

HBCSPA HBCSPORTS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Issue 1 Vol. 1 November 2005



Virginia State quarterback Michael Terry tries to elude Shaw defensive tackle Christopher Tate. Terry amassed 179 yards of total offense and threw for three touchdowns.

Photo by Joe Daniels for HBCSports Press Association

Virginia State Moves One Step Closer to Eastern Division Crown Miscues Hurt Defending CIAA Champions

By Donal Ware
HBCSports Press Association Raleigh Editor

RALEIGH, N.C., Oct 22 – Almost a year ago to the day, the Shaw football team marched into Petersburg, VA on the home turf of Virginia State and defeated the Trojans 14-7 to claim the CIAA's Eastern Division crown. Today the Trojans were looking to avenge that loss and take another step to securing the Eastern Division crown. For the Bears, a win meant the crown for the second-straight season.

History would not repeat itself.

The Trojans (6-3, 5-1) scored 21 unanswered points during the first half and never looked back as they rolled to a 43-10 victory over the Bears before a crowd of 4,486 at John Baker Stadium. With the win, Virginia State would need to defeat Bowie State next week to win the Eastern Division and be the East's representative in the CIAA Championship Game on November 5 in Durham, NC.

"We stunk up the field today," Shaw coach Deondri Clark told Raleigh's News and Observer. "We didn't tackle well, and the focus mentally wasn't there."

"Virginia State came in excited about playing for an opportunity to be Eastern Division champions. They wanted it a little more than us today, and that's the bottom line."

Pinned down to its nine yard line, it looked as if the defending CIAA champion Bears would march right down the field and have its way with the Trojans on the game's opening possession. Quarterback Jermonty Kimbrough and wideout Mark Bransom collaborated for 46 yards on two receptions, the later a 16-yarder, exacerbated by a personal foul face mask penalty against Virginia State giving Shaw the ball at the Trojan 23. But the drive stalled as Bear receivers struggled all day with dropped passes and they were forced to settle for a Chester Charles 39-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead.

The Bears (5-4, 4-2) defense forced the Trojans into a three-and-out on their first possession and two possessions later, as the Trojans were driving, forced a fumble recovered by the Bears stalling what was sure to lead to at least three points for the Trojans. But the Bears struggled offensively and on their last possession of the first quarter, Charles' 37-yard field goal attempt sailed left. The Trojans capitalized as receiver David Rodger found a seam in the Bear secondary and exploited it as Michael Terry found him streaking down the middle of the field for an 81-yard touchdown pass-and-catch and a 7-3 Trojan lead to end the first quarter. That was the spark the Trojans needed.

The Trojan defense then turned it up a notch and forced two turnovers on consecutive possessions and Virginia State's offense capitalized on both, as the once stagnant running game came to life in the form of Nick Flemming (16 carries, 99 yards), setting up two Trojan touchdowns as they took a 21-3 halftime lead.

The Bears did show some life in the second half. Galen Houston forced a Terry fumble and recovered it on Virginia State's second possession of the half in Trojan territory. They turned the miscue into points as Reginald Price's one-yard plunge into the end zone cut the Bear deficit to 21-10. The Trojans came right back as a Musa Conteh's 37-yard field goal followed by a Pierre Lee 40-yard interception return for a touchdown late in the third quarter gave the Trojans a 30-10 lead and little doubt as to the outcome.

The Trojans amassed 349 yards of total offense while the Bears totaled 295. The efficient Terry completed 7-of-15 passes for 144 yards and three touchdowns, while rushing for another 35, despite being sacked five times. Kimbrough, who left the game for a few series in the first quarter due to injury, completed 19-of-48 passes for 202 yards with two interceptions.

"This season started cloudy, but now the sun has come out," Trojan head coach Andrew Faison said after the game. "Shaw has a great program, and they are still defending CIAA champions, so I have to take my hat off to them. Our kids stepped up today, though. For our school, it's great to come in and beat them in their own back yard like they did to us last year. We got some breaks today, but we also made a lot of breaks."

Note: Next week the Trojans will host Bowie State and the Bears will travel to Roanoke, Virginia to take on St. Paul's in the Western Virginia Education Classic. If the Trojans defeat Bowie State, they will win the East and the trip to the CIAA Championship Game. If Bowie State and Shaw win, there will be a three-way tie in the East for first and a coin toss will decide who goes to the championship game.

N.C. A&T renews football rivalry with Winston-Salem State

By Craig T. Greenlee
HBCSports Press Association Triad Editor
October 5, 2005

GREENSBORO, N.C. – One of black college football's most unique rivalries will be renewed for the 2006 season. For the fans of North Carolina A&T and Winston-Salem State, the game can't come soon enough.

"The tradition is back," said Dee Todd, N.C. A&T's athletics director. "When these schools get together in football, it's like a big family affair. There's respect on both sides, but it's also very competitive. Really, it's like having a second homecoming on the schedule."

Officials from both schools announced at a press conference on Wednesday that the Aggies will play the Rams next season on Sept. 2 in Greensboro, ending a seven-year hiatus. With the exception of each school's homecoming game, A&T-WSSU is historically the biggest draw at the gate for both schools. During the '90s, the game's average attendance was 18,191.

Bill Clinton occupied the Oval Office the last time these teams

played each other. The 42-year series was discontinued in 1999, primarily because the schools played in different competitive levels in the NCAA. But now that this rivalry has been restored, it paves the way for this game to re-establish itself as a marquee event. The revival of this series coincides with Winston-Salem State's move from NCAA Division II to Division I. The Rams are expected to be accepted as members of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, the same league that the Aggies compete in.

"Being 25 miles away and not being able to play this game was sad," said Chico Caldwell, WSSU athletics director. "Now we're able to play and we're looking forward to it."

The Aggies-Rams rivalry has special ties that transcend the usual battle for annual bragging rights. It takes about 30-35 minutes of drive time to travel from one school to the other. But proximity is just part of the story. Not only do these schools have a strong alumni base in both Greensboro and Winston-Salem, but there are a substantial number of fans who live in Greensboro and work in Winston-Salem and vice versa. A&T and WSSU frequently go after the same athletes in recruiting and many of the players already know each other as training partners during summer workouts.

These ties that bind also include school administrators and coaches. WSSU Chancellor Harold Martin is an N.C. A&T alumnus; Todd graduated from Winston-Salem State. Coaches George Small of A&T and Kermit Blount of WSSU are graduates of the schools they now coach. They competed against each other in this rivalry in the late '70s.

"As a player, what I remember most about those games is the atmosphere," said Small. "It was electrifying. It was always a game that you had to get up for. For people in the stands, it was a lot of fun just being there to watch."

Blount agrees. "Starting this series again is going to be a good marriage for the long run," said Blount, a former quarterback who led the Rams to wins over the Aggies in '77 and '78. "I've always felt that WSSU-A&T is one of the best things going in black college football. When I played, we had lots of incentive because we were Division II and we wanted so badly to knock off a Division I-AA team."

A&T leads the series 33-9. WSSU's last victory (13-10) in this series came during the '91 season. At the time, the Aggies were ranked 15th in the Sheridan Black College Poll.

Seven years ago, A&T was forced to drop WSSU from its schedule because of administrative mandates. The NCAA issued an edict limiting all Division I-AA programs (like A&T) to play only one game against Division II competition. To play more than one Division II game would result in a fine of \$25,000. Aside from the Rams, A&T regularly scheduled another Division II school – North Carolina Central -- in the season-opening Aggie-Eagle Classic played at the home stadium of North Carolina State. The Aggie-Eagle Classic attracted larger crowds, as many as 50,000 in some years. As a result, WSSU became the odd team out, and the series ended.

The MEAC in the meantime, strongly urged its membership to upgrade their schedules to play against Division I schools only. The upgrade, conference officials said, would help the league's overall strength of schedule and put its teams in better position to receive at-large bids for the Division I-AA football playoffs. The MEAC later relaxed the requirement, allowing A&T to keep the Aggie-Eagle Classic because it was one of A&T's biggest revenue producers.

The Aggie-Eagle Classic is now history. The last game was played last month, which created an opportunity for the renewal of the annual I-40 showdown. With A&T and WSSU alternating as the game's host, both schools figures to do fairly well financially. Since the game won't be played at a neutral site, the schools get a bigger portion of the income from parking and concessions and paying stadium rental won't be as much of a concern.

"It was never a case of if this rivalry was going to be renewed," said Todd. "It was only a matter of when it would happen."



Joe Taylor is 116-41-1 in 14 years as head coach at Hampton.

S.C. State/Hampton Match-up could decide MEAC Champion

By Kerry Flagg
HBCSports Press Association Washington Editor
Wednesday, October 19, 2005

This weekend's football game between South Carolina State and Hampton Universities has a lot riding it. For starters, the contest pits the top two teams in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) against each other with the winner nicely positioned to receive a bid to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs. A win for the Bulldogs will avenge a 52-36 loss suffered at home last season, while a win for the Pirates will send them one-step closer to their first undefeated regular season since 1993. Hampton will no doubt be anxious to play in the friendly confines of Armstrong Stadium for only the second time this season. And oh, but the way, Saturday, October 22 is Hampton's homecoming. Yet, Hampton coach Joe Taylor has mixed emotions when it comes to the latter.

"Returning home can be good or bad," said Taylor, whose Pirates defeated Delaware State 26-8 on October 1 at Armstrong. "With all of the folks around [for homecoming], they can get in the way."

On the football field, Hampton (5-0 MEAC, 7-0 overall; #4 in Division I-AA) hasn't let much get in their way, defeating opponents by an average of nearly 23 points while racking up 370 yards of offense per game. They are the only undefeated team in the Division I-AA Top 25 polls and their number four ranking is their highest since they were ranked second in week eight of the 1998 season. The Pirates have won 17 out of their last 19 games dating back to last season and are looking to extend their string of 13-consecutive regular season victories. And while Coach Taylor holds a 116-41-1 record during his 14 years at Hampton he realizes the players on the field will dictate the game's outcome.

"Games of this magnitude are less about Xs and Os, and more about Jimmys and Joes," said Taylor.

The Bulldogs (5-2, 3-0; #19 in Division I-AA) certainly have their share of players who can make a difference in the game, led by running back DeShawn Baker who averages 192.7 total yards from scrimmage, second-best in the conference. Quarterback Cleveland McCoy has thrown for 883 yards and his favorite targets are juniors Chris Burgess (18.7 yards per catch, four TDs) and Kelly King (24 catches, 277 yards). As a team, the Bulldogs average a MEAC-best 401.2 offensive yards per game and score an average of 35.5 points per game. The team's best offensive weapon is probably return man Rondreikas Darby, who averages a nation's best 38.3 yards per kick-off return and 18 yards per punt return.

"They've always played sound offensively and had good special teams," said Taylor. "But this year's [SC State] team's defense is a lot better, more sound than they were last year."

The Bulldogs' defense is deserving of Taylor's respect. They are led by sophomore linebacker Tony White (45 tackles, 6 for loss and 3 sacks) and senior linebacker Terrance Bennett (35 tackles, 2 sacks). As a team they allow opponents just 16.3 ppg, second in the conference to Hampton.

However, though his Bulldogs have numerous weapons of their own, fourth-year Coach Buddy Pough believes the Pirates' roster contains depth rarely seen on the I-AA level.

"Hampton is probably the best team, with the best talent, that I've seen since I've been here," said Pough who has compiled a 29-12 record with the Bulldogs. "It almost looks like Coach Taylor is getting ready for Noah's Ark."

Indeed, Hampton is seemingly two-deep at every position. Running back Alonzo Coleman (116 ypg, 13 TDs) ranks fifth in the nation in rushing yards (816) and Ardell Daniels (619 yards, 7 TDs) ranks fourth in the conference. Both ran for more than 1,000 yards last season and are on pace to become just the third pair in I-AA history to surpass 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons. And the Pirates are just as skilled when it comes to passing the ball as returning starter Princeton Shephard and Kent State transfer Antwan Smith have seen time under center this season, with Shephard completing more than 52% of his passes for six TDs and three interceptions. The Pirates regularly play eight defensive lineman and junior linebacker Justin Durant, a preseason All-American, ranks fourth in the MEAC, averaging nine tackles per game. Additionally, the Pirates have a special team's star of their own in place-kicker Andrew Paterini who last week tied a conference record by kicking a 55-yard field goal against Norfolk State.

Above all, SC State will be looking to avoid what happened in last year's game. The Pirates' trek to Orangeburg, SC was well worth their while as they scored 14 points in the first quarter and 28 points on defense. Daniels, playing for the injured Coleman, racked up 169 yards on 33 carries and the Pirates rolled to a 52-36 victory.

Said Coach Pough: "Offensively we'll probably try to play close to the vest so that we don't make the mistakes we made last year. We'd like to try to contain their offense, keep the game close going into the fourth quarter and maybe steal a victory."



DURHAM, N.C. - St. Augustine's quarterback Darrell Nesbitt, who played his first two seasons at North Carolina Central, completed 17-of-29 passes for 216 yards and two touchdowns and no interceptions as the the Falcons defeated the Eagles 22-8. Here, he eludes an Eagle tackler on his way to rushing for a team-high 74 yards. Photo by Wayne Jernigan for HBCSports Press Association.

About HBCSports Press Association

The HBCSports Press Association was founded in 2005. HBCSPA is a news and wire service which services the underrepresented industry of Black college sports. HBCSPA serves as a source for news, photographs, audio and radio broadcasts for people everywhere.

Our mission is to be the vital news network for HBCU sports, providing original HBCU sports news services at a level unmatched.

Newspaper Services

The HBCSports Press Association employs some of the best and most experienced journalists in the industry. We pride ourselves on accuracy and fairness. We have offices in New York, Washington, DC, Raleigh, NC and Winston-Salem, NC. HBCSPA's sports reports cover what is happening in Black college sports and beyond.

Publication Services

The HBCSports Press Association produces magazine inserts for college game day programs. HBCSPA writes feature articles related to HBCU sports.

Updated Scores

HBCSPA's Web site not only provides final line scores of all Black college football and basketball games, but also provides updated scores of football games every 30 minutes and also provides updated basketball scores as well.

Photo Services

The photo services are a collaboration between HBCSPA and All-Pro Photo, the most respected name in Black college sports photography. All-Pro Photo has been taking photos in the Black college industry since 1993. Our Black college archives will go back to 1993. HBCSPA delivers photos daily from reporters covering events as they happen.

Broadcast Services

HBCSPA is a leader in the Black college sports industry in the providing of audio and radio production, graphic. When news happens HBCSPA is on the spot to help radio and television stations get the necessary contents of the story for their use.

Our Broadcast Services:

HBCSPA Radio Sports News

HBCSPA Radio Sports News is the strictly news radio network from the HBCSports Press Association. It provides you the audio news and information you need to provide hardcore HBCU sports news to your listeners.

HBCSPA Boxtorow Blitz

Boxtorow Blitz is a weekly five-minute, up-tempo feature which will encompass scores from around HBCU sports as well as actual play-by-play audio highlights and quotes from some of the big games during the week.

HBCSPA News Ticker

Fast, flexible and automated, AP news tickers deliver hard news and entertaining information in real-time headlines directly to television and computer screens. Coming soon.

Subscriptions to HBCSPA

HBCSports Press Association covers events related to Black college sports. We provide game coverage, photographs, scores, feature stories, commentaries, radio broadcasts, the Boxtorow Blitz, HBCSPA Radio Sports News, radio coverage and quotes. To subscribe to our service, or

for more information, please contact our main office at (919) 567-0583 or e-mail us at dware@dwcommunication.com

Some of our stories

Contact Us: For more information, please write us at:

HBCSports Press Association (HBCSPA)
145 Ruth Circle
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

Phone: (919) 567-0583

Bureaus

Washington, DC
Editor - Kerry Flagg

Raleigh, NC
Editor - Donal Ware

New York
Editor - Bruce Wright

Winston-Salem, NC
Editor - Craig Greenlee

Photographs
Editor - Lawrence Johnson