



There Will Never Be Another D.T. Durham To Host Carolina League All-Star Game

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

They saved his name nearly for last because they knew he would get the loudest ovation. On this warm night amid a galaxy of ACC Superstars, he still maintained a special place in the collective heart of the crowd. Even though it has now been more than six years since he wore the Wolfpack red, he still looked the same.

When the announcer finally got to his name, "and now starting for the Wolfpack, Number 44, David Thompson", the expected roar lasted for several minutes as Thompson ran to mid-court to acknowledge the ovation. Directly in front of him, a die-hard State fan waved his finger in the air and signaled to D.T. that he was still No. 1.

Even though this was the Big Four Alumni games and the calendar said it was June 27, 1981, the name David Thompson brings back enough legendary memories to last a life time.

While Thompson stood there smiling, one

couldn't help but let the memories flow back to the mid-1970's when Thompson came rolling into Raleigh from his native Shelby, N.C., and he along with his Wolfpack teammates were setting the collegiate basketball world on fire.

The nation got its first view of Thompson's greatness on Super Sunday, 1973, when State and Maryland — both undefeated and ranked in the top three — put on a classic show in Maryland's Cole Field House. The game more than lived up to its buildup as the two Titans were tied at 85. With the seconds ticking away, State center Tom Burlinson's attempted hook bounced high off the rim and Maryland fans sighed relief as surely they had dodged the bullet and the game would now go into overtime. But Wait!!! Like a black Superman, Thompson soared high in the air and tipped it in at the buzzer. A legend was born and Thompson and his teammates would occupy the top two positions of collegiate basket-

ball for 1973 and 1974.

The sad part of the 1973 season was that State had been placed on a year's probation for over zealous recruiting of Thompson. So the Wolfpack didn't get to play for the national crown. Instead, they settled for a 27-0 season capped off by a stirring 76-74 win over Maryland in the finals of the ACC Tournament. For Thompson and State, the best was yet to come.

Ah, 1974, the year of the gas lines, Richard Nixon's resignation, the "Exorcist", Hank Aaron's 715th homer, and the end of the UCLA basketball dynasty.

When D.T. and Co. took the court in 1974, the probation had been lifted and they could now show the world that they should rank among the best collegiate teams ever.

Early in that memorable season, State met the power among powers, UCLA, in St. Louis and were run out of town by Bill Walton's Gang, 84-68. A disappointed Thompson, not used to defeat, made a vow that

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While fans in the major league cities continue to suffer "withdrawal pains" because of the baseball strike, the Bull City continues to bask in the national pastime.

For Durham fans, not only are their beloved Bulls sitting on top of the league pennant race thus far into the second half of the Carolina League season (the Bulls narrowly lost the first half flag to Kinston) but are playing the best baseball that they've played this season. Durham fans will now get a first hand look at the best that the league has to offer when the city hosts the annual Carolina League All-Star Game at the Athletic Park on July 7.

The game, which will also be broadcast live by

WTVD, Channel 11, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Durham Manager "Dirty" Al Gallagher will be the skipper for the Southern Division Stars (Gallagher also managed the Southern team last year when they beat the North 4-3) while Grady Little of the hot hitting Hagerstown Suns will pilot the Northern Stars.

Five members of the Durham Bulls made the squad. They are Third Baseman Tom Hayes, Left Fielder Brad Kominski, Short Stop Miguel Sosa, and Pitchers Mike Payne and Rick Behenna.

A large crowd is expected so the Bulls advise, for those planning to attend, to arrive early.

If past All-Star games are any indication, there should be plenty of fireworks.



Signing Of 5-Year Contract Applauded

Basketball star Gus Williams (c) smiles as he holds up the pen he used to sign a five-year contract with the Seattle SuperSonics, June 19, ending more than a year of tough negotiations. Williams hands over the pen to his agent, Howard Slusher (l). While sonics owner Sam Schulman (r) applauds the signing of the 45-page document. UPI

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It Makes Good Sense

they would make up for that poor showing if they ever met UCLA again.

State would not lose another contest that year and they seemed to play their best in the big games. State seemed to have an uncanny way of beating some of Lefty Driesell's greatest Maryland teams. The Wolfpack fans merrily danced as D.T. and his friends dominated Dean Smith's hated North Carolina Tar Heels in a fashion that no team ever did before or since. The Wolfpack incredibly beat the Tar Heels ten straight times during the Thompson era.

During this, his best season, David Thompson was the "Darling" of the media — he always found time to grant interviews; never complained on or off the court; scored an ACC record 57 points in one game; his "Alley Oop" shot was widely im-

itated by young cagers; and young and old sought his autograph.

Thompson was more than ready when the 1974 NCAA playoffs opened. In the Eastern Championship game against outclassed Pittsburgh, Thompson seemed well on his way to great day and the rematch with UCLA loomed large on the horizon. Then it happened. In an attempt to block a shot, Thompson, in mid-air, caught a teammates' body and seemed to tum-

ble head first onto the Reynolds Coliseum floor. As he lay there motionless, at first the silence was frightening. Was this the end of the line for No. 44? Happily it wasn't. Within a week, D.T. was ready for the epic rematch with UCLA, a team that had not lost a NCAA playoff game since 1963; a team that had won seven straight NCAA crowns; a team that called the NCAA's, the UCLA Invitational!

The two Goliaths battl-
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Elson's Pre-Season Collegiate Pigskin League Picks

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

As the frustrating baseball strike continues in this summer of discontent, the date draws ever closer for collegiate football workouts. Before long you'll be hearing the thunderous clashing of shoulder pads under the hot August sun.

The first game for many teams is now only two months off, so its time for me to let go with another freaky forecast (don't bet your pay check on it!). I'm only picking the teams that I think will finish in the top three of each conference.

- CIAA Southern Div.**
 1. N.C. Central
 2. Winston-Salem State
 3. Elizabeth City State

- MEAC**
 1. S. C. State
 2. N.C. A&T
 3. Florida A&M

- ACC**
 1. North Carolina
 2. N.C. State
 3. Duke

- SEC**
 1. Alabama
 2. LSU
 3. Georgia

- Big Ten**
 1. Michigan
 2. Ohio State
 3. Illinois

- Big Eight**
 1. Oklahoma
 2. Nebraska
 3. Iowa State

- SWC**
 1. Texas
 2. Arkansas
 3. SMU

- Pac-Ten**
 1. USC
 2. UCLA
 3. Stanford

- PCAA**
 1. San Jose State
 2. Fresno State
 3. Long Beach State

- WAC**
 1. Brigham Young
 2. Utah
 3. Hawaii

- Ivy League**
 1. Yale
 2. Brown
 3. Dartmouth

- Major Independents**
 1. Notre Dame
 2. Penn State
 3. Pittsburgh
 4. Florida State
 5. South Carolina

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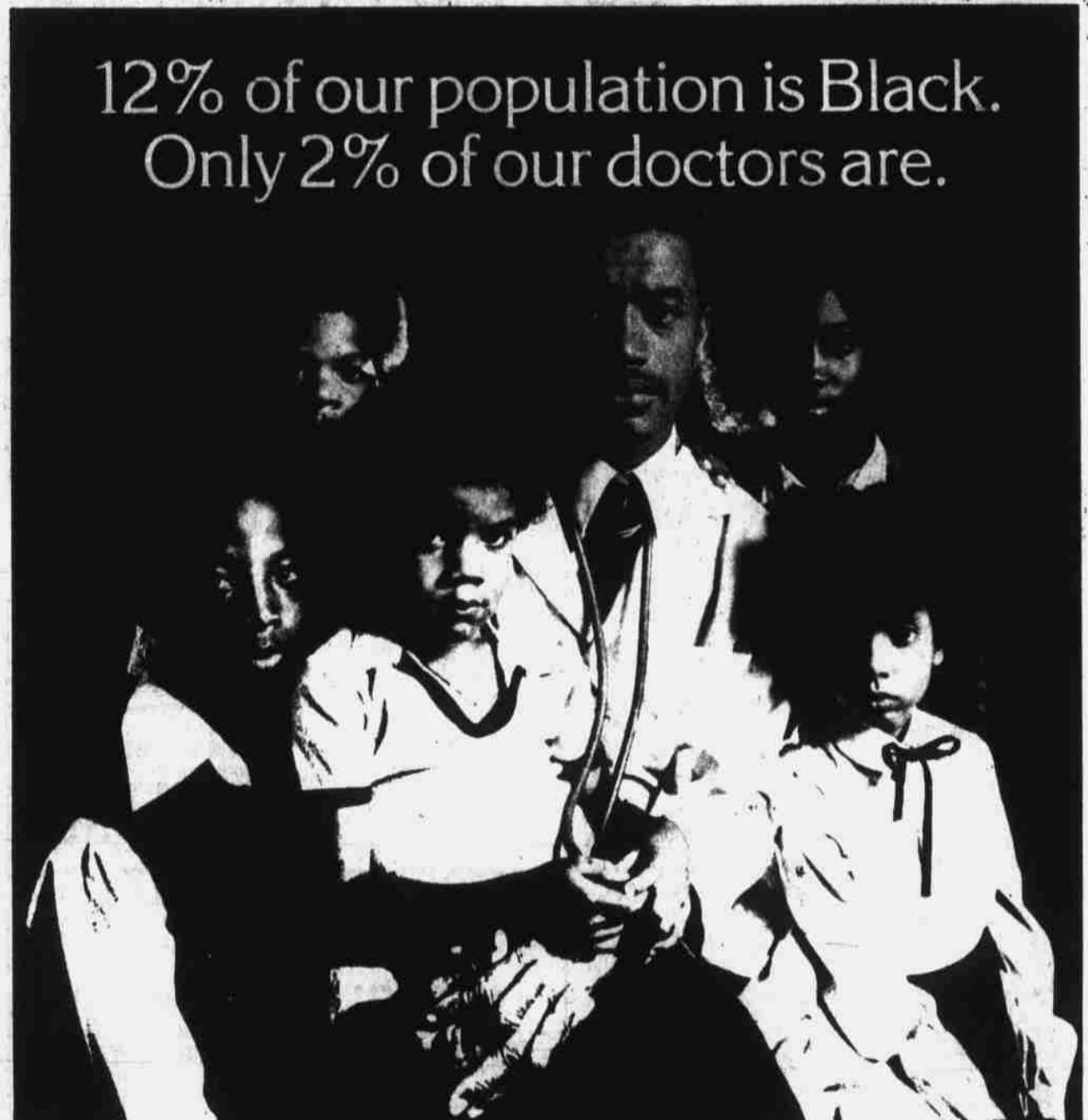
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