FOOTBALL

He's bagging records these days, not groceries

By RON MORRIS Special To The Review

For a young man who envisioned a year of bagging groceries, Earl Harvey has done quite well for himself as a college quarterback this season, thank

In his freshman year at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., Harvey has bagged 11 school and two NCAA Division II records. With 3,190 yards passing in 10 games, Harvey is on a pace to leave his name scattered throughout the Central, CIAA and NCAA record books before he departs.

"If you had told me a year ago that all this was going to happen, I would have said you were crazy," says Harvey, who only 12 weeks ago left his home in Fayetteville to attend the only school that made him a serious offer of a scholarship to play quarterback.

"To tell you the truth, when we started off this year, we didn't know who our quarterback would be," says Central Coach Hank Lattimore. "It started out with (backup Anthony) Hamm getting most of the attention. Then Harvey started moving up into the race for a starting position. Now, here's a freshman we're talking about who has set some NCAA records."

Harvey's performances have left several opposing CIAA coaches a little dazed. Each probably thought he had seen the last of Central's vaunted passing game when Gerald Fraylon departed at the end of last season.

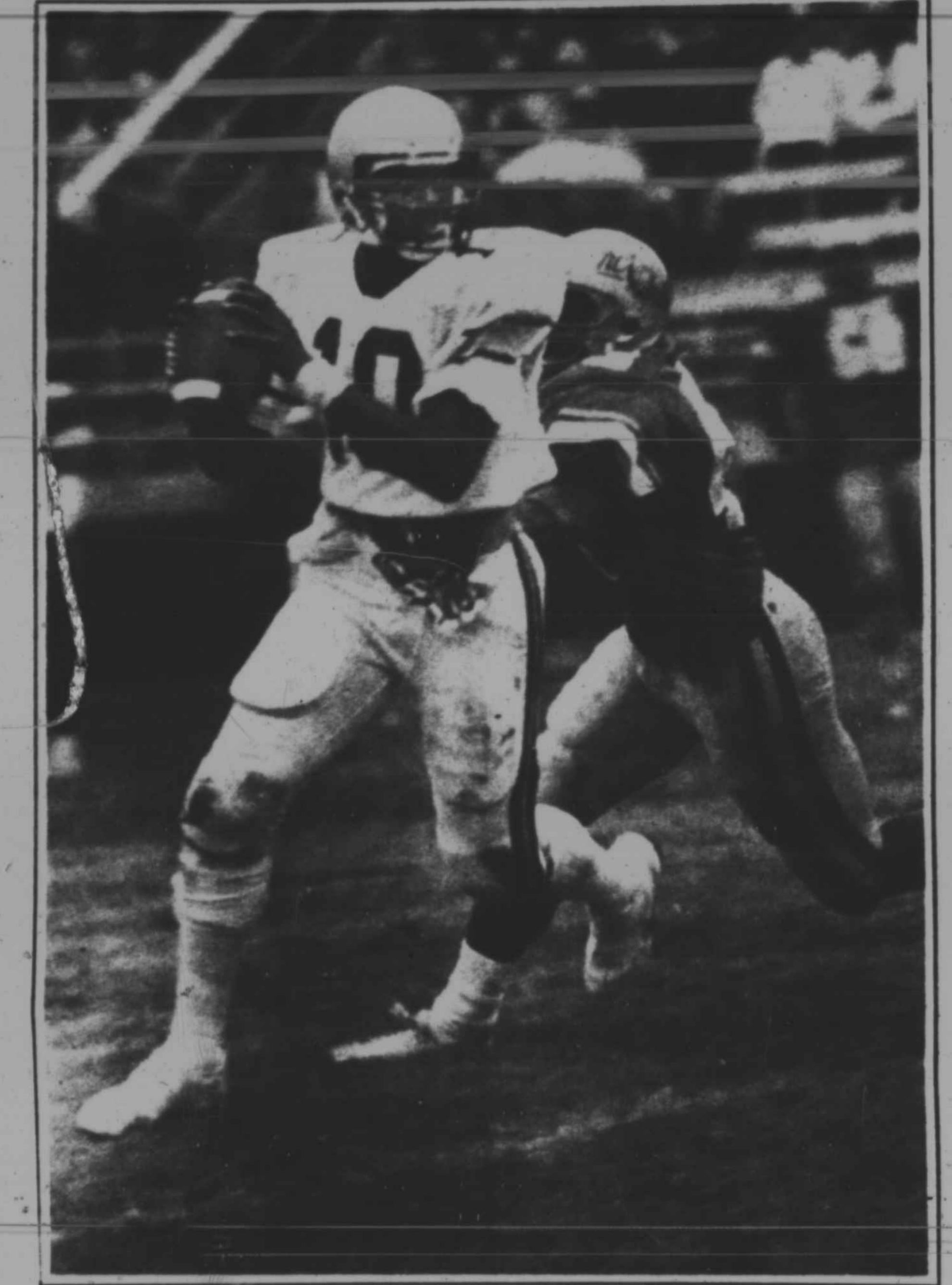
"It's been four years since we had a " team without a Fraylon," Lattimore said quite prophetically in the preseason. "I imagine people have forgotten that anybody else can play quarterback at Central.

"But I'll tell you something: I think this kid's going to change the minds of a whole lot of people."

It didn't take long for Lattimore's prediction to come true. When Harvey passed for a school-record 389 yards in a 41-40 Central loss on Oct. 26, Elizabeth City State Coach Thurlis "Moose" Little had seen what Lattimore spoke about.

"We finally got rid of Fraylon, now we have to face this guy three more years," said Little, who favors a pro- timore -- like Little -- is testing the virlific passer himself with his Mississippi tually untested CIAA waters of a wide-Valley-patterned "Nasty" offense. "That's not a pleasant thought."

6-foot-3, 195-pound frame onto Cen- question about it, we do put a lot of eftral's O'Kelly Stadium field every fort and time into our passing game. It is Lattimore with Harvey's progress at the passing game. quarterback, the Central coaching



Shades Of Fraylon

staff is gearing its no-huddle offense more and more to the passing game.

In Central's 55-0 victory over Bowie State on Nov. 2, one in which Harvey threw for a school-record tying four touchdowns in only three quarters of action, the Eagles experimented with not using running backs. In effect, Lat- But he's gotten right back up and gone open passing game.

"We work hard on our passing The thought of Harvey carrying his game," Lattimore says. "There's no Saturday for three more seasons is takes about three coaches, and we didn't have many alternatives to colmost pleasing to Lattimore. So happy don't have many coaches, to work with lege.

"Because of that, he's under

pressure. I imagine he goes into every ballgame feeling that pressure. He knows he is the focus of our offense and I think he has accepted that well.

"But it hasn't been easy for him. He's had some difficult ballgames and he's taken some hard licks out there.

Accepting the pressure did not come easy for Harvey. His quiet nature combined with the uncertainty of his abilities left Harvey gun-shy at the outset. Unsure of himself, even in an interview situation, Harvey said he

"Really, this is like a dream to me," Harvey said in the pre-season.."When

I was in high school, I just had plans to get out and get a job, go to work. I figured I'd be bagging groceries or in the army right now."

He certainly never figured to be leading a North Carolina Central football team into New York's Yankee Stadium for a meeting with powerful Grambling State. For a kid who had never left the state of North Carolina and never flown on an airplane, quarterbacking a college team under those circumstances was probably too much to ask. Following a 45-14 loss to the Tigers, one in which the admittedly scared quarterback threw four interceptions, Harvey thought maybe he should bag football.

"I felt so bad after that game because it was a dream to play against Grambling. The only time I had ever seen them was on TV," says Harvey, who was in tears following a 15-of-33 passing performance that netted only 207 yards passing.

Two weeks later in a loss to Winston-Salem State, Harvey threw three interceptions and managed only 147 yards passing. Against Elizabeth City, Lattimore had to bench Harvey early in the game.

"He's emotional; he wants to do well," Lattimore says. "We had to take him out of the ballgame until he settled down. He was off-target and he was missing people. We told him to just settle down and things would work

Those games have been the exceptions for Harvey, whose best qualities are a strong and accurate arm. Generally, Harvey has been cool under the pressure of running a no-huddle offense in which the quarterback calls every play at the line of scrimmage. Early in the season, Lattimore was sending most plays to Harvey from the sideline. By the third game, Harvey was on his own.

"With each game, his play selection has been better." Lattimore says. "He's looking at the (defensive) coverage well now. He's more confident in what he's doing."

The freshman has to be a quickwitted quarterback because the Eagle receivers run their own patterns, in effect taking whatever the secondary gives them. Under these circumstances, Harvey sometimes has to try to read his teammates' minds. He did an excellent job of this in his first season.

Harvey's new-found confidence is beginning to show in all areas. The modest rookie enjoys talking freely about how Central's offensive line and its receivers should get credit for his success. Harvey has been sacked only

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By DAVID BULLA

A LARGE PART of the college ex-

titree major adjustments since he arrived at Winston-Salem State three years

First, the Detroit native had to adapt to a small Southern city. Second, he had to accept attending a small, NCAA Division II college, instead of one of the many big Division I schools that recruited him. Third, he had to learn to hit more judiciously on the football

Beasley has learned to adjust quite well, thank you. The strong safety has grown accustomed to Winston-Salem and a small college with one of the most successful Division II programs in the land. And, this past season, he showed that he had learned his trade as well as anyone in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Indeed, Beasley was named the CIAA's Defensive Player of the Year.

While he's learned to deal with change, coaches have frequently had to change their thinking to suit Beasley's athletic talent.

"Derrick made remarkable progress this season," said Pete Richardson, WSSU's defensive coordinator and a former defensive back with the Buffalo Bills. "Derrick's bigger and stronger, and he acquired more knowledge of the game. Many of our defensive schemes are built around his assets."

Chief of which is his ability to play ball Coach Richard Carter. rough-and-tumble football.

"Derrick is a hitter," Ram Coach

me," Beasley said. "He told me things schools," said Beasley, a physical would work out better for me in foot-

Beasley proved to be a "bone-High School. His favorite sport had crushing hitter," according to the on my education because I knew I Cody coach. He had nearly 200 solo tackles in two years. His senior season, had four interceptions.

"He's the only all-stater I've had in 10 years here," Carter said. "We've

> had some pretty good talent, too." Donald Anderson was an outstanding defensive back before Beasley. Anderson attended Purdue and now plays for the NFL's Indianapolis Colts. "Derrick did whatever he wanted great.

to," Carter said. "He was all over the field. That's desire, because he wants to make the hit."

The change of sports worked so well that Beasley found himself being recruited by every Big Ten school, "even though I was the smallest linebacker in the state."

Beasley wasn't sure a big school was right for him. So he listened closely when fellow Detroit native Karlton Watson, then a quarterback for the Rams, told him about the little liberal arts school in the South that had outstanding football and intimate classroom settings. Watson, a Chadsey wanted to be like them," the WSSU High product who now plays in the junior said. "I wanted to go to college. Canadian Football League, would be a star for WSSU in 1983, when Beasley was a 190-pound freshman.

"All my best friends went to big

education major. "But I didn't want to go to a big school and just be a number. I wanted to put an emphasis could play football. Karlton told me Winston-Salem State had a good foothe was in on more than 150 tackles and ball program and there would be no distractions to keep me from my

Although Beasley should prove good enough to make a career of football, he's not counting on being a profes-

"I want to get my degree first," he said. "If I become a pro later, that's

"But having talked to Jack Cameron (former WSSU defensive back who played one year for the Chicago Bears), I know pro football can be a very short career. It can' be a bitter dead end if you don't get your degree. So you have to be prepared for what comes after. That's what I'm doing now,"

Beasley credits his brothers, Steve Beasley and Wendell Wood, with inplayed football at Tennessee State and Steve Beasley played basketball at Eastern Michigan.

"They got lots of clippings and I

"But I think when my playing days are over, I'll go back home to Detroit. It's wild and it's hard there, but it's



54-yard touchdowns.

Beasley is a relative newcomer to football. He only began playing the ball." sport as a junior at Detroit's Cody been basketball and his style of play earned him the respect of Cody foot-

"He's the type of fellow who can dunk backwards and make you look

"All my best friends went to big schools. But I didn't want to go to a big school and just be a number. I wanted to put an emphasis on my education because I knew I could play football. Karlton (Watson) told me Winston-Salem State had a good football program and there would be no distractions to keep me from my books."

Bill Hayes said. "In fact, his one - bad with his size," Carter said of weakness as a safety is he likes to hit Beasley. "He teamed with a fellow too much. He reacts to the run quickly and commits himself too quickly sometimes. There are times when he's not in position on the pass.

"But he's improved in that area. This season, he was wiser about when to hit and not hit. You have to like his size (6-2, 205) and speed for a defensive

Indeed, when Beasley becomes eligible for the National Football League draft in 1987, it is unlikely the NFL people will be able to overlook him.

Beasley turned in an amazing junior season, leading the Rams in tackles (97) and solo hits (55). The defensive

named Vernon Carr, who now plays at basketball at Michigan State. They had quite a team here." But Carter was confident Beasley's talents were better suited for football. "He came to all the basketball

games," Beasley said of Carter. "He liked my aggressiveness, so he asked the to play football. "I was hesitant at first because it's a

cold sport and I didn't like it outdoors. At home it's cold most of the time." When Beasley decided to go out for the varsity his junior year at Cody, the football coach made him the center-

back also had four interceptions, two "He put me at middle linebacker of which he returned for 38- and and changed the whole defense to suit

piece of his defense.

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