Union won three in a row, over Winston-Salem, St. Paul's and Ken- a smooth-sailing ship. He vowed to tucky State, before a dismal offensive stick with the Bailey's Wing-T, with performance at Norfolk's Foreman certain modifications. status for this season.

Playing with a patchwork lineup, the result of injuries, Union mustered only four first downs against Norfolk, two of which came by penalty.

"We've just got to work harder," said Taylor. "We've got to go over and over the things we're trying to do, and hope we improve."

The offense didn't improve much the next week, in an 18-14 Gold Bowl loss to arch-rival Virginia State in Petersburg. Union was shut out through three quarters in that contest before mounting a fourth-period rally.

"We're not giving up, though," said "We've got a lot of seniors; we're a close team. And a lot of us have hopes of playing pro ball. We don't want to look bad."

Still, another Union senior, asking to remain anonymous, said this:

"We're so used to winning and, after we dropped a couple, it seemed like some people lost their enthusiasm."

A pleasant, well-spoken man, Taylor remains popular around the VUU campus. But, for a school that's become accustomed to outstanding teams, mediocrity is hard to accept by the Union alumni and fans.

Unfortunately for Taylor, Bailey established standards that will be wellnigh impossible for any man to duplicate, whether his name be Bryant or Gip or Lombardi or Taylor.

Bailey's record was an incredible 106-32-4 in 13 years. His teams won five CIAA titles. One thing to keep in mind is that when Bailey left for Norfolk, he took his top two assistants -offensive coordinator John Wright and defensive coordinator Tom Morris -with him. The only assistants left were part-timers.

When Bailey announced his intentions of heading back home, Taylor became a quick frontrunner for the Union job. He was popular among many of the Panther veterans, who went to bat for him with the school administration.

In Taylor's two-year stint as a Union aide, he helped develop the school's first weight-lifting room and was responsible for adding some passir spice to a mostly ground-oriented Wing-T attack.

Among the other candidates were Mel Rose, head coach at Livingstone, defensive coordinator at Virginia

When Taylor got the job, he indicated he would make few changes on

under Taylor, due at least in part to cir-

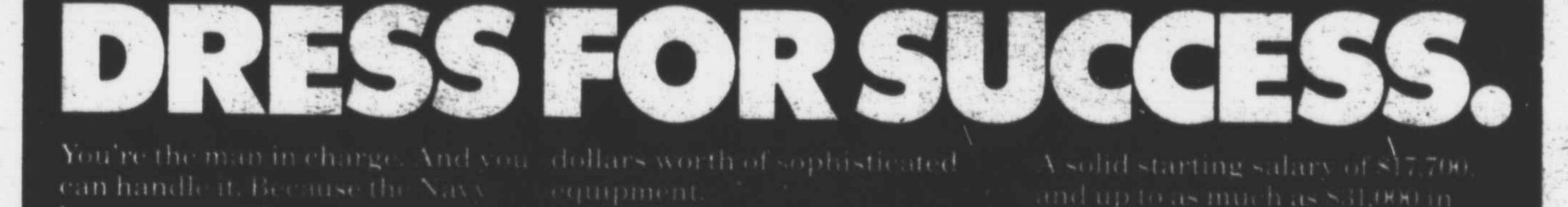
cumstances beyond his control. First of all, the Panthers' top running back, Gary Mayo, suffered a knee injury last spring, and was lost for the season

Also, quarterback John Johnson Field doomed the Panthers to also-ran Sad to say, the Wing-T has fizzled decided not to return for his final season of eligibility. That left Taylor

with virtually no experience at the most important position.

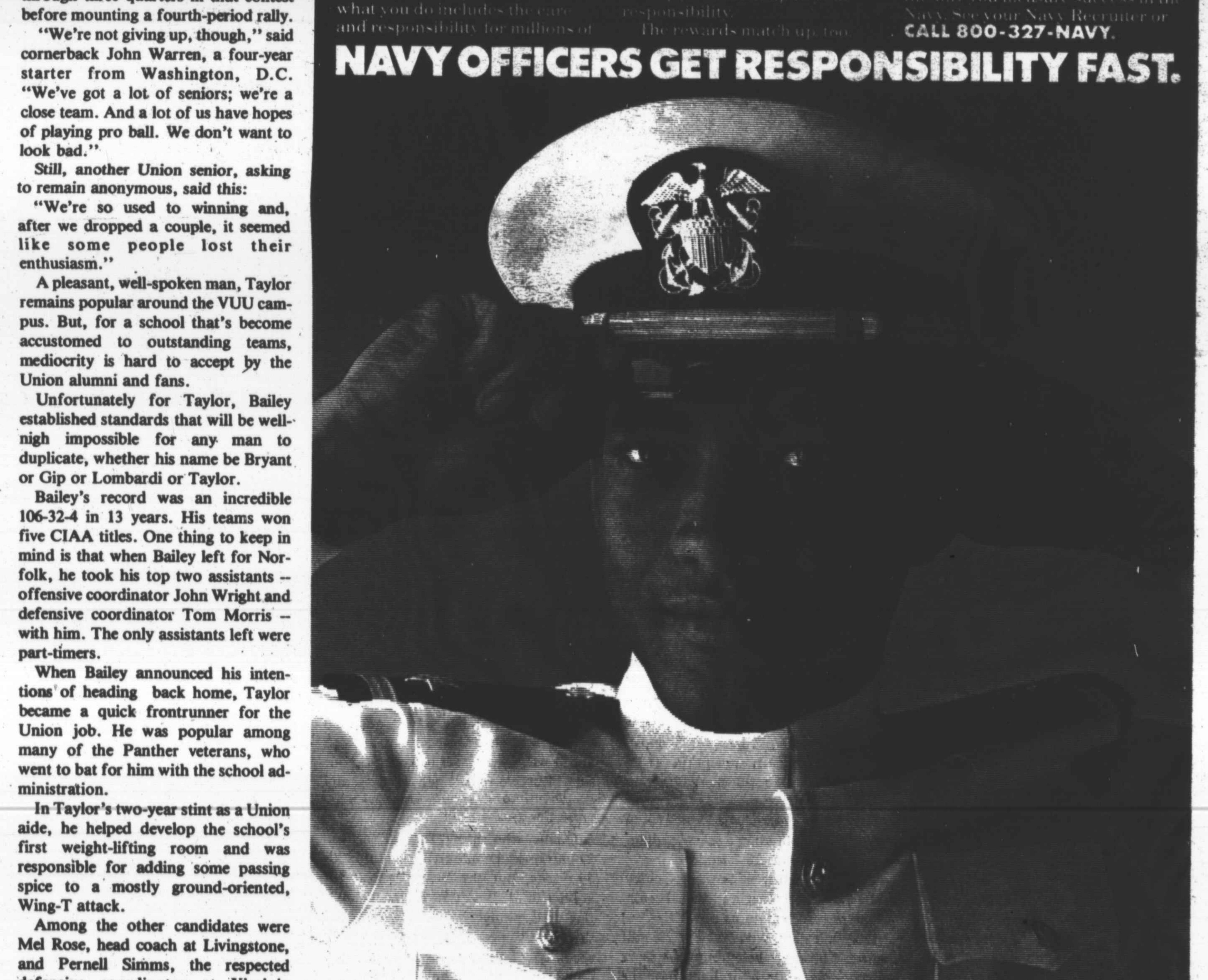
In the Norfolk game, Taylor shuffled three quarterbacks, with little luck. Mayo was the first of many key offensive performers to go down with

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froms and mereases." Responsibility and reward. It's the way you measure success in the

four years with regular promo-



Danny Moore

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all-CIAA center through his first two run outside. Hayes asked for to come in with the attitude that you seasons, this year has posed some nag- volunteers and Moore was quick to aren't the best and there's always soging problems. Moore sustained an step in. ankle injury early in the season that would have prevented most people minutes," Hayes says of Moore's tranfrom even walking. But Moore refused sition to guard. "Once he found out to stay out of the lineup. As if that' who he was supposed to block it wasn't enough, he also hurt his arm.

"He played two or three games with broken arm," says Hayes. "We didn't even know that he was hurt. I sent him to have it looked at and the doctor said his arm had been fractured.

worry about whether or not Danny change to guard." Moore is going to play up to his potential. Injured or not, he's always going to do his best."

Moore has also had to adjust to a change in position this year. The Rams lost all-CIAA guard Alvin Powell to graduation and Hayes needed a strong

While Moore has been a first team blocker who can pull when the Rams than ever before," he says. "You have

"He picked it up in a matter of Right now I'm making myself work became second nature for him. It's the easiest transition I've ever seen anyone

For Moore, it was simply a matter of helping out the team.

"As long as I'm helping the team it doesn't really matter what position I "That's what the players really play," says Moore, who had been a respect about Danny," Hayes says. center since the 11th grade. "I knew a "He's a leader because he's going to be lot of the things that a guard has to do, there when I need him. I never have to so it wasn't that bad making the

> It might seem that, since he's a cinch to earn all-CIAA honors for the third straight year, Moore doesn't have anything left to prove. However, Moore insists there's still room for im-

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meone else out there better than you. hard because you have to work hard to keep yourself on top."

In doing so, Moore hopes that he'll get his chance to fulfill one of his dreams -- to make it as a professional football player.

"That's probably in the back of every college athlete's mind," he says. "I would like to get a chance to play in the pros."

There are other goals as well.

"I'd also like to get my degree, Moore adds. "Hopefully I can use my degree to get a job working with handicapped children. I've worked with handicapped children on and off since before I came here to school."

Moore. A shy, reserved young man, he classroom. operates on his inner feelings.

In fact, he chose to attend Winston-"I have to put out more effort now Salem State because of the way he felt

that people treated him there as much as anything else.

"I felt at home when I came to visit," Moore says of his decision to attend WSSU, "The atmosphere was nice and I thought I could get a good education in an area that I was interested in."

Moore turned down offers from several major colleges to come to Winston-Salem, including Clemson and South Carolina.

"I thought that I would have an opportunity to play early in my career if I came here (to WSSU)," he says. "It was a decision I had to make and I knew what I wanted."

Apparently so. In addition to earning all-CIAA honors for the past two years, Moore has played on Ram teams that have gone 16-2-1 at this writing. Helping others is important to He's also performed well in the

> To add a new twist to the old James Brown lyric, Moore is "Talking a little and saying a whole lot."

David Parker

already within 1,200 yards of the lot and he's doing what it takes to win NCAA passing record. However, games. because of rainy weather and Bishop's "David knows our system as well as shot," says Jones. "He has the height, as he once did.

Still, instead of making a big deal of going for the passing record, he has him why and he said, 'You told me that been content to win football games.

cumstances this year," says Parker. ed he's thinking on the field and reac-"As long as we're winning, I don't care ting to the other team." about how many yards I throw for. Winning comes first."

What's more, Parker says, he's en-

"We're winning this year," he says. games we've won this season."

At this stage of his passer's career, Jones says, he couldn't be more pleased with Parker. And, while there are black college football, Jones says, he country. cond to none.

"David has done a super job for can play with anybody."

audibling at the line of scrimmage and every time he did it worked. I asked make it." when the linebackers do this I'm sup- he'll do his best to make it as a pro "We've had a lot of different cir- posed to change the play." That show-

While Willie Totten of Mississippi Valley is widely considered to be the class of the black college quarterbacks, joying this season more than previous Jones says Parker is better in some

"I've watched them (Mississippi "Why bother with passing the ball I'm Valley) on cable television and I think "We've had 17 players, on offense not going to do anything different than David has a better release and he's bigwhat's been working for us. I just want ger than Totten," Jones says. "We jury." says Taylor. "We average about to try and maintain the same type of don't have the personnel to do what four or five missing a game." performances that I've had in the Archie (Mississippi Valley Coach Ar-

Despite playing for a Division III Young, to the offensive line. school, Parker believes he stacks up plenty of talented quarterbacks in favorably with any quarterback in the

same way I do," says Parker. "I feel I

Already this season Parker has led that's worked hard and done Bishop to victories over NCAA Divi- Scott and Malcolm Barnwell as one of everything we've asked of him. He's sion I-AA Prairie View, two Division II schools and highly-touted Texas like about him is that he's matured a Lutheran. That ought to impress the Panther alumni have begun talking

pros, say Parker and Jones.

"Somebody's going to give him increased emphasis on its running the coaches do," Jones says. "In one speed, weight and range to make it. game, Parker hasn't thrown as much of our games this season, he kept Once he learns the system that's used, it shouldn't be too hard for him to

If he gets the chance, Parker says,

"Ever since I was a little kid I've

always thought about that," he says. "I've been playing football since I was about 10 years old and it's always been

"I really want to get my shot at it. I'm going to try to do my best. I know that, once I get started, it won't take me long to learn the formations and plays. I'm going to be all about studying and being serious because professional football is a business."

Virginia Union

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crippling injuries.

alone, miss at least a game with an in-

Things got so bad against Norfolk chie Cooley) does. But it would be a that Taylor had to switch two defensive good war between Totten and David." regulars, David Robinson and Keith

"I didn't like doing it," said Taylor "It was out of necessity."

While the offense has been disapunflinching under coordinator Richard McFee. In fact, middle linebacker Sam Grooms rates right up there with Herb Union's all-time greats.

season as head coach at Howard. No one doubts that Taylor was dealt a weak hand at Howard, but his 1-10 record is still there as an eyesore on the

Taylor was dismissed after that one season, and replaced by Willie Jeffries, one of the top coaches, black or white, in America. Jeffries produced a I-AA powerhouse at South Carolina State, and went on to compile an excellent record at Wichita State in the I-A

So, what now? What does the future hold for Union's proud program?

overloaded with injuries and mitigating Please See Page 21