

BCSR SPOTLIGHT

Coach Tyler gets her share of the elite athletes

Howard University women's basketball coach Sanya Tyler continues to persuade top of the line athletes that playing for the Lady Bison is a good idea.

Tyler, whose team won this year's MEAC women's basketball title recently added another blue chipper to the fold when

signed Karen Wilkins who was a fourth team *Parade* All-American that season. Wilkins sat out the '88 season because of academic difficulties.

However, she paid big dividends for HU in '89 in leading her team to the conference title, scoring 24 points in the finals and

season bids for the NCAA Division I playoffs.

Neither the SWAC or the MEAC get automatic berths to the playoffs. That hasn't happened since '83 and no Division I black college women's team has ever landed an at-large bid.

The Lady Bison coach feels that can be changed teams upgrade their schedules against credible opposition. This past season, she did more than pay lip service to the idea by facing some of the toughest women's teams around.

Here's a sampling of the "name" schools that the Lady Bison faced during the '88-'89 season: Georgia Tech, Fresno State, Georgia, North Carolina State, Maryland, Florida State.

Considering the level of competition and the quality of athletes that she's been able to sign, it appears that Tyler is on her way to helping Howard get a berth to the playoffs within the next season or two.

SIAC football

Albany State, Savannah State, and Alabama A & M dominated the voting in the media picks for the SIAC pre-season all-conference teams. The Rams and Tigers each had seven players chosen and the Bulldogs had five players picked.

Shannon Sharpe, Savannah State's wide receiver, is the pre-season pick for SIAC Offensive Player of the Year. Albany State linebacker Michael Pullins was the choice for conference Defensive Player of the Year.

Here's the SIAC's pre-season first team all-conference squads as picked by the media:

OFFENSE

Linemen: Jonathon Warren, Albany State; Tony Jordan, Albany State; Bernard Patterson, Alabama A & M; Greg Ellison, Ft. Valley State

Center: Madison Johnson, Tuskegee University

Tight End: Kenneth Brown, Savannah State

Wide Receivers: Shannon Sharpe, Savannah State; Felix Lewis, Clark/Atlanta University

Quarterback: Richard Basil, Savannah State

Running Backs: Curtis Bell, Ft. Valley State; Willie Conway, Albany State

Kicker (PAT/FGs): Clay Perkins, Albany State

Return Specialist: Willie DeLoach, Savannah State

DEFENSE

Linemen: Damon Johnson, Savannah State; Wilbert Jack Cooper, Albany State; Sean Broadwater, Morehouse College; Carl Dawson, Alabama A & M

Linebackers: Michael Pullins, Albany State; Wesley McGriff, Savannah State; Daryl McCormick, Savannah State

Cornerbacks: Terry Smith, Alabama

A & M; Mario Black, Ft. Valley State

Strong Safety: Harvey Clayton, Alabama A & M

Free Safety: Mike Wallace, Savannah State

Punter: William Garth, Alabama A & M



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

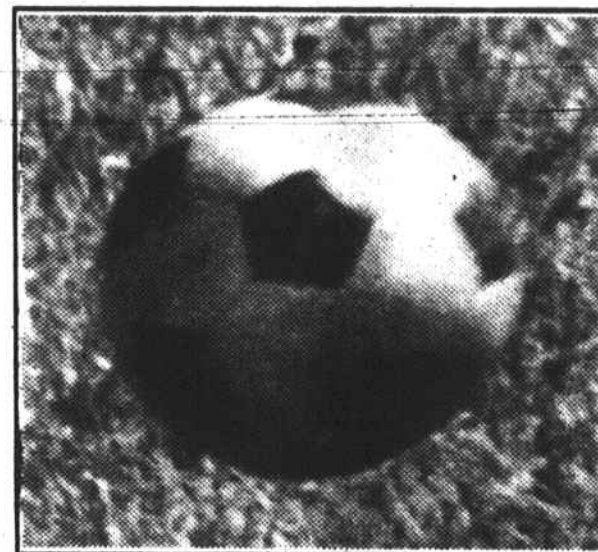
Lady Bison coach Sanya Tyler.

she signed highly regarded Annette Babers of Saginaw High School (Mich.). Babers was one of the most sought after women athletes coming out of the prep ranks this past season. She was voted first team All-American by *Parade Magazine*.

Signing the blue chip athlete is nothing new for Tyler. In '87, she landed the ser-

vice of Karen Wilkins who was a fourth team *Parade* All-American that season. Wilkins played her high school basketball at H.D. Woodson in Washington, D.C.

Tyler is a proponent of elevating her team's level of play by going against the best competition that she can find. She feels that's one of the ways that black colleges can enhance their chances of getting post-



Staff Photo

Soccer: HU vs. A & M

Two kingpins among Division I soccer programs will get together this fall when the Howard University **Bison** visit the **Bulldogs** of Alabama A & M on Sept. 17 at Normal, Ala.

The game will mark the first time that two black colleges have faced one another in Division I soccer, according to Bulldogs coach Salah Yousif.

This past season, Howard finished the season at 19-1-1 and finished second in the NCAA championship finals, losing 1-0 to eventual champ, Indiana.

Alabama A & M finished the year at 18-5. After taking Division II titles in '77 and '79, A & M became a Division I program in '80. In '84, the Bulldogs finished the regular season with an 18-0 mark and were ranked No. 1 in Division I.

No commissioner yet

The CIAA is still conducting its search for a commissioner to succeed Bob Moorman, who stepped down from that post in late April. At presstime, it was learned that the selection process is still taking place. No deadline has been set for when the new commissioner will assume his duties.

However, there are two names that repeatedly come up when discussing the position. One is Chris Fisher who is currently the athletic director at North Carolina Central, the other is Dr. James Frank, commissioner of the SWAC.

Fisher is said to be very interested in the job and conference observers feel he has the right qualities to pick up where Moorman left off in taking the CIAA to new levels of progress.

Frank, on the other hand, didn't indicate if he was interested in the post. He says that nobody from the CIAA has contacted him about the possibility of becoming the conference's head man.

- Antonio Nunn