



MEAC Coach Of The Year

Joe Purzycki, third-year mentor at Delaware State, is the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's football Coach of the Year. Purzycki made DelState, traditionally an MEAC doormat, a 7-3-1 contender in '83.

becoming the first white to be named the league's top coach. Before joining the Hornets, Purzycki compiled a 33-2 record as a high school coach.

INSTANT REPLAYS *continued*

Black College Sports Needs TV Desperately

failure after suffering for years from chronic kidney and heart trouble.

Merritt was known as a man who put his teams through a Spartan regimen that demanded their best -- and usually got it.

Though his tenure was sometimes clouded by controversy, most notably accusations of recruiting and player-eligibility violations, Merritt was a winner.

In 31 years of coaching, the first 10 at Jackson State, Merritt was 298-100-15.

An era ended with his death.

The Difference

How's this for an essay question on a final exam about basketball?

Name and explain the major difference between black-college basketball and the so-called big-name teams.

Coaching? Please. If you've read this column carefully up to now, you know better than to mention that to me.

Big men, or the lack thereof?

Well, yes, to an extent. But I've seen a fair number of big-time clubs that were weak in the middle, or mediocre at best. Heck, it used to be a tradition at North Carolina and North Carolina State, which built many of their earlier teams on guards and slowdown offenses.

Better players?

Granted, the bigger schools have nearly a monopoly on blue-chippers. But that leads to a chicken-or-egg question that I'll explain later.

The correct answer, class, is television. Just like about everything else, college teams are legitimized by TV exposure. A player wants to go to DePaul to follow in the footsteps of Mark Aguirre and Terry Cummings because he saw them play on television.

He wants to grimace and dunk and wag his tongue at North Carolina 'cause he sees Jordan grimace and dunk and wag his tongue on the tube at least one time a week, sometimes several.

Stars are created by television exposure. North Carolina A&T's Joe Binion might be very good, but he isn't given star treatment because he might be on television twice in a season if he's lucky.

And, though he's 6-11 and smooth as silk, UDC's Earl Jones has a fraction of the notoriety of someone like UNC's Matt Doherty, who in turn has a fraction of Jones' talent.

The solution? Someway, somehow, the black conferences need to wrangle a television contract out of somebody. It's a shame that the drama of events like the CIAA Tournament are witnessed only by those fortunate enough to get tickets (thousands of fans were turned away last year).

If it's necessary, the black conferences should pool their resources and at least get a college football and basketball game of the week.

With the advent of cable, there certainly are enough available channels and, though the Black Entertainment Television package is nice, the fact that the games are tape-

delayed by an entire week hurts.

Moreover, the alumni and fans of black schools need to be organized. If it takes a letter-writing and phone-calling campaign to ESPN, the networks and individual stations, fine.

But something has to be done. Soon.

The Oops Dept.

We goofed again.

Due to a production error (just as the TV people like to blame Ma Bell, we like to blame our production staff, since they don't have a column to tell their side of the story), the cover of our SWAC edition last month bore the title "MEAC-CIAA Edition."

Sorry. Though we normally change the label for the cover of the special SWAC edition, which we publish three times a year and contains some different articles and photos, we just plain forgot.

We promise to do better in the future, SWAC fans.