

MEAC Roundup

MEAC Football Race

Becomes 'If And But'

Morgan State continued its winning ways over Howard by knocking the Bison from the ranks of the unbeaten and, as a result, the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference football championship race has turned into a "if-and-but" race.

The Bears whipped Howard, 27-7 Saturday afternoon before a crowd of better than 25,000 at RFK Stadium in Washington. The victory for Morgan was its 21st straight over Howard and the victory for the Baltimore eleven put the championship race in the MEAC up for grabs.

The victory for Morgan was only one of five games played by conference teams this past weekend. South Carolina State won its fifth straight game by turning back Maryland - Eastern Shore, 30-7 in Princess Anne, Maryland in the only other conference test involving MEAC teams.

Prep Roundup

West Takes On Myers

Park Friday Night

West Mecklenburg High, who last week upset previously unbeaten South Mecklenburg, will again invade Myers Park Stadium this week to take on the Myers Park Mustangs.

The Indians now stand 4-4 on the season and have impressively won their last four games. Myers Park has had its ups and downs this season enroute to a 4-5 record.

Bubba Mills and the West Mecklenburg defense did a super job in containing Thad Bonapart and the Sabres last week. This week they face another great runner in Myers Park's Gene Petro.

Petro has rushed for close to 1,000 yards this season and is a scoring threat from anywhere on the field.

Melvin Cathey, the Fleet Indian halfback who made the spectacular touchdown catch last week to end South's win streak, is the big threat for the Indians.

Bubba Mills;

Post's Prep

Of The Week

The Sabres of South Mecklenburg High entered Myers Park Stadium last week sailing along on an 11 game win streak to face the always tough Indians of West Mecklenburg High.

In its eight games this season South had outruled, outhit, and simply outplayed all of its opponents. But the Indians were not to be denied last Friday.

For his efforts in stopping the dangerous Thad Bonapart and John Elam, Bubba Mills, the middle linebacker of West Mecklenburg, has been selected as the POST's Player of The Week.

Mills was responsible for keying on Elam whom he believes is the key to the South Mecklenburg attack.

"They have a great backfield in Elam, Bonapart, Hall and Thompson so there is really just no way to key on them all," said the 170-pound Mills. "We decided to practice to work on Elam because he is the heart of their offense. He makes them go."

Before the start of this season West Mecklenburg was rated third in the state but after their first four games the Indians still had not registered a victory.

The team has bounced back to win their last four and with the win over South, Mills believes the team has proved their potential.

"We did have that high rating and after we started losing it seemed as though everyone was down on us," he said. "There was even talk that their conference was stronger than ours and that their team was so much better than ours."

"We have been improving steadily and with this win we know who has the best team in the county."

"I am going to be rooting for South in the state playoffs but we have proven that we are the best team because we beat the team who was supposed to be the best."

In non-conference action Saturday, Johnson C. Smith came from behind in the second half to defeat North Carolina Central 15-7 in Charlotte. Grambling pulled out all stops in a non-league test in Grambling, La. and completed outclassed North Carolina A&T to the tune of 62-6.

Delaware State suffered its ninth straight loss of the season Friday night, losing to Hofstra by the score of 26-14.

Howard went into its last home game of the season with a perfect 4-0 league mark and a 8-0 overall record. But Morgan State, feeling the pressure of beating Howard to still have an outside chance of winning the regular season title which they were picked to win in pre-season predictions, scored three touchdowns in a period of less than six minutes in the second quarter and

took a 21-0 lead before Howard was able to get itself together.

Morgan scored with the aid of a pass interception, a blocked punt and a high fourth down snap on a punting situation for a 21-0 lead midway the first half. Howard finally scored on an 11-yard scamper by quarterback Michael Banks for a 21-7 halftime lead.

The Bison were not able to get their offense going in the second half as Morgan played stingy defense in addition to scoring a third period touchdown.

South Carolina State brighten its chances for the MEAC title with its 30-7 win over Maryland-Eastern Shore. UMES scored first on a one-yard sneak by quarterback Charles Boston but South Carolina State came back with 17 points in the second quarter on the running and passing of quarterback Benjamin Samuels. Samuels scored two TDs himself and then passed 43 yards to Darius McCarthy for another score.

North Carolina A&T suffered its fourth setback in a row at Grambling. Grambling rebounded from its defeat at the hands of Texas Southern two weeks ago with the shellacking over A&T.

Hofstra scored three touchdowns in the first quarter to take a 21-0 halftime lead but Delaware State stormed back to score two six-pointers in the third period to narrow the margin to 21-14 after three quarters of play. Hofstra added a field goal and a safety in the fourth stanza while holding Delaware State scoreless for the victory.

The big game in the conference this week will find Howard playing North Carolina Central in Durham in an 8 o'clock contest. The outcome of this game could decide the conference champion and by the same token, the result could make the championship go down to the final week of the season.

North Carolina A&T will play Delaware State in Dover, Delaware in a 1:30 afternoon contest in a battle of the two teams yet to win a league game. Maryland-Eastern Shore completes its season at home against Federal City at 2 o'clock.

Eric Polite

Johnson C. Smith's Exciting Little Man

On a crowded downtown street his small body fades easily into the crowd.

Even on a basketball court Eric Polite's 5-8 stature can go unnoticed during warm up drills --swallowed up by his towering Johnson C. Smith University teammates.

But the second the ball goes in the air Polite seems to go through a sort of metamorphosis and keeps on growing and growing and...

With each of his precision passes that he whips to a teammate, with every twist of his thin frame that leaves a taller opponent swatting at a handful of nothingness, and with every roar of the crowd after he perfectly demonstrates the asthetic beauty of sound defense, Polite seems to stretch.

His presence is felt. When he's on the court, he is as dominant as anyone there.

"Basketball has always been a very emotional game with me," Polite said prior to the start of practice at Smith University where he is a rising senior. "On the court you can sometimes be so determined you can do things you didn't think you could do. A determined mind can stretch the body as far as it can go. That's how I play. I feel like I can do anything I want to do on a court."

The native New Yorker, who played in tournaments throughout his younger years with such schoolboy greats as Mel Davis and Ron Behagan, believes size has little to do with winning basketball games.

"To be successful in basketball you must be able to get along with other members on the team," the soft spoken economics major said. "Then you have to be able to move without the ball and play good defense."

"Above all this, you have to be able to make a special contribution to the team. You have to be able to do the things



JCSU CAGER ERIC POLITE
...Small body fades easily in a crowd

you do better than anyone else when its needed. If you can do it and nobody can stop you, size means nothing," he continued.

As Polite recalls some of his boyhood experiences in basketball, a smile comes to his face. Although he admits he has patterned his style directly after that of Nate "Tiny" Archibald, of the Kansas City Omaha Kings, there were a lot of other players who had an influence on Polite's style.

"We used to play a game called O-U-T and the purpose of the game was to take a basically simple shot and do it in a way that the guys playing

with you couldn't match," Polite recalled.

"I used to watch some of the bigger guys do some dunks. They would do all kinds of things; Hit the ball off the top of the backboard and throw it in over their head, double, triple pump and dunk, and sometimes they would hold the rim with one hand then slam the ball in with the other. It was just fabulous to watch them."

"I used to practice the same things on the biddy baskets. All the time I was practicing those freak dunks I was developing my body control. I really think that is my greatest asset."

As he grew older, and just a little bigger, Polite and his friends used to travel all over New York City playing ball. The Patterson Projects, 148th and 3rd Ave., Forrest House, 163rd and 14th Ave. and the Lincoln Projects, 135th and 5th, were just a few places where they stopped off.

"To most black kids growing up in the city, basketball is more than a game it is a way of life. Through basketball I was able to construct my energies in a positive way."

"I was in ninth grade at the time and Tiny Archibald was playing in the senior

division," Polite said. "When I won the MVP award in my senior division it was a great emotional lift for me."

During the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament last February, Polite's wizardry drew superlative comments from a Milwaukee Buck scout.

"The thought of professional basketball never seriously entered my mind," Polite said. Basketball has provided me with a means to go to college and a chance to achieve some of the things I have always wanted out of life.

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