

BLACK COLLEGE Sports Review

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Perils Facing Student Athletes

Did you read recently that a N.C. Central basketball player was arrested in Durham for possession of crack cocaine?

This was just weeks after the Eagles' improbable run through the NCAA South Atlantic Regional, where Greg Jackson's team beat their nemesis, Virginia Union, and advanced to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in Springfield, Mass.

This incident brings shame to the program, and shames an otherwise stellar season.

Jackson was the CIAA Coach of the Year and the BCSR Coach of the Year. The team had no big people and relied on guards to win games. It was a neat little story. Stephen Birchette, Central's best big man, died in the preseason due to an asthma attack, and the team had banded together to dedicate the season to him.

They won 17 games in a row to start the season. They made believers out of us all.

They made the CIAA finals. They made the Elite Eight.

They were for real.

And now, we get this scandal.

The player arrested is a junior from Knoxville, Tenn., and he was arrested with a 14-year-old juvenile in front of an apartment building in downtown Durham on April 20.

"This action in no way signifies any admission of guilt as to the allegations made against" the student-athlete, the school said in a prepared statement. "Until the matter is resolved completely we will reserve comment on the issues and leave all other matters in the hands of the proper university authorities," and the student, "and his counsel."

The student-athlete and the youth were both arrested on possession of crack cocaine with intent to manufacture, sell or deliver. The student-athlete was also charged with delivery of drug paraphernalia to a minor.

The youth was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and carrying a concealed weapon.

These are all troubling charges, though CIAA coaches contest that drugs aren't a problem in their schools.

"This," said one CIAA football coach, "is an isolated incident. You have some at various schools, in our league and others. It's just unfortunate. What I hope is that it doesn't ruin the impression of our league on others. We've got a good league."

Let's hope so.

By LANGSTON WERTZ JR.

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Letters to the Editor

Black Colleges Should Form Their Own Association

To the Editor:

Why do black colleges continue to belong to the NCAA? They get no big bucks or good publicity from the NCAA. No black college women's team was in the NCAA Tournament (Div. I) or in Div. II for that matter.

In the latest basketball NCAA poll, Southern was not rated nor was Jackson State, but Georgia Tech and U.Conn were. Why not?

What would it take for black colleges to form their own National Black College Association for Athletes — preserving black schools traditions and emphasizing the athlete and not the schools or coaches as the NCAA does?

Black schools like Barbara Scotia, Benedict, Allen, Chaffin, Morris, Shaw, St. Augustine's, Voorhees-St. Paul's, etc. should form their own football conference and bring back the traditions and hopefully some funds to the respective schools.

Thanks BCSR

To the Editor:

We have appreciated your inclusion of our A-A Team in your publication for the past two years. Hopefully, the information attached hereto will provide some insight to our club activities.

I am an avid reader of BCSR. It is an outstanding effort on your part. I salute you and your staff. Keep up the good work.

Jim Barker

Can You Cover Wrestling?

To the Editor:

I would like to ask if there could be a little coverage of black college sports' best kept secret — college wrestling.

As basketball dominates the sports headlines, fine wrestling programs exist at Morgan State, Coppin State, Delaware State and Howard in Division I. At Division II, Cheyney State, Norfolk State and Virginia State have quality programs.

In addition to providing exposure for these fine programs, there many high school wrestlers could become interested in one of these programs.

Frank Nucaro
White Plains, NY

Never Ending Racism Continues

To the Editor:

The never-ending racism continues.

It's obvious, judging by the three columns that have appeared in the *Vicksburg Post* about Alcorn State athletics — one in '91, another in '92. Duane Cross's Sunday the 18th of '93 — that objectivity is not the credo that some of the sports writers adhere to.

The editorial by Cross, slandering Steve McNair, all SWAC SIDs, all black SIDs, Alcorn State, shows that he should be working for the National Enquirer. I'm just amazed that those who are his superiors would let him have something like this printed.

Every accusation against me was and is a lie. Yes,

I'm saying that B. Duane, and that B may stand for bigotry, is a liar. For him to say that only a Caucasian has the knowledge to promote a person for the Heisman acknowledges his bigotry!

First of all, I never solicited voters from the writers who cover SWAC football for support of McNair. To say that is to say that sportswriters in Vicksburg, Greenville, Prairie View or Natchez have Heisman votes. This is lie number one.

Secondly, he said that I asked for promotional ideas to be sent in. Although nothing is wrong with that, I don't claim to be a know-it-all as B. Duane does, but the fact is that Derrick Mahone at the *Clarion Ledger* asked for ideas to be sent to them and later forwarded to me. Again B. lied.

He says that it is fruitless for us to promote McNair. As Clark Gable said in "Gone With the Wind," "Frankly, I don't give a darn" as to what he believes. He doesn't write for the *Ledger*, or the *Washington Post*, or the *New York Times*, or *Chicago Tribune*. So, who gives a about his belief!

If the B. had any decent motives, he would have called me and asked what my plans were. If he's so smart, he would have given me some positive advice. But he is here to condemn and crucify, not help.

Had he asked me, he would know that I have a plan. My plan is already underway. But giving the positive is not his goal — it is to undermine me and vainly try to stop the McNair train which has already gone full steam ahead and won't be stopped by one narrow mind!

The B. says the Alcorn plays in the SWAC. Well, any fool knows that! But any fool also knows that Walter Payton of Jackson State is the NFL's leading career rusher. Any fool knows that Doug Williams of Grambling quarterbacked a Super Bowl winner at Washington. Any fool knows that Jerry Rice of Ms. Valley is being heralded as the best receiver in the history of the NFL. Any fool knows that all of those guys played SWAC football.

The B's comprehension is really lacking. What does playing at Notre Dame or Alabama have to do with being a Heisman winner? Bear Bryant's only Heisman winner was at Texas A&M. I thought that the award went to the best player not the best team. Alabama was number one last season, but a player on the losing team, Miami's quarterback, won the Heisman. Wake up and smell the coffee B.

Sports Illustrated magazine tabbed McNair as their offensive player of the year in '92, over the Heisman winner and the two running backs who finished second and third. I would say that 'Air II' right now is the biggest fish in the pond in the fun for the Heisman.

Did B. watch the Bayou Classic on NBC television last season? Over 70,000 people were there, and NBC used national sponsors. For B's information, BET has already chosen to televise the Alcorn-Alabama State game this fall, and the company negotiating to do the ten I mentioned is not BET. So this means that the SWAC may get national coverage on those two as well as some other networks.

I am so glad that I keep copies of all releases from my office since 1988 to show that B. Duane's accusations about misspelled words, run-on sentences and whatever are just l-i-e-s. I repeat, all of his accusations are l-i-e-s!!

What makes him think that I type the information that goes out anyway? Has he ever seen me type anything? Has he, in fact, ever been to Alcorn State? Not to all of that!

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