# MEAC *CONTINUED*

Senior guard Roy Ferguson is the only offensive lineman with any game experience.

Defensively, the Bulldogs hope that all-MEAC defensive back Dwayne Harper,defensive back Charles Barksdale and linebacker Leroy Mathis (all-conference) can provide leadership to a very inexperienced group.

The Golden Bears finished 1-9 in 1986 and could improve in 1987 with the return of several starters. However, MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY was dealt a severe blow when it lost the services of defensive back Alton Gowdy and running back Marco Kornegay for the season due to disciplinary reasons. Gowdy was the MEAC's leading tackler and a first team all-conference selection while Kornegay was the team's leading rusher who also scored on two kickoff returns in 1986.

Sophomore Darryl Jackson (752 yards passing) will be calling signals and throwing in the direction of junior Reggie Burgess (17 receptions for 181 yards).

Brent Carter is an all-conference selection but there is little experience otherwise.

Defensively, the Golden Bears will rely on the talents of defensive back Bernon Beard and David Crawford.

FLORIDA A&M (5-6) is back in the MEAC but will only play two conference opponents (B-CC and S.C. State) this season.

The Rattlers will be strong on defense with the return of such stalwarts as Brian Brewer (43 tackles, 9 sacks), nose guard Raymond Coleman (46 tackles, 4 sacks), linebacker Eddie Metcalf (69 tackles) cornerback William Evers (5 interceptions) and safety Matthew Fair (66 tackles).

The offensive backfield will be strong with the return of tailback Bryan Moore (406 yards, 2 TDs) and fullback Reggie Jones (395 yards, 9 TDs) to the fold. However, the quarterback situation is muddled.

The lone starter on the offensive line is junior John Jordan, while the receiving corps was not productive in 1986.

# CIAA *From Page 3*

Beligrinis handling the short-range chores and senior Tyrone Smith the long-distance placements. Sophomore David Hamlin is the incumbent punter.

In all likelihood, Hayes' horde will claim their fifth straight Southern Division crown. With what Hayes believes to be the toughest 10-game slate in Division II, the Rams cannot afford as many injuries as they suffered last season. Moreover, a slip against NCCU could cost them the divisional title. Even though Hayes, a former Eagle all-America, seems to have a whammy on his alma mater, how long can it last? After all, last season WSSU did not exactly win in a rampage over Central. It took four blocked punts and a gift in the form of a tactical safety by the Eagles to eke out a 22-21 victory that was the highlight of the Rams' 7-4 season.

So, it figures to be more of the same for the conference's model of consistency: Another division title, another CIAA Championship Game and another battle against the odds, since no Southern Division team has ever won a title tilt.

On one side of Durham, there's enough money to blitz the media with an advertising campaign which uses the catchphrase "Air Ball." On the other side of Durham, Coach Hank Lattimore wonders if his program has enough money to pay for the scholarship of the most important member of Durham's first "Air" ball team.

"I had to go to the student body and pass the hat in order to pay for another semester of school for Earl ("Air") Harvey," Lattimore told the annual CIAA preseason coaches' press conference.

**2** Even if its football program does not have the big money, NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL cannot afford to pass up on a talent like Harvey, already the CIAA's career passing leader with 5,897 yards in only two seasons. With Harvey at the helm of the nation's most productive air power, Central should be WSSU's closest rival again.

The 6-3, 203-pound Harvey nearly won the Harlan Hill Award, Division II's version of the Heisman Trophy, with 2,707 yards and 24 touchdowns. But gone are Harvey's favorite receivers in Robert Clark, who set CIAA career records for most receptions, yardage and touchdowns, and Robert Green. Those two combined for 101 receptions, 1,825 yards and 18 touchdowns last season. Senior tight end Terrence McNeill, an all-CIAA selection the last two years, returns. McNeill and junior Joe Vanhook figure to be Harvey's main target this season. The other receiver is James Wiggins.

Only the receiving corps was affected by graduation, for NCCU returns its other eight offensive starters. Harvey will be joined in the backfield by sophomore fullback Gary Leath. Several players are vying for the tailback spot including Tim Oakley, David Burt, Kenneth Hall and John Jackson.

The strength in numbers continues on defense, where 10 starters are back, including junior tackle Kenneth Guidry and defensive backs Gerald Mack and Robert Massey. Mack led the Eagles in interceptions last season with six. Despite a rugged schedule which included Jackson State, Grambling State, Norfolk State, WSSU and A&T, the Eagles ranked fourth in the CIAA in total defense last season.

"We think this is one of the best defenses we've had since I've been at Central," Coach Hank Lattimore said. "People are going to look at me funny when I say our defense is our major strength, but it's the truth."

Another 6-4 campaign is likely against another demanding schedule, but a win here or a loss there could move Lattimore's team up or down in the standings. As usual, the Eagles' date with WSSU (Oct. 17 in Winston-Salem's Bowman Gray Stadium) figures to be for the divisional championship.

"We had them (the Rams) last year," Lattimore said. "We let that one slip away. But the problems with the punting game were not the players' fault. We tried to get cute by having separate people on our punt and kickoff teams. We just don't have enough personnel to get away with that."

**3** If Central falters a bit, JOHNSON C. SMITH is talented enough to pick up the slack. The Golden Bulls improved from 1-9 in 1985 to 5-5 in '86. Coach Horace Small's team lost four of those five by a touchdown or less.

The offense is led by option quarterback Mel Westmoreland and fullback Raymond Joyner as well as receivers Leon Shipp and Marrin Bartee.

The defense is led by all-CIAA selections Ronald Capers at linebacker and Michael Ballen at end. Noseguard Steve Pinner (6-0, 270) also figures prominently in the Bulls' defensive plans.

**4** LIVINGSTONE was blown out in three games but was competitive in its other seven games to finish 3-5-2.

The Fighting Bears have a new coach in former Fayetteville State assistant William Spencer, who inherits a program that finished second in the division in '85. Spencer takes over for David Corley, who decided to concentrate on the Bears' basketball fortunes.

Corley, who had been the head coach of both the football and basketball programs, did not leave the cupboard bare for Spencer, who expects to be competitive again in the division.

"We've got an enthusiastic group and we're not making any drastic changes," Spencer said. "I think we have some possibilities, but this conference is tough."

If things bog down, the Bears can always punt thanks to the presence of James Simpson. The best punter in the league, Simpson averaged 40 yards on 66 punts, with a longest of 65 yards.

**5** FAYETTEVILLE STATE was inexperienced and paid for it with a 2-7-1 record. The Broncos proved they were talented in one three-game stretch with a win over Elizabeth City State, a narrow loss to Winston-Salem State and a tie with Livingstone.

The Broncos were third in the league against the rush last season. Standouts on the defensive front include Andre Bowden and Anthony Jenkins. Randy Ladson heads the secondary.

On offense, FSU is led by tailback Greg Gunn, who rushed for 595 yards and seven touchdowns. Quarterback Clint Caldwell threw for 1,353 yards and nine touchdowns.

**6** BOWIE STATE's futility streak reached 30 games. So second-year Coach David Dolch decided enough was enough. He opted for a new recruiting tactic: Search the junior colleges for talent. He came up with quarterback Clarence Boykins and wide receiver Mo Banks. Also expected to provide immediate help are linebacker Jim Werking and free safety Rodney Barfield.

## Northern Division

**1** VIRGINIA UNION may have been the CIAA champions last season but the Panthers were the beneficiaries of a lot of good fortune. First of all, chief rivals Hampton University and Norfolk State suffered losing seasons. Then, too, Northern Division runner-up Virginia State suffered a 44-7 loss in their season opener with Winston-Salem State and the Trojans had to play catchup from the start. Furthermore, in the Championship Game the Panthers played one of WSSU's weakest teams in recent years and a Ram squad that was banged up by an unmerciful schedule. Finally, Union played the easiest schedule in the CIAA. Not counting the title game with WSSU, Union's opponents managed a paltry .283 winning percentage.

This year Union rotates its schedule and has replaced Bowie State, the University of the District of Columbia and Livingstone with South Carolina State, North Carolina Central and Winston-Salem State.

Still, the Panthers are the Northern Division's strongest team entering the season, returning standout signal caller Kenny Jones, an option quarterback who threw for 1,037 yards and ran for 300. Moreover, Jones has a solid cast back on the front line, including center Rod Greene, guards Kenneth Perry and Tony Dunn and tackles Derrick Wansley (6-3, 290) and Kevin Brown. Fullback Adrian Wright, who was the league's Offensive Player of the Year with 1,021 yards and 12 touchdowns, has moved on to the New York Giants, and Coach Joe Taylor will look to David Moore and Michael Todd to pick up the slack. Wayne Martin and Donald Chaplin remain Jones' favorite pass targets.

The Panthers led Division II in rushing, passing, scoring and total defense. Free safety Michael Brim was second in the league in interception returns with eight. Brim, an all-America, returned three of those for touchdowns. Sophomores Leroy Gause and Ken McGregor are other defensive standouts.

With his top two players from last season gone and a tougher schedule, Taylor concedes his team will not be able to take the division by storm again.

"The word parity is overused," Taylor said, "but it applies to the division and the conference as a whole this season. Right now I think it's hard to determine where the races will settle out."

**2** If the Panthers falter, look for any of four teams to scramble for the top spot, led by NORFOLK STATE. The Spartans suffered a rare losing season -- in fact, the first in Coach Willard Bailey's distinguished 17-year career. As if to atone for that oddity, Bailey went out and put together the best recruiting year in the CIAA.

While this will admittedly be a rebuilding year for NSU, freshmen like Herman McKinnie of West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, N.C., should put the Spartans back in the black. McKinnie, an all-state selection, ran for 1,368 yards and 15 touchdowns as a senior. He also was the Most Valuable Player of North Carolina's annual East-West All-Star Game in July, rushing for 171 yards and three touchdowns. The yardage total broke a 21-year-old all-star game record.

McKinnie joins a backfield which includes the likes of Tony Graves, who had 454 yards and seven touchdowns, and Ken Dickens, who is bouncing back after missing seven games with a leg fracture. Quarterback Mike Lawrence must improve on his 37-percent completion rating for the Spartans to move the ball better.

Six starters are back on defense, including ends Johnny Washington and Ted Bates and linebacker Ben Johnson.

Remember that the Spartans were 4-1 at the halfway point last season before injuries and youth caught up with them. Seasoning, an infusion of new talent and the fertile mind of Bailey could make Norfolk the upstart team in the Northern Division.

**3** VIRGINIA STATE, which has been just as consistent as WSSU in recent years, though at a slightly lower level, is coming off a 6-4 campaign. The Trojans return 19 starters and therefore should be in the thick of the Northern title race.

"We have pretty high expectations," said Coach George Moody, whose program is 19-20-1 over the past four years. "We're expecting to be a championship contender."

The Trojans' strength rests in their secondary, where Virnest Beale (all-CIAA, seven interceptions), Kevin Hall, Bobby Shepherd and Anthony Parham roam. Hall, all-conference two years ago, was academically ineligible last season. Other defensive standouts are noseguard McKenzie Harris and linebacker Ken Brant.

Moody must find a replacement for halfback Von Allen's 1,020 yards and 10 touchdowns. The leading contenders for Allen's job were Huran Winstead and Keith O'Hara. Danny Boynton, who was second in the CIAA in punt return yardage, figures to get the ball more from his wingback position. Quarterback Rudy Elliot completed 57 percent of his passes and figures to be even better this season.

Tackle Darryl Brown (6-5, 290) and center Deandrea Neal (6-3, 298) head the offensive front.

"We finished strong last season (with victories over Norfolk and Hampton), and we want to continue that momentum at the start of the season," Moody said. "You cannot afford any letdowns in this division because so many teams are strong."

**4** ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY Coach Thurlis Little decided to forego the usual conciliatory tone and trotted out his best bravado tone at the coaches' press conference.

"I've been crying in the past and we've taken our lumps," he said. "But those of you who didn't pick Elizabeth City State first in the Northern Division made a grave mistake."

It is true that the Vikings' pro-set offense could make them contenders. But history is against the Vikes, for no run-and-shoot offense has made it to the top yet. What is more likely is that ECSU will be an exciting team with a winning record.

Still, ECSU possesses the league's top receiver in Robert Tilley, who sat a CIAA record with 70 catches last season. Junior Bill Wilde returns at quarterback after throwing for 1,501 yards and 14 touchdowns last year. Wilde will have plenty of protection from an offensive line led by all-America tackle Beau Moore (6-1, 290). Dexter Moore, an all-CIAA defensive back, had eight interceptions last season.

**5** HAMPTON INSTITUTE will find itself back in the hunt with Carl Painter back at tailback. Painter was the CIAA Offensive Player of the Year in 1985 when he led the Pirates to the conference championship. However, he broke a collarbone in the second game of the '86 season and became a medical redshirt.

The Pirates, who also played a tough schedule, return nine offensive and seven defensive starters. The most exciting Pirate of them all is wide receiver Herbert Skinner, who also was the all-conference kick returner.

The defense will be led by linebacker Terrell Britt and defensive back Linwood Lumpkin, a transfer.

**6** ST. PAUL'S landed in the cellar for the third straight year, prompting rookie Coach Larry Blackstone to resign after the Tigers ranked last or next-to-last in nearly every defensive category.

To stem the tide, the Tigers hired Dr. Mel Creel to take Blackstone's place. Creel is big on weight training, coming to St. Paul's from Clovis, N.M., where he owned a line of health clubs.

Creel, a native of the Tidewater area, will look to linebacker Hugh Drew (11 tackles per game) and halfback James Harrison (455 yards) for leadership. But Garnett Cross, the Tigers' kick return specialist, is SPC's most exciting player. He averaged 22.5 yards per kickoff and 21.6 per punt return.

## SHERIDAN BLACK COLLEGE PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL POLL

| Team | Points/ 1st-Place Votes | 1986 W/L |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Jackson State | 122 (5) | 9-2-0 |
| 2. Tennessee State | 114 (5) | 9-1-1 |
| 3. Central State (Ohio) | 112 (4) | 9-0-1 |
| 4. Virginia Union | 80 | 11-0-0 |
| 5. Howard | 78 (1) | 8-3-0 |
| 6. Grambling | 70 | 7-4-0 |
| 7. North Carolina A&T | 61 | 9-2-0 |
| 8. Delaware State | 42 | 7-4-0 |
| 9. Winston-Salem State | 21 | 7-4-0 |
| Southern | 21 | 5-5-1 |
| 11. Fort Valley State | 20 | 7-3-0 |
| 12. Albany State | 16 | 9-2-0 |
| Alcorn State | 16 | 5-5-0 |
| 14. Florida A&M | 8 | 5-6-0 |
| Savannah State | 8 | 6-4-0 |