

CIAA FOOTBALL

Winston-Salem repeats as champs

Winston-Salem State won the league championship just like the pre-season prognosticators said they would. The Rams went undefeated in CIAA play to settle the issue in their final game of the regular season.

After the Rams, the race for second place ended in a three-way tie with Virginia Union, Elizabeth City State and Norfolk State all occupying the runners-up position.

Here's how the regular season ended in the CIAA.

Winston-Salem State

The Rams captured their fourth league title in five years with victories over Hampton University (20-6) and Johnson C. Smith (40-32).

Winston's power ground game and better than average defense proved to be the decisive difference. Coach Pete Richardson's crew was the CIAA's second-best offensive unit (406.1 total ypg) and third in defending against the run (3.1 ypc).

Against Hampton, strong safety Terrence Graves came through with a solid effort after missing several games because of a hand injury. Graves delivered a prime-time performance with nine tackles, three sacks and one recovered fumble.

The Johnson C. Smith game was time for offensive tackle Kelly Goodman to shine. Goodman was the bulldozer up front which allowed the Rams to amass 523 total offensive yards.

Virginia Union

Union drew a split in its final two games, toppling Virginia State (34-0) then losing to NAIA champion Central State (27-26).

The Panthers wheeled and dealt against the Trojans. But it was wide receiver Rodney Hounshell who did a lot of damage. Hounshell caught five passes for 136 yards.

In the Central State game, the defense took center stage in defeat. Linebacker Kevin Williams, the CIAA's Freshman Of The Year, recorded 22 tackles and one quarterback sack. DB Paul DeBerry scored a touchdown when he picked off a Marauders pass and ran it back 68 yards.

Elizabeth City State

The Vikings were solid contenders for an at-large berth in the Division II playoffs. They slipped past Hampton University, 23-21, before being decked by Kentucky State, 21-18. Going into that game, Liz City was ranked No. 14 in the national polls. That loss knocked them out of any playoff consideration.

Defense was the Vikings' primary

weapon during the '91 season. They dominated on that side of the football, holding opponents to 215.1 total ypg.

Everette McIver, a 6-6, 310 pounds defensive end was the mainstay for the Vikes defense. McIver was so dominant that he was chosen CIAA Defensive Player Of The Year. He was the only con-

NSU missed out on a possible tie for the CIAA crown when they lost to Virginia Union (39-11) in late October. Other than the Union game, the Spartans were unbeaten in conference play.

Defensively, the secondary played big all year with lots of help from safetyman Leroy Haynesworth and cornerback

But the Bears made their point this year in spite of being undermanned in terms of roster size. LC wound up with anywhere from 40 to 47 players on their active roster which proved to be problematic in competing against the CIAA's powerhouses.

Nevertheless, coach Delano Tucker's guys managed to reach the break-even point in conference play and overall (3-3 and 5-5 respectively).

The major news for LC this season was the play of running back Rob Clodfelter, who wasn't the most bullish of RBs size-wise at 5-10, 170 pounds.

Clodfelter finished up the season by setting a new CIAA single season rushing record with 1,379 yards. Clodfelter reached that total with 94 yards and two TDs vs. Fayetteville State in the season finale.

Clodfelter erased the old mark of 1,377 yards set by Winston-Salem State's Timmy Newsome in '78. After leaving WSSU, Newsome went on to enjoy a productive NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys.

For the season, Clodfelter also tied a single season conference record for rushing touchdowns with 14. He now shares that record with Hampton University's Carl Painter (class of '87) and Winston-Salem State's Broderick Graves (class of '88).

North Carolina Central

By most accounts, the Eagles didn't do too badly even though they weren't supposed to do much of anything this year. Central went 3-3 in league play and 4-6 overall. At the start of the year, such a finish was considered a long shot at best.

But the Eagles made some good things happen by winning their last two games on the '91 schedule (28-16 over Johnson C. Smith and 22-14 over Livingstone College).

Against Smith, Frank Wooten spearheaded the offensive line which paved the way for 311 total offensive yards. In the Livingstone game, DB John Greenway had 13 tackles and one QB sack.

Central also had some credible performances turned in by a trio in their 44-28 loss to Hampton University. Wide-out Anthony Harris caught seven balls for 116 yards and one touchdown; and running back Joe Simmons rushed for 110 yards and two scores. Defensively, John Royster recorded 11 tackles and a couple of sacks.

Johnson C. Smith

The Golden Bulls didn't have a memorable season, but there were more than a few signs that things are looking up in spite of losses to North Carolina Central,



Photo by T-Lee

Liz City's Everette McIver was the dominant defender on the CIAA's most unyielding defense.

sensus pick for the first team as chosen by the league's football coaches association.

Norfolk State

For the first time in a long time, the Spartans changed their offensive philosophy, emphasizing the pass over the run. They got better than decent results thanks to quarterback Kermit Buggs (1,213 yards, 13 TDs) and wide-out Gary Morris (37 catches, 849 yards, 10 TDs).

Jesse Chavis. Haynesworth ranked high among CIAA leaders in tackles (80) and interceptions (six). Chavis proved to be among the slickest of pass thieves, finishing the year with nine, second-best in the league.

Livingstone College

The Bears split two of their final games, beating Fayetteville State (34-9) and losing to North Carolina Central (22-14).

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