INSTANT REPLAYS *CONTINUED*

laudable attempt to showcase the league's football highlights each week and profile its players and coaches, has gone the way of the dinosaur.

I got the notion that the show might not return when co-host Sallie Hayes popped up on a video music channel last summer as a veejay.

A subsequent call to producer Stuart Davis revealed that he had to swim ashore in a sea of red ink because of the venture and found solace in a profitable community cable channel he now handles for Reidsville, N.C.

Though the "MEAC Review" had reams of potential, Davis said in a phone interview, advertisers were few and far between.

MEAC Commissioner Ken Free agreed, noting that the show had been a big plus for the league.

"We think it's a great loss," Free said. "But we didn't produce the type sponsors we needed ...."

Free also said the show's airtime on Sunday nights, which sometimes shifted, was another problem, but he said Davis' firm, Mid-Atlantic Communications, did a "super job."

Free said he likes the concept of the show and that it may be resurrected in the future.

"I would love to go back to that," he said of the show. "I'm hoping we can do it again."

Meanwhile, Free is excited at the prospect of 13 MEAC basketball games being televised live by the All College Sports Group, based in Durham, N.C.

The first telecast will air Jan. 12.

Perhaps now, Free said, black colleges won't be "the best-kept secret in the world."

Instinct

Speaking of the MEAC and television coverage, the league reaped more exposure during the third weekend of September than it may receive for the rest of the year.

Connecticut was pasting poor Morgan State 35-7 when, in the fourth quarter, Morgan Assistant Coach Darrell Coulter, a former Bear quarterback, could stand no more.

As Connecticut running back Greg Morrison broke down the sideline for what might have been his team's 41st point, Coulter hurtled across the sideline and threw a perfect body block.

The officials ruled that the touchdown would be allowed. But the biggest news is that the nation's media jumped on the story with as much surprising eagerness as Coulter had made the tackle.

ESPN showed clips of the tackle time and again on its "Sportscenter" broadcasts and "The NFL Today" covered the feat in both its pregame and halftime shows.

Meanwhile, Coulter, who faced the prospect of disciplinary action at press time, offered a simple enough explanation for his actions.

It was instinct, he said.

Devils Stay Hot

Hold the presses! Mississippi Valley did it again, romping over SWAC favorite Southern University 63-45 Sept. 29.

Wide receiver Jerry Rice *threw* for three touchdowns and caught 17 passes for two more touchdowns while quarterback Willie Totten completed 46 of 66 passes for 563 yards and five touchdowns.

Rice and Totten ought to be in the running for the Heisman. But you know how that goes.

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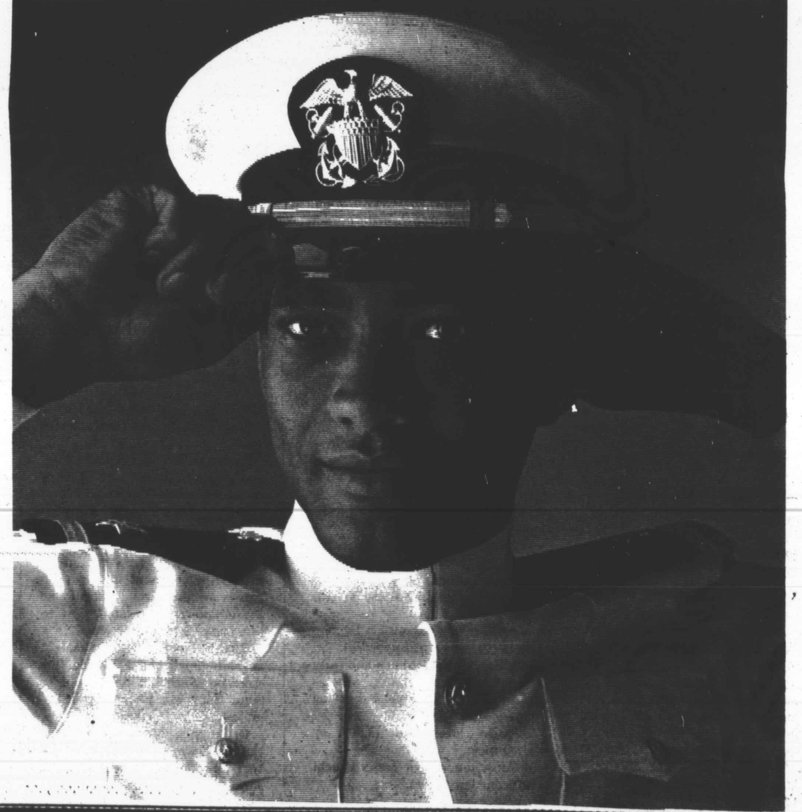

INTERVIEW

A Tale Of Two Coaches

Photo by James Terry

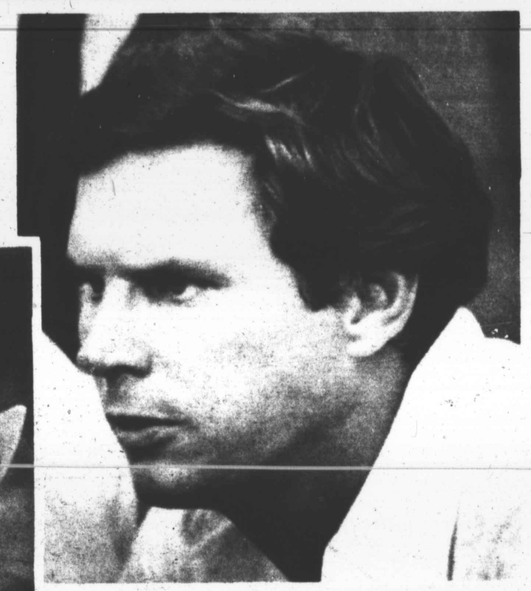

Photo by Joe Daniels

While the MEAC's Joe Purzycki, above, quietly builds a power at Delaware State with defense and a solid running game, the SWAC's Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley, left, throttles opponents with a frighteningly potent passing attack -- and his mouth.

Cooley

Flamboyant, Frank And Successful

By LONZA HARDY JR.
Review Staff Writer

When Mississippi Valley State hired a new football coach in 1980, the tiny school off Highway 52 in Itta Bena got all it was asking for -- and more.

Selected to head the floundering Delta Devil program was a man with a personality you don't forget. He spoke his mind and made big promises. And he delivered.

His name was Archie Cooley.

A 45-year-old native of Laurel, Miss., Cooley today has earned respect which neither he, nor most of his predecessors, could earn before. He has endured the criticism and the pressures to join the ranks of the Southwestern Athletic Conference's coaching elite, though not at all quietly.

"When I came to Mississippi Valley in 1980, I warned everyone that they'd have to make room at the top for Valley," recalled Cooley, "but everyone laughed and said, 'What do you think you are -- a miracle man? Bear Bryant couldn't win at Valley.'

"I told them I wasn't Bear Bryant,"

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Purzycki

Patiently Building A Power

By SAM DAVIS
Review Staff Writer

My, how the times have changed.

After years of fielding mediocre and downright awful teams -- including one that dropped a game by the unlikely score of 105-0 -- Delaware State's Hornets have finally added some sting to their arsenal, much to South Carolina State's dismay.

The Hornets are off to their best start ever and, strange as it may seem to those used to watching S.C. State waltz to MEAC titles year in and year out, are the favorites to win the league championship in '84.

Last season, the Hornets served notice that they were good, ranking second in the nation in Division I-AA in rushing offense. Can greatness be far behind?

That remains to be seen. But one thing is certain: DelState has come a long, long way.

The Hornets failed to win a league game in 1980 (the year before Purzycki arrived) and suffered a humiliating 105-0 loss to Portland State. Tired of the losing ways of the former coaching

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