

# SportsWeek

Scores, Standings, Columns, Features

## Playoff Wrap-Up

### Frustrating near-misses plague black schools

By ROBERT ELLER  
Chronicle Sports Editor

Black schools again gave it the old college try as they hit the NCAA post-season trail in search of respect for their programs on the Division I level and another national title for the toughest league in the land in Division II.

And, while some programs may have earned the respect they sought, it won't be enough to erase the bitter taste of narrow losses. Three of the four black college teams in the playoffs fell a basket shy of advancing in recent NCAA action.

And, as of this writing, only one team remained in the title chase. St. Augustine's College, runnerup in the CIAA tourney, whipped Sacred Heart, Conn., 107-92 and advances to the Division II Final Four this weekend in Springfield, Mass.

A match-up between two CIAA teams was avoided when Virginia Union, which knocked off top-ranked CIAA champ Norfolk State in the finals of the South Atlantic Regionals, lost a one-point decision to Kentucky Wesleyan, 72-71, in the NCAA quarterfinals on Wesleyan's homecourt in Owensboro, Ky.

Wesleyan, now 28-2, entered the tournament ranked second behind Norfolk State. A win by the Falcons (22-6) over the Kentucky school would send St. Augustine's into its first-ever NCAA Division II title game against the winner of the Central Missouri State (27-3)/North Alabama (27-6) clash.

In NCAA Division I play, both North Carolina A&T and Alcorn State returned to the tournament this year to represent the MEAC and SWAC, respectively. The Aggies, beaten by Princeton last year in the qualifying round after being humiliated by West Virginia the year before, looked as if they might get their first tourney win against Morehead State of Kentucky.

Behind the hot outside shooting of guard

Eric Boyd, who led all scorers with 23 points, A&T grabbed an early lead and managed a 38-35 margin at the half. The Aggies stayed ahead until Morehead's Earl Harrison knotted the score at 68 with 3:30 left on two free throws.

The game also featured a bit of history when, during the final minute, the officials, unsure as to which Aggie player was fouled on an in-bounds pass, consulted ESPN and used a replay to send James Horace to the line for two shots. He made the second for a one-point Aggie lead.

Morehead inbounded the ball and Guy Minnifield drove toward the basket as the clock

and earned the right to face Pat Ewing and Georgetown in a 68-63 defeat.

This time around, the Braves drew Houston Baptist and, after leading only 51-48 midway through the second half, ran off eight straight points and were never threatened thereafter in an impressive 79-60 win. Guard Michael Phelps, who poured in 42 points in two NCAA outings last season, again led the Braves in scoring with 21 points.

Whitney's approach to the NCAAs apparently is that his team can play with anyone in the tournament.

"We told our kids before the game that we didn't believe they could blow us out," Whitney said of Houston Baptist, "but that we did believe we could blow them out."

But Alcorn became another one-point victim against Larry Brown's Kansas team March 26 in Lincoln, Neb., after the win in Dayton, Ohio, three nights earlier.

Alcorn came out ready to play and used superb defense to forge a 30-19 halftime lead, holding Kansas to 30 percent shooting from the field.

But the Jayhawks came back to lead 55-54 on Ron Kellogg's follow shot with 1:32 left. Aaron Brandon scored on a jumper with 53 seconds left to put Alcorn back in front but Calvin Henry hit a follow shot at the 12-second mark and David Claybon's shot was blocked with three seconds left to give the win to the Jayhawks.

"You cannot play a team like Kansas, commit those turnovers, miss those free throws and expect to win," Whitney said following the game.

Still, Alcorn continued a tradition of hanging tough in postseason play.

Alcorn lasted two rounds in the National Invitation Tournament in its initial appearance in 1979, losing to eventual winner Indiana 73-69.

Please see page B3



### The Comeback Kid

Sugar Ray Leonard, against the advice of some doctors and contrary to the feelings of his wife, will box again soon, adding luster to the sport which has been so often tarnished. His comeback begins next month against Philadelphia's Kevin Howard (UPI photo).

## Sports People

### Poe's formula works like a charm

By ROBIN ADAMS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Filet mignon is to steak what Alfred Poe is to basketball.

Or, as his friend Daniel Piggott puts it, "He is a winner."

In 12 years of coaching basketball at Carver High, Poe has compiled an incredible 177-16 won-loss record, won the last six city-county high school basketball championships and made Carver the team to beat, not only in basketball, but in track and football as well.

"I'm not a great coach," says Poe, 41. "I've had good talent at Carver and I've been able to put it together to make good teams."

By great talent, Poe means some of the high school stars he helped develop, like Ed Coe, a starter for Temple University; Ron Blalock, who though not a star basketball player at Georgetown University, is an excellent student, and present local standout Bryan Howard.

"There has been good talent here, and I hope I have played a part in developing it," Poe says.

Poe adds that the talents of a good coach can't be judged on a won-loss record alone.

"Winning is fine and I like winning," Poe says, "but it's more to coaching than just winning."

"Of course, a coach's dream is a Bryan Howard or a Fernando Horn, but there are also the Johnny Hinton's.

Hinton tried out for the team last year, but didn't make it. Despite that, he came to practice every day. This year, he made the team. He's not the basketball superstar but he's a straight-A student and has a super personality. That's what it's all about."

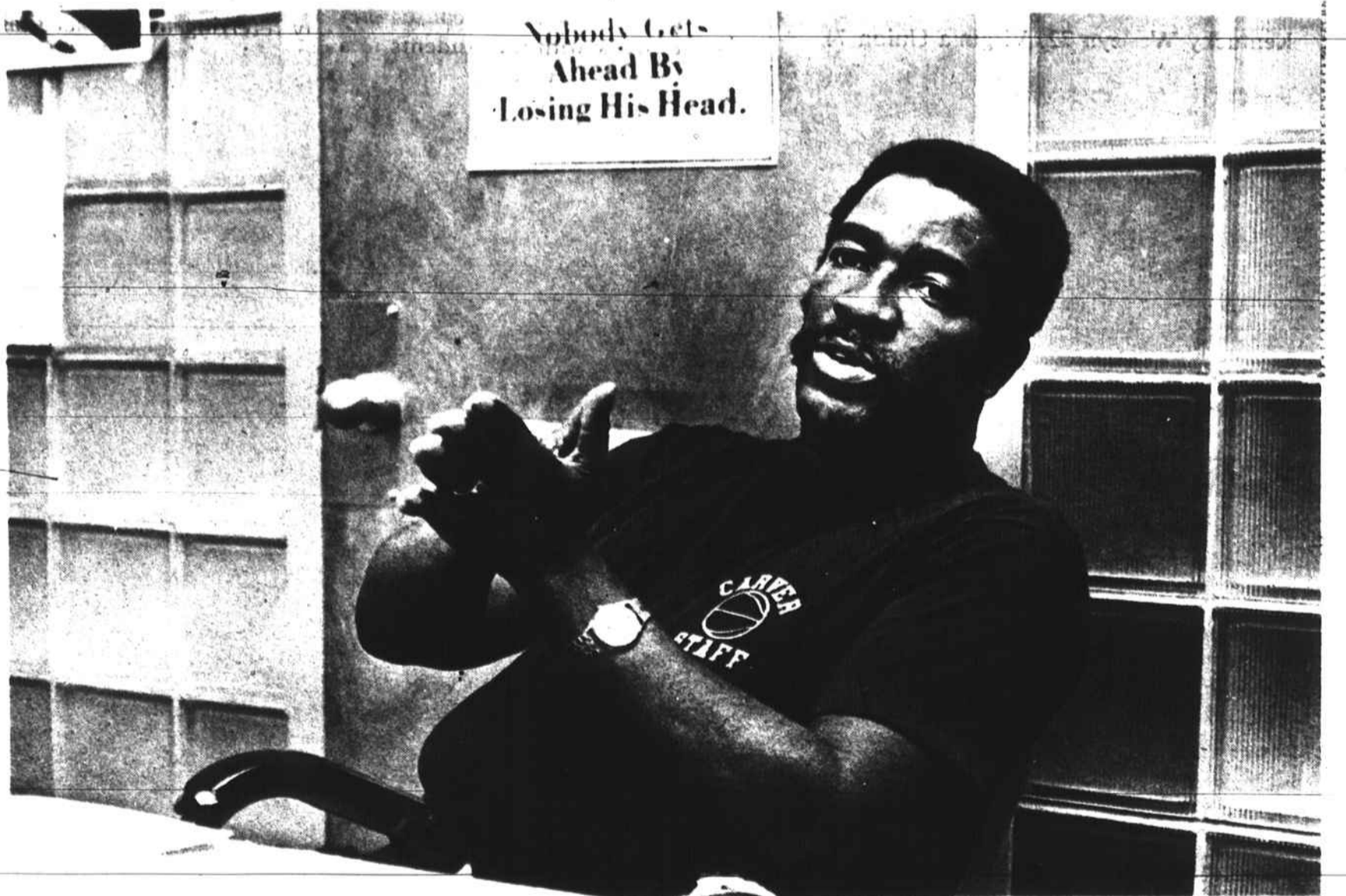
Poe continues: "I try to have my athletes put the game into perspective. I always tell kids you are a student first and an athlete next. The main priority is the books. If an athlete performs well in the classroom, he will perform well on the court. I say that to them because I believe that. I'm not a coach first. I was hired as a teacher."

Poe's coaching formula and his emphasis on academics and discipline have won him a reputation of being tough. Even his colleagues acknowledge that Poe seldom lets up on his team, even if it is ahead by 20 points.

"We have fun and enjoy ourselves, but there are certain things that I demand from a student-athlete," Poe says. "The main thing is respect and the second is, if you do something in life, give it 100 percent. I always check the grades of all the players and ask the teachers about problems they may be having."

"If there is a problem, I lay it to them on the line. I will tell them if they are right, but if they are wrong, I will tell them just as quick."

"A lot of people criticize me or say I'm tough or hard, but they criticize Bobby Knight, (basketball coach at Indiana). Please see page B3



Alfred Poe: A student-athlete's responsibility doesn't end when he leaves the gymnasium (photo by James Parker).

## Prep Spotlight

### AAU team: Building a solid foundation

By SAM DAVIS  
Chronicle Staff Writer

In only two seasons, the Winston-Salem AAU basketball team has gone from obscurity to a ranking among the top five clubs in the country. Last year, the team took the national tournament by surprise, going all the way to the semifinals before losing.

But it has had to travel rocky road, figuratively and literally, to gain the national prominence it now enjoys.

For years, only the nation's major cities have provided strong spring- and summer-league basketball teams for high school players. As a result, they have tended to monopolize high school all-America teams and national polls. In addition, the exposure players receive by participating in AAU leagues have helped them to be heavily recruited by the major schools in the county.

Although Winston-Salem typically has had its share of talented young basketball players, many have gone unnoticed. But, because of efforts of four dedicated individuals, that may be changing.

Two summers ago, Bobby Dunlap, physical education director at the Patterson Avenue YMCA, was coaxed by several high school players to enter a team in the state

AAU tournament.

"The kids kept telling me they were interested in playing against the top players in the state," said Dunlap. "Around here, there really isn't much opportunity for them to get those types of basketball experiences outside of their high school teams."

"I entered them in the first year just for the sake of the kids," Dunlap explained. "I realized that we wouldn't be very organized or competitive, but I felt the kids would get some benefits from it. Although we didn't do very well the first time around, we were satisfied with the way our kids performed."

Enlisting the help of individuals more knowledgeable about high school basketball in the city last year, Dunlap was able to draw some of the area's top players to the team. Buck Joyner, assistant coach at Carver High School, and Norman Brown volunteered to coach the team.

Working with meager resources when compared to those of other teams throughout the country, Joyner and Brown were still able to mold a solid team. The squad gained momentum by narrowly winning some games in

Please see page B4



AAU Coach Buck Joyner is hoping the local team's road to the national championship will be brighter than last year's trip to Monroe, La. (photo by James Parker).