



BY BILL JOHNSON

**MEAC Football Outlook-1978**

**South Carolina State Rated As "Team To Beat" In MEAC Race**

Special to the Post  
Durham -- The return of nine offensive starters and six on defense make defending champion, South Carolina State the team to beat for 1978 in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC).

Coach Willie Jeffries' Bulldogs have been outright winners two times and shared the title twice during the past four campaigns. Thirty-five returning lettermen make the Bulldogs deep at every position. Quarterback Nate Rivers and running-back Charles Burgess are the two who make the Bulldogs growl most fiercely. The swift Rivers rushed for 863 yards from his quarterback slot last year and scored 15 touchdowns, making him the leading return scorer in division I-AA. Burgess, the team leading rusher in 75 and 76, managed 481, although hampered by injury much of the year. The 9.3 sprinter is one of the nation's fastest.

The offensive line will need only one replacement, at tackle. Bulldog runners should have gaping holes once again. The offense averaged 38.4 points and more than 400 yards on the ground while compiling a 9-1-1 record, including a 10-7 Gold Bowl victory over previously undefeated Winston-Salem State.

Jeffries is not expected to have too hard a problem finding five defensive replacements. Three of the five, however, were all-conference performers and two All-America. Competition for the openings will be keen.

Fast finishing North Carolina A&T, many observers feel, will be the team that gives South Carolina State the strongest challenge, and could be even stronger than the Bulldogs.

After losing their first three games, two by horrendous margins, first year coach Jim McKinley rallied his Aggies to seven wins in their last eight starts for final 7-4 overall and 5-1 MEAC marks. The only loss during that time was a last minute 21-20 defeat at the hands of Mid-American Conference power Eastern Michigan, a team that went 9-2 last year.

McKinley lost only six players from his 1977 roster and returns 10 defensive starters, seven offensive starters, the nucleus of a potent offense, second only to South Carolina State among MEAC teams.

About the only headache McKinley will have is finding a replacement for three time All-NEAC quarterback Ellsworth Turner, and fullback Ron Scott, who is having a good preseason with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Vying for the starting quarterback nod are three sophomores, William Watson, Fred Freeman and Andre Olden.

McKinley is blessed with a stable of able runners, and a corp of fine receivers. But the backbone of the team is expected to be its defense.

The line, massive, speedy, and experienced, features 6-5, 245-pound All-America candidate Dwaine "Pee Wee" Board, 6-7, 262-pound All-NEAC Lucien Nibbs, both seniors, and 6-7, 255-pound sophomore Ulysses Thompson.

A&T rated as one of the NCAA's top teams in pass interceptions a year ago with 28. Defensive backs Tom Warren, Gerald Johnson, and Tony Currie, who picked-off 19 of those returns, giving the Aggies one of the top secondaries in the nation.

From the depth of a 3-7-1 season in 1976 to 7-4 respectability last year, Delaware State will be seeking to move up another notch this season and seriously challenge for the conference crown.

The Hornet's rapid rise earned coach Ed Wyche MEAC "Coach of the Year" honors and an Orange Blossom Classic bowl berth opposite unbeaten Florida A&M.

Whether or not the young Hornets are equal to the task of overtaking the powers of long standing will depend a great deal on how well the offense can operate.

Neither of the aspirants for quarterback, seniors Andre Brown and Phil Jackson and junior Mike Evans, saw much action last year. If one can do the job, the Hornets can roll.

They have solid running threats in 5-11, 185-pound sophomore Anthony "Mr. Outside" Beamon, and two juniors 5-9, 180-pound Ron Shaw, and 5-8, 180-pound Larry Rudd.

Delaware State was one of the NCAA's defensive statistical leaders in 1977. The Secondary which yielded only

64.3 yards per game via the pass, returns Ronald Wright and Thomas Douglas.

The defensive line will be anchored by huge Connie "Mr. Determined" Hilliard, a 6-4, 275-pound junior and Don Robinson, also a junior at 6-2, 215-pounds. In all Wyche has 36 lettermen from last year.

Morgan State and Howard tell to the middle echelon of the MEAC last year after years of being near the top or in a challenging position.

Morgan suffered through a disappointing 4-6-1 ledger, after being co-champions in 1976, and was 3-3 in the conference.



Willie Jeffries - Bulldogs coach

The Bears will be seeking a return to loftier heights under a new coach, former Bear Interior lineman, Clarence Thomas. Thomas, one of three new coaches in the conference this year, came back to his alma mater from Williams College in Massachusetts.

He has installed a veer offense with a split backfield in hopes of keeping the game under control on the ground.

Morgan lost some valuable people in key positions from last year, and this could be a rebuilding year. However, Thomas termed his recruiting

year "excellent, and has a good group of return lettermen to look at.

The offensive line, led by All-NEAC guard Marvin Hicks, returns four starters. All three top receivers returned, led by flanker Nathan Mumford (26 catches, 533 yards), an All-NEAC selection.

The quarterback and running back positions are wide open, however, and must be termed questionable. Senior Donald Beasley and sophomore Billy Burgess are expected to fight it out for the starting quarterback nod.

with Maxzell Morgan and Mike Mayer the likely runner-up.

The bears have outstanding speed on defense, with the top men being 6-6, 245-pound tackle Elvis Franks, linebacker Maurice Brooks, and cornerback and All-American candidate, Joe Fowlkes. Fowlkes has a career total of 13 interceptions, after grabbing five last year, and will become Morgan's career recordholder should he pick off four more.

Howard's Bison returns 16 of 22 starters from last season's 5-5 squad, which finished 2-4 in the MEAC.

**TELLING IT LIKE IT REALLY IS!...**  
It's much better to sit tight...than attempt to drive in that condition!

Asides to the Imperial Wizard of the National Knight of the Ku Klux Klans. Thanks very much for the invitation. However, I herewith informing you that I'll not attend your annual Klan Rally, Public Speaking and Cross Lighting in Atlanta, Ga. Saturday because it simply is not a social event that interests me and mine.

A recent conversation with young Joe Foust, able sports information director at North Carolina A&T revealed that three white reporters have recently been employed by CIAA schools. Winston-Salem State is the latest predominantly black school to hire a white SID, following Hampton and Norfolk State.

We, Joe and I, wondered where are the black journalists? Are our colleges and universities bypassing the young blacks in journalism who possibly could do as well in the art of selling our athletic teams?

More than 30,000 football-mad fans will pour into Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem Saturday night to watch bitter rivals Winston-Salem State and North Carolina A&T battle in the season's first football contest.

Three local athletes will play prominent roles in the outcome of the A&T-Winston-Salem clash. Randy Bolton is the top ball carrier for the Rams and wide receiver Frank Carr and defensive back Eric Westbrook are fixtures in the A&T starting lineup.

There's a new sports columnist among us. He's Walter Brown Jr., one-time basketball coach at Livingstone College, who is now pounding the typewriter for the Carolinian out of Raleigh.

An encouraging note is found in the fact that quarterback John Walton has completed 54.7 percent of his passes in leading the Philadelphia Eagles to three victories in four starts in the NFL pre-season games. The former Elizabeth City State great is currently playing behind Ron Jaworski, the Eagles' No. 1 signal caller.

Had you thought of the possibilities of three blacks opening the new NFL campaign Sunday at the vital quarterback post? Walton is being considered for the assignment in Philadelphia.

James Harris is an almost sure bet to start for San Diego and Doug Williams is a long-shot at Tampa Bay.

Although there's been no official words from the campus, the rumor is that Johnson C. Smith will stage its annual Blue and Gold Football Game Saturday afternoon on the campus.

Philadelphia is challenging Dallas for the honors fielding the "most eye-catching" cheerleaders in the NFL this fall. From where I sit, Jayne Kennedy is going to make the long professional football season a lot more enjoyable. She has it all...gorgeous, beautiful and winsome. Here's three cheers to CBS Sports for making a wise choice...Wonder if she can read?

Lee Elder plans to spend the \$60,000 check he received for winning the Westchester Classic renovating and upgrading the old Langston Golf Course in Washington, D.C.

Jim Black reports Charlie Sifford and Jim Dent have signed to appear in the first Crystal Springs Pro-Am Golf tourney here in early October.

It's that time of the year when the ole crystal ball is pulled from among the moth balls for another season of guessing the outcome of area football games. With only six games on the schedule this week, the picking is kinda slim.

Look for Elizabeth City to maul Shaw. Kentucky State will edge Fayetteville State and Norfolk State will find easy goings against St. Paul's. Morgan will beat UMES and S.C. State will face tough goings against Virginia State.

**ACCOLADES OF THE WEEK-To Big John Harris for shooting the lights out at Cedarwoods Sunday morning...To Big Walt Sullivan for being named to the 1978 MEAC Pre-Season All-Conference Football Team.**

Incidentally, there are seven Aggies and five Bulldogs on the MEAC among the selectees on the MEAC Pre-Season team.

All now says he'll KP Spinks in the fourth round when they meet for the prestigious World Heavyweight title in New Orleans on September 15.

Never one to economize with words, the greatest boxer ever to enter the ring is telling everyone who'll listen..."You can't stay home, you be in the dome, and see me send Spinks to Rome!

It's time for local supporters of golf to get behind Jim Black in his efforts to promote the game to Charlotte area youths. In my opinion golf in Charlotte is very healthy but it is neglecting to look to the future.

Once the deal with the Golden State Warriors is finalized look for Bill Walton to sit out the 1978-79 NBA campaign so his injured foot can heal properly.

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