world sees it. But the tough ones have a streak of toughness. Getting beat on a bomb doesn't mean getting down on yourself.

The same applies for a team as a whole. Top-flight cornerbacks, like teams, have an elastic quality. They can bounce back, recover and get on with business as usual.

"It (Valley's loss) doesn't mean we aren't a good football team," says Cooley. "It means Valley can get beat on any given day. That man's football team was well-prepared. Today, they were a better football team."

Alcorn State had the better defense that day, a defense that gives up only 179.3 yards per game -- 59.3 rushing and 120 yards passing. On the other hand, Valley was averaging a nationleading 666.6 yards in total offense, including Totten's 500.6 yards passing.

However, the Braves employed a balanced offense against the Delta Devils, gaining 220 yards rushing and 306 passing. Alcorn State's point total was also less than two points shy of its 43.3 points-per-game average, second only to Valley in Division I-AA

Braves running back Perry Qualls, who gained 211 yards on 37 carries and Mississippi football.

Chicago Bears. Holt, a 6-2, 190-pound scored four touchdowns rushing and senior, has been timed at 4.47 in the one receiving, helped Alcorn frustrate Valley's defense with its ball-control The life of a cornerback is often offense. Getting the ball with just described as "me against the world." under nine minutes left in the game, It's the toughest position in football. If the Braves capped a 17-play, 80-yard you get burned, it seems the whole drive with Qualls scoring with only 1:51 left. Workhorse Qualls carried the ball 11 times during that seven-minute, six-second drive.

With that late, time-consuming drive, the "Godfather" was on his way to silencing the "Gunslinger's" pistol - a pistol aimed at getting the ball to Rice, preferably in the end zone.

"The key to the game was our defensive line, " said Holt, who has been bothered by a leg injury that caused him to miss one game this season. "They put pressure on Totten."

Alcorn State, which survived some costly second-half turnovers by its offense, also held Valley to only 82 yards

An old saying in the football lexicon -- offense scores the points, but defense wins the game -- crept up and smacked Valley right in the face for the first time this season on that dark and damp day in the heart of the Magnolia State.

"I think you got to give the defense" one helluva hand," said "The Godfather" to his troops in the postgame locker room celebration.

With that in mind, the biggest hand is reserved for "General Ike," who had the whole "World" in his hands on one of the biggest days in the history of



From Page 8

as a person and as a coach," says senior linebacker Leon Smith. "Football is a lot more than sitting behind desk and making up Xs and Os.

"With Coach Bailey, you feel free to speak your mind, and you know he speaks his. He's very honest. The whole attitude has changed. We feel like winners, on the football field, in the classroom, everywhere."

In replacing Price, Bailey was succeeding an old friend. Price and Bailey were roommates in the mid-1960s when they were attending graduate school at New York University.

Over the years, they entertained one another often, and frequently joked about sneaking into the other's "backyard" to steal away the top State, Johnson is running away, literal-

When Bailey, a native of Suffolk, was given the head football job, Price became an assistant athletic director. Soon after stepping on campus, Bailey was given the dual job of athletic direc-

tor, replacing William Archie.

Under Price, Norfolk was 65-40-3. The Spartans won three straight CIAA titles (1974-76) during his tenure -- but the team was 4-5-1, 6-4 and 5-5 his last three seasons -- and memories are oh so short in college athletics.

Bailey's first season at his alma defense that leads the nation in fewest

Offensively, the star is 5-8, 180-pound senior Tony Johnson, a bench warmer his first three seasons. From Booker T. Washington High, right down the street from Norfolk ly, with the CIAA rushing title, with nearly 120 yards overland an outing.

"Tony's not as good as LaRue Harrington or Orlando Goodhope (former NSU stars), but he'll outgain both of them because the system is better," says one Norfolk official.

mater has been punctuated by a Me And My Shadow While listening to Totten's signals, Rice seems to be wondering which points allowed, fewest yards permitted shadow is his and which is Issiac Holt's (photo by Mark Gail). on the ground, and in total yardage

> this monster lurk in the CIAA, or will it go on to attack in bigger, swifter Mary, VMI and James Madison.

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. would seem a likely stepping stone, one Bailey could easily make with the many resources available to him at Norfolk

If the Spartans joined the MEAC, they could still retain rivalries with Union, Virginia State and Hampton, certainty.

Given time, Bailey figures to create a and possibly branch out and try to football monster in Norfolk. But will schedule the established I-AA's in Virginia, like Richmond, William &

Money talks in athletics, and when For sure, there's talk of Norfolk you can draw 27,500 to a football guarantees to visiting teams that are too good to refuse.

> Happy speculation abounds these days in Norfolk as the victories pile up and a first-ever trip to post-season football competition seems almost a

INTERVIEW

From Page 9

to do well.

"We have a very complex offensive scheme," he says. "I didn't think I would adjust to it as fast as I have and I didn't think I would play as much. thought this year would be a learning experience. But Coach Forte has brought me a long way."

Forte, on the other hand, says he couldn't keep a player of Hooker's ability on the sidelines for long.

"It doesn't matter what classifica tion he is, Alan Hooker is a leader," Forte says. "We knew that he had the ability to play football at A&T right away, but he had to earn the starting quarterback position,

"At the beginning of the season, he didn't win the starting job," says Forte. "In the first game of the season (against Winston-Salem State), Alvin

anyone. Since that time, Hooker has come on to beat Grier out."

Hooker saw his first action of the season as South Carolina State routed A&T in Greensboro. Although Hooker obviously didn't lead the team to a miraculous comeback, he did play well. From that point on, Hooker has off the field. been the starter.

has passed for 746 yards. While he's thrown 10 interceptions, his completion rate of 48.6 and six touchdown passes are impressive for a first-year him. signal-caller.

Forte made it clear that Hooker was the Aggie quarterback of the future by shifting Grier, a two-year starter, to wide receiver.

"We told him (Grier) that we needed his athletic ability at another

position," says Forte. "Being a team player, Grier was willing to move over. cessful with Grier at wide reciever and Hooker at quarterback."

Despite the stiff competition between the two, Hooker says he and Grier, a senior, get along well on an

"We're on a buddy-buddy system, In the six games he's played, Hooker Hooker says. "When the season started, he came out and worked hard and it made me work hard. He's helped me out a lot and I've learned a lot from

> "It helps to have Alvin in the huddle," says Hooker. "He helps me to make the calls and tells me when I'm making a mistake. Off the field we stick together a lot."

The first weeks of both his athletic and academic careers might have seem-

ed like one big safety blitz, but Hooker says he thinks he's adjusting well. Since that time, we've been fairly suc- While he's making his presence felt on the field, he says he's most concerned with his school work.

> "The hardest thing is having time to study," he says. "In high school there was time to relax after practice and I could study when I felt like it. But here you don't have time to relax. After football practice, usually I have to get right into my books."

While it remains to be seen whether Hooker will become a college star, one thing is certain: With him behind center, A&T is a better team.

That alone, says Forte, should be enough to fill seats in Aggie Stadium.

"He's going to help our athletic program considerably," says Forte. "When you pay to see Alan Hooker play, it's worth the price of

Virginia Union

From Page 17

Or is the Union era of domination in the CIAA over?

"We've contacted 150 prospects, and, from what I can judge, we have as

good a chance as anyone to sign the job done at Union and carry on a to Taylor to blow up some deflated hanging in there."

Taylor has faith in his ability to get

"We depend heavily on our alumni to mystic invincibility Union has enjoyed recommend kids to us, and they're so long in the CIAA is eroded just a little more.

Fun time is over in '84. Now it's up

them," said Taylor of his recruiting. great tradition. But with each loss, the balloons and launch the slogan: "We'll Revive in '85."

> In college football, party glasses can be filled just as easily as emptied; and lights can be turned back on, too.

INSTANT REPLAYS

From Page 3

• Dec. 17: Alcorn State at Michigan.

• Dec. 18: North Carolina A&T at Georgia Tech.

• Jan. 8: Morgan State at Kansas. • Feb. 13: Maryland-Eastern Shore

at North Carolina State.

Norfolk And The MEAC

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference probably views Norfolk State like a man who's been fasting for a week views a sirloin steak.

What choicer morsel could the struggling skin-and-bones league d into better than fat, juicy Norfolk, with its rabid fans, attractive playing facilities and strong athletic teams (especially in basketball and

Norfolk could also benefit from

bucks they can bring during basketball season are concerned.

The powers that be in the CIAA probably aren't so high on the idea,

Reflections On The Game

I normally don't devote space in my column to anyone but me, but Staff Writer Lonza Hardy, who happens also to be sports information director at Alcorn State University, wrote an opinion piece recently that I thought you might find in-

The competitive nature of our

perhaps everyone was a winner, particularly the fans.

society dictates that there must be winners and there must be losers. That's the name of the game. In the

Such enthusiasm and excitement as were witnessed in the days leading up to the Alcorn-Valley showdown were not only unprecedented but once inconceivable.

Whoever thought that two tiny Mississippi schools from two tiny Mississippi towns called Lorman and Itta Bena could hold the entire country in a state of awe and attract such an array of people as were gathered at Mississippi Memorial Stadium in Jackson on Nov. 4?

Indeed, the crowd of 63,808 included people from all walks of life -- and from all races -- with one ultimate goal: to see football at its

This writer believes that the Alcorn-Valley game was more than just a game -- it was a precedentsetter. It showed that sports is, and

joyment of athletic competition should not hinge on the size or division of the teams in the competition but on the quality of the product on display. If the two teams competing on any given day have a quality product, that product should be put on display and true sports fans should flock to the stadium in masses to see the contest.

Whoever said that SWAC football, as well as football in the MEAC, the CIAA and the SIAC, cannot be as exciting as football in the SEC, the ACC and the Pac 10?

He obviously didn't consult with those in attendance at the Alcorn-Valley game.

Yes, Mississippi Valley won the pre-game media blitz and Alcorn State won the football game, but the biggest winners of all were surely the fans. The excitement of the game reached the limits of the law.