

At College Park, Nov. 3

Maryland: finally in the bowl picture?

By JACK CARNEY
Football Writer
The Diamondback

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Unlike years past when football at Maryland meant the beginning of a long, tedious and worst of all losing season, this time the outlook is one of hope.

Hope of not only having its first winning season in over a decade, but hope for an Atlantic Coast Championship, and an eventual bid to a post season bowl game.

Such thoughts to the coming season would have drawn many laughs in the past. That isn't the case now.

Head coach Jerry Claiborne, in his second year of rebuilding the program, has the players capable of getting him to that bowl game.

Overall, the Terrapins have more strength at key positions than any time in the past. There are a few spots that remain questionable, but the talent is there to fill the void.

Defense, the power of last year's 5-5-1 outfit, returns. The returners include 9 of 11 starters with good depth behind the first unit.

Led by Paul Vellano, a 6-0 240-pound guard, the line will include such stalwarts as Randy White (6-4, 245), Tom Scott (6-1, 235) and either David Eissavio or Guy Deitz.

Linebackers represent one spot on the defense that will be very deep. The two starters are transfer Harry Walters and sophomore Kevin Benson. Backing them up are Jim Santa and Steve Zanonnia, both of whom started some games last season. The defensive backs are led by Bob Smith, who ranked high nationally in interceptions and punt return yardage. He is surrounded by Pat Ulam and Ken Schroy.

The ends are the only question mark on the defense. Currently Micky Riggleman and Kevin Ward man the spots. They lettered at linebacker last year. Overall the

defense should be the strength of the team again.

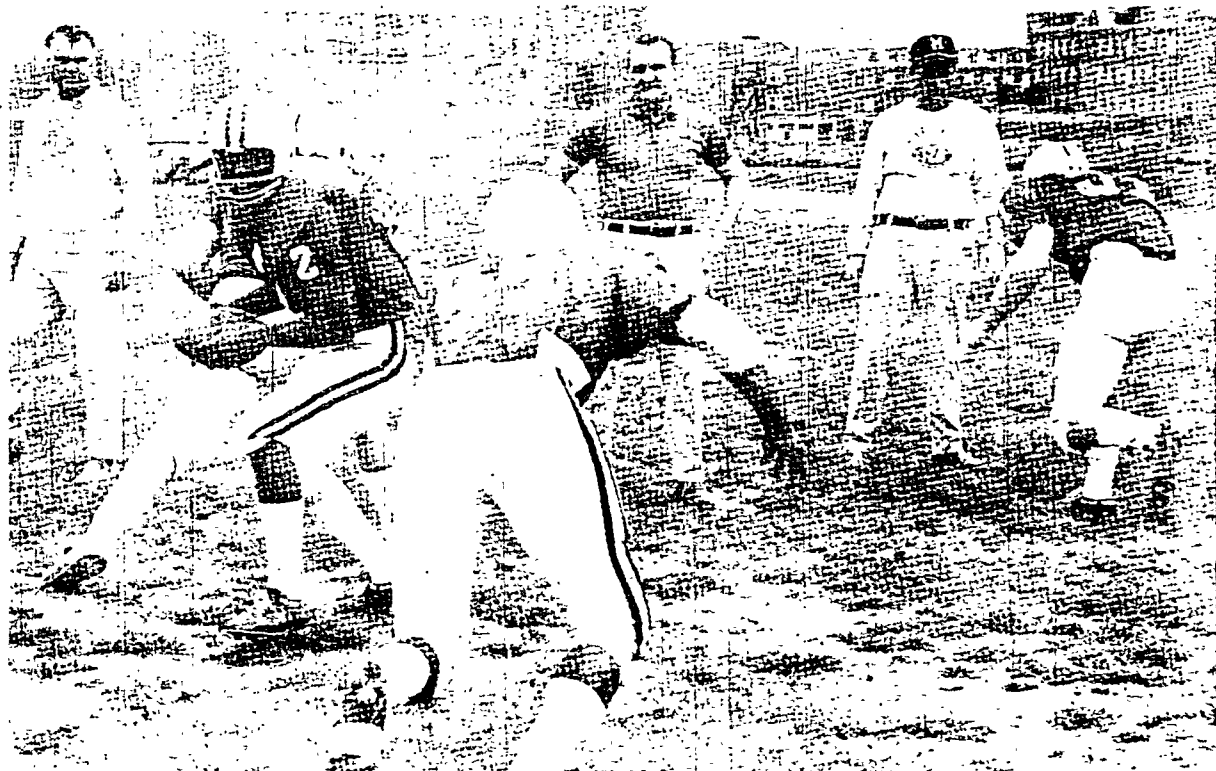
The offense still have some questions to be answered, though. Junior quarterback Bob Avellini, a 6-3, 205-pounder, is a passing quarterback in Claiborne's run-oriented offense. He passed for over 1,200 yards in five games last year. With him in the game, the Terrapins are capable of scoring from anywhere on the field. Backing him up will be two-year starter Al Neville, who has

passed for over 1,900 yards in the time he has played.

Receivers are many and talented. Frank Russell, Dan Bungori and Walter White, a junior college All-America, make good targets from the wide receiver posts. But Claiborne seems content to run, despite the fact that his leading ballcarrier had less than 500 yards. Lewis Carter, who was the leading ground gainer, is battling

sophomore Ricky Jennings and junior college All-America Alan Bloomingdale for the tailback spot.

Claiborne's running offense will depend a lot on the weakest part of the team: the line. Five of six starters graduated. Replacing them will be a tough job. Claiborne said his newcomers are "bigger, stronger and faster." He feels it will be a matter of time before they're as good as the previous group.



Jerry Claiborne is seeking Maryland's first winning season in a decade

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

CLASSIFIED ADS

Waterbed Kits
\$24.50 All Sizes
GROK 101 Heister

Hannaman's Brewery

Monday
The Rhythm Kings

Tues. Shepherd

Wed. Creed

Thurs. Mud Shark

Fri. Jack Smith

Sat. Fontaine Cody

All the best from

SONY

Stereo Cassettes
Tape Cassettes
Microphones
Performance Matched Accessories
Magnetic Tape

WES
200 E. College Ave. 238-1001

SONY SUPERSCOPE