

## Sports

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## BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL ..... EARLY BIRD OUTLOOK

## Coach Pete has a challenge on his hands

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
Chronicle Sports Editor

It's not even summer yet. However, the start of pre-season camp for the '92 football campaign isn't that far away for Winston-Salem State.

For several valid reasons, the upcoming season could be Pete Richardson's most challenging as a head coach. For starters, the defend-

backfield isn't as clear. Everette Norwood, Bobby Brown, Willie Latta and Ronald Beverly were by far the best set of backs in the conference

last year.

Going into August, it appears that Greg Smith and Anthony Dash will get first crack at picking up

where Norwood, Brown, Latta and Beverly left off. Richard Huntley, a 6-2, 220 pounder with 4.5 speed in the 40 will be on hand, after sitting

out his first year as a Prop 48 case.

"We were very pleased with how things went for us in our spring workouts," said Richardson. "We had a lot of new people to look at, especially on offense. The biggest thing is that our quarterbacks and running backs got the chance to learn our [Wing-T] system. In our offense, it takes time for new people to pick things up because the backs have a lot of reads to make."

In any offense, the prime focus is on the skilled positions. But those skilled folk don't come close to reaching maximum productivity if the line doesn't do its job.

Winston will be on solid footing because the nucleus of the front line returns. Center Jamie Rivers (6-2, 255), tackle Kelly Goodman (6-4, 255) and tight end Chris Swinson (6-6, 215) were vital cogs in the Rams offense that churned out over 400 total yards a game last season. Sophomore Travis Wall (6-3, 265) also saw his share of minutes last year and will man the other tackle spot opposite of Goodman.

The guard spots aren't nailed down at this point, but Richardson feels he has enough quality returnees to help his front liners perform up to their usual efficiency. "It's a matter of (the offensive line) gaining consistency and maturing to a point where they play at the level we've always played at as a unit."

Richardson is confident that the Rams passing game will be more productive than it was in '91. Fact is, Winston may have won more games if the passing attack could've pro-

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Pete Richardson is preparing for the toughest schedule that Rams have had during his four-year tenure as the Winston-Salem State's head coach.

Photo by Max Dunhill

## WINSTON SALEM STATE

ing CIAA champions need replacements for four highly productive running backs who finished their college careers last November.

Defensively, there's a huge void because the starting front line is gone. But other than those two areas, the Rams should be in decent shape.

Here's a look at how the Rams, who finished at 9-2 a year ago, stack up for the '92 season.

## Offense

It would seem that quarterback would be major concern because two-year starter Mitch Nicholson is gone. Richardson doesn't feel he'll have major worries because Rovelle McMillan has gained valuable experience as a part-time starter and backup over the past two seasons. Eric Davidson is the Rams No. 2 QB.

The situation for the rest of the

## Hayes feels that Aggies will be solid in '92

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE  
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Coach Bill Hayes isn't outwardly promising that any championship banners will fly in Greensboro next November, but he's quick to say that North Carolina A&T will be a solid group for the '92 football season.

The Aggies, who shared last year's MEAC title with Delaware State and appeared in the Alamo

## NORTH CAROLINA A&amp;T

Heritage Bowl, will be without several sterling performers from that team. However, the cast for the upcoming season is anything but lacking.

The prime question to be answered on offense is who will take over at quarterback for two-time MEAC offensive MVP Connell Maynor? Defensively, the Aggies are minus three starters on the line, all of whom, are expected to be picked in the NFL Draft which begins on Sunday.

"We won't be a great team," said Hayes, who guided A&T to a 9-3 record last year. "But we'll be good and solid, with balance at every position."

At the end of spring practice, the quarterback situation had not been settled. For now, three QBs

have equal shots at landing the starting job in September. David Russell, a Winston-Salem junior who played at North Forsyth High School, has the tools required to play in Hayes' Wing-T scheme.

At 6-3, 215 pounds, he's the best of the three at running the option, and is considered a better than average passer. Maceo Bolin and Adrian Starks are at their best as drop-back passers.

"It's up in the air as to who will be our quarterback," Hayes said. "All three played well during the spring, but neither came out as the clear winner. If that stays the same, we may have to go with two quarterbacks during the season. We'll adapt our offense to the strength of whoever becomes the starter."

The remaining offensive slots have more than enough quality candidates who will compete for starting assignments. The offensive line is bulky, experienced and deep. Two-year veteran center Richard Lide anchors a front wall that easily goes two-deep at each position.

James Lancaster will most likely take over for Craig Thompson at tight end. Adrian Pearson should also play a major role when the Aggies go to a double tight end set.

At running back, A&T is shamefully talented with five guys who played admirably last year. Barry Turner (1,166 total yards) is acknowledged as the best of the group.

But James White (7.3 rushing yards per carry), Mike Artis, Fred Ingram and Rudy Brown have proven that they can deliver when

their number is called. Sophomore speed guy Brian Rodman (4.3 in the 40) is expected to make a serious push for minutes in the backfield.

The wide-out position wasn't considered to be a major asset for the

Aggies last fall. But Hayes feels that the receiving corps will come along. Chris Williams returns after missing all but one game last season due to injury. Rudy Artis and Larry Latta are also very capable pass receivers.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Aggies need to replace Kevin Little, Reggie White and Knox Thompson — a trio that combined for over 200 tackles and enough

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Bill Hayes is looking to guide North Carolina A&T to its third straight winning season.

Photo by T-Lee