

Black athlete takes bitter with sweet

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Sports Editor

Although it seems decades ago, it was only exactly 10 years ago that the first Black athlete enrolled as a scholarship athlete at Carolina.

His name was Charles Scott.

Since that time, Black athletes have made a profound impression in a number of sports at the institution.

Yet, the road for Black athletes in Chapel Hill has often been a rocky one.

Aside from catching passes, stealing bases and dribbling basketballs, the Black athlete has waged other struggles as well.

In February 1969, Scott and teammate Bill Chamberlain were the focal points of a controversy involving the BSM and the university administration. At the



Bill Chamberlain

time, the BSM had levied demands which included the active recruitment of Black freshmen and the establishment of an Afro-American studies department. Chamberlain had stated, "I feel that if I'm going to represent the university on the basketball court, they (the administration) should represent me and my Black brothers."

Three years later, 6'9" Robert McAdoo, a Greensboro native, was instrumental in the Heels' 29-5 season and third-place national finish. McAdoo had fond memories of Chapel Hill, and intense pride in North Carolina, reminiscing in a recent *Sports Illustrated* cover story, "You



Charles Waddell

know, along about 40 games into the season, all I'm thinking about is getting back home. I really do love North Carolina." Bitter memories also linger for Mac, who expressed disappointment at being overlooked in the balloting for ACC Player-of-the-Year and an all-time ACC team.

Frustrating

Around the same time, Charles Baggett, a quarterback from Fayetteville, played on an undefeated freshman squad, then found himself red-shirted by Coach Bill Dooley during his sophomore year. Disillusioned, Baggett transferred to Michigan State and became one of the premiere signal callers in the Big Ten and the nation.

Similarly, Charles Waddell, who achieved notoriety in football, basketball and track, was perhaps one of the most versatile athletes in Carolina history. Waddell earned credentials an All-ACC and All-American performer, but had his brilliant collegiate career somewhat dimmed by a frustrating senior year in which the Southern Pines native was not only hampered by injuries, but found his playing time gradually decreasing.

"It was a very disappointing season for me (in 1974)," Waddell said. "I didn't get to play as much as I wanted to."

Although blacks have received increased exposure at Carolina and other ACC schools, exposure of another sort can also be achieved.

Senior centerfielder Early Jones recalled in an interview a number of spectators who would sneer and shout out derogatory remarks concerning his race.

Press criticized

Moreover, the press itself has been criticized for often snubbing Blacks in terms of awards and recognition.

Charlie Scott voiced disapproval of the selection of John Roche as Player-of-the-Year and immediately drew the ire of sportswriters. Wrote former UNC Sports Information Director Jack Williams: "Say the shoe was on the other foot. Suppose Scott had been named Player-of-the-Year and Roche had disagreed publicly. I believe some newsmen would have supported Roche in his view. But, it was different with Charlie. It was almost as though they were saying, 'the Black man isn't supposed to speak his mind.'"

Somewhat conversely, the special treatment afforded Black athletes as compared to average Black students has also disturbed many of these athletes—in the past and in the present.

Said Charlie Scott in a 1969 interview: "Accepted? What is acceptance? Being invited to

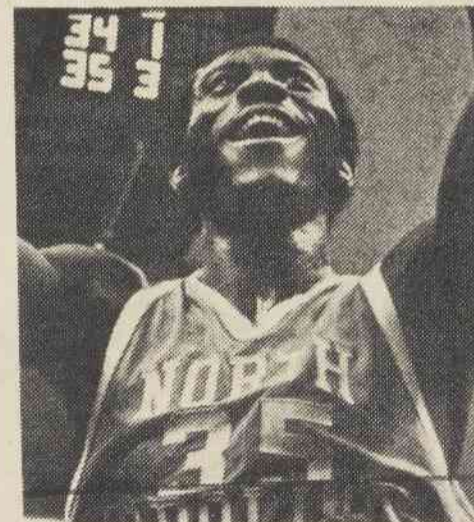


Russ Conley, football standout—victories and defeats.

parties? Being invited to join a fraternity? I didn't because I didn't think I'd enjoy being the only Black in it."

"It hurts me that other Blacks who make better grades than I do and who have better personalities aren't invited to join because they aren't athletes. I didn't want to take advantage of some things open to me only because I play basketball."

In 1975 Carolina senior player Walter Davis said, "It's



Robert McAdoo

better for me than the average Black student who is not playing a sport. I don't dig that much. I wish everybody would be treated the same, but it so happens that we find things like this in the world today."

The history of Black athletes at Carolina has been a history of victories and defeats, and gains and losses. Black athletes have both praised and criticized the university. The Scotts, Waddell's and Fords have remained while the Baggett's, McAdoo's and Crompton's have left. Black athletes are becoming more commonplace at Carolina, in the ACC, and indeed in predominantly white institutions

across the country.

Still it seems, the sweet has always been accompanied by the bitter.

—With Michelle Allison, Skip Foreman, Lonza Hardy and Gwen Wallace

Scott stands up for Blacks

(cont. from p. 6)

were also seeking official university recognition of the BSM. It was implied that part of the "tactics" would be the resignation of junior Charlie Scott and freshman Bill Chamberlain from their respective basketball teams.

In the end neither quit. But, both let the administration know where they stood. Speaking nervously for himself and Scott, Chamberlain said, "I feel that if I'm going to represent the University on the basketball court, they (the administration) should represent me and my Black brothers."

Amid all this pressure Scott went on to establish himself as *the* best Carolina athlete and one of the best college basketball players of all times. From 1968-70 he was an All-American in eight different polls, Eastern Regionals MVP ('69), ACC Tournament MVP ('69), ACC Athlete of the Year ('70), and the winner of the Patterson Medal as top Carolina athlete in 1970.

Charlie Scott was amazing. He warded off the forces of pressure and the cries of racists. He fought a great battle. He won.