Morris Brown's Wilcher quietly gets the job done

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE Review Staff Writer

strong, silent type.

He may not stand out on first glance, but, when coaches and the press look at his stats after a game, they know he's been in on a lot of ac-

Ga., has made it a habit of being in the Wolverines, with a whopping 117 tackles in eight games.

"Aggressive and reckless" is how MBC Head Coach Greg Thompson describes him. "He's our most consistent player on defense, game in and game out," Thompson says. "He always has his head into the game."

Wilcher calls the defensive signals for Morris Brown, and it's evident that his teammates listen when he speaks.

"He's our coach on the field," adds Willie Williams, MBC's defensive coordinator.

In the heat of football wars, Wilcher's cool often keeps his teammates under control, especially the more vocal members of the MBC defense. But it's sometimes difficult even for Wilcher not to be expressive when there's still hitting going on after the whistle.

"The hardest part," he says, "is walking away instead of retaliation. That's when we have to help each other stay under control."

At 6 feet, 200 pounds, Wilcher is not the biggest of linebackers. But his awareness of opponents' tendencies is more than ample compensation.

Example No. 1: Against Fort Valley State, Wilcher had been victimized by a Wildcat running back on a sideline pattern that went for a big gain.

Fort Valley tried the same play later in that drive. But Wilcher picked off a Chris Hill pass and returned it 48 yards to snuff out the threat.

Example No. 2: Morehouse College had the ball on MBC's 3-yard line late in the first half. Four times the Maroon Tigers tried to reach the end zone on the ground. Three times they failed, with Wilcher anchoring the roadblock.

Goal line stands bring out a special Wind of intensity in Wilcher. He's had a part in quite a few. Just because a team is in scoring territory doesn't mean that ones. it has to put points on the board, he "I believe that you have to play the Wolverines' defensive leader. says. "Our philosophy is to go after game from the neck up first, and then

Wilcher always seems to be in the right place at the right time (photo by Craig T. Greelee). and be more aggressive than the of- controls the body." Wilcher's view of football is based on preparation and hard work. (being overpsyched)," he says. "If so, "It's not so much the talent aspect," "I believe that you have to play the game from the neck up first, and then the neck down. The game is more mental because the mind controls the body."

before the season even begins."

he says of what he thinks separates him you won't know what to do. I've found from other linebackers. "I work that most mistakes made on a football field are mental, and those kinds of mistakes will hurt the most."

Wilcher says controlled intensity is a

critical factor for defensive players.

"You don't want to be too far out of it

Combining adequate mental Wilcher also takes care to hone his mental skills as well as the physical preparation with physical training can the opposing offense, says the Wilcher is.

the offense," Wilcher says. "You can't the neck down," he explains. "The "If you get a guy to lay down," he American Illustrated Magazine in afford to sit back. You have to attack game is more mental because the mind says, "he knows he'll get hit on every Atlanta.

The injury eventually took its toll, however, and, in the last three games, Wilcher could only play one half because his leg would swell by the time the second half started, rendering him

play. We know that, at some point,

Wilcher had a stellar year in '84 as a

junior, although he played most of the

season with a severe shin splint that

wasn't discovered until the seventh

game: But he had continued to play,

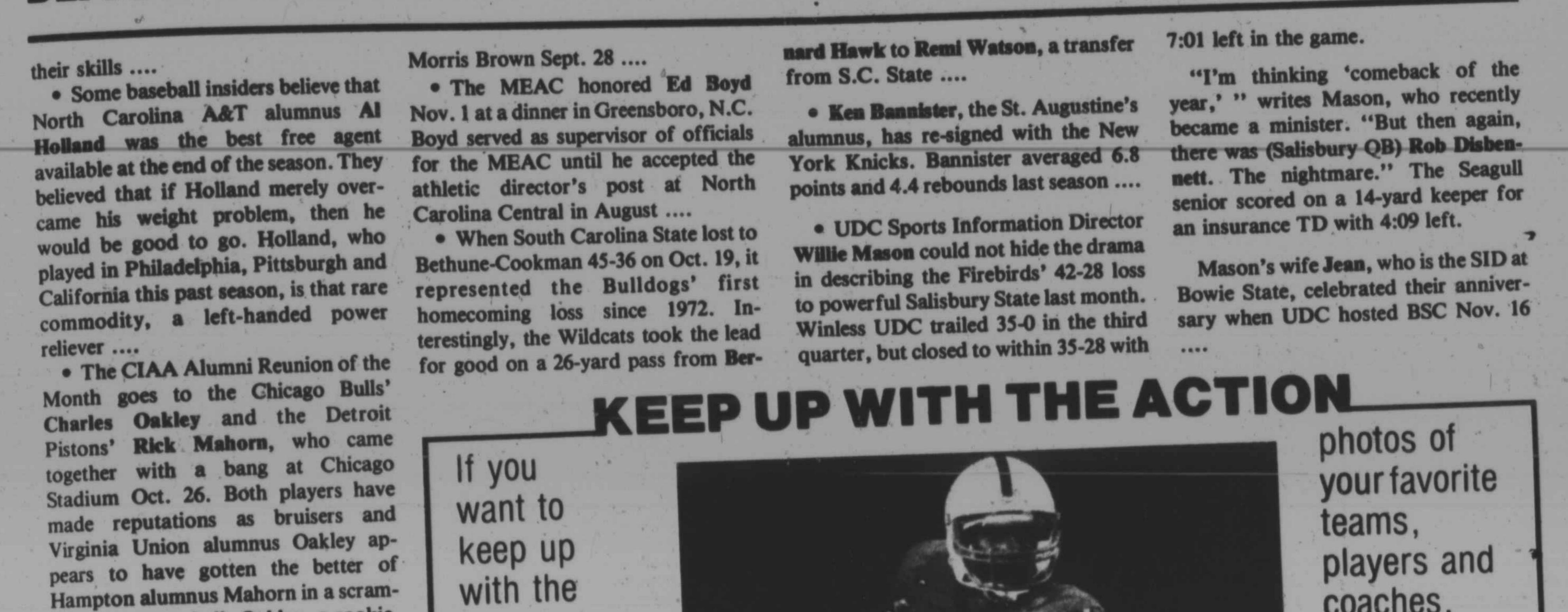
thinking it was only a nagging

soreness, and managed to record 89

But he played as long as he leg would only result in the defense controlling let him anyway. That's the way Todd

immobile and ineffective.

Craig T. Greenlee is executive editor of



Washington Bullets for Dan Round-• The CIAA has two of the top female basketball players in the land in St. Augustine's Renee Williams and Hampton University's Jackie Dolberry. As a senior, Williams averaged 33 points and 21 rebounds for East Forsyth High School in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Dolberry averaged 30 points and 15 rebounds for Catholic High in Norfolk, Va. Williams was the dominant player in North Carolina last season and Dolberry earned second team all-America honors from USA Today

was the Bulls' top choice in the June

draft. Mahorn was traded in the off-

season to the Pistons by the

Alcorn State faces an imposing start to the 1985-86 basketball season. Coach Davey Whitney's Braves plays Texas A&M and Mississippi in two of their first three games. Alcorn then plays in the Indiana Classic. Other participating teams include Indiana, Louisiana Tech and Texas Tech. In the following two weeks, the Braves have games at Texas-El Paso and Min-

The Alcorn women have an equally imposing schedule, with Louisiana State, Mississippi, Alabama and New Orleans on the schedule. The Bravettes also will play in invitational tournaments that include such Division I teams as Kansas, Missouri, Houston, Illinois State and Western Carolina

• Fort Valley State's once-beaten football team hasn't allowed a touchdown in four of seven games this season. FVSC's "Blue Death" defense recently limited Clark College to negative 18 yards on the ground and only two in the air in a 56-0 rout Oct. 5. Coach Doug Porter had registered his 100th career victory with a win over

Morris Brown Sept. 28

• The MEAC honored Ed Boyd

terestingly, the Wildcats took the lead Winless UDC trailed 35-0 in the third sary when UDC hosted BSC Nov. 16

nard Hawk to Remi Watson, a transfer from S.C. State

From Page 15

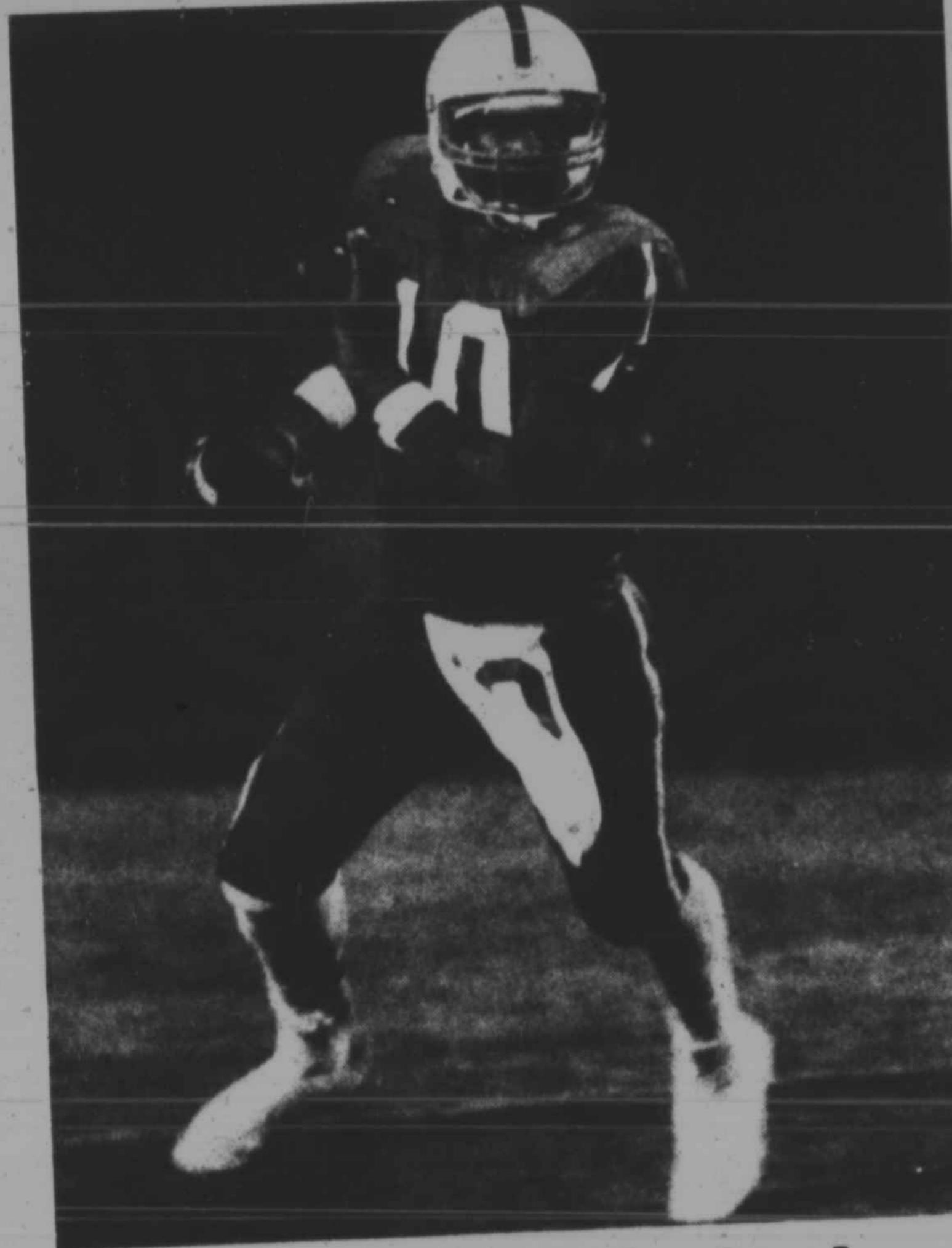
points and 4.4 rebounds last season

• UDC Sports Information Director Willie Mason could not hide the drama

7:01 left in the game.

"I'm thinking 'comeback of the • Ken Bannister, the St. Augustine's year,' " writes Mason, who recently alumnus, has re-signed with the New became a minister. "But then again, senior scored on a 14-yard keeper for an insurance TD with 4:09 left.

ble for a loose ball. Oakley, a rookie,
latest we can tell you where you'll find



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