

2008 Outlook

Coming off the 2007 football season, the Virginia State University Trojans are very optimistic about the 2008 football season. The Trojans showed improvement on offense and defense. We were ranked #2 in total offense, ranked #2 in scoring offense and ranked #3 in passing offense. We are really excited about those facts as we enter into the 2008 season. However, we still blew opportunities inside the red zone in 2007. Offensively, we must do a better job focusing and executing in that area.

The Trojans lost 11 starters (five on offense and six on defense) from a year ago. The five players that we lost on offense were Michael Terry (QB), Travis Valentine (RB), Quest King (OG), Justin Cummings (RB) and Ed Ross (TE). Terry, Valentine and King graduated in May while Cumming and Ross received their degrees in December, 2007. Defensively, the six players lost were Eric Carasquillo (DL), Anthony Hailstock (DB), Deonta Gail (LB), Danté Edwards (DB), Theo Washington (LB) and Genason Jenkins (DB). Carasquillo and Hailstock graduated in May while Gail, Edwards and Washington graduated this past December. Jenkins completed his studies this past summer. We are very pleased and proud of their accomplishments.

The task on offense is finding a signal caller now that Michael Terry has graduated. That person could be Michael Pegues, who looked really good in spring practices, or a battle between two incoming freshmen.



The Trojans top returning running back will be Nick Fleming (5-9, 215 lbs.). Fleming rushed for 803 yards and four touchdowns in eight games last season. The top returning receivers are All-CIAA member Davian Richards (6-1, 200 lbs.). Richards had 469 yards and eight touchdowns last season. Jerome Choice (6-3, 225 lbs.) had four touchdowns and averaged 16.1 yards per catch in 2007. Antoine Morton (5-11, 180 lbs.) and Brandon Crump (5-9, 160 lbs.) both played significant parts in 2007.



The Trojans return an experienced offensive line in 2008 with Travis Amos (6-1, 270 lbs.), Antonio Redd (6-2, 295 lbs.), Brock Custis (6-2, 320 lbs.) and Markus Copeland (6-3, 270 lbs.), who started as a true freshman.

Defensively, if we dominate, it will be because of an experienced defensive line and some veteran linebackers. Brandon Fortune (6-3, 265 lbs.), DeShaun Chester (6-1, 280 lbs.) and Chris Sivels (6-2, 250 lbs.) have all looked really good in spring practice.

The linebacker corps will feature LaQuentin Milo (6-0, 225 lbs.), who started



as a true freshman and was a member of the CIAA All-Rookie Team in 2007. He was third on the team with 62 tackles. Isaac Mitchell (6-0, 240 lbs.), started seven games from the Trojans and was the second-leading tackler with 65 take-downs a year ago. Matthew Green (6-1, 220 lbs.) played in eight games last season and should be a great addition in 2008.

The secondary will return Devon Wiggins (5-9, 170 lbs.), who returned three interceptions for 87 yards and one touchdown last season. Wiggins also returned punts and kickoffs for the Trojans in 2007. Andre Lipscomb (6-0, 180 lbs.) also had three interceptions and five pass break-ups. Both are expected to play big this season.

The Trojan kicking game will also feature Justin Parker (5-9, 170 lbs.). Parker started as a true freshman last season and ranked third in the CIAA in scoring. Robert Dunham (6-1, 180 lbs.) will be back as the punter. Dunham averaged 36.7 yards per kick in 2008.

We will have a good nucleus returning, but we still have to count on some incoming freshmen recruits to fill the same holes and I know we have the class to do it!

