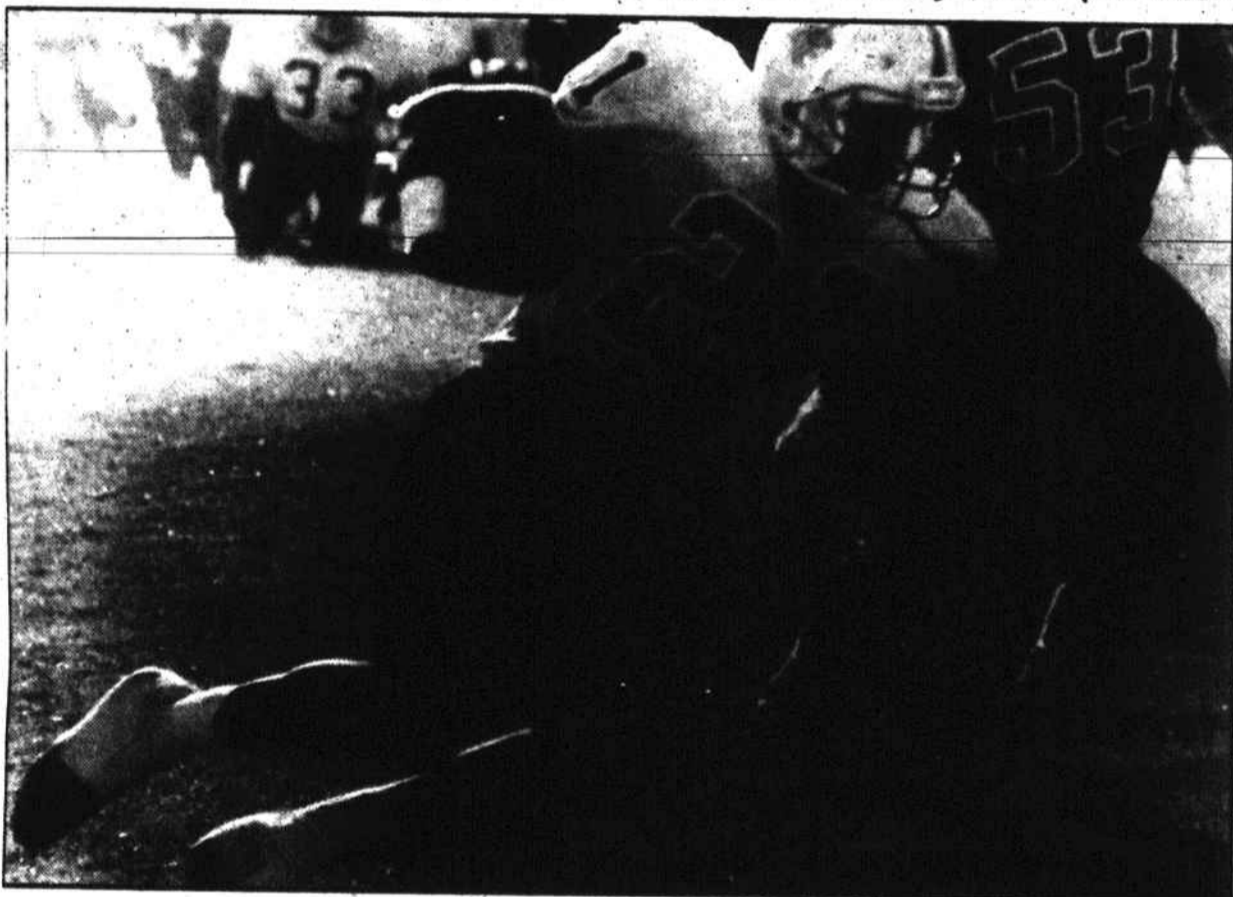


# CIAA Preview

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trio of earth moving offensive linemen (Jamie Rivers, Ely McKnight and Edwynn Bryant), Winston led the league in scoring (37.6 ppg), rushing (3,017 yards) and total offense (4,927 yards).

Look for more of the same because Pete's team is stocked with just about every style of running back you could ask for. Matter of fact, there's four of them and together, they rushed for almost 1,900 yards. Everette Norwood is the bruiser who drags tacklers and Ronald Beverly is a classic slasher. Want speed? Just



BCSR Staff Photo

Virginia Union's Kurt Greene puts pressure on defenses as a runner and pass receiver coming out of the backfield.

call on Willie Latta who can break a game open at anytime — coming out of the backfield or as a kick return specialist. The fourth back, Bobby Brown has his own distinct qualities as a slasher with quick feet who also has speed.

Mitch Nicholson is the quarterback who befuddles and bedazzles. Last year, Nicholson was No. 2 in the nation in passing efficiency. He threw for 1,651 yards and 22 TDs while giving up only five interceptions. And besides that, he scored eight times himself.

The receiving department could be the weak link in the offense now that Yancey Thigpen (900-plus yards) has gone to the pros. However, Jamie Dudley has the tools to step in and pick up where Thigpen left off.

The defense maintains its usual pound you down to the ground persona. Frederick Bowman, Winston's roving down lineman, terrorized enemy QBs last year, registering 13 sacks. Bowman's line mate, Alphonzo Bellamy will cause just as many problems for offensive linemen.

The Rams weren't as totally dom-

inant in defending against the run like they have been in recent years. But they still don't allow very many trips to their end zone. WSSU was second in the league in scoring defense, allowing 17.5 ppg.

Linebackers Petey Whitfield and Reggie Richardson are solid performers who collectively made 113 tackles last year.

The secondary is the best in the conference, giving up only 144.1 ypg and 10 TD passes. In the process, they recorded a league-high 22 interceptions. Anthony Jones (six inter-

ceptions) leads the Rams' air patrol. Jones peaked as a defender last November when he was named defensive MVP in the CIAA title game.

## North Carolina Central

Pre-season camp at Central will be a learning experience for the Eagles and new coach Bishop Harris.

Harris was hired late in the year and wasn't able to conduct spring practice. As a result, he won't know much of anything until he's had a few days to watch his team practice. For that reason, this will be a true year of transition for NCCU.

However, Harris does have some skilled people returning. QB Fulton Meachem fared well under pressure and responded by throwing for 1,658 yards and 13 TDs. Isiah Hill should be one of his primary targets, while Tony Harris and Preston Jones will be busy as the prime running backs.

Up front, Frank Wooten leads the way as one of the league's top-of-the-line trench types. Marcus Smith and Ronnie Johnson are also expected to contribute on the line.

Defensively, tackle Willie Holmes

(56 tackles, 9 sacks) returns as the Eagles' main roadblock. George Harden (53 tackles) will develop into a quality linebacker and Jarrod Chapman is a solid performer at defensive back.

## Fayetteville State

The rebuilding job continues at FSU and coach Ray McDougal has positive thoughts about the progress of his team.

The Broncos didn't exactly set the league on fire, but they did get three wins which is a lot when you consider that victories have been very hard to come by.

Offensively, FSU's major factor is do-it-all running back Ken Frazier who totaled 1,014 all-purpose yards as runner, receiver, and kick return specialist. Frazier will get some much needed help now that Guy Williams has established himself as the starting quarterback.

The only thing that's missing from the offense is a big, beefy line. McDougal is working on that, but he's not likely to have that piece of the puzzle solved this year.

Defensively, the Broncs must replace linebacker Terrance Smith, a two-time, league defensive MVP. Derrick Williams, Ulric Hill and Young Blue are solid LBs in their own right who will step in to fill that void.

Along the front line, FSU is searching for bigger people on the inside. Having bigger people would be a blessing for Foster Wilkins and Michael Broadhurst who delight to pressuring quarterbacks.

The secondary is lean since strong safety Michael Edwards is the only returnee. McDougal spent a considerable amount of time recruiting defensive backs who have speed. He's hoping that three or four of those rookies will emerge as major contributors.

## Livingstone College

The Bears made it known that they will no longer serve as everybody else's whipping post. And considering how far the program had dipped in recent seasons, LC's 3-6 record is ample reason for Bears followers to be optimistic about '91.

Second-year coach Delano Tucker has restored pride and poise at L'stone. And the good news is that this team is still young and has more room to develop.

Offensively, LC is led by a pair of sophomores — quarterback Darryl Ardley and running back Rob Clodfelter. Ardley made people sit up and take notice when he finished the year as the league's No. 5 passer — 1,406 yards, 17 TDs in nine games. Chip West and Martin Jones will be Ardley's prime targets.

Clodfelter provided the Bears with a ground game that demands respect. His 97.4 ypg average (682 yards) was tops in the CIAA last sea-

son.

Ardley and Clodfelter were able to do what they did because the Bears have a massive tackle who makes things happen when he takes his stance at the line of scrimmage. John Terry (6-6, 298) has the size, but his quick feet are what set him apart from other huge linemen.

The defense is expected to improve even though graduation all but decimated that unit. Chris Long is viewed as a star on the rise who will join seasoned vet Willie Smiley at linebacker.

The secondary is the most experienced part of the defense. Strong safety Fred Johnson and cornerback Cedric Burgess will team up to form a solid foundation on that side of the ball for the Bears.

If LC can avoid being crushed by injuries and some of their new people make an impact right away, look for the Bears to pull off a few more surprises this time around.

## Johnson C. Smith

Coach John Wright has given the Golden Bulls a facelift before the first kick-off of the season. The newly hired mentor's philosophy focuses on establishing the run to set up the pass. That's quite a turnaround for Smith, which had been noted for filling the air with footballs week in and week out.

With so much transition taking place, it's no secret that Wright has recruited rookies who he feels can step in and play right away. If the new kids on the block can deliver, JC will improve dramatically. But just how much is anyone's guess.

The top guy for the Smith offense is wide-out Ron Meadows, who ranked among league leaders in five categories a year ago. As a receiver, he had 43 catches for 502 yards. As kick-off return man, he gained 773 yards, ending up with an all-purpose sum of 1,278 yards. And while we're on the subject of returns, let's not overlook Greg Clifton (24.4 yards per kickoff return led the CIAA).

Wesley Tate returns as the starting quarterback. He'll team up with William Billups and running back Tyrone Corlew.

The defensive unit is led by linebacker Craig Jamison, the league's top hit man last year (145 tackles). But for all of Jamison's stats, he wasn't voted to the all-conference team. Jamison will get ample assistance from the secondary thanks to free safety Anthony Holloman (62 tackles) and cornerback Marlon Jones (78 hits).

It's going to be rough road for the Golden Bulls. But when you've been down as long as they have, you realize you have to start somewhere. It might as well be this year.

-Steve Zimmerman