## Ft. Valley State's thinking man in the trenches

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE Review Staff Writer

Fort Valley State's offense breaks the huddle and approaches the line of scrimmage. The right tackle scans the defense as if he were a quarterback about to call an audible. His eyes cearch everyone on the other side of the line from safetyman to nose guard. Blocking adjustments may be in order.

For Richie Wells, the Wildcats' twotime all-Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tackle, it's just as important for linemen to read defenses as a quarterback. Offensive linemen must read defenses correctly, he says, in order to block the right people and make a play successful. Otherwise, the offense is unproductive.

Making the correct reads, Wells explains, "makes the offense go and things run much smoother."

Wells, a senior computer science major, has become a complete offensive lineman, says Ft. Valley Head Coach Doug Porter. At 6 foot 21/2 and 245 pounds, Wells is a resident wide body. Blessed with quick feet and the tenacity to stay with his block, Wells rarely gets beaten badly by opposing defensive linemen. He's one of the reasons Ft. Valley is nationally ranked in NCAA Division II (going into November) and he's also a reason the Wildcats are prime contenders for this year's SIAC

Pass blocking, according to some offensive linemen, is the most difficult technique to master. But for Wells the hardest task is being able to make the appropriate adjustments for blocking "Sometimes it's pass blocking and picking up the blitz," he says. "Other times it's a matter of picking up the

type who is not of the "rah-rah" mold. (photo by Craig T. Greenlee). But in his own, unassuming way, he instills a fiery intensity that is evident only when he takes the field. Since Wells has captained the Wildcats for two years, Coach Porter's confidence in his prize tackle is quite evident.

"We take a lot of pride in Richie," Porter says. "He's a leader on and off the field and is a good student-athlete, which is what your whole athletic program is about."

Wells, continues Porter, has always been a great run blocker and has con-

offensive tackle. The pros look at that," Porter adds.



Wells as a guard, Porter says, because

coach says. "I just hope he gets the op- former Miami Dolphin who now portrayed as killer types who devour portunity to show himself."

Wells is better suited for the guard either and we know his history. position in the pro game, explains The prospect of playing pro ball - more mental. "I meditate," he says. "I The pros have expressed an interest bulk for dropback pass blocking and ly." in the bulky Georgian, but not as an the upper body strength it takes for As for Ft. Valley's fortunes this and put him in the proper frame of

sive lines that won four Super Bowls good." "He has the ability to play," the averaged 6-1 per man. Larry Little, the

sistently improved on his pass protec- Porter, because he pulls well and is ex- wherever - brings a smile to Wells' just try to get close to God and I try to tion. When the coaching staff breaks ceptional at executing trap blocks - face. "I feel good about playing guard be by myself."

year, the team captain sees room for

Wells' height, though, could be a growth in the offense. "We have a lot he's not 6-5. The thinking of the pro negative factor when the pro teams of potential," Wells says, "and I teams concerning offensive tackles is evaluate him, says Porter. Still, Pitt- believe that, with a little more work, that they need to be tall enough to sburgh Steelers Head Coach Chuck we'll be all right. Our offense has to combat the ranginess of the defensive Noll has proven that height isn't become a little more polished, but ends and linebackers who tend to be always a prime ingredient. His offen- when it comes together, we'll be

While offensive linemen have been coaches Bethune-Cookman, isn't 6-4 six-inch nails to get ready for a game, Wells takes a different approach -- it's

down game films for analysis, the team something pro scouts like in college of because I like to pull," he says. "But The solitude and tranquility of captain always grades very high. fensive linemen. "Plus he has enough I'd be happy to play any position real-meditation and prayer, Wells says, help him focus his concentration more Please See Page 15

SIAC REPORT

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ing a recruiting visit and was sold on says. "It just kind of stuck on me." the program there. Alabama A&M, the Center and East Carolina were all in- for four years. He's also made it a a sweep away from his side.

American Illustrated Magazine in

the Diluth, Ga., product wanted to be. Wells came to Ft. Valley in 1981 dur- "I liked it from the beginning.," he

terested. But Ft. Valley was the place habit to be stuck on opposing defenses,

which he does in a variety of ways.

fires out against an opponent. There's sack his quarterback. also the finesse he shows on screen

Finally, he stands poised in striking Atlanta.

position as a pass protector - a massive There's the power he displays as he roadblock for defenses attempting to

Wells has been stuck on Ft. Valley passes and when sealing his man off on Craig T. Greenlee is editor of

## Robinson's raucous Tigers

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any other win."

Which is to say it felt good.

Everybody does his job. We have the their conference games.

season, it still has a shot at getting and the manner in which it did sets it tracked the Bear, the Tigers refused to USA Today.

But even if all those things go by the prestigious Pac-Ten Conference. boards, this team has proven to be Even though this year's squad has something special. It's the one that put the north Louisiana campus asking lost the opportunity for an undefeated Eddie Robinson in the record book, question after question as Robinson Roscoe Nance is a sportswriter for.

least a share of the SWAC champion- be expected of Grambling football of purpose that said they wouldn't be "We like to win," said Collins. ship is a real possibility. The Tigers will teams. No one came closer than seven denied. "That's the most important thing. be favored to win the remainder of points of them in their first six games, including Oregon State of the sive lineman Levelle Moore.

When the media began flocking to routine at Grambling.

Robinson into the I-AA playoffs and apart. The G-Men played with be distracted from their goal. They winning the national championship. At vengeance and a pride that has come to went about their business with a sense

"It became a routine," said offen-

And so, too, has winning become a

## BLACK COLLEGE REPORT

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Coleman, Andre Dawson and Hal McRae. The Rattlers hope to name

• Dawson probably will be moving on from Montreal, where he has spent free agent .... his entire 10-season major-league career. The right fielder was seeking \$2 football standout Ray Chadwick at-

million a year in order not to become a

• Former Winston-Salem State

tional League, where the organization's top prospects fine-tune Please See Page 19

## "Teamwork keeps prices low at Food Lion!"



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