MEAC's great Lake

With Lake as its starting fullback,

Delaware State compiled a record of

17-6-1 and a joke became a jugger-

says Purzycki.

time in five years.

to work hard at."

have paid off.

problems for me."

won't be around.

him and his family.

a good leader, says Purzycki...

could. He has tremendous drive.'

"Gene was the best thing that

But the adjustment wasn't easy.

Before the start of his freshman

season, Lake separated his

shoulder. He also had to deal with

being in the classroom for the first

being a student again," Lake says.

Lake broke into the starting lineup

for the final three games of the

without fanfare," says Purzycki,

coaching job at James Madison.

knew we had a special player."

season and has started ever since.

CONTINUED

"Gene had a remarkable high school level in Delaware before taking over at DelState. "He was an outstanding player, but everyone had sort of forgotten about him."

Enlisting the help of Elwood Watts, Lake's high school coach and a good friend of Purzycki, Purzycki signed Lake to a scholarship.

be around next year. I've never seen a running back have the kind of game he had." As for Lake's decision to turn

pro, Purzycki says he advised his star to do what he thought was best: "I know that it (playing profes-

sionally) would help his family tremendously," says Purzycki. "For us, it was a matter of doing what we thought was right. Enough people know about him that he should be drafted at least in the middle rounds."

Lake says he has no preference as to which league he'd like to play in. He says he simply wants to play pro football and earn a good salary.

"I'm not trying to look too far into the future," he says. "I'm taking it one day at a time."

season," Purzycki says. "He became the whole offense in our last two games. When he had over 300 yards against Liberty Baptist, that's when I started feeling he wouldn't



You're the man in charge, And you dollars worth of sophisticated can handle it. Because the Navy equipment. has given you the management and technical training to get the ____ in the Navy. With all the decision-__ tions and increases.

what you do includes the care responsibility.

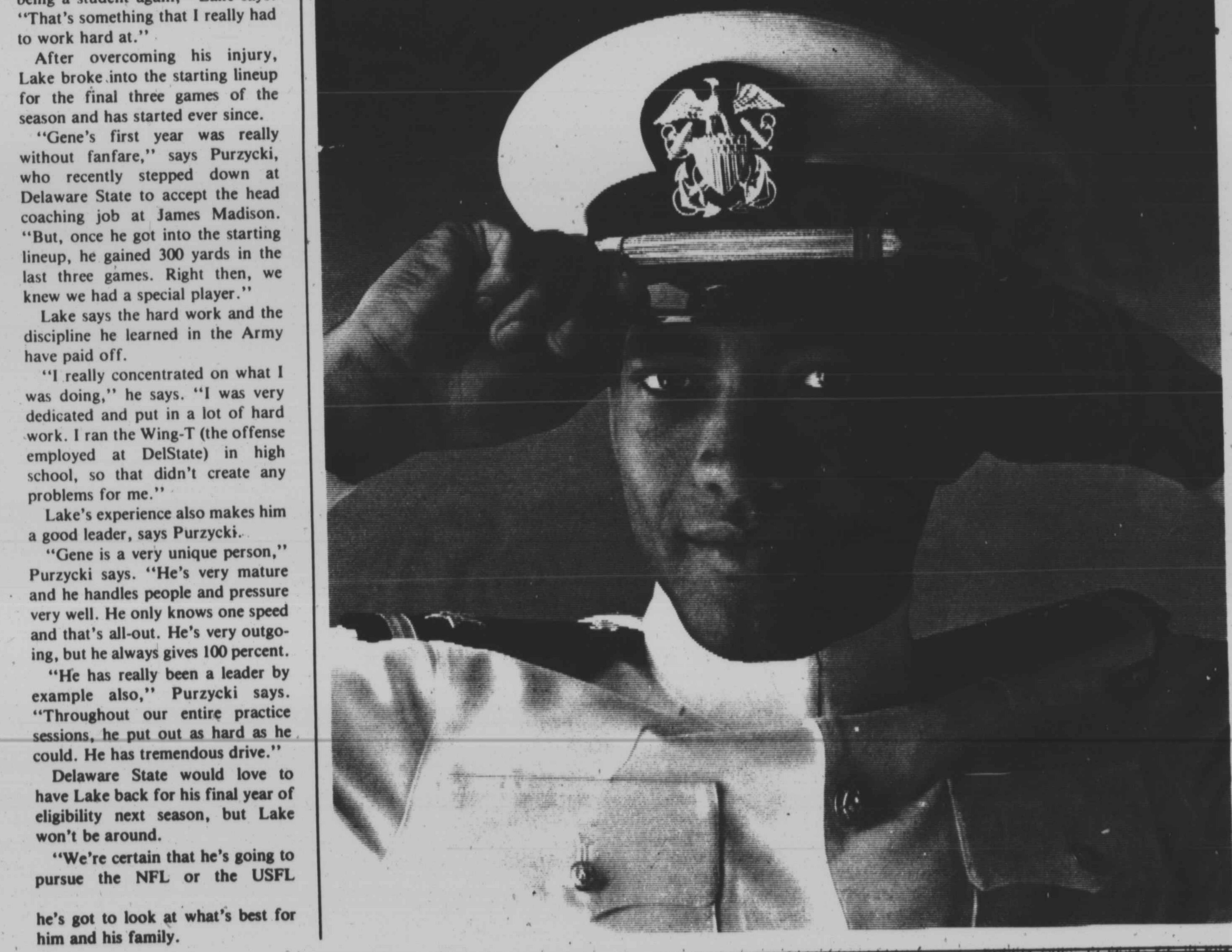
making authority you need Thirty men report to you. And to help you match up to your

A solid starting salary of \$17,700. and up to as much as \$31,000 in At age 22 you can be a leader—four years with regular promo-

Responsibility and reward. It's the way you measure success in the Navy, See your Navy Recruiter or CALL 800-327-NAVY.

and responsibility for millions of — The rewards match up, too. "It was hard getting adjusted to again," Lake says.

NAVY OFFICERS GET RESPONSIBILITY FAST.



INSTANT REPLAYS

From Page 3

geographic sense.

"I see a dying out of black of-

ficials," Boyd says. "When I

became an official, I learned from

the older guys, but the younger guys

today don't care that much about

learning the mechanics that it takes.

to become a good official. Money is

the name of the game and, instead

of looking at the dynamics of of-

ficiating, people are looking at the

• Get their products on television --

whatever it takes. Black college

basketball deserves to be on the tube

as much as Australian rules football

coverage. You create stars with TV.

You entice recruits with TV. You

sweat socks and cleats.

balls in TV games.

the draft?

officials.

the CIAA Tournament drawing larger crowds mainly because it has added six teams and an extra day of competition. CIAA officials bragged about having to turn away fans during last year's semi-finals and finals, but the tournament on the average still doesn't draw nearly as well as it ought to.

The average attendance per game during last year's record-setting tourney numbered only 3,608 fans, as opposed to 3,298 in 1973. That's not much growth for a product that ought to sell out every game.

The Bayou Classic, the undisputed centerpiece of black college events, has actually seen its attendance tumble in recent years, from a high of 76,753 in 1974 to only 51,752 this year, nearly 8,000 fewer fans than last season.

And the MEAC's regular-season basketball attendance averaged only 2,456 in 1983-84, 23rd in the nation among 30 Division I conferences, while the SWAC fared slightly better, with a 21st-place finish and 3,015 average.

The changes would have to begin at the top, where administrators must realize that you have to spend money to make money.

"At black schools, a lot of people are unaware of what it takes to run an effective, efficient program," says North Carolina A&T Sports Information Director Drexel Ball. "If we could get A&T mentioned on the TV in ads, we could let everyone know about our games. If I had the money to flood the airways, the exposure would help sell tickets. Finances is the bottom line. We always run into budgetary constraints in trying to promote our sports. Black colleges are viable entities, but we have to promote them'

• Do something about the sad state of some black college officiating. Fans, coaches and players will all tell you that it's not what it's supposed to be -- and that a trip to an unfriendly field or court seems to go hand in hand with "creative" calls by the gentlemen in striped shirts.

"Officiating is the one thing that I'm most concerned about," says Bethune-Cookman head football Coach Larry Little. "It's not in the MEAC because I think we have some good officials. But in black college football, when you go away to play, you don't know what to expect. You have to worry about the home team getting all the calls, or what I call 'home cooking."

MEAC Supervisor of Officials Edward Boyd sees a disturbing trend in the ranks of black college and support their alma maters. Black college alumni are notorious for showering teams and coaches with more criticism than money, forcing many programs to pay for football and basketball players' educations with piecemeal grant and financial aid packages.

Winston-Salem State basketball coach and athletic director "Bighouse" Gaines: Natural rivalries like his

school's with North Carolina A&T, which annually fill stadiums, could be nurtured if conferences made more

from blacks," says Winston-Salem State head basketball coach and athletic director "Bighouse"

"They (alumni) want to save black schools on faith. You need money."

Gaines says WSSU sold only 300

legitimize your sport with TV. Like •Gaines also makes the radical but it or hate it, television is as much a part of college athletics these days as Michael Jordan wouldn't be the instant superstar he already is as a rookie if you didn't get to see him wag his tongue and dunk basket-

For instance, he proposes that The longer black college football waves, the more they help persuade talent to go to larger Remember the philosophical question that, if a tree falls in the forest and nobody's there to hear it, does it make a sound?

Well, if a player is very good but nobody sees him play, does he make

"We don't get \$15,000 in gifts

or billiards. In fact, it has to get TV

season tickets combined in football and basketball this year.

noteworthy proposal that black schools might save money and heighten interest by realigning their leagues to make more geographical sense and even including some historically white schools with similar programs and resources.

small colleges in North Carolina might create a Division I-AA conference that includes historically black North Carolina Central, North Carolina A&T, Johnson C. Smith, Lenoir Rhyne and WSSU, as well as historically white Elon and Gardner-Webb.

Natural geographic rivalries are there, he says, as well as affordable road trips.

"You can't create a marriage bet-

ween Delaware State and Bethune-Cookman," Gaines says, referring to the far-flung MEAC, whose schools are located from as far south as Florida to as far north as Delaware, "nor Winston-Salem and Bowie State," he adds, referring to his own CIAA.

So there you have it. Now, I'm no guru, but I think these suggestions at least merit some discussion. What do you think?

No Move Yet

The Godfather hasn't received an offer he couldn't refuse. Alcorn State athletic director and head football coach Marino Casem says rumors that he is interested in succeeding the embattled Rudy Hubbard as coach at Florida A&M are unfounded.

"I'm not lookin' for nothin'," said the man known better as "The Godfather," and who led his team to an 11-1 season, a SWAC title and a berth in the NCAA Division I-AA football playoffs last fall.

Still, Casem conceded in a phone interview that "my feet aren't set in concrete. It (an offer) has got to be a good situation."

"I just want freedom to operate," Casem said. "I don't think a man can create unless he's

Casem said he has that freedom at Alcorn.

Please See Page 19

January, 1985-Page 9

Page 8-January, 1985