

Special feature

# Where lurk the Black female athletes?

By CASSANDRA LYONS  
Sports Writer

Why have some of high school's most promising Black female athletes neglected to continue trying to perfect their sports records after they enter college?

Some of America's brightest Olympic hopes are dimmed because young ladies have chosen the road to colleges and universities across the country and given up sports altogether.

Is there some type of male chauvinistic pressure being applied to these talented young ladies? Are such derogatory names as "female jock," "tomboy" or statements implying that the ladies are being a little "less" than real ladies causing them to shy away from any sport after they enter college? Or does the real problem lie with the athletic programs of these universities?

Bonita Perkins, who was an active athlete at Dudley High School in Greensboro, comments, "I wanted to devote more of my time to my work my first year here. I participated in intramural softball, but I probably won't this year because the intramural program schedule is so unorganized."

A more active athlete at Carolina, Milicent Fulford, who was voted best-all-around in sports while at East Carteret High, stated, "I still participate because I like to stay active and I like playing with the BSM Ebony Cagers."

It should be noted the Fulford, who has a good chance of making the UNC women's basketball team this year, is seriously questioning whether she'll try out. She had an unsuccessful go at it last season.

Karol Mason, a graduate of Amityville Memorial High of Long Island, N.Y. said that everything here is too impersonal. She added that being a minority student is rough because the team ratios are always so unequal.

"As far as interscholastic sports are concerned, the team members are recruited directly from high school," she commented. This makes it extremely difficult for anyone else to prove herself good enough to be on the team."

A million other excuses can be given as to why there aren't more Black females around. But one thing is for sure—the Black females aren't putting up any fuss about the situation.



Staff photos by James Parker

Carolyn Hawkins: Comfortable off the court and on.

## Hawkins, a sparkle everywhere

By RAY PERRY  
Sports Writer

A black female athlete is a rare commodity on the UNC campus. Carolyn Hawkins is one of those precious gems. She is currently displaying her talent with the women's volleyball team.

Miss Hawkins is a transfer from Louisburg Junior College in Louisburg, N. C., where she was an all-state performer who led her team into the National Junior College Women's Volleyball Championships. The strong suit of her game is her ability to spike.

Although she thoroughly enjoys playing volleyball, Hawkins has no desire to play professionally.

"A woman shouldn't put her whole life into it (athletics)," she said.

In addition to starring on the volleyball court, Hawkins also sparkles on the basketball court. Noted by one observer "to have more moves than ex-Lax," she

averaged 17 points per game as a sophomore and was a key factor in the Hurricanes' placing third at the Southeast Regionals.

Hawkins' prowess on the athletic courts earned her Louisburg College's 1976 Most Outstanding Woman Student Athlete Award. This is a noteworthy achievement considering that she didn't play basketball until her senior year in high school and volleyball during her freshman year at Louisburg.

"All the success that I've had I owe to God-given talent," she stated.

Commenting on the state of women's athletics, the Henderson native replied, "I'm thankful for where it is now. It could be better, but then, it could be worse."

Hawkins, an education major, indicated she would like to play on the women's basketball team.

If she makes it she'll be the first Black woman to play basketball at Carolina.

## Joselyn Williams—'treated like one of the guys'

By MIKE DIXON  
Sports Writer

Joselyn Williams is an attractive, junior political science major. She is also a sprinter on the women's track team.

Joselyn grew up in the outskirts of Henderson on a farm. She feels that this background helped her a great deal because of the space to run and be free or as she put it "to run off into eternity from time to time."

Upon entering high school, Joselyn felt the pressures many female athletes feel in North Carolina. There was no real women's athletic program. But Joselyn refused to abandon her love for sports.

In her senior year, Joselyn along with her classmates led a protest at Henderson-Vance requesting that the athletic department create some form of sports activities for the female athletes. Their efforts were successful, and women were allowed to practice with the men's track team. Although not completely satisfied, Joselyn practiced with the men and commented, "I had no real trouble getting along with them. They treated me like one of the guys."

Joselyn's real test came when she entered UNC. She was very interested in women's track but was forced to relegate her efforts to intramurals and individualized competition. She attempted

two try-outs for the UNC women's basketball team but was unsuccessful on both tries. But Joselyn would not give up. She became the intramural manager for Eringhaus dorm!

At present, Joselyn is on the women's track team as a sprinter. She says, "The track team is rough, but the women here are getting a chance to prove themselves." Her daily schedule at the track includes two miles and flexibility drills. It's a rough schedule but she enjoys it.

Joselyn also enjoys playing sports with men. She remarked, "I enjoy participating in sports with men because they usually offer more challenging competition than women do. For instance, I haven't met a man yet who can beat me in racquetball!"

Joselyn is quite versatile too. She plays about 10 sports that include basketball, racquetball, soccer, softball and tennis.

Strangely enough, Joselyn feels her social life has not been affected by her active participation in sports. She says "Many men want to go out with me because they feel I am a challenge."

But men give her the utmost respect, for they must admire the hidden drive within her.

Through all of her accomplishments, Joselyn gives God credit for all of her talent. She said, "I can't do all these things by myself. Someone up there has given me the talent and I'm just using it."



Staff photo by James Parker

Former Carolina track standout Reggie Jones converses with Howard player, Trevor Leiba: a reunion of old friends.

## Next Issue

Part Two of **Black Women Athletes** examines further the role of the Black female in Carolina sports, including interviews with women's head basketball coach Angela Lumpkin and Black varsity cheerleader Pamela Parham. Also, Sports Editor Lonza Hardy dares to write another column and "Readers Rap" returns.