



Sports



Basketball In the Black Colleges

A Historical Chronology

1891 - 1980

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Part IV Period IV, 1950-1960

1950-1954 "Activation"
[Continued]

The scene was set. Next step, "Activation". The late Henry Arthur Kean, athletic director at Tennessee State and Dr. Walter Davis, president, immediately offered TSU as the tournament site. The event was played in the newly finished "Kean's Little Garden". Eight teams entered.

In 1953, District 29, the National Negro College Basketball Championship was won in a 93-90 overtime game pitting North Carolina College with Tennessee State. Coached by Clarence Cash, a diminutive dynamo, Tennessee State became the first black college team to take the floor in a national tournament.

A great dream realized, but the greater dream was still some distance away. Tennessee made the trek to Kansas City, displayed its talent and finished in the quarter-finals, losing to Regis College of Denver, Colorado.

In 1954, history repeated itself. Cash coached Tennessee State to another District 29 championship, only to be ousted in the second round in the national festival.

The NAIA held a prestigious Christmas Invitational Tournament in December during the mid-fifties. Eight teams were invited, usually the previous year's champion and runner-up and select teams that had shown skill and competitiveness in NAIA national ranks.

Because of Tennessee's Tournament showing, and because NAIA leadership had adopted a new philosophy calling for black college participation in all programs, the Tigers were invited to play in the NAIA Tip-Off Tournament.

Having replaced Clarence Cash as basketball coach at Tennessee, I was personally involved and related by feeling in the following paragraph written for another publication.

"When Al Duer, executive secretary of NAIA called me by phone and issued an invitation to our school to participate in the NAIA tip-off tournament, I was extremely happy. Not only because of the invitation, which I recognized as history making, but because of the implied progress in race relations via NAIA and the apparent acceptance of black college basketball as a game on equal status with those rated 'best in basketball'."

"I accepted, with one reservation: that our team could stay downtown like the other teams. I was supported wholeheartedly by assistant coach, Richard L. Mack, later head basketball coach at Southern University.

Having had an opportunity to observe the two NAIA tournaments in which Tennessee State had played, I felt that among other pressures, the negative psychological

impact on a team housed and boarded separately was too great to overcome in the week-long tournament. Previously, black teams had been housed in two different hotels, each of dubious quality, each in a depressed area of the city. Black college teams visiting Kansas City in the fifties stayed at either of these hotels, the Pasco YMCA or in separate homes provided by local hosts.

Aware of the seriousness of my reservation, as well as the validity of its basis, A.L. Duer asked me to wait by the phone until he could poll the NAIA Executive Committee and the Kansas City Junior Chamber of Commerce, the co-sponsoring organization.

Duer called back within half an hour saying, "We agree unanimously with your point of view, and wish to inform you that you and your team will be staying at the Hotel Kansas City."

Downtown Kansas City hotels integrated and another giant step had been made to have black colleges accepted on the basis of merit.

The Tigers from Tennessee were the first black college team, or any other black group, to stay in downtown Kansas City. Equally important, this 1954-55 squad won the initial invitational tournament sponsored by a national sports organization, defeating Rockhurst College in the finals of the Tip-Off Tournament by 22 points.

1954-1955

In 1955, Texas Southern University, coached by legendary Ed Adams, later to become the first black coach inducted into the prestigious Helms Athletic Hall of Fame, defeated Tennessee State, 103-100, in the District 29 final, becoming the second black college to enter the NAIA National Tournament.

The closeness of the District 29 contest caused the NASC to take issue with the "lone berth" practice, and petitioned NAIA for a second team in the national bracket. NAIA then divided District 29 into District 6 and 29 and provided space in the 32 team bracket for two black college teams.

NAIA and NASC, working nationally together, were continually urging local districts to take black colleges within their geographical area into district play-offs that determined which team would go to Kansas City.

This was another big objective for black college athletic leadership. Progress was being made slowly but steadily, one step at a time.

Black college basketball gained wide national acceptance at the end of the 1955 season when Grambling's Bob "Little Adner" Hopkins broke the all-time college career scoring record with a four-year total of 3,759 points.

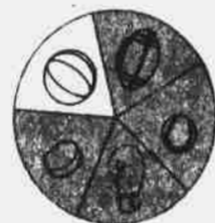
This remarkable achievement did not go unnoticed by the national media. Hopkins was featured in numerous TV clips and wire service stories around the country. At one time, he held six NCAA College Division scoring records.

He was cited as Helms and NAIA All-America before launching a pro career with the Syracuse Nationals. Next Week: 1955-1957

Join The NAACP

Hazel Plummer Bowling Scores

The Hazel B. Plummer Bowling League scores for February 26:
Ladies high game: 236-Flo Robertson, 195-Dee Plummer, 192-Nancy Rowland.
Ladies high series: 562 Flo Robertson, 516-Bonnie Edwards, 502-Dee Plummer.
Men's high game: 215-Doss Massenburg, 213, 210-Charles Parker, 209-Bob Medlyn.
Men's high series: 582-Charles Parker, 552-Ronald T. Miller, 534-Bob Medlyn.
Others: 203-June Winston, 202, 501-Howard Pitts, 533-Doss Massenburg, 516-Chit Parker, 513-James Harrington, 510-Charles Horton, 509-Quinton Parker, 508-Buster Lewis, 507-T. Bird Robertson, 506-Jim Dyer.
Split Conversions: 3-7-10, Lillian Thompson.
Team Scores: High Game-816 and High Series-2322, Blasters. Four-game winners: Blasters.



7UP SUPER STARS SPORTS TALK

More than one college All-American has angered teammates with a refusal to share the basketball. The reputations of some are so bad, teammates say, that you can't even count on them to pass you the salt at dinner.

The ability to put the ball in the bucket, of course, is what the game of basketball is all about on any level, professional, college, high school or schoolyard. Beauty and finesse and grace on the court are fine, but you don't receive points in basketball for artistic merit. Yet, all things being equal, the ingredient that separates winning from losing very often is teamwork.



Magic Johnson

Take a look at some of the National Basketball Association's greatest teams. No one could ever accuse clubs like the Boston Celtics of the 1960s, the New York Knicks of the early-70s, or the 1980 edition of the Los Angeles Lakers of playing undisciplined basketball. Each club had a nucleus of team players with the patience to work the ball to the open man and the discipline to keep from taking too many low percentage shots.

Each team was also blessed with a great leader, that single catalyst who singlehandedly, it seemed, could transform a good team into a great one. For the Celtics, it was Bob Cousy. Whether it was behind his back, through his legs or in a more orthodox manner, Cousy had the ability to hit the Heinsohns, Russells and Sharmans for easy baskets. In a similar manner, the Knicks counted on Walt "Clyde" Frazier to find the open man, whether it be Willis Reed, Dave DeBusschere or Bill Bradley.

Last summer the Lakers, a team with a history of finishing second best, were introduced to a 20-year-old rookie with a reputation for teamwork that was surpassed only by the brilliance of his smile. They became believers very quickly. That rookie, of course, was 7UP Super Star Earvin "Magic" Johnson, who has also had a reputation for turning a team into a scoring machine ever since he was a schoolboy star in East Lansing, Michigan. No one is a better example of how teamwork can be translated into winning basketball.

In high school, Magic led his team to the state basketball crown. Basketball fans from coast to coast caught up with the Magic Show during the two seasons he spent at Michigan

Eagles Rebound With Win Over FSU

Freshman forward Duane Griffin and junior guard John Bishop paced a balanced NCCU attack with 17 points apiece as the Eagles upset Fayetteville 84-74 in a CIAA contest at McDougald Gym. The Eagles and Broncos are now tied with 7-5 CIAA records. The Eagles are 9-8 overall, Fayetteville 10-7.

Junior forward David Binion added 16 points and center Charles Murphy and senior guard Donald Sinclair, 13 each.

"The Eagles trailed only briefly 7-6 before Murphy put Central ahead for good at 15:15 with an offensive rebound.

"We wanted to control the tempo against the Broncos," lamented an ecstatic NCCU coach Jesse Clements. "Tonight in going with our big lineup, we felt that we could control the boards and play for the good shot." "I was especially pleased with the leadership shown by Sinclair tonight. His unselfishness allowed the other four guys to always be in the offensive plays."

Clements added, "We knew that we could get the high percentage shot if we exercised a little patience and I told the team that we weren't in a hurry to score."

The dazzling passing display by the Eagles netted 24 assists with Sinclair dishing out 7. Their patience resulted in only 11 turnovers for the Eagles, a season low. The Eagles shot 56.4 from the floor hitting 31 of 55 shots and were a sizzling 18 of 27 in the second half.

The Eagles built up a 71-56 lead with 4:20 left before the Broncos rallied to cut the margin to 81-73 with less than a minute left.

The Eagles have now beaten five of the teams in the Southern division including leader J.C. Smith.

In an earlier contest on January 12, the Broncos won 62-61 on a last second shot by Charles Blackwell. Steve Mims led the Broncos with 24 points



Wisdom From The Bomber

Former heavyweight champion Joe Louis (l) talks with welterweight champion Thomas Hearns (r) and his trainer, Emanuel Stewart (c) in Las Vegas. Hearns is scheduled to fight Wilfredo Benitez of San Juan, February 23, at Madison Square Garden. Louis, 66, will attend the fight. UPI Photo

Lady Broncos Race Past Eagles

Center Dianthia Morris hit 32 points and Conchetta Smith added 26 as the Fayetteville State Lady Broncos raced past North Carolina Central 85-75 in a CIAA women's game at McDougald Gym. The Lady Broncos raised their CIAA record to 9-2. They are 16-2 overall.

The Central women fell to 5-4, 6-8.

Fayetteville led the first seven minutes of the game until NCCU forward Mary Simpson hit a jumper at 12:55 giving the Lady Eagles the lead 16-15. Central built a 30-29 lead with nearly 7 minutes left in the half but saw the Lady Broncos outscore them 17-2 over the next five minutes. Fayetteville and Central were tied at the half.

The Eagles tied the score last at 54-all on a jumper by Edna Vann at 13:20 but Morris countered with the go-ahead basket 40 seconds later.

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scored a career high 17 points for the Lady Eagles.

Fayetteville State (85) Stringfield, Elmore 2, Butler 4, Grambling 2, King 1, Davidson 2, NCCU (75) Solomon 14, Simpson 9, Evans, Floyd 11, Vann 6, Scott 8, Cox 2, Benit, Tynes, Pinnix 17.

Halftime: 34-all. Records: Fayetteville State 9-2, 16-2; NCCU 5-4, 6-8.

Bison Track Coach To Aid Olympians

WASHINGTON—William P. Moultrie, Howard University men's track coach, has been selected as a national co-chairman for the U. S. Olympic Developmental Committee. His primary responsibility will be to identify and to develop all potential 1984 Olympics prospects in the 200 meters event.

Moultrie will also be responsible for establishing and supervising training clinics in the four regions on the U. S. and for editing a training manual for the 200 meters.

"I am pleased that they had confidence enough in me to believe that I could do the job," stated Moultrie, who has produced 22 All-Americans in seven years at Howard. "I'm also excited because to be a representative from Howard University, which I might add is the only predominantly black institution that has a representative in the Olympic Developmental Committee, is something that the whole Howard University community can share in."

In 1979, he was selected as an instructor at the Colorado Springs Olympic training center where he taught 400 meter and the 1600 meter relays. In addition to his responsibilities with the Olympic Developmental Committee, Moultrie will serve as one of the assistant coaches for the East team in the National Sports Festival in Syracuse, N.Y., this year.

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