

Hey, Didja Ever Notice How...?

Edited By ALLEN JOHNSON

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North Carolina A&T's Eric Boyd blocks a layup attempt by North Carolina State's Ernie Myers in the third game in the two schools' young intrastate rivalry (photo by Joe Daniels).

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With apologies once again to Andy Rooney, ever notice ...

-- how coaches, according to too many sportscasters, "don't get upset anymore? They get "livid."

-- how, even when Winston-Salem State Coach "Big House" Gaines lambasted the media for ignoring small college sports, the media proved his point by ignoring his comments?

-- how, when Natalie Cole is hospitalized, it's for a "drug problem" but, when Liz Taylor is hospitalized, it's for "chemical dependency?"

-- all this foolish talk about football players high-fiving and dancing in the end zone? Let 'em dance.

If I were a coach and one of my players scored a game-winning touchdown, he could do the Alligator for all I care. If Tom Landry had let Butch Johnson perform his "California Quake," maybe the Cowboys wouldn't have been thrown out of the saddle so early this year. As for John Riggins being so goshdarned dignified for handing the ball to the official instead of dancing, I'll bet it's more 'cause he can't dance than anything else. What's more, how dignified was Riggins when he wore a Mr. T haircut before Mr. T even thought of it?

-- how ESPN can televise everything from day-old basketball games to Australian rules football to highlights of the 1914 Super Bowl (I know there wasn't a 1914 Super Bowl; I'm just making a point) to billiards, and still refuse to televise black college basketball? Foul!!!

-- how only coaches whose games are televised are acknowledged by most media as "geniuses," and how all of them happen to be white? Here's my vote for Davie Whitney, John Thompson, Bighouse Gaines and, the most deserving of all, John McLendon, who ran the Four Corners in the '40s.

-- how the ACC's arrogance knows no bounds? Before you accuse me of sour grapes, I have nothing against the ACC and, in fact, graduated from the school currently ranked No. 1 in the country. But the league's TV spots this year have got to go. "The best players



Ever notice that very few people know how good A&T's Eric Boyd is because he logs precious little of his playing time in front of TV cameras (photo by Joe Daniels)?

and the best schools," the commercials say. That's being a tad bigheaded and inaccurate, I say. Some of the best teams and the best schools ... maybe.

-- how black folk like to do a lot of standing? At many of the black college sporting events I've attended, it seems as if half the fans prefer to stand in aisles and exits rather than sit in seats. Skeptical? Meet me at the CIAA Tournament this year in the Norfolk Scope and I'll show

you.

-- how utterly terrible Rosie Grier's *Sports Illustrated* Christmas commercial was?

End Of An Era

Tennessee State's John Merritt, head football coach at the Division I-AA football power for 21 years, died recently of congestive heart

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