

Sports Scope

Banner year for local prep hoops?

By SAM DAVIS
Chronicle Sports Editor

After a less than impressive season from the county's football teams (with the exception of Parkland and North), it's now time to look at what could be one of the most promising prep basketball seasons in recent years.

With the return of Mt. Tabor and Carver to the high school level and the addition of Glenn, the '84-85 season will be a taste of things to come.

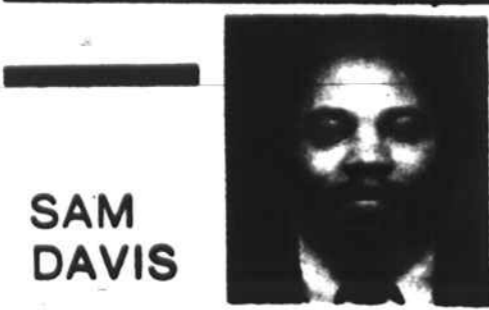
While there will likely be stiff competition between the county's team for local honors, it will also be a season for superior individual performers.

Speaking of individual talent, one of the most highly touted players to ever come out of the city will finally get the chance to showcase his talents. After playing in the 9-10 league for the past two years, 6-7 Brian Howard will be tested against 4-A competition.

Due to the county's realignment however, Howard will be donning a North Forsyth uniform, instead of the usual blue and gold of Carver that he's so accustomed to playing in.

But weep not for Alfred Poe and his Yellow Jackets at Carver. Losing Howard to North and Roderick "Rock" Riley to East Forsyth in many eyes may have cost Poe a state championship next year, but the Yellow Jackets will still be a force this season.

Poe's inside game should still



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be as bruising and powerful as ever due to the "Beef Brothers," Fernando Horn and Ray Agnew. Point guard Corey Belton and shooting guard Tim Douthit are both improved.

Meanwhile Ken Hayes of East Forsyth feels he has all the reason to cry the blues. "If there are teams out there that have two 5-7 guards, we'll match up well," Hayes said sarcastically in reference to guard Chris Christmas and Bay Shaw, talking about his team several weeks ago.

The Eagles lost all five starters from a year ago on a team that went all the way to the state 4-A semifinals. Yet, with the addition of Riley, Reggie Torrence and second-year players Christmas, Shaw and Brian Smith, the Eagles should be able to break the .500 mark.

Parkland Coach Tom Muse has Ronnie Christian returning for his senior season and Christian alone will give the Mustangs a strong inside scoring punch. An all-conference performer a year ago, Christian's medium range jumper is second to none in the county.

Senior guard Shelton Jones, Muse's defensive stopper last year, will also help in Parkland's rebuilding year as will Bernard Wright. Newcomers Jaques Biting and Willie McCants could also provide help.

Another established program that will be rebuilding is Reynolds which has Kenny Mickens as its only returning starter. Coach Stan Elrod will have to look to newcomers to fill out the roster, but in Mickens has one of the city's best players. Mickens' jump shot is second to none.

Napoleon Cloud takes on a new program at Glenn and the Bobcats will be an unknown commodity as should be expected. Cloud, who was at West Forsyth last year has a big man to build around in 6-4 Brian Johnson. However, Johnson is just a sophomore with little experience.

At Mt. Tabor, Coach Dick Jamback finds himself in much the same position as Cloud. Burly Brian Brookshire provides muscle inside and Patrick Green should also provide points for the Spartans.

"We have good quickness, but we just don't have much height," said Jamback. "We have the potential to do well, but we can't let down one second."

Moving up from the 9-10 ranks, Otis Hawkins will find the rugged 4-A conference a challenge, but the Titans can't do
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Black College Sports

All that glitters isn't gold for NCAA

By BARRY COOPER
Syndicated Columnist

The schools which wrested power away from the NCAA and forced college football television rights onto the open market now are wondering if the bloodletting was worth it. With as many as 12 games shown on some Saturdays, there clearly is too much football on TV.

This chaos has not only affected larger schools, but it has touched smaller schools, including the predominantly black ones. While bigger schools can at least hope or dream of an occasional TV appearance, the smaller institutions cannot. Not a single black college team has appeared on network television this year, and that is a trend that is almost certain to continue.

Small wonder many are beginning to long for the days when the NCAA controlled TV rights and spread the wealth. But thanks to the Supreme Court decision of several months ago, the NCAA no longer has any say-so.

Consequently, college football seems to be headed the way of its basketball counterpart. The people who run that sport engaged in gluttony last year, and nearly every major school had some of its games televised. Trouble was, the schools made less money than anticipated. Some syndicators even failed to pay.

The situation is not as hopeless in college football, at least not yet. However, there are some alarming signs. When a Birmingham, Ala., cable company announced it would offer some University of Alabama games on a pay-per-view basis, it thought profits would soar. Not so. Less than a dozen folks signed up, and the idea quickly was scratched.

In Tallahassee, the Florida State Seminoles attempted to take advantage of deregulation by beaming back to Tallahassee via closed-circuit their game at Arizona State. A crowd of 3,400 paid to watch at the local civic center, but little money was made.

"We broke even at best," said Dennis Boyle of Tallahassee television station WCTV, which produced the game. "We'll never do it again, I'll tell you that. We

didn't make a penny, and on top of that we took a lot of flak from people who thought we should have put it on (free television) or thought we charged too much."

Tickets for the telecast were \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. It is ironic that Florida State has not profited from the new TV arrangements. The Seminoles have been on TV just once this year, compared with twice by this time last season. The Seminoles' athletic director, Hootie Ingram, was one of the main forces behind the push to strip the NCAA of its power to control TV rights.

Black College Briefs

Alcorn 'holds' Valley

When Alcorn State put the grips on high-scoring Mississippi Valley State recently, it did so literally. So said Valley Coach Archie "Gunslinger" Cooley. "After I looked at the film, I saw so much holding," said Cooley. "The way they did us was awful. I was told there were 21 holding penalties that were not called." Mississippi Valley, which lost to Alcorn 42-26, may get a chance for revenge. The teams are likely to be matched in the Division I-AA playoffs, a possibility that Alcorn Coach Marino Casem does not relish. "I don't want to play them anymore," said Casem. "You play a person once and beat them, it gives them more incentive the next time."

The Southwestern Athletic Conference, looking to breathe life into its sagging men's basketball tournament, has announced that only the top four teams will qualify for the tourney starting this season. This year's tourney will be played at Jackson State.

... The New York Knicks have signed former Texas Southern standout Ron Cavenall, a 7-foot-1 center. Cavenall played with the Harlem Globetrotters last season.

Little Bird Dept.: Bethune-Cookman Coach Larry Little has spread word around the National Football League that he'd leave B-CC for the chance to be an NFL assistant coach. The

Nevertheless, Ingram says the TV money will start to flow for FSU and other schools next year. Some aren't so sure. Said one University of Florida official of the TV mess: "We got what we wanted, but we don't want what we got."

The feeling here is that the big schools have created this monster, so now they will have to feed it. We can only hope that after two or three years of this nonsense, the bigger schools will come to their senses and again cast their TV lot with the NCAA.

Only then will we see order return, along with some measure of fairness.

Wildcats, however, are so pleased with the job he's done that they plan to match any reasonable offer. Little currently makes about \$35,000 and lives in a houe provided by alumni.

At least some colleges are trying to curb the exploitation of athletes. The National Association of College Admissions Counselors has produced a booklet that tells of the traps many athletes fall into. Many college officials offer advice in the booklet, including some big-name coaches. Said Penn State Coach Joe Paterno: "Do not slip into the trench of taking easy courses. A very small percentage of (athletes) will compete in organized sports for more than seven or eight years, and that is a very short time to forsake the joy of being an educated person." Copies of the booklet, which are aimed at black athletes, are available from the national Association of College Admissions Counselors at 9933 Lawler Ave., Suite 500, Skokie, Ill., 60077, or by calling 312-676-0500.

Little Bird Dept., Part II: Jackson State kicker Eric Dozier, who recently was kicked off the team and suspended from school, reportedly got the boot for opening mail that was not his. At Florida A&M, five players who were suspended for the final
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