

SportsWeek

Scores, Standings, Columns, Features



The Sign, The Windup And The Pitch

Mother Nature rained out Saturday's Twin City Little League championship game between the Cubs and Braves, but not before Cub pitcher Eric

Medley got the chance to show his form. Medley also pitched in Sunday's Twin City League All-Star Game at Ernie Shore Stadium (photos by James Parker).

Black College Sports

TV ruling: The rich are going to get richer

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

When the Supreme Court, in a 7-2 vote, ruled recently that the NCAA could not control college football television rights, shockwaves rippled throughout small and predominantly black colleges.

The court's ruling means predominantly black schools like Grambling, South Carolina State, Winston-Salem State and Florida A&M may never appear on network television again.

Furthermore, the schools will no longer reap the financial rewards network TV offers. For example, FAMU had earned more than \$1 million from the TV networks over the last 10 years. Grambling, another highly-televised school, had earned a similar amount.

But those schools were placed on network television only because of an NCAA requirement that forced the networks to spread the wealth, in essence, to make sure the smaller schools got a piece of the pie.

Now, without the NCAA in control of things, individual schools are free to make their own deals. And guess what? No

networks are going after any black schools, or any of the other smaller colleges. Next year's television schedule will be loaded with all the super powers.

The small schools will be relegated to tape-delayed showings on local stations -- if that much.

The reaction to the court's ruling was varied.

Said Grambling football coach and athletic director Eddie Robinson: "We have a lot of fine coaches and a lot of fine teams in our league. It's unfortunate that a lot of people won't have a chance to see these people play anymore. It's going to affect our enrollment. It's going to give (the larger schools) more advantages in recruiting and more financial advantages. Those of us who do not have the opportunity to appear (on TV) are going to be at a tremendous disadvantage."

Said James Frank, former president of the NCAA and now commissioner of the predominantly black Southwestern Athletic Conference:

"It's a fight for survival. Obviously, this means more com-

petition, more people out there trying to strike (TV) deals -- not only the big boys, but us small ones as well."

The predominantly black schools weren't the only ones singing the blues. Middle Tennessee State Athletic Director Jimmy Earle, whose school's enrollment is predominantly white, says smaller schools face disaster in the wake of the court's action.

"The ruling could kill us," he said. "It's great for the powers but, for the mid-majors like us and the small schools, it's a disaster."

Some small college officials continued to express optimism despite the court's ruling. Said Florida A&M Athletic Director Roosevelt Wilson:

"This obviously shuts us out of any kind of national package, but I think there is still potential for a regional package."

Apparently, that is the route many small schools will try to take. The SWAC, with Commissioner Frank leading the way, is already trying to find a cable TV company that will telecast one SWAC game a week. And Frank said the SWAC is willing to play

the game on a Thursday or Friday night, if necessary, to avoid conflicts on what is expected to be a crowded Saturday TV schedule.

Grambling is talking about having its home games shown on some Louisiana stations. Florida A&M, which is among several schools talking of forming a new conference, is thinking of a regional setup that would have games shown on local stations in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

The Ivy League, which is made up of small, but rich, schools, has signed a contract to have many of its games aired on public television this fall. The league said it expects to find five corporations that are willing to donate \$1 million each in return for four commercial "acknowledgments" during the games.

Innovation will indeed be the word for the smaller schools. However, except for maybe the Ivy League, there will be little money to be made. For smaller schools, cable and regional television likely will offer only exposure, and few big paychecks.

All that is reserved for the big-time schools -- thanks to the Supreme Court.



It's A Long Way Up

Budding superstar "Boo" Pettigrew perfects his shot on a 20th Street playground while buddy Danny Titcus looks on (photo by James Parker).

College Briefs

Wil Jones not surprised by Earle

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

LOS ANGELES -- The selection of 6-foot-10 center Earl Jones by the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the NBA draft may have caught some by surprise, but not University of District of Columbia Coach Wil Jones.

Wil, who is not related to Earl, recruited Earl Jones out of Springarn High in Washington, D.C., and watched as the center helped UDC to a Division II national championship.

After the Lakers' selection of his big man raised some eyebrows, Wil Jones said: "When I recruited him he was an all-star player, and now he still is. I have no doubts he will go on to make a great pro player."

The Lakers say they think Earl Jones could eventually be a replacement for aging center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, or play at forward if that doesn't work out.

The biggest question about Jones is his weight. He tips the scales at just 210 pounds, and the

Lakers wonder whether he'll be able to hold his own under the boards.

Nevertheless, they thought enough of him to make him a No. 1 draft pick, a rarity for black college players. In four years at UDC, Jones averaged 21.7 points per game.

Two More Pros

JACKSON, Miss. -- Jackson State University, which has one of the country's top baseball programs, has sent two more players to the pros.

Pitcher Marvin Freeman recently was drafted in the second round by the Philadelphia Phillies, and shortstop Julius McDougal went in the third round to the Chicago Cubs.

Both signed almost immediately and were dispatched to farm clubs.

The Phillies took Freeman even though he compiled only a 4-3 record last season. They apparently were swayed by his fastball, which has been

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Thirty-eight qualify for regional meet

By ROBERT ELLER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Thirty-eight members of the Road Runners track club advanced to the Region III TAC-USA Junior Olympic track and field championships, set for July 6 and 7, by virtue of their performances in the North Carolina Junior Olympic TAC-USA track and field competition at North Carolina State University in Raleigh June 22 and 23.

Leading the way for the team, coached by Virgil Simpson, were Randy Jones and Jerryean Woods.

Jones, competing in the Intermediate Boys Division, won first places in both the 400-meter run and the 400-meter hurdles.

In addition, he placed fourth in the high jump, clearing the bar at 5-10 to qualify in that event.

Woods came away with first-place finishes in both the 100- and 200-meter runs for the Midget Girls with impressive times of 13.43 and 27.52 seconds, respectively.

Other team members who qualified for more than one event by finishing in the top four in the event were:

Sonya Love, who was second in both the 100-meter hurdles and 400-meter hurdles in the In-

termediate Girls Division, and Madohia Caesar who, in the Youth Girls Division, placed second in the 200-meter run and fourth in the 100 meters.

Torre Jessup placed fourth in the Youth Boys 100-meter run to qualify there while Jabbar Bennett qualified in the 200-meter run with a second-place finish.

Nicole Bell earned a spot in the Region III 200-meter dash field for Youth Girls with a fourth-place finish.

Rounding out the individual qualifiers for the meet were Midget Boy Michael Jones, who took third place in the 400 meters, and Youth Girl Micheala Fair, who was fourth in the same event in her division.

In addition to the individual qualifiers, seven Road Runner relay teams qualified in the 4X100-meter relay, paced by the Youth Boys team of Lenell Johnson, Marcus Poindexter, Delano Banner and Torre Jessup, which won the event with a time of 49.54.

Two teams of Bantam Boys qualified in the event, as did the Bantam Girls foursome. The Midget Boys and Girls teams also qualified, with both taking second-place finishes.

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