

## MEAC

## Awarded Automatic NCAA Playoff Berth

By Elson Armstrong, Jr.

The 1980 football season was definitely bittersweet for the South Carolina State Bulldogs. It was sweet because for most of the season the "Dogs" rolled to a 10-0 record and were ranked either No. 1 or No. 2 in the NCAA Division I-AA poll.

The bitterness came after the last game of the year — a disappointing loss to Grambling in Louisiana. Sporting a 10-1 mark, SCS expected to get a bid to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs, but the bid never came!

Much to the chagrin of SCS' coaches, players, and fans, they had to watch on TV as teams with lesser records and lower rankings went to the various playoff bowls to decide the Division I-AA National Title.

MEAC Commissioner Ken Free was all smiles as he reported that such an injustice will not befall the conference champions of 1981 and beyond, at the MEAC Media Day in Greensboro recently.

Free said, "We can happily report that beginning this season, the MEAC Football Champion will now receive an automatic berth in the NCAA Division I-AA Playoffs." Free added that this was proof that the MEAC (formed in 1970) was definitely moving forward. (The Conference also has an automatic bid to the NCAA Division I basket-

ball tournament which began this past season.)

Free further added that the quality of play within the MEAC was definitely on par with other strong I-AA schools — most notably the powerful SWAC which includes Grambling, Jackson State and Alcorn A&M.

Free said, "We often hear a lot about the SWAC. This past year we were 4-3-1 against teams proving that we can play with the best I-AA teams, even though Division I-A teams (the major conferences such as the ACC, Pac-Ten, SEC) won't play us, I can say that we could probably beat some of them, too!"

Media Day, the league's annual kickoff to the football season, was lively as the coaches gave their prospects for the coming year.

South Carolina State, which has won more league titles than any other team in the league, was tabbed as the pre-season favorite.

Bill Davis, the SCS mentor, said, "We lost seven people to the NFL and we also lost our starting quarterback, but we have a good nucleus to rebuild on."

Davis added that on defense, "we lost all of our linebackers and our secondary last year was weak."

On the plus side, Davis said that the Bulldog kicking game would be the same.

In closing, Davis said,

"If we get a 10-1 season this year, I'll be happy!"

Because of SCS' past record, none of the coaches were shedding any tears for Davis and his Bulldogs.

Jim McKinley of North Carolina A&T really lived things up when he said that due to the Aggie losses at the quarterback positions (both 1980 starters graduated), he was ready to shelve his option offense to accommodate his present personnel.

The Aggies, also heavy favorites to challenge for the league crown, went all the way to Riverside, California to recruit their expected 1981 starting QB James Harris. "I would feel better if other schools tried to get him, but we were the only one," McKinley added.

The Aggies appear to be very strong at all other positions.

Floyd Keith, head coach at Howard, also expects good things from his club. "Last year we were 6-2-2, not great, but good. Hopefully we can be better than that."

Keith said that the linebacking core was hit hard by graduation. "At quarterback, we have some good prospects coming back."

The loss of Howard Ward's kicking will be sorely felt. "He did it all," Keith said.

Keith said that the

Bisons should be a Junior-laden team.

He also added that Howard will disdain playing games in Washington's RFK Stadium in favor of the campus stadium.

Florida A&M's Rudy Hubbard was unable to attend due to illness.

Joe Purzycki of Delaware State was comical, but to the point, as he did not promise Hornet fans the world. "We'll have to play a perfect game to beat any of our opponents," he commented. "We're young, but hopefully we're a program on the move."

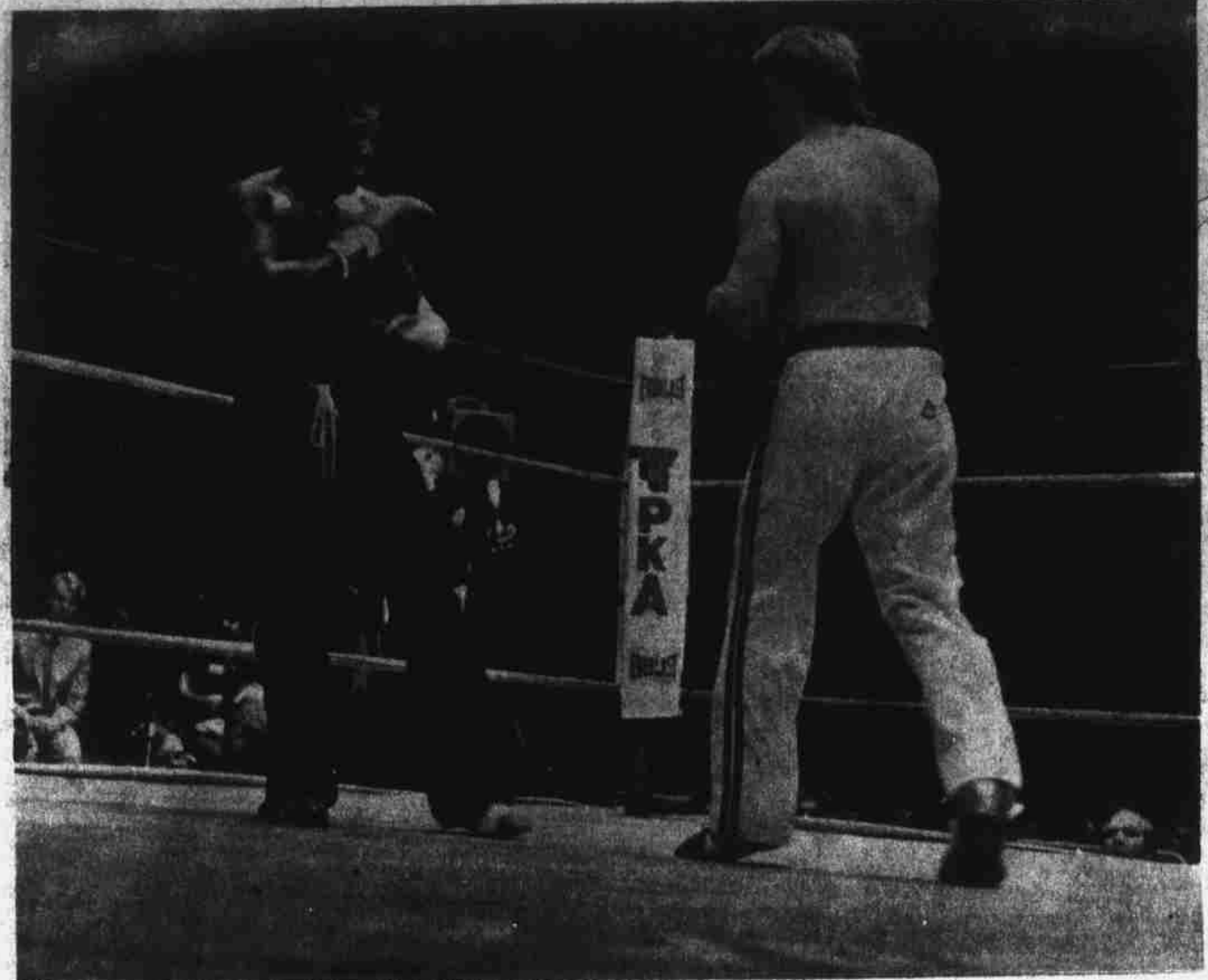
Purzycki said that one thing that his team's humiliating 105-0 loss (to Portland State) last year accomplished was that it made people all over the nation hear about us.

Bobby Frazier of Bethune-Cookman said that due to graduation losses, his team would have to turn to a number of freshmen to fill key roles.

"On paper, freshmen can be great, but you never know how they'll play under game conditions," Frazier said.

Frazier said that the MEAC was a real tough conference.

As the day drew to a close, all the coaches promised that MEAC Football-1981 will be highly competitive.



Demetrius "Oak Tree" Edwards (left) and Ross Scott fight for the PKA World Heavy Weight Title in Madison Square Garden in May. Edwards will be fighting in in Durham August 12.

## PKA World Heavyweight Champ To Fight In Durham Wednesday

On Wednesday, August 12, the seven-year old sport of Professional Full-Contact Karate or U.S. style kick-boxing makes its full-fledged Durham debut with the Universal Sports Promotions Agency's "Bull City Kick-Boxing Show." North Carolina's own Demetrius "Oaktree" Edwards (33-2-1 and 22 KO's) of Ayden will headline this Kick-Boxing Show. "Oaktree" is the present holder of the Professional Karate Association's (PKA) World Heavyweight Title. While 250 PKA events take place annually in twenty cities around the

U.S., North Carolinians have until now only seen PKA events in one of its fifty yearly network television and cable telecasts.

World Heavyweight Champion Edwards' last outing was his successful title defense against former heavyweight king Ross Scott (17-3-0 and 15 KO's) at the Felt Forum, Madison Square Garden on May 1. "Oaktree" took the title from Scott last August 12 in Ottawa, Canada.

"Oaktree's" opponent for the August 12 show is undefeated Anthony Elmore (10-0 and 8 KO's) of Memphis, Tennessee. Elmore is presently being

rated by the PKA. PKA officials predict that he will be rated around number 4 or 5 in the world.

Other professional matches will include Frank "The Tank" Knight of Ayden against Lacey Green, Jr., of Dillon, S.C.; Dale "Sunshine" Fyre of Aberdeen against Harry Graves of Fort Bragg and Jarvis Gardner of Goldsboro against Eddie Dourant of Benson.

Amateur matches on the show will pit Kenny "Sweet Feet" Green of Dillon, S.C., against Tony Pridden of Snow Hill; Johnnie "Super Foot" Davis of Dillon against

Jerry Parker of Greenville; and Curtis Crandall of Greenville against Virgil Crawford of Fayetteville.

Full-Contact Karate or Kick-Boxing combines the kicks and speed of Karate with the power punches of boxing. Each fighter is required to throw a minimum of eight above-the-waist kicks per round. Work on energy, balance, focus and power of the kicking techniques is combined with a total boxing training program to constitute the full-contact fighter's daily regimen.

## Golden Arches and Surgettes Win Championship

### Softball Tournament Time In The City

By Larry Barber

The City of Durham's Recreation Department conducts an abundance of softball leagues and tournaments during the summer months all over the city, but none could have been, or will be as exciting as the ones held on *Optimist II's diamond*. Two different women's leagues played on the field — "A" League on Mondays and Wednesdays, and "C1" League on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Both had eight teams and all played a 14-game regular season. The park closed this year's campaign with a flurry of feminine competition, and a rash of surprises, as both top seeds failed to make the finals.

League "A", which houses the more experienced clubs, found its champion in the Golden Arches when they demoralized Walker's Angels 6-2 Monday night. The Arches (7-7), a team sponsored by McDonald's in Wellon's Village, composed mostly of school girls, and seeded fifth, knocked off the Goldiggers 10-3, and regular season champion Studio D, 2-0, before stopping the Angels, who tied Studio D for the best record at 10-4.

The Arches used timely hitting coupled with the Angels' untimely errors, and won the game in the first three innings scoring two runs in each. The Angels tried numerous comebacks but were continuously shut down by tremendous defensive plays. To reach the finals, Walker's Angels had to overcome the Rascals 14-10.

In the "C1" Division, second-seeded Plastic Surgettes beat the fifth-seeded Hearts 11-5 to win



ATLANTIC CITY—WBA Bantamweight Champion weight raises both arms in victory and jumps on the shoulders of his cornerman after he scored a KO against Puerto Rican challenger Julian Solis. UPI Photo

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the championship, but not before they had a scare or two. In the semi-finals, a first-year team called the Duke of Rays forced them into a ferocious match and had a one-run lead in the last inning, but two Surgette runs were walked in, giving them a 7-6 victory. Duke, seeded sixth, and had beaten TSU 12-4 that same day; lost its star pitcher because an umpire ruled the coach visited the mound over his allotted times, and her replacements could not do the job. In the championship game, the Hearts had the champs down 5-1 in the fifth, but the rain and five hits lifted them to a 7-5 advantage, and the Surgettes survived another threat.

Top-seeded Phillips Electric (12-2) lost to the Hearts 8-4 in a protested semi-final contest. During the season, the Surgettes finished 11-3, TSU 9-5, Warren's 9-5, the Hearts and Duke 6-8, Durham County General 3-11, and the Double Aces 0-14.

Look for more city action next week.

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"We intend to do everything in our power to make this a great success," promised Charlotte Mayor Eddie Knox.

CIAA schools are: Nor-

thern Division-Bowie State, Elizabeth City State, Hampton Institute, Norfolk State, St. Paul's, Virginia State, Virginia Union; Southern Division-Fayetteville State, Johnson C. Smith, Livingstone, North Carolina Central, St. Augustine's, Shaw, Winston-Salem State.

Moorman. "This hurt us at the Gold Bowl gate as a last minute replacement had to be arranged. With the November 21 conference championship game, both participating teams will still be available for the NCAA II and NAIA playoffs in December."

Giving up smoking can save you more than the price of cigarettes, says the American Council of Life Insurance.

It can, according to health experts, add years and better health to your life. It may also save you money when buying a life insurance policy, says the Council.

A growing number of companies have reduced their rates for non-smokers, with at least one reducing its rates some 35 to 40 percent for eligible applicants.

Being a woman, in some instances, can save you money, too. One company, for example, is reducing the cost of its term insurance by as much as 67 percent for women and by as much as 40 percent on ordinary life (individually purchased) policies, with the lowest rate offered to women who do not smoke.

In the past, according to the Council, a typical woman aged 35 bought coverage at the same cost as that of a man aged 32.

## CIAA Football

(Continued from Page 5)

Foundation has helped to support the Classic since 1977. Steinbrenner also makes a personal contribution to the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, principal beneficiary of the game's proceeds. The scholarship fund, which enables minority students to obtain a college education, is consistent with Steinbrenner's overall philosophy on success. "There is no natural

resource which this nation possesses that is more strategic, more important, than its young people, and their education and preparation for leadership in this troubled world, regardless of race, creed or color, is our most vital task as a nation."

As a principal owner of the New York Yankees, which he purchased from CBS in 1973, he is credited, because of his keen foresight and aggressive leadership, with turning the Yankees, once again, into World Champions within five years.

As far as the coming game is concerned, Steinbrenner, a former assistant coach himself at Northwestern and Purdue, recently remarked that "the Yankees are dedicated to the New York Urban League Football Classic. It's a perfect way to provide educational opportunities for deserving youngsters as well as to

provide a showcase for black college sports competition. We hope to increase its appeal to the point where we can double and triple the number of scholarships the event assures each year."

Horace Morris, executive director of the New York Urban League, said that he was grateful for the "generous support of George Steinbrenner and the New York Yankee Foundation."

Tickets for the Classic are available at the Yankee Stadium, all Urban League offices and many local outlets in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. For specific ticket outlets call the New York Urban League at (212) 730-5200.

The New York Urban League is a non-profit interracial organization which works on behalf of blacks and other minorities in New York City.

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