

CIAA FOOTBALL

Winston zeroes in on consecutive titles

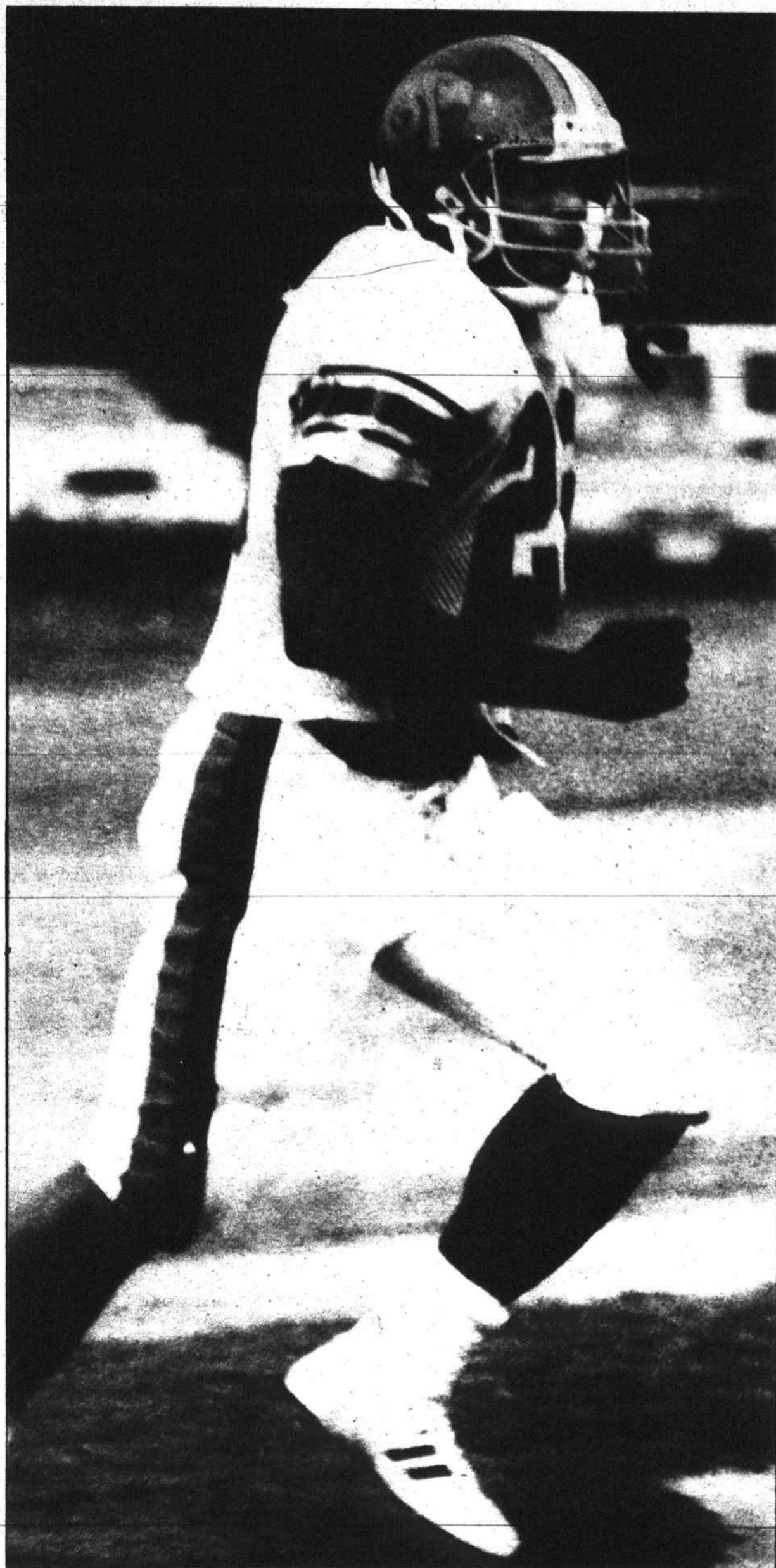


Photo by Max Dunhill

Winston-Salem State running back Everette Norwood had a night to remember when he scored seven touchdowns against North Carolina Central, setting a new conference record for most touchdowns and most points scored in one game.

It's almost over except for the shouting. Winston-Salem State was closing in on a second straight league championship as the month started. The only thing that could keep the Rams from taking the title outright was Hampton. But this hasn't been a vintage year for the Pirates, who had just one victory in eight games.

Here's a close-up look at the conference as the season winds down.

Winston-Salem State

Except for a last minute loss to playoff contender Wofford College (42-35), the Rams have dominated the opposition. They toppled Fayetteville (28-8) and Kentucky State (28-7), then went berserk in destroying North Carolina Central (68-22).

Against Central, the Rams offensive line, led by William McDonald, rolled and bowled over the Eagles for 10 touchdowns and 743 total yards.

Running back Everette Norwood was the prime beneficiary, rushing for 291 yards and seven touchdowns, setting a new CIAA single game record for most TDs and points.

The Wofford game proved to be everything it was hyped up to be. With about a minute left to play, the game was deadlocked at 35-all. Wofford pulled off the victory when quarterback Shawn Graves (the NCAA's top rushing QB of all time in any division), scored on a 36-yard run to ice the game.

Ronald Beverly came through with his best individual performance of the season. He finished the night with 76 yards (on just 10 carries) and three touchdowns, one of which was a 30-yard pass reception from QB Mitch Nicholson.

Virginia Union

The Panthers were riding high as the league's top scoring team. But they were temporarily shot down when they lost Homecoming to Elizabeth City State (24-23).

Other than that, it's been smooth sailing (41-19 over Bowie; 47-12 over Morgan State; and 39-11 over Norfolk State).

Union put themselves back in contention when they stymied Norfolk in the annual Gold Bowl.

Center Marcus Hodges and his trench buddies cleared the way for 448 total offensive yards. Tony John-

son, subbing for an injured Jerome Johnson, walked off as the Gold Bowl MVP. Johnson rambled for 199 yards and one touchdown.

Linebacker Marcellus Heflin spearheaded an inspired defensive effort. Heflin contributed six tackles, four quarterback sacks and one interception.

The Panthers defense has been much stingier than expected this season. They were second in total defense (247 ypg) and second in defending the rush, giving up just 96.8 ypg.

On offense the word is balance. Union tops the league in total offense (484.3 ypg). But what's impressive is that 55 percent of their yards come from throwing. The rest is generated on the ground. That's about as close to a true 50-50 mix as you'll see out of most teams.

Norfolk State

The Spartans drew a split in their four October games, defeating Bowie State (35-13) and Hampton University (26-12), but losing to North Carolina A&T (50-14) and Virginia Union (39-11).

NSU's air game continues to blossom with QB Kermit Buggs and Gary Morris doing much of the collaboration. Against A&T, Morris played with a broken wrist and still caught nine passes for 237 yards and one TD (a 79-yarder).

Buggs, meanwhile, was busy also, completing 17 of 28 passes for 300 yards and a pair of TDs. For the year, Buggs had thrown for 1,167 yards and 13 touchdowns.

The defense (third in the CIAA, allowing 286.4 total ypg) had its days in the sun last month. In the Bowie game, free safety Leroy Haynesworth had 11 tackles, two interceptions and three pass break-ups.

Morris Jones and Jesse Chavis took center stage against Hampton.

Jones, a tackle, contributed seven solo tackles, two sacks, and a blocked PAT kick. Cornerback Chavis picked off two passes, which made him the national leader in interceptions (9) at the time.

Elizabeth City State

The Vikings are very alive and in a grand state of health, putting on ample demonstrations in the process. Last month's victims were North Car-

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