CIAA *CONTINUED*

(6-2, 285) and 6-1, 235-pound linebacker Thomas Boone (95 tackles last year) both back, the unit again will be strong.

The Pirates' problem is on offense. Last year they produced a paltry 11.3 points per game. To cure that problem, second-year Coach Fred Freeman brought in Mel Rose from Livingstone as offensive coordinator. Rose's team chalked up an average of 328 yards per game last season and the Pirates have two fine runners in Carl Painter and Clarence Bailey.

Quarterback is a particular sore spot, but Freeman thinks Rose can show his team how to put points on the board. "With Mel as our offensive coordinator we should be a much more exciting offensive football team," he says.

If Rose can indeed make the offense blossom, the Pirates could beat out Union for second in the division.

VIRGINIA STATE Coach George Moody's Trojans scored only nine points in their first three outings last season.

The result: three losses and what many thought would be a very long season. But, as the team matured, the Trojans finished strong, beating both Virginia Union and Norfolk State before losing to Hampton by six in the season finale.

The 5-5 mark was the best in Moody's four years at the school and, with 24 lettermen returning, including 15 of 22 starters from last season, this could be the year for the Trojans to escape the shadows of the perennial Northern Division heavyweights.

Nine of the 15 returning starters are from the offensive unit, led by quarterback Sam Taylor. A pre-season all-CIAA pick, Taylor ranked second in the league last year in both passing and total offense. Backfield mates Von Allen and Reggie Warfield also return, as does top receiving threat Kim Price, who averaged 18 yards per catch last season.

The defense boasts all-CIAA end James Ward (6-5 260) and 280-pound tackle Rudy Goodwine, a pre-season all-league choice, along with defensive backs Kevin Hall and Robert Clarke. These four will have to turn in great performances, however, as they are the only returning starters.

"If we can find help at the linebacking spots and get off to a better start, 'this might be our year," says Moody cautiously.

ELIZABETH CITY returns 57 lettermen and 18 starters, nine each on offense and defense, from last years 4-5-1 squad and the Vikings should be better. That's the good news for Coach Thurlis Little. The bad news is that everyone else in the North is better, too.

Still, Little has good reason for optimism with senior quarterback William Brockenberry back to lead the offense. Brockenberry ranked third in the league last year in passing and fourth in total offense while playing in only six games.

But, even with those stats, he faces a challenge from Tim Warren, a transfer from North Carolina A&T. Elsewhere, the offensive line must improve and better production must come from incumbent backs Anthony Crumel and Darryl Suggs.

The Vikes ranked 11th in the 12-team league last year in rushing.

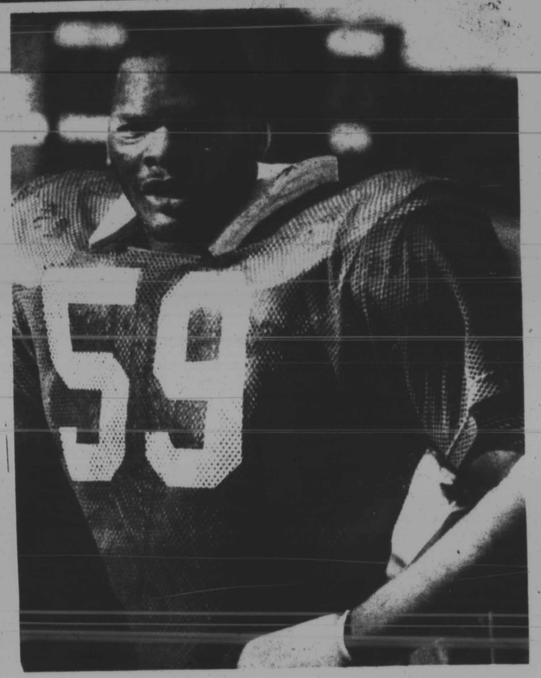
Defensively honorable-mention all-CIAA linebacker Tim Cofield is the leader. He'll get support from 6-5, 270-pound end Henry Wilkerson and tackle Claude Wilkins, who had 71 tackles last season.

"If we are to contend for the title, we must improve our running game and the play of our offensive line," says Little.

ST. PAUL'S caught almost everyone by surprise en route to a school-record seven wins in 1983. But the Tigers thudded back to reality last year with an 0-7 league record and 3-7 overall slate.

The Tigers return quarterback Mike Mayfield, who has started the last 30 games for his team, as well as running back Anthony Mills. Mayfield passed for 972 yards last year and ranked fifth in the league in total offense while Mills rushed for 600 yards. The offensive line returns two starters.

Depth is the biggest problem for the Tigers, however -- that and the fact that they play in the tough Northern Division, where bubbles burst frequently.



All-CIAA center Danny Moore will help open holes for WSSU's 1,001 running backs (photo by James Parker).

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Bill Hayes returns his stable of fine running backs at WINSTON-SALEM STATE. Though two-year starter Mike Winbush is pitching baseballs in the minor leagues these days, the Ram thoroughbreds still are poised to run over, under, around and, when all else fails, *into* the opposition.

With Winbush's likely successor, Haywood Workman's, transfer to Oral Roberts this fall to play Division I basketball, sophomore Dana Walker will hand the ball to WSSU's 1,001 runners.

The Rams led the league in rushing last year with an average of 259 yards per game and the likes of all-CIAA center Danny Moore opening the holes. They should do as well this season, despite the loss of two offensive-line starters. Leonardo Horn, Ed Byers, Lonnie Pulley and a host of others stand ready to carry the ball, while Masha Paul, after being moved from the defensive backfield last season, is a fine receiver.

Defense is where the Rams have holes to fill. With all four up-front starters gone, Hayes will have to look at some new faces, especially on the line.

"We lost some real quality people as far as down linemen are concerned," Hayes says. "We have some people who can play but most of them don't have very much game experience.

The Rams face stiff tests early, opening with upset-minded Virginia State, arch-rival North Carolina A&T, Hampton and North Carolina Central. If they get by those four, not only another Southern Division title, but possibly an unbeaten regular season, may be in sight.

Despite the loss of quarterback Gerald Fraylon, who rewrote the league record books in both passing and total offense -- and either passed, ran or talked opponents to death -- NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL looks to provide the Rams with their biggest challenge for the division title.

Fraylon may be gone, but all-CIAA receivers Robert Clark and Robert Green aren't. Last year the two Roberts caught 88 passes for 1,448 yards and 10 touchdowns between them.

Top runner Clifton Kersey is also gone but Coach Hank Lattimore had a super recruiting year. Look for Tim Oakley to make an impact immediately at running back -- if he can beat out sophomore Darryl Rivers, who averaged 6.5 yards a carry last year.

Two freshmen are in the running for the vacant quarterback spot. Both Earl Harvey and Robert Booker were highly touted high school players and whomever gets the nod will bark his signals behind an excellent offensive line headed by all-CIAA tackle Gerald Patton.

MEAC *From Page 13*

and South Carolina State. Other road games include powerful Mississippi Valley and defending MEAC champion Bethune-Cookman.

Sophomore Alan Hooker, Forte's finest recruit and perhaps the best player A&T has ever recruited, will quarterback an offense that figures to produce some good numbers this season. Hooker didn't have bad figures last year, when he passed for 1,204 yards and eight touchdowns.

Hooker's favorite target is Herbert Harbison, a preseason all-America. The 5-9, 155-pound Harbison had 39 catches for 427 yards and four scores.

Both lines are strong, with the offensive unit led by Steve McCormick and the defensive unit by Ernest Riddick.

HOWARD is playing catchup with the rest of the MEAC, too. Last year's 2-8 record was bad, but don't expect matters to get worse. Jeffries only had one season worse than that, a 1-9 campaign in 1979 at Wichita State.

"My realistic expectations are for a .500 season," Jeffries says. "That 1-9 season at Wichita was my first year out there. We came back and went 6-4-1 the following year. So I'm not going to be a doomsayer."

Jeffries says his biggest adjustment his initial season at the Washington, D.C., school was learning to appreciate his players' idiosyncracies, especially those endemic to the Howard student.

"When you call a Howard player by his name, he responds by saying 'I beg your pardon,' " Jeffries says. "Now everywhere else I've been, the response was 'huh?' At first when you hear 'I beg your pardon,' it's a little disheartening. You wonder, 'Can that kid hit?'

"Eventually, it just made me laugh. You can believe me when I say I needed to laugh a whole lot last season."

Unlike last year, it will be hard for the opposition to laugh at the Bison this season. Jeffries, in his second tour of duty in the MEAC after guiding S.C. State to a remarkable 50-13-4 record in the '70s, returns 18 starters, including defensive standout Marvin Jackson. Jackson led the conference in tackles last season.

HU also has one of the best placekickers in the country in Jon Nicolaisen, a preseason all-America.

MORGAN STATE'S program is in bad shape, but Thomas believes most of his players came through the 0-11 season with decent morale.

"The kids haven't given up," Thomas says. "They took all those beatings and still stood with their heads up.

"It's gonna take time to rebuild this program and I hope the president (Dr. Earl Richardson) and everybody in the administration realizes it will take two or three years to get our feet on the ground again."

The Bears have a fine linebacking corps in Jeff Green, David Collins and Quinton Gibson. Collins and Green combined for 235 tackles. On offense, halfback Alphonso Harris can go long distance. Harris had touchdown runs of 98 and 95 yards last year.

RECRUITING *From Page 10*

record (4-5-1) in his eight seasons as the Tigers' head coach.

"Our recruits have to learn the fundamentals and our system first. These guys will begin to contribute next year and in 1987.

"We had a much better recruiting season this year than last. For some reason or another we do well every other year."

Gorden and his staff do most of their work in Mississippi. They had to go no farther than Provine High School in Jackson to discover a top-flight running back in Darryl Jones. The 5-8, 160-pound Jones should help with the punt returning chores this season.

Texas Southern Coach Lionel Taylor can see contending for a SWAC championship on the horizon. So the Tiger coaches were aggressive to recruit immediate help.

Fortunately, Taylor and his staff had a better budget to work with and that resulted in a good haul. The TSU coaches scoured Texas, Louisiana and California.

The Tiger braintrust, which guided the team to a 6-5 record last season, signed three junior college transfers who will see action this season. They are linemen Glenn Pullinam and Keith Zoch and defensive back Odis Campbell. Pullinam (6-0, 245) and Campbell went to California junior colleges, and Zoch (6-0, 250) went to Kilgore, Texas, Junior College.

The need for immediate help also was predicated on the loss of 11 starters. Despite the turnover, Taylor doesn't expect a letdown, but another winning season.

Prairie View A&M went 0-11 last year and the Panthers will probably get more help from newcomers than any other school in the conference.

The Panthers' most significant losses came at linebacker (Dondrel Richardson and Ben Carter) and on the offensive front (James Stewart and Lindsey West). A&M brought in Orman Brown and James Manuel to help at linebacker. New linemen include Jarrod Bass (6-6, 320), Charles Jefferson (6-3½, 295), Clinton Bell (6-4½, 255), Richard Haynes (6-6, 260) and Herman Moore (6-3½, 242).

CIAA *CONTINUED*

Six starters return to the defensive unit, led by end Melvin Gaddy and tackle Ronald Bethea.

While many predict the demise of the Eagle program without Fraylon, Lattimore isn't one of them.

"It will be a new experience for us," he says. "Just having Fraylon here had made things a little easier. But we have some quality football players and we are looking forward to the season."

After WSSU and Central, only one other team in the South was able to break even in wins and losses last season. FAYETTEVILLE STATE, which finished 4-4-1 overall and 3-3-1 in its division, has new optimism and a new coach in Robert Pulliam.

Pulliam will not have a new man in control of the offense. Sophomore quarterback Jerome Morgan, who began the season as a third-stringer, came off the bench to lead the Broncos to all four of their wins last year, passing for 339 yards and five touchdowns.

FSU's biggest threat, however, is runner Ben Knox, a pre-season all-league choice who ran for 912 yards while averaging more than six yards per carry last season. Unfortunately, Knox's entire offensive line is gone.

"It will take a lot of hard work, dedication and prayers in order for us to have a successful campaign," says Pulliam. Great years from the defense and offensive line would also be a big help.

LIVINGSTONE not only lost the league's all-time leading rusher, Jo Jo White, to graduation, but also an outstanding head coach, Mel Rose, to an assistant's job at Hampton University.

To make matters worse for Interim Head Coach David Corley, only 20 lettermen return this season. The entire offensive line is gone but there are solid players at the skill positions. Quarterback Glen George has passed for 1,150 yards in his career and has run for four touchdowns of more than 35 yards.

Defensively, the Bears are in better shape with seven starters back, led by all-CIAA linebacker Angelo Chapman. Fellow linebackers Jeff McReynolds and Sherman Springs are also back. Joe Gamble, Charlie Smith and Earl Mincy are experienced in the secondary.

Corley, who will also be the Bears' head basketball coach, plans to change from the run-oriented attack stressed by Rose. "We will operate from the pro-set offensively and will show more of a balanced attack than we did in the run-oriented veer," he says.

Yet, only the Bears' defense will keep them ahead of JOHNSON C. SMITH. The Bulls' offense was anemic last season, ranking eighth in total offense and ninth in the league in scoring. Only three times during 1984 did Smith score more than two touchdowns.

With running backs Jeff Easterling and Tim Newman back, Coach Horace Small naturally hopes for more points. Wendell Dixon is the incumbent at quarterback but will receive a stiff challenge from Leroy Martin, a transfer from South Carolina.

BOWIE STATE failed to win in 10 starts last season, was shut out five times and scored only 40 points. The Bulldogs gave up 427 points and surrendered 50 or more points five times.

On the bright side, Coach John Organ has 28 lettermen back, including four offensive and six defensive starters.

The defense will be led by senior Fran Stevens, a pre-season all-CIAA pick in the secondary.

"The 1985 season looks promising," says the ever-optimistic Organ. "We have a larger and stronger team. We have nowhere to go but up, and, if we cut back on our mistakes, we will."