

Howard wrestler overcomes the odds

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competition had given up their studies or whatever they were doing to concentrate solely on the Olympic trials. I had not wrestled Greco-Roman style since 1979.

"But I'm the type of person who does not like losing. I psych myself up when I feel the odds are stacked against me."

Cotton overcame the odds as he finished in the top three among 20 wrestlers in the Eastern Regional Olympic Qualifying Tournament to advance to the Olympic wrestle-off in June.

While Cotton says he realizes the odds are great, he feels they are by no means insurmountable.

"Hey, I'm a realist," he says. "I know it is not going to be easy. The competition is going to be tremendous."

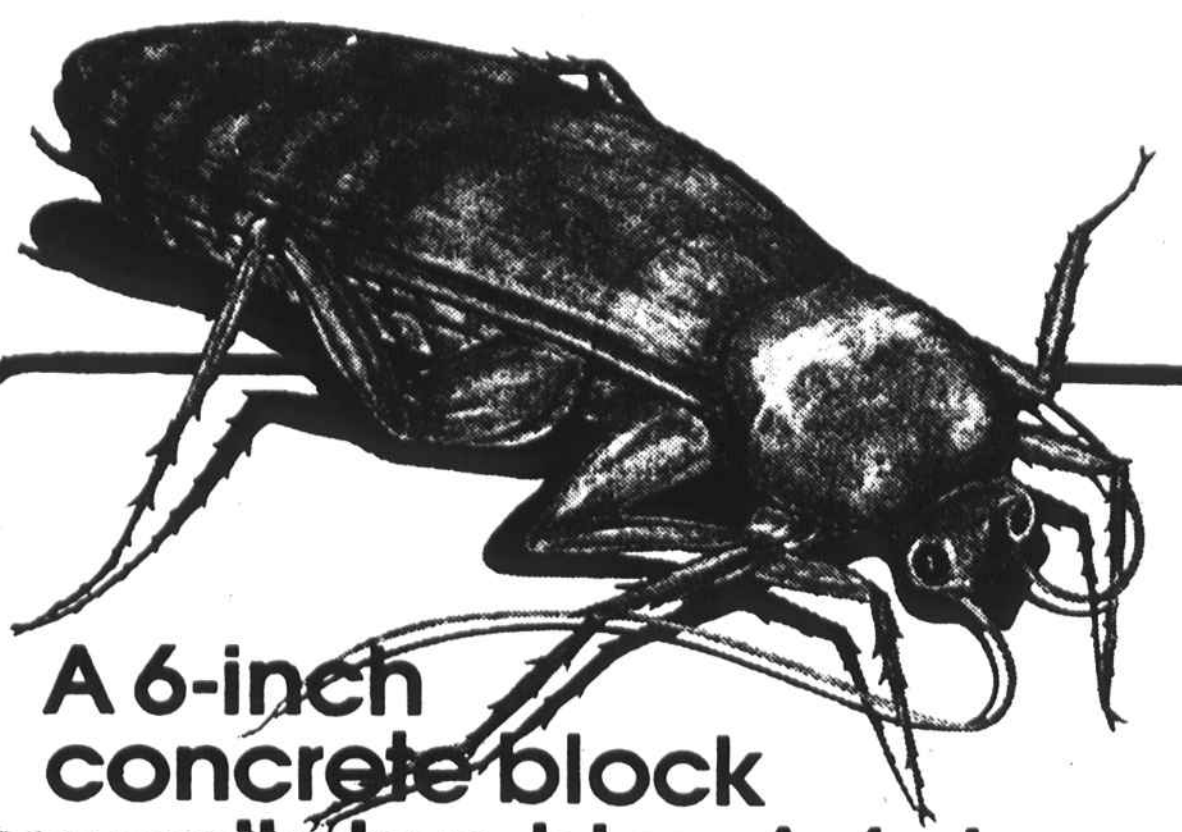
But that is what it's all about. That kind of situation brings out the very best in me. Hopefully, some of my competitors will take me lightly. One thing is for sure: I'm going in there to make it to the final six."

Now, with his semester studies and recruiting for next season behind him, Cotton has begun an intensive three-week training regimen that will include running, swimming and competing against local wrestlers who have also qualified for the trials.

What's more, Cotton has ingeniously surmounted another obstacle. Unlike many of his competitors, he has no coach. But he's found a way to fill that void.

"I went out and got a video camera," he says. "I taped my matches at the Eastern Olympic Regionals so I could play them back and analyze them. In effect, I coach myself."

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Council may ban FAMU

GREENSBORO -- The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Council of Presidents is expected to soon pass a resolution that will ban all MEAC teams from playing Florida A&M.

Details of the proposal were sketchy at press time, but the MEAC presidents

apparently are reacting to Florida A&M's withdrawal from the league amid heated controversy. The Rattlers, one of the top draws in black college athletics, are now an independent.

The presidents' wishes would have to be ratified at

a league meeting this month. FAMU already has announced its 1984 football schedule, and it does not include any MEAC teams.

However, the Rattlers maintain that their talks with MEAC clubs have been cordial.

If the ban is passed, FAMU would be hurt mostly in basketball, where it is trying to put together a 27-game schedule with the help of several MEAC schools.

The ban would also threaten the resumption of the FAMU/Bethune-Cookman football series and would prevent the arch-rivals from playing each other in any other sport.



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Family reunions

"Family members who ordinarily exchange friendly correspondence and telephone calls may be dismayed to find feelings of jealousy, anger and other unhappy feelings arising when face to face with loved ones," says Dr. Frances Wagner, extension human development specialist, North Carolina State University.

Emotions long hidden, but unresolved, may sur-

face under the pressure of a reunion. "Some family members have probably traveled great distances after working until the last minute. They arrive tired and irritable. Others may not be used to being with so many people at the same time," Dr. Wagner explains.

Realistic expectations are a key to happier reunions. People who don't expect everything to be perfect will be able to relax and enjoy themselves.

Funerals

Graves passes

Mr. William Graves

Mr. William Graves, of 318 Church Street, Thomasville, died early Saturday, May 12th at Thomasville Community General Hospital. Mr. Graves was a retired Barber and a faithful member of First Baptist Church in Thomasville.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Naomi Darr of Davidson Nursing Center; several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services were held May 15th at 2:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Thomasville with Rev. W.W. Banks officiating. Interment followed in Thomasville City Cemetery. The family met friends Monday evening from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

Forsyth Funeral Directors were in charge of services & arrangements.

Mrs. Martha Hauser Benson

Funeral services for Mrs. Martha Hauser Benson, of 878 Country Hill Court were held on May 2 at 1:00 pm in United Metropolitan Baptist Church with Dr. J. Donald Ballard, officiating.

The body remained at Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home until 2:00 noon, at which time it was placed in the church until the funeral hour. Interment followed in the Evergreen Cemetery.

Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home in charge of services.

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