

Sports Beat



Morgan State, Delaware State Open MEAC Football Campaign

Morgan State, the team picked by the coaches in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference to win the 1974 MEAC football title, and Delaware State College will be the only two MEAC teams in action Saturday as the '74 gridiron season gets underway.

The Bears of Morgan State will play Jackson State College in Philadelphia OIC Football Classic in Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium at 2 p.m. while Delaware State will be at home against Elizabeth City of the CIAA in another two o'clock encounter.

The five other MEAC institutions will open their schedules a week later. One reason Morgan State got the nod as the number one team in the conference this fall is because the Bears return 17 starters from the 1973 team which compiled a 6-3 slate.

Coach Nat Taylor, who takes over as head coach at Morgan succeeding Earl Banks, has seven starters back on offense and 10 on defense. "Defense will be our strong suit," states Taylor who has been an assistant coach at Morgan for nine years.

"Defense wins ball games," **Commissioners**

Change Public

Hearing Date

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners has postponed a public hearing on zoning petitions from 2 p.m., Monday, September 9, to 2 p.m., Monday, September 23. The hearing will be on the fourth floor of the County Office Building.

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DAVID BROWN
...A&T's Tackle

continued Taylor "provided you have a little offense to go along with it. We have a strong first unit but we need to develop some reserve strength."

The only player missing from the defensive unit of a year ago is defensive end Cliff Greenfield. Eugene Simms, voted the top defensive player in the conference last year, spearheads the defensive unit from his linebacking position. The 6-1 senior from Washington, D. C. made the small college All-American squad last year and has been picked on several pre-season A-A teams.

The defensive secondary composed of All- MEAC cornerbacks Donnie Tyus and Tim Baylor and safety Broughton Reid has experience.

A&T has 34 lettermen returning to the squad this season. The Aggies finished the season with a disappointing 4-6-1 record last campaign.

Coach Hornsby Howell has nine starters back on defense but back up strength is a problem with defensive unit. The secondary has experience.

Defensive end Ronald Tuck led as the list of defensive starters returning. He will be joined by Willie Jones, Dwight Nettles, Antonio Wilson and safetymen John Hampton and Morrie McKee.

Senior Paul McKibbons will

direct the Aggie offense from the quarterback position. He proved last season to be an adequate passer as well as a good runner. The backfield should be up to par with All- MEAC Artis Stanfield, Al Holland and George Ragsdale.

Along with offensive frontwall will be David Brown, John Hairston and Frank Johnson. Osure Wray Stokes has the speed and pass catching ability to be one of the top receivers in the conference. Stanfield is also a threat in the pass catching department having caught 17 passes for 336 yards last year.

Freshmen running backs Herb McKinney and McKinney and Melvin Cathey and newcomer Rachon Fuller, a defensive standout from Greensboro figure highly in the A&T plans this fall.

North Carolina Central has been picked to finish fifth in the standings this year but second year coach Willie Smith is keeping quiet. Last year the Eagles were picked to finish fourth in the preseason poll but came on to win their second straight MEAC football title.

The Eagles lost 10 starters of their 7-4 championship team of a year ago. The big weakness for NCCU are in the backfield and the offensive line.

Fullback James Smith returns at his fullback position to give the Eagles a strong runner from that position. Smith gained 672 yards last year to lead the Eagles' running game.

South Carolina State returns twenty monogram winners from the 1973 team which went 7-3-1 enroute to a berth in the Orange Blossom Classic. The

Bulldogs have been picked by the coaches in the MEAC to finish second this year.

Defense will again rank as the strong point for Coach Willie Jeffries' eleven. S. C. State allowed opponents only 113 points last season. Seven starters return on defense including three of the secondary men which allowed only three touchdowns through the air last fall.

Defensive starters returning include linebackers Razzie Smith, William Thompson, and Johnny Mason, cornerback Leonard Duncan and Anthony Evans and linemen Harry Carson, Ronnie Cureton and Anthony Evans.

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