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## NBA Draft is Sure to Overlook Some

Well, it's almost time for the NBA draft again, and again many black college performers are going to be overlooked.

And it's too bad.

Yes, it's true that most of the best high school basketball players go off to the Division I college powerhouses like Duke and North Carolina and Michigan. But just because a kid isn't playing under the T.V. lights every night doesn't mean that he can't play in the pros.

Sometimes, the kid didn't do well enough academically to make it into a major college. Sometimes, he was scared off by the big colleges. Who knows what the reasons may be. But there are lots of NBA potential athletes not being drafted and not even getting a tryout.

If you play much gym basketball, you've probably heard about guys who tear up the NBA players — and anybody else — during the summer but never get their chance.

And it's nice when a guy does get a chance, like the New York Knicks' John Starks, a former Safeway employee, who went to Oklahoma State before toiling in the CBA. Now, Starks, given his chance, has become, arguably, the Knicks second-best player, in deference to their all-star at center, Patrick Ewing.

How many Starks and Scottie Pippen do you have to hear about before you believe? On the TV shows across the country, the announcers and some of the scouts will have you believe that the league tears up the country in search of the best talent. And yeah, they go most anywhere, but they give certain areas more and more serious looks than others.

A scout will go to a Duke a heckuva lot more than he will a Livingstone. So he may not see Livingstone's Terrance Jordan, a 6-7 leaper known as "Bear Jordan" do his thing. Or the scout may come on and off night and reserve himself to the thinking that the Bear was just another black college legend, who was better when people talked about him than he was when he played on the court.

Well, there are some excellent athletes in the small colleges. Johnson C. Smith's Chris Parker, BCSR's player of the year, is one of them. Parker has a never say die attitude that is reminiscent of Michael Jordan's: He has a can't-miss jump shot and can play some excellent defense. He could help some teams.

Norfolk State's Marcus Whitfield has an NBA body right now, at 6-3 and maybe 205 pounds. He can shoot the jumper and play a bruising man-to-man defense.

There are lots more.

But let's hope as the NBA announces its draft picks later this summer that a few names from a few small colleges come up.

Or else, it'll just be another case of the NBA sleeping on the little guys again.

—By LANGSTON WERTZ JR.

## Letters to the Editor

# Athletes' Problems Blight on Society

To the Editor:

Just a few comments on your May issue. As usual, it is a great journalistic feat to be able to publish your paper, and we are very privileged to have it. Nothing makes me happier than to be able to find something in the print media about our schools. It proves that we can sell ourselves.

The editorial on Perils Facing Student-Athletes is not a blight on Greg Jackson or his Eagle basketball team — it is a blight on society. I am sure that Greg has cautioned his group about drugs and their abuse, but what else can you do? He can't be there 24 hours a day, nor should he. I know that NCCU has a drug policy, and our hope is that whatever the decision to be made on the young man, it will not be Greg's to make. As for the scandal, it is very naive of the unnamed CIAA football coach to feel that it is not a problem at his university. It is everywhere, and only if through testing and University's making their presence felt can we keep it aware to all. It was sad that Gus Howard at Alcorn State felt that he had to respond to some crank who feels that black college athletes are not worthy of the Heisman. But I do applaud his effort. Having been exposed to similar feelings as former chair of the Division II Football Committee from 1986 through 1988, I found that guys like B. Duane don't exist anymore than Slim Hill, my ghost letter writer from Texas did. I, too, wanted to respond, but felt that I should not dignify the remarks of some guy who would not even use his own name. But our kids deserve to be recognized, and I thank Gus in his attempts to clear the air. It would be tragic, though, if his response was only published in your paper.

Black colleges should awaken and smell the fresh air. I learned greatly from my experiences on several NCAA committees that we need to reassess our programs' values. It has not been easy to watch our teams enter playoffs and only to be demeaned and demoralized — especially in football. But I have reached the conclusion after those episodes that "we have met the enemy and it is us." Our failure to make athletics a means of developing the university's pride and our alumni to know its role in program development continues to make up second class citizens on any level. The successes of Southern, Jackson State and North Carolina Central were not flukes, but may not be seen again soon. I would also like to see football back at Benedict, Claflin, Allen, St. Paul's, Voorhees, Shaw, St. Augustine, Florida Memorial, Edward Waters and the like. It would mean so much to the students and the alumni, but all must put their weight. We should never bring them back and allow

them to be subject to the mockery that led to their demise.

Lastly, your article on Dr. Claudie Mackey was a tribute to the man. I only hope that you will do an article on the academic progress of his student-athletes. You would be very pleasantly surprised and so would our readers. One sour note in the article — Jethrow Pew is really Jethro Pugh.

John D. Marshall

## April Story Untrue

To the Editor:

I am writing in regard to the story "Mississippi Valley: Underdogs Win Big, Beat Southern for SWAC Title — SWAC's Smallest School May Close its Doors this Fall." (April 1993).

The last portion of the story is completely untrue. The Ayers case is back in the original court because of the Supreme Court's decision last June. The case was filed in 1975, but no decision was reached until seventeen years later. There can be no closure until there is an unappealable decision ordering such. This case, in all probability, will go through all court level stages and reach the Supreme Court for the second time. Legally, the institution remains open until such a decision is rendered. In response to the Supreme Court's recommendations relative to the original charges, the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), our governing board, proposed closing Mississippi Valley State University, merging it with Delta State University and naming the "new" institution: Delta Valley State University.

Since IHL's proposal, Mississippi Valley State University has had a difficult time recruiting and even convincing enrolled students of its continuation. Your story had to have worsened the situation. In addition to *Black College Sports Review*, you list sixteen additional newspapers carrying BCSR as a supplement. One cannot reasonably estimate just how many persons have read the article or who were told what the article contained.

I do hope you will attempt to correct some of the problems caused by your article with some statement in your next issue relative to the misstatement in the article referred to in the first paragraph of this letter.

William W. Sutton  
President



The Alabama A&M University women's track team won the NCAA title for the second consecutive year in outdoor competition by edging host Abilene Christian University 92-86 recently in Abilene, Texas. Pictured (l. to r.): Germaine Crocker (400-meter relay); Kim Golden (400-meter relay); Wallace Jackson (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference commissioner); Shelly Beckford (400-meter relay, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, and the 1600-meter relay); Taiwo Aladefa (100-meter dash, 100-meter hurdles, and the 400-meter relay); and Dr. Joseph Henderson (head coach). Seventeen of the 22 athletes representing the SIAC earned All-America status.

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