

Central State University quarterback Eric Moore calls signals against Hillsdale College. Coach Billy Joe, inset, calls his players a "scrappy bunch that loves to play the game." And play they do, finishing the season 10-0-6 (photos by Mark Lyons).

Central State chosen as No. 1 team in nation

By CRAIG T. GREENLEE Review Staff Writer

The Central State Marauders have been chosen as the No. 1 team in black college football by Black College Sports Review.

CSU faced a hefty schedule this past season, finishing the year at 10-0-1 and defeating some "name" schools in the process -- Grambling and Tennessee State. They tied Florida A&M.

Under the guidance of head coach Billy Joe, the Marauders played with a lot of spirit and coordination on both sides of the ball.

"We don't bring in the super ath-

Black College Sports Review salutes Coach Billy Joe and the Marauders

letes," Joe says. "We don't have the kind of guys who are pro material. But we're a scrappy bunch that loves to play the game."

The success that CSU had this past year could be their own undoing as far as their getting future games against NCAA schools.

There is a lot of concern that because Central State is an NAIA school, many NCAA opponents won't

play them because they're too good. Since they don't have to adhere to the NCAA's more stringent guidelines concerning the academic requirements for freshman athletes, they can recruit more athletes to be competi-

tive with their NCAA counterparts. It seems as though NCAA colleges will be avoiding Central State in the future to keep from being embarrassed by an NAIA team, a team that

supposedly belongs to a "lesser" orga-

That's strange. Sounds a lot like the same rationale that white schools often used for not playing black colleges during the days before the nation's colleges were integrated.

But then again, maybe it's not that strange. Just call it human nature. Nobody wants to schedule games against a small school that can whip them. No coach will openly admit this, but larger schools don't schedule smaller schools with losing in mind. If you don't believe it, check around at some colleges' homecoming opponents. You can find the answers in all the black college athletic conferences.

FEEDOM BOWL

Speculation of a South romp was wasted energy

By RANDY PETTITT leview Staff Writer

Groves Stadium in Winston-Salem, down. I just wanted to prove to the doubters North to the 26-yard line with some nifty pass- Reed, who was named the South's Most North Carolina is by no means a babe in the that I was big enough to play linebacker." ing. The drive stalled when the South took Outstanding Offensive Performer, finished the there, as well as the 1983 and 1985 Central in attendence.

Rams, would be hard pressed to top the great might run away with the game.

The Freedom Bowl, which assembled 80 format, boasted the nation's leading rusher Aaron Lewis. (Harvey Reed of Howard University), the nation's leading pass interceptor (Frank Jeffries of Saint Paul's) and enough coaching support to make a group of choir boys a being compared with Eric Dickerson. national contender.

Conference Commissioner, Ken Free, and the son, for a 10-yard burst. game's committee hinged their hopes for South team loaded with offensive talent.

On paper, it appeared the South team composed of MEAC and Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association stars had an offensive edge with the explosive Reed and leader-Hooker of North Carolina A&T.

But once the action hit the field, the North team -- seniors from the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and the Southwestern Athletic Conference -- proved that pre-game speculation is often nothing more than wasted energy.

North team linebackers Rufus Porter of Southern University and Mark Wallace of Winston-Salem State listened all week to stories of how the South team would ride the arm of Hooker and the legs of Reed to victory.

As the two enforcers combined for 21 tackles and so amply pointed out with their defensive prowess, the team with the best defense usually wins football games.

The North squad won the civil war in the trenches, kept Hooker on the run, Reed in their sights and all but shut down the potent South offense for the entire second half route to a 15-9 win.

Porter, a 6-1, 208-pound SWAC standout, took quite a liking to the backfield of the South team. He spent a good bit of the afternoon there and accomplished his goal walking out of Groves Stadium as the game's Most Outstanding Player.

"That's what kept me going all week," said Porter, a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

"With all the talk, our team had some- ing in Chauncey Allen of Grambling for the self by hitting for 10 tackles and the Most, wanted to prove that we could shut them though not on the scoreboard, by moving the South.

games. A few of the annual Winston-Salem defense with 12 tackles and two sacks, serving again. State-N.C. A&T gridiron wars have been held notice to the more than 25 professional scouts

imaginable for a Tarheel December afternoon, rence McNeill for a touchdown. Allen But the ones that really mattered, knew he But the 30,000-seat arena that is home to things appeared rather gloomy for the North Bridgeforth of Norfolk State then nailed the was for real. Wake Forest University and occasionally the and it quickly appeared that the South team extra point for a 7-6 North lead at halftime.

arrival of the Fifth Annual Freedom Bowl All- Boynton of Virginia State and Jeff Alexander Jeff Alexander. of Southern University each tried their luck on the ground against the South defense. But the his team in position to win when he was down gave us a little glimpse of what he can of the nation's top seniors from historically net result of the North's first possession was a inserted over Ross in the later stages of the do. I'm not saying he's another Eric Dickerblack institutions together in a North-South shanked 21-yard boot from Fayetteville State's fourth quarter. The South chopped the lead to son, but his running style certainly reminds

Lewis' wobbly punt rolled dead at the 50- of Tennessee State. yard line and the South wasted little time in showing the scouts why Harvey Reed was

All-star gatherings have been known to scrimmage and cut up the right side behind get dull in the past, but Mid-Eastern Athletic 310-pound fellow Bison teammate, Roy Pier- There, with 56 second left in the game, he

Following an inside handoff to Delaware excitement on the shoulders of Reed and a State's Terrance Hooven for four yards, Reed sped around the left side for an easy 34-yard touchdown. In the process, he eluded four tacklers, gave the South a 6-0 lead and made the North's worst nightmare come true.

"We were real concerned about Harvey ship from a "never say die" quarterback, Alan Reed turning the corner on us," said Joe Taylor, whose 1986 CIAA championship at Virginia Union earned him the honor as acting head coach of the North squad.

"He's such a great runner," he said of Reed, who finished the regular season with 1,512 yards. "You give him a half of a step and he's around the corner before you know what happened. That touchdown certainly grabbed our attention."

The momentum took a slight swing back towards the North, however, when Mike Ball of Southern University blocked the extra-point kick and the score remained 6-0.

The North continued to struggle offensively, punting on three successive possessions before starting quarterback Shannon Boyd threw an interception and gave the South yet

Porter, Wallace and company kept the North within striking distance, though, by keeping South quarterbacks Hooker and Gregory Ross of Delaware State running for their

Instead of taking a commanding lead, the South was held without a touchdown pass and only 87 yards in the air. Coach Maurice "Mo" Forte's stable of runners were dropped for 111 yards in losses by the superior CIAA/SWAC

Taylor then switched quarterbacks, bring-

Allen then came back to guide his squad down to the five-yard line, where he connect- time, were left unimpressed with a less-than-Intercollegiate Athletic Association champi- Although it was warm and sunny as ed with North Carolina Central tight end Ter- average day from the flashy Bison runner.

talent that was ushered into town with the Shannon Boyd of Jackson State, Daniel lead in the third quarter on a three-yard run by Angeles Rams.

However, the resourceful Hooker did put 13-9 on a 32-yard field goal by Andre Sherrill

After the North went ahead 15-9 on a safety, Hooker went to work. He connected on Reed took the South's first play from four of five passes and used the running of all I can say at this point." Reed and Hoover to move to the North's 28. faced a fourth and six situation.

He delivered a chest-high pass to wide receiver Richard Beavers of Tuskegee Insti tute, but it slipped through his hands, ending the South's chances to pull out a victory.

"That was a close one," said Taylor. "Alan Hooker just doesn't quit until he sees all zeros on the scoreboard."

Members of the working media selecter Chauncey Allen as the North's Most Outstanding Offensive Performer, while Porter won the defensive honor and the overall MVP award.

Despite the loss, the South team had sev eral players to make favorable impressions upon the scouts in attendence. Derek Andrews made an even bigger name for him-

thing to prove -- and so did I. The team just ' first time. He brought immediate results, Outstanding Defensive Player award for the

woods when it comes to hosting great football

Porter did both, as he led the North's over on downs, but the North defense held day with a modest 104 yards and scoring once

Some fans who saw Reed for the first

"All those yards speak for themselves," They never trailed again, expanding the said "Tank" Younger, a scout for the Los

"We like Reed. That first-quarter touch-

Could the Rams be looking to replace Dickerson with a black college prototype? Will he go in the first round?

"We like Reed," smiled Younger. "That's

The Freedom Bowl turned out to be a pretty decent football game. But it's real worth was to give pro scouts a chance to time. evaluate and get one last look at the nation's top talent from schools that often get overlooked until the later rounds of the NFL draft.

"I'd say there were a couple of first round picks in this game," said one scout, who asked to keep anonymity.

"I saw a couple of kids who might shock some folks in the draft. I hadn't heard of them

"But now I have."

The Freedom Bowl had done its job. It gave historically black institutions a chance to show their stuff.

The folks back in Winston-Salem can attest -- there was plenty to show.

The mighty are fallen

From Page 2

Alcorn thrived on coach Davey Whitney's ability to take unknown but talented players and mold them into a cohesive unit that was long on rebounding, defense, pride and smarts.

In recent years other schools have discovered those players.

The result is Alcorn State is just another basketball program.

It's nice to envision the Braves returning to their glory days. But they probably never will. There are too many hurdles --- Proposal 48, a tougher schedule, other programs' improvement --- to overcome for that.

Still, it's great to remember when Alcorn States was a force to be reckoned with ... to remember the time when no matter who the opponent was, the Braves had a chance of winning. Regardless of how hard the times are for the Braves, that's something that can never be taken away.