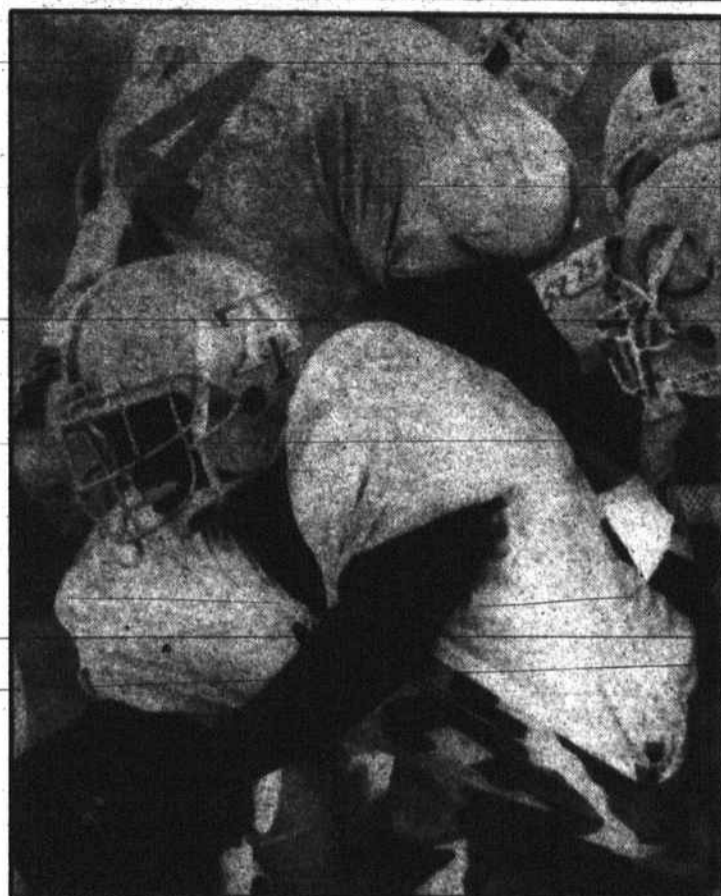
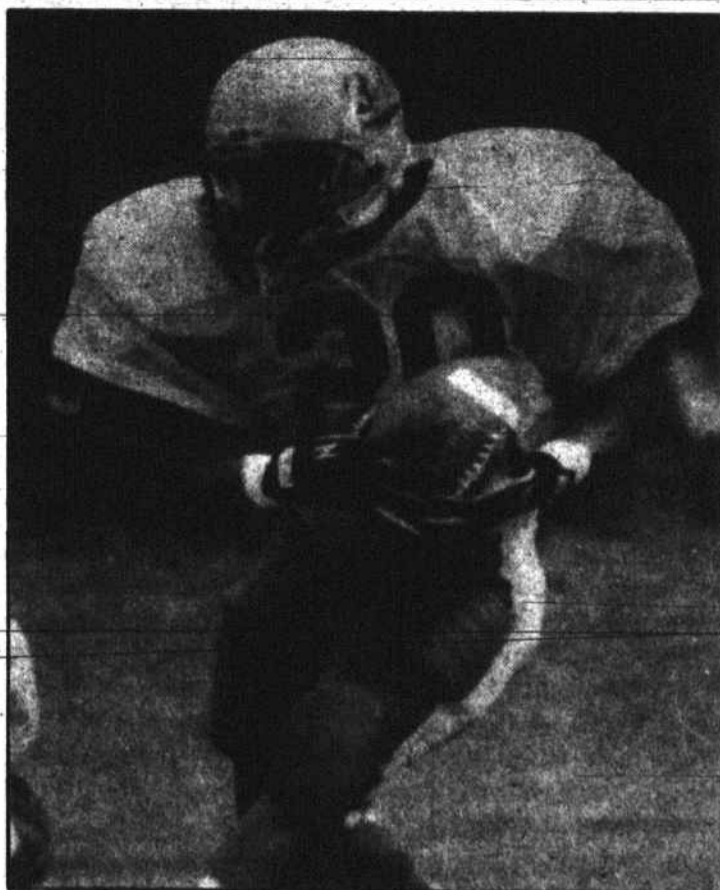


MEAC WRAPUP



North Carolina A&T running back James White, 32, and Tackle Ronald Edwards, 74.



Johnson C. Smith running back Lorenzo Butler.

(photos by Wade Nash)



JCSU's Duane Johnson tries to run out of the grasp of Morehouse defensive back Walter Prather.

MEAC TEAM KEY

twice, while Thomas had 12 catches for 227 yards and two TDs. The running load will fall on Phil Anderson and Dana McLean. Anderson rushed 131 times for 744 yards and 10 TDs and added 15 catches for 276 yards. A strong line returns, anchored by center Thane Watkins, guard Stan Burris, and tight end Neon Chapman, who grabbed seven passes for 149 yards and a score. The defense will thrive on the exploits of All-MEAC back Brian Randall, youthful linebacker Lloyd Badson, and lineman Uhuru Hamiter. Randall tied for the MEAC lead in interceptions with six and added 81 tackles. Badson had a team-high 8.4 tackles per game, and Hamiter chipped in 47 tackles and four sacks. The MEAC's top punter, Chuck Poplos (55-39.4), also returns.

FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY **R**ATTLERS (7-5, 4-2) earned a post-season spot in Heritage Bowl II after placing second in the MEAC, but heavy losses could make it a tough repeat effort. However, the talent is apparent despite the inexperience. Returning MEAC Player of the Year wide receiver Terry Mickens, who caught 52 passes for 900 yards and six touchdowns, is back to spark the offense. The quarterback job is open, but Tracy Weldon, who threw for 1,423 yards and nine TDs on 94-227-14 passing, returns along with Keith Brown (40-75-4, 497 yards, 5 TDs). Earl Reeves, off a 398-yard rushing season and three TDs, leads the runningback hopefuls; and the line seems to be in tact led by Julio Sanchez and Ivory Dillard. The Rattler defense might be the success gage with the return of several potential all-stars. They include Bruce Daniels, who led the MEAC

in tackles per game with 10.5 from his linebacker slot, end Ervin Collier (7.0 pg), now Marc Lampkin (5.2 pg), and deep backs Ken Riley and Keino Taylor.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY **B**ISON (7-4, 3-3) quietly fashioned a fine 1992 season but should make more noise with the return of 58 lettermen that includes eight starters on either side of the ball. Spearheading the offense will be quarterback Jay "Sky" Walker, wide receiver/kick returner Gary Harrell, runningback Rhadi Ferguson and fullback Rupert Grant. Walker led the MEAC in passing yards with 2,347, touchdown tosses with 18 and total offense with 224 yards per contest. Harrell, one of the MEAC's most feared ball-handlers, caught 50 passes for 740 yards and six TDs, averaged 10.3 yards per punt return, and 20.2 yards on six kickoffs. Ferguson rushed for 359 yards and six scores, while Grant had 347 yards and four TDs. On defense, the leaders are nose Aaron Kinchen, linebackers Jose White and Dave Carrington and secondary gems Neal Downing and Lajeremy Adamson. Kinchen had 69 tackles and four sacks, White (70 and six sacks), Carrington (49 and two), Downing (90 and three interceptions) and Adamson (59 and four interceptions). A sour note is within the kicking game.

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY **B**EARS (2-9, 0-6) were a much better football team than the record and will return the MEAC's most explosive offense along with a fine defensive nucleus. Morgan set a league record in team passing yards with 2,982 a year ago and led in total offense, averaging 407.6 yards per outing. Lead

quarterback Orlando Persell was largely responsible with 1,992 yards and 12 touchdowns on 136-248-16 passing. All-MEAC wide receiver Jesse Humphrey led the league in receiving with 56 catches for 1,005 yards and seven TDs. Another All-MEAC performer returns in versatile runningback Tony Phillips, who rushed for 73.6 yards per game, caught 20 passes for 208 yards, and averaged 18.5 yards on kickoffs to lead the MEAC in all-purpose running. The offensive line lost only one starter and should be a plus. Defensively, All-MEAC tackle Matt Steeple returns along with linebacker Delwyn Garnett and deep backs Eric Johnson and Kelvin Bryson. Steeple reported 44 unassisted tackles, 40 assists and had five sacks. Johnson added 77 stops and an interception. The kicking game will involve new faces.

NORTH CAROLINA A&T **S**TATE UNIVERSITY **A**GGIES (9-3, 5-1) are defending MEAC champions and gained an entry to the NCAA Division I-AA championship series last November. The return of a stable of capable runningbacks and a strong offensive line should continue the punishing ground attack which probably will cancel out the fact that there is no designated starter at quarterback. Maceo Bolin and David Russell are likely candidates for the position, but NCA&T alternated three QBs last season. Bolin threw for 609 yards and three touchdowns, while Russell passed for 455 and five TDs. James White rushed for 605 yards and three TDs to lead the Aggies, and Barry Turner turned in 468 and five. Center Richard Lide will anchor a splendid wall along with Tyrone

Brown and Ronald Edwards. Rudy Artis is the featured receiving threat and doubles as a kick returner. The defense will be guided by linebacker Leevary Covington, who ranked eighth in MEAC tackles with 8.3 per game. He will be aided by linemen Toran James and Cassius Adams and deep men Curtis Burgins and John Dixon. Burgins had two interceptions, and Dixon averaged five tackles. The kicking game appears to be in good shape with All-MEAC placekicker Carl Warren poised to handle punting as well.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY **B**ULLDOGS (7-4, 4-2), who tied for second in the MEAC, are coming off a season that pushed the defense into the national spotlight and a significant portion of that unit returns. SC State led I-AA in total defense, was second in pass defense, 10th in scoring defense, and 11th in rushing defense. Top performers are lineman Anthony Cook, linebackers Craig James and Patrick Scott, and deep men James Hester, Macey Stephens and Rich Dickerson, who is also the punter. Cook led the team in both tackles per game with 7.6 and sacks (six). Hester had 74 tackles and three interceptions, and Stephens added three thefts. Quarterback Marvin Marshall, wide receiver-kick returner Quincy Miller, and runningback Frankie Sanders. Marshall passed for 584 yards and nine touchdowns and rushed for 675 yards and nine more scores. Miller caught 10 passes for 161 yards and three TDs and led the MEAC in punt returns with an 18.3-yard average. Sanders rushed for 463 yards and four TDs.

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