



ORTH CA

Pesky Aggie

We don't know how the game turned out (since it began just as we went to press) but we imagine A&T's Jimmy Brown, shown here against N.C. State, played a major role in whether Winston-Salem State won or lost in its bid to avenge a lopsided 78-60 home defeat by the Aggies in January. Brown is the son of the former NFL great (photo by James Parker).



Both the gas mask and the traffic light were invented by Garret Morgan, 1877-1963, an inventor from Kentucky.

BUILDING ON YOUR ROOTS

PEPSI PREP ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem is pleased to salute Miss Robin Hunter of West Forsyth Senior High School...She's The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week. Miss Hunter is the leading scorer on the West Forsyth girls high school basketball team. The six foot senior has been a real bright spot for the Lady Titans this year.

In Honor of Robin Hunter of West Forsyth, The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company of Winston-Salem will make a cash contribution to the Titans overall athletic program. Again, congratulations to Robin Hunter of West, The Pepsi Prep Athlete of the Week.

Listen each Wednesday at 8 p.m. on WSJS for Gene Overby TALKS SPORTS where he highlights Pepsi's Prep Athlete of the Week.

Black College Sports

Howard shows rare lack of class

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

A year ago, Joe Taylor was a wide-eyed, eager football coach, ready to take charge of the Howard University team and lead it back to respectability. Today, Taylor is a hurt, angry man. He ought to be. Howard University, considered the classiest black college in America, has committed a very unclassy act. With little warning recently, and without comment, the Bison fired Taylor and hired Willie Jeffries, head coach at Wichita State. "I didn't know a thing about it," a shocked Taylor told reporters. "I don't think it is fair to have me out recruiting top kids while all this goes on behind my back. I was kept in the dark." If it is true that Taylor did not know what was coming, that he had no reason to believe his job was in danger, then an atrocity of the highest order has been committed. Apparently, Howard was so eager to hire Jeffries that it would stop at little to get him. Jeffries, upon resigning at Wichita State, said Howard had contacted him each year for the last five years. Jeffries formerly coached at South Carolina State before moving to Wichita five years ago. Jeffries, 44, compiled a 21-32-2 record at Wichita after winning five Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference titles at S.C. State. The beef here is not with Jeffries, though. He is a fine football coach, and certainly has the skills to make a winner out of Howard. But it is not fair to toss a man into the cold with no

warning, which is what Howard did with Taylor. The Taylor episode further illustrates how black college athletics have changed. Not too many years ago, black college ball was a family affair. There was no undue pressure to win, and coaches rarely were fired. All that has changed now. More than a half-dozen black college coaches have been fired since November, and the edict from the school presidents seems clear: Win or else. Much of this can be traced to the black colleges' move to Division I-AA in football and Division I in all other sports. The higher competition makes it all but impossible for some schools to post winning records, yet their alumni fail to understand that. Certainly, whenever a coach accepts a position, he takes it with the promise to build a winner. But as more and more black college coaches are beginning to discover, it cannot be done with just words. It takes money and resources, something many schools just don't have. Chances are that no longer will be a factor at Howard. The Bison in the past have not spent much money on football facilities and the like, but it is a safe bet Jeffries was promised that would change. Suddenly, we will see a Howard coach get the kind of support Joe Taylor wish he'd had. In the end, Taylor would have settled for a little common decency. So would his five assistant coaches, who also were fired. "Maybe I shouldn't say this," said Taylor, "but it seems like somebody else is trying to save their own job by firing me. If they had been up front with me, let me know what was going on.... But this is just an example of Please see page B9

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