

The Big Four Tournament Is Just A Memory

By Elson Armstrong, Jr. December college basketball tournaments are interesting affairs. More often than not they are held to make money for the host team and the competition is usually a couple of teams that the home team can beat, thus giving the home folks satisfaction all the way around.

Holiday Classic in New York, the Quaker City Classic in Philly, or the Great Alaskan Shoot Out often produce a first rate field and seldom, if ever, the home team wins all the marbles.

play, N.C. State, the defending National Champions, were ranked No. 1 in the nation and North Carolina was ranked No. 4, most fans envisioned a State/Carolina final because Duke and Wake Forest were unheralded and unranked. So what happens? Wake and Duke upset both State and Carolina and America's No. 1 & 4 teams had to play in the consolation game.

At Carolina, the idea is to schedule tough inter-sectional opponents. They believe this helps their teams prepare for post season action. Duke and Wake Forest are filling the Big Four void with additional home games. All four institutions (Continued on Page 11)

In December, 1971 some bright basketball fans in piedmont North Carolina decided that since the ACC rivalries were so intense, especially when the four North Carolina teams were involved (Duke, Wake Forest, N.C. State, orh Carolina), that the fans would love it if they staged their own tournament.

From the word 'go', the event was a smash. In no time at all, this tournament — held annually in the Greensboro Coliseum — was drawing crowds in excess of 15,000 and often the field was stronger than any other pre-Christmas tournament in America could boast.

The tournament became a sort of miniature ACC Tournament. The ticket scalpers were abundant and feelings reached fever pitch. Some fans who normally weren't lucky enough to see a game live, jumped at the chance to catch the

Big Show in Greensboro. Despite all of it's success, national attention, heart-stopping games, and memorable upsets, the Big Four Tournament is now just a memory. The last one was held in December, 1980. Why has one of the country's richest basketball events fallen by the wayside?

There are several answers to that question and all of them valid. First, despite it's tremendous fan appeal, the Big Four gradually lost favor with most of the coaches involved. Dean Smith of North Carolina was the first to publicly want out and shortly, the rest followed suit.

The games in the Big Four didn't count in league standings but they did affect overall wondrous leggers. Smith and the others realized that a lofty national rating could be affected by the tourney and on top of that it was possible to play your hottest rivals as much as four times a season. Most coaches would rather play inter-sectional games in December.



Tate Fakes For Daylight

NCCU junior tailback/fullback Bennie Tate takes an Aggie defender in the annual Eagle-Aggie classic. The Eagles belted the Aggies 35-7 in Greensboro with Tate rushing for 131 yards in 20 carries. It marked the first Central win since 1976 when Eric Hines kicked a last second field goal in Durham.



Heisman Trophy Candidate

NEW YORK: Southern California tailback and Heisman Trophy candidate Marcus Allen buttons his jacket to the cold air while visiting New York City recently. Allen accumulated 2324 yards rushing and broke at least 10 NCAA records in leading Southern California to a 9-2 record in the college season. The Heisman Trophy, presented to the "outstanding college football player in the United States," will be awarded in New York Saturday, December 5. UPI Photo

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By
the
way...

By Joe Black

Since 1960 Black people have had rallying cries such as: "We Shall Overcome"; "Power to the People"; and "Nation Time"; however, for the Black Brothers and Sisters in the 1980's there can be but one rallying motto and that is: "Survival Time."

The national administration is forcefully telling us that the government is not going to take care of us. But rather than curse this unforeseen negative action, we should heed the encouragement of a Black man who suggests: "Take the first step, stand on your feet, there is always help for the problems you meet."

Although they are suffering, I say that there is help for the Black, the poor, and the elderly; and I am not talking about any form of hand-outs. God has given to each of us a mind for thinking and a body for working and He helps those who help themselves. Thus, I am reminding you that Black survival will come through political participation and economic growth. My friends, Black America, with its projected annual gross income in excess of \$100 billion dollars, is not a poverty state — we just have misguided priorities. For example, as we labor through the years we are content to think that Social Security will support us when we reach the age of 65. But why shouldn't we think and plan to live a little better during our golden years? We can if we heed these words of Mr. Allen Beasley: "No man should stay poor, begin to save; get up! Don't be a slave."

Let's pledge to gain economic freedom by saving rather than spending. The task won't be difficult — to save \$10.00 each pay day we only need to sacrifice some of our weekly alcohol and tobacco purchases. The Black philosopher tells us: "Don't be a slave to strong drink, a slave to dope; even a slave to creditors; it's no joke. Remember, it's not the one with the highest I.Q., but rather what each chooses to do."

Joe Black
Vice President
The Greyhound Corporation



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