## FOOTBALL WRAP-UP

By SAM DAVIS Review Staff Writer

Four turnovers and a blocked punt were too much for Norfolk State to overcome as the upset-minded Spartans fell to Towson State 31-21 in their first-ever trip to the NCAA Division II football playoffs.

The Spartans, who committed only 11 turnovers during the entire 1984 season, had neither enough gas nor good fortune to cap their Cinderella season with a playoff win.

"We just didn't have a good game," said first-year Coach Willard Bailey. "We played well in spots, but we also played poorly in others."

While Bailey's team had a couple of breakdowns in execution, he said he was still pleased with the total team ef-

"We beat them in the trenches," Bailey said. "Usually when you win in the trenches, your team comes out on

For the game, Norfolk totaled 369 yards of offense to Towson's 355, as well as three more first downs. But the Spartans also made more turnovers.

"I can't take anything away from Towson State," said Bailey. "They came prepared and did a good job of taking advantage of our mistakes. But the excruciating thing is the fact that we made so many turnovers when we only made 11 all season."

The Spartans had to play catch-up from the start. With only 1:35 gone in the first period, Towson State took advantage of Norfolk's first miscue.

Punter Dale Browder received a bad



Though Willie Totten and Mississippi Valley are much more accustomed to dishing it out rather than taking it, they took it against Louisiana Tech (photo by Mark Gail).

snap from center and had his kick blocked into the end zone. Towson's Joe Gamble fell on the ball to put Towson up 6-0 and Jerome Nolan's

kick gave Towson a 7-0 advantage. "Our guys knew they would have to play hard to win," said Bailey. "They might have been trying too hard."

> score on a four-yard pass from Willie Gillus to Leonard Hopkins. However, Gillus threw an interception later in the first quarter that gave Towson another scoring opportunity. Norfolk's defense stiffened, but

Towson came away with a 25-yard

But, even with their errors, the Spar-

tans battled back. Taking the ensuing

kickoff, Norfolk marched 86 yards in

seven plays in only 2:54 to even the

field goal. then directed two consecutive scoring the opposing team at least three times halftime lead.

After Tony Johnson fumbled on his own 10-yard line in the opening minutes of the third quarter, Towson State extended its lead to 31-7. Two fourth-quarter Spartan scores accounted for the final margin.

"We accomplished a lot and we have a lot to be proud of," he said. "It was just the way we played on this particular day. If we played them again, we'd probably win."

For Bailey, it was his sixth consecutive appearance in the NCAA playoffs. He took Virginia Union to post-season play the past two years: Though he has come up empty in the win column in each of his playoff games, Bailey said he doesn't feel

"You'll never get me to believe that my teams can't win a playoff game because of bad luck or anything like Towson quarterback Kurt Beathard that," said Bailey. "We've out-played and lost. There are a lot of different factors you have to look at in each

> "I don't think you can say there's a hex or anything like that," he said. "Look at Bear Bryant at Alabama. He was one of the best coaches ever and he went to nine straight bowl games without winning. So, who knows? If

Despite his wait's rackfillster playoff we can get into the playoff again, it wi



Cooley: A storybook season suddenly comes to a rude halt (photo by Mark Gail).

next six or seven games.'

snakebitten, black college football teams in general might be. They all bit the dust in the NCAA playoffs.

High-powered Mississippi Valley State, with all-America quarterback cost us." Willie Totten and wide receiver Jerry Rice in the fold, was blown out in much the same manner it demolished playoffs and Alcorn State, which was We're a better team than we showed. rated in Division I-AA's Top 10, fell to the same Louisiana Tech that embarrassed Mississippi Valley, 44-30.

Coach Billy Joe, who guided Central won." State to the championship game in Division II a year ago, saw his team novers that plagued Bailey's Spartans. an accomplishment in itself.

"We got off to an early bad start," We tried to come back, but it was just have a great group of players and the

too little too late.

Another factor that hurt Central State's chances was injuries, said Joe. "Last year, we were fortunate not to have many injuries," he said. "This

year, we had quite a few injuries and it Alcorn Coach Marino Casem said he

had no excuses.

"They (Louisiana Tech) played most of its 1984 opponents, 66-19, by perfectly and we did not," said Casem, Louisiana Tech in Division I-AA play. who had guided the Braves to the Central State of Ohio was beaten 31-21 SWAC title and a first-round bye in the by Troy State in the Division II playoffs. "We were flat and it showed.

> "We weren't as strong as we could have been," Casem said. "Maybe on another Saturday we would have Running back Alvin Street and Central State of Ohio: An early exit (photo by Brian Branch-Price).

Like the other black college coaches who didn't win in their championship fall prey to the same untimely tur- bids, Bailey said just being invited was

"It's symbolic of the fine effort of said Joe. "We had to play catch-up the administration and the loyal supand do a lot of things out of character. port of our fans," Bailey said. "We

community of Norfolk and our ball program," he said. "Now that

"The administration has made an effort to have a quality Division II foot- football programs in the nation."

students were behind us all the way. All we've won the CIAA championship, of these entities came together this we will be trying to make it two in a row. We're going to make an effort to become one of the better Division Il



By BARRY COOPER Syndicated Columnist

In the National Football League, talent scouts are put through refresher courses each year, issued new magnifying glasses, stop watches and bathroom scales, and told to leave no stone unturned in their quest for prospective pro football players.

tryside in search of players who could make the difference between a losing season and a Super Bowl appearance.

Their travels take them to all parts of where 5-9 Doug Flutie won Heisman Trophy this year, to Itta

State's Jerry Rice has established himself as perhaps the best college wide receiver in the country.

Boston College's Flutie and Valley's Rice are obvious targets. The scouts have been drooling over their statistics for some time, and have already made

players who play for historically black colleges, judgment day won't come until just before the draft, when stacks of information are fed into computers and the players are ranked.

Most of the time, the NFL's supersleuths are right on the money, and make recommendations that pay off handsomely in the form of well-chosen draft picks.

Other times the scouts fall flat on

