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# SPORTSWEEK Scores Standings Columns

### **Black College Sports**

### Black college alumni in the Super Bowl: No regrets

#### By BARRY COOPER Syndicated Columnist

TAMPA, Fla. -- For high school athletes who decide to attend historically black universities, two things are certain: They'll get less media exposure than those who play for bigger schools, and attending a small college will cost them money when the time comes, if it does, to negotiate a professional contract.

At least that's the opinion of five former black college standouts who played in Super Bowl XVIII. Otis Wonsley and Charlie Brown of the Washington Redskins and Henry Lawrence, Malcolm Barnwell and Calvin Muhammad of the Los Angeles Raiders are a few of hundreds of players who have moved from the ranks of small colleges to the bright lights of pro football,

Though they all agree that is not an easy path, each says he would make the same decision if he had it to do again.

"When I went to the Raiders," says Lawrence, who played at Florida A&M, "I did so well in practice that Coach John Madden pulled me to the side and said, 'Hey, where did you learn to block like that?' Somehow people had the suspicion that the coaching at black shcools was inferior to other coaching. That's totally false."

Lawrence should know. He has survived 10 seasons in the NFL, and shows no signs of slowing.

But what about the drawbacks of playing at a small school, as opposed to such well-known powerhouses as Nebraska and Oklahoma? Do they outweigh the advantages?

"Coming from a small school can cost you money when you first sign a contract," says Wonsley, a running back for the Redskins who attended Alcorn State. "A lot of the times they save the big money for the guys who came out of school with all the great exposure. But I'd go back to Alcorn in a minute. The struggles that I went through there made me strong enough to survive in the National Football League." Like a lot of other players, Wonsley said he has made it in the NFL because of sheer desire. "I think you pick up a lot of will to win at a small school," Wonsley says. "A lot of guys get to the NFL and make it on talent. I have made on hard work." While the former black college players interviewed at this year's Super Bowl have become successful in the NFL, they might not have if they'd been drafted by the wrong club. "You have to be drafted by a club that is going to give you a fair shake," says Muhammad, who played at Texas Southern and is now a wide receiver for the Raiders.





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THE WEEK'S

**CIAA** Honorees

Elizabeth City at St. Paul's Hampton Institute at Livingstone Shaw at St. Augustine State Virginia State N. C. Central at Winston-Salem State Virginia Union at Johnson C. Smith Florida A&M at Maryland E. Shore Bethung-Cookman at Delaware State arelina A&T at South Carolina

> ers of the Week: Charles Oakley, Virginia Union David Pope, Norfolk State

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Dave Robbins, Virginia Union

"That is one of the great things about playing for the Raiders. They give all their players a chance."

Brown, a former star for South Carolina State and now a sensation for the Redskins, agrees with Muhammad.

"I think in pro football it all boils down to who wants it most," Brown says. "When I came up to the NFL, I wasn't in awe of the guys who had gone to bigger schools. I came in with the idea that I was as good as anyone."

That kind of attitude reflects the confidence black college players are bringing into the league. Barnwell, Muhammad, Wonsley and Brown have each been in the

#### **Sportsbeat**

### Neighborhood 'Basketball'

N.C. A&T's Joe Binion (25) swoops in for one of his 20 rebounds on the night against WSSU. Binion also added 24 points as the Aggies dumped the Rams 78-60 (photo by James Parker).

NFL less than four years.

However, Muhammad shows much wisdom. When asked what he thinks should be a high school player's greatest concern when selecting a college, he replies:

"Make sure you go someplace where you think you can get an education. Pro ball is here today, gone tomorrow. The education, you can keep that forever. Get the degree."

## The 'Berra Era': Some Yankee players ecstatic

Some members of the New York Yankees, many of whom groused about the disciplinary rule of Billy Martin, have promised that they'll win for Yogi Berra the pennant they failed to win for Martin. "We have a team with so much ability that we're going to make Yogi look like the greatest manager who ever lived," second baseman Willie Randolph said. "I simply couldn't communicate with Billy," said outfielder Steve Kemp. "It wasn't his fault, and it wasn't my fault. I just couldn't talk to him. I'm starting all over with Yogi."

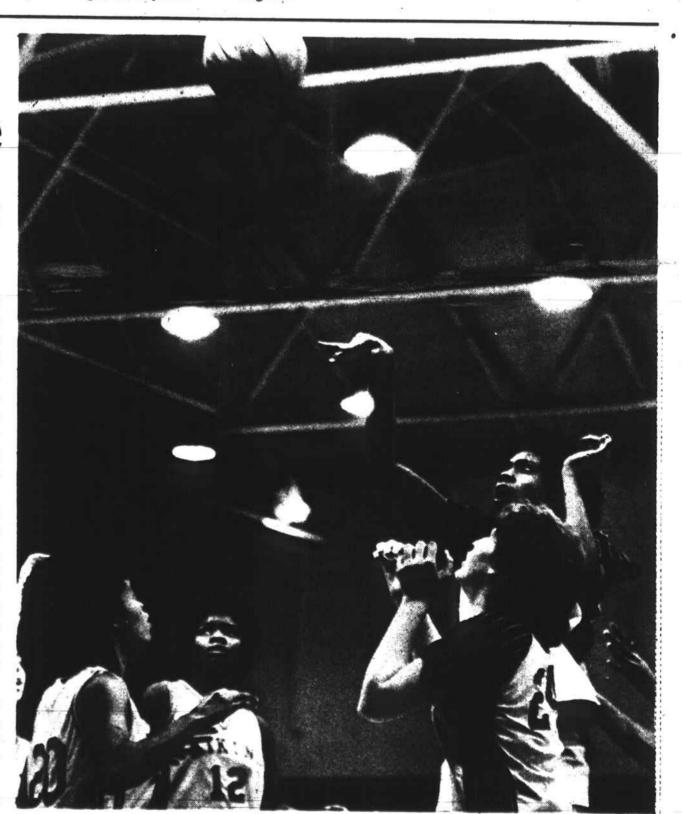
But other Yankees were equivocal. "It's unfortunate, because any time a manager is fired, you feel you had something to do with it," said designated hitter Don Baylor. "In a lot of ways Billy was good for the club, but you can't please everyone."...

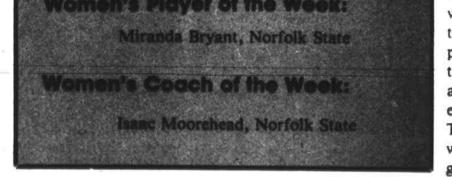
The stiffest competition at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles may not be bet-

Nevertheless, those 450 camerapersons will take an estimated four to five million pictures. Major news organizations such as the Associated Press and United Press International will build temporary processing facilities in the Olympic press center. The Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee will help by arranging for fleets of motorcyclists to pick up film at the far-flung sites and deliver it to the press center.

Canon, the "oficial camera of the Olympics," will erect a 4,000-plus square foot service center in press headquarters, where accredited photographers using virtually any make camera can get their equipment checked and repaired. Canon will also have close to a million dollars worth of cameras, lenses and other accessories available for the pros on a loan basis.

ABC Sports will have 2,500 people on the scene and will use more than 200 video





ween the 10,000 athletes. It's more likely to be between the more than 8,000 media. people who will cover the games. That's the biggest press corps in the history of anything. Only about 450 of those assigned to cover the games are photographers. That's because if there were more, they would be standing on top of each other to get their shots.

cameras to cover the games with 187 hours of network time scheduled for Olympic broadcasts. -All told, this is going to be the media event of the century .... Sugar Ray Leonard's fight promoters undoubtedly are happy he is returning to the ring. And Sugar Ray Leonard's finan-Please see page B4

Carver's Pam Sawyer lets fly a lofty jumper against Atkins in girls action last week. The Yellow Jackets won 36-5. Carver's girls and boys basketball teams remain undefeated in league play this season (photo by James Parker).