

'Little' Calvin Gives Boost To Rockets

HOUSTON—When Calvin Murphy poured in a career high 45 points against the Buffalo Braves on Dec. 28, he drew widespread attention. Actually, the vast improvement in the likeable guard's game has been emerging for about three weeks, and his play has helped the Houston Rockets produce the best basketball in their franchise's history.

Coming off the bench, the 5-10 pro had 23 points in a Dec. 14 romp over Kansas City-Omaha, 123-84. He had 25 three nights later against New Orleans the 15 in an upset of the Central Division leading Washington Bullets, 116-91.

He's moving very well without the ball," explained Rockets' Coach Johnny Egan after Calvin's seven-game tear, "and he's getting the ball when he's open."

I also think that in the last month or so Calvin has been playing more relaxed. Even when he was coming off the bench he was getting a lot of playing time and was giving us a spark."

During the streak, Murphy shot .683 from the floor, .936 from the foul line, had 45 assists and averaged 26.4 points a game.

Johnny told me to stop and take the jumper instead of trying to go inside," Calvin added. "He told me not to be concerned about a layup, that the jumper is my best percentage shot. And Dave Wohl has done a great job in directing the offense and when he senses a guy is hot he gets him the ball."

Murphy is going less one on-one now and handling the ball less. And the Rockets, in their eighth season in the Association, are a legitimate playoff contender with a chance for the first .500-plus season ever.

North Carolina A & T All-American Candidate

Morris McKie

Senior
6-3, 210 lb.
Defensive Back

M & M spells instant trouble for offensive backs and wide receivers trying to get by Morris McKie. McKie has been timed at 4.4 seconds in the 40 yard dash and is a consistent 4.5 second runner in the distance.

An alert ballhawk, McKie is the main cog in the Aggie secondary, which is rated at the top of the tough Mid-East Athletic Conference.

A&T's McKie on Courier All-American Squad

Morris McKie, a senior defensive halfback at North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, has been selected as the first team defensive back on the Pittsburgh Courier All-American football team.

McKie who had an excellent season intercepting five passes returning them for 75 yards, and one touchdown, joined a long list of North Carolina A&T football stars who made the team in previous years.

"When you consider the number of schools and football players in the country, it really makes the accomplishment that much more satisfying." McKie, along with the 21 other members of the team, will be honored in a banquet in New Orleans, La. later this month.

Bison Indoor Track Seeks Electricity

WASHINGTON—Howard University finished second to East Carolina University in the recent Lynchburg Invitational Indoor Track Meet taking three first place finishes to score 33 points while the Carolinians totaled 43.

Saying that "electricity is what makes the winner," Track Coach Williams Moultrie has gathered talent from the Washington, D.C., area, New York City, Africa and other far reaching points in what might well be the best team in recent Howard history.

Unable to practice sufficiently in the cold climate of Washington, the Bison mile and two mile relay team still cracked the Lynchburg meet record in both events with Reggie Sojourner (Washington), Sherrill Battle (Raleigh), Richard Massey (New York City) and Haywood Corley (Washington) turning in an early season 3:24.8.

The two-mile team, Gosnell White (Charlotte), Mike Elam (Philadelphia), Zach Jones (Washington), and Wallace Rabiu (Lagos, Nigeria) sped to an 8:21.0 clocking.

Massey also finished first in the long jump with 22 feet,



TIGER TALK—Durham College "Tigers" Head Basketball Coach, Charles "Dickie" Edwards chat about game plan with cagers Willie Poythress, Willie Lee, and Stanley Settles before Homecoming game against the Kittrell College "Bulldogs" on Saturday, January 18, at 8:00 p.m. in the Shepard Junior High Gymnasium. (D.C. Photo by Wayne Pitts).

two inches to his credit. White placed second in the 600-yard run and Rabiu (mile run), Victor Egwu (triple jump), and William Griffin (60-yard high hurdles), all finished third in their events.

"I believe we have a team of the future," says Moultrie whose squad is comprised of 13 freshmen, two sophomores, three juniors and one senior.

A big test for the Bison will come January 10 when they meet some of the best talent in the East at the CYO meet at the Univ. of Maryland, College Park.

Ben E. King Comes Back Home to Atlantic ATCO

Henry Allen, Atlantic/ATCO Senior Vice-President for R&B Product has, announced the signing of legendary vocalist, Ben E. King, to a long term contract with the label.

Born in Henderson, King moved to New York at an early age. He first embarked on his singing career with the CROWNS, a singing group that was subsequently recreated into the "new" DRIFTERS after the dissolution of the original line-up. The "new" DRIFTERS provided a continuation of the group's ongoing success story with a string of smash hits that included "Save The Last Dance For Me," "This Magic Moment," and "There Goes My Baby."

At this point, a bizarre incident gave King the impetus needed for a starring solo

career. A recording session for the DRIFTERS had been set up in the winter months, and when a massive snow storm prevented all of the other DRIFTERS but King from showing up at the studios, Atlantic decided to cut some solo tracks with him. One of the songs cut was "Spanish Harlem," which became an all-time classic hit single and paved the way for other Ben E. King successes like "Stand By Me," "Don't Play That Song," and "I (Who Have Nothing)." Now King has returned to Atlantic, and his first single for the label, "A Supernatural Thing, Pts. I & II," is already garnering heavy initial airplay from stations all over the country. With a new album in the works, Ben E. King's "Second" Atlantic career holds as much, if not more, promise than his first.

THEATRICAL WORLD

The 69th Anniversary issue of Variety, the show business bible, lists an updated version of the "All-Time Film Champs." The so-called black films are obvious by their absence. Films listed must have made \$4-million or more. The list is topped by "The Godfather," with \$85,747,184. Biggest "black" film was "Shaft" with \$7,656,000, followed by "Super Fly" with \$6,150,000, "Uptown Saturday Night," \$6,000,000, "Cotton Comes To Harlem" \$5,200,000 and "Shaft's Big Score," \$4,000,000.

Crossover films (aimed toward whites and blacks) did well on the "All-Time Champs" list. "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" grossed \$26,000,000. "To Sir With Love \$19,100,000 both Sidney Poitier films. "Blazing Saddles" (Cleavon Little), \$16,500,000. "Lady Sings The Blues," \$9,666,000. "Sounder," \$9,000,000.

There were 25 new films issued in 1974 geared to the black audiences, but it's reported that "the black market remains one of the most dependable film-going audiences but it is becoming more sophisticated and discriminating. No longer does a black hero, black slang and plenty of anti white propaganda guarantee big boxoffice."

"Feeling Good," the TV series combining health tips with entertainment on Public Broadcasting Service stations, turns its next show to high cholesterol diet and heart disease. Among guest stars are Vivian Vance, Marty Mull, Bill Cosby, singer John Davidson and comedian Arte Johnson.

It had to come, There's a new dance craze that should sweep the country. It's called the "Kung-Fu." Basic steps are easy: one shifts the arms back and forth while clenching the fists, then spins and kicks the feet. But be sure and stay the proper distance away from your partner.

"That's The Way of The World," the new Sig Shore film about the inside of the record business world should be ready for release around Eastertime. Before then, however, Earth, Wind & Fire, one of the most exciting sounds around now in R&B, Pop, Jazz or Rock and featured in the film, will come out with their single of the title song, a beautiful, mellow song. Deejays like Murray the K, Frankie Crocker, and Vi Higgins are seen in the film, a \$1.5 million production.

A powerful collection of artists have gathered to take action protesting UNESCO's political actions which have been directed against Israel. Included are singers Martina Arroyo and Marian Anderson, choreographer Alvin Ailey and conductor James DePriest. All signed statements in which they "refuse to participate and hereby disassociate ourselves from the activities of UNESCO," until latter rescinds its "politicizing resolutions directed against Israel."

Director Gordon Parks, Jr., is still looking for a young Hispanic girl, who looks 15, to play Angela in the film "Aaron Loves Angela" a film about a black boy who falls in love with a Puerto Rican girl. Shooting begins in New York City as soon as he finds her Kevin Hooks, who played the son in the film "Sounder" has the boy's role. Interested girls can submit pictures to Gordon Parks, Columbia Pictures, 711 Fifth Avenue.

Pete Long, who once was head of the artists department at the Apollo Theatre when the Harlem vaudeville house was in its prime, staged and coordinated the Brother Crusade "Tribute To Quincy Jones" that was one of Los Angeles' top events held last year.

Coach, Players of Year Honored

Marino Casin, head football coach and athletic director, Alcorn A & M University, was honored as "Coach of the Year" at the 50th Annual Gulf Oil Corporation-Pittsburgh Courier All-American Football Banquet, Jan. 10, in New Orleans. Jackson State running back, Walter Payton, and Grambling College defensive tackle, Gary Johnson, also received honors.

Casin directed Alcorn A & M to a 9-1 record, winning 9 straight and suffering his only regular season loss to arch rival Jackson Stat., 19-13. The Braves advanced to the NCAA

College Division II playoffs but lost 35-22 to the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. Casin turned in one of the best records of his career in the tough Southwestern Athletic Conference and Alcorn was voted the Number 1 black college in the nation.



THOMAS FOR SCHLITZ MALT LIQUOR Popular entertainer Rufus Thomas, well known for his up-beat dances like the Funky Chicken and the Break Down, now for Schlitz Malt Liquor. Deeked out in his pink hot pants outfit, Thomas is shown here in one of his forthcoming commercials. Thomas will appear in television, radio, print and outdoor ads for Schlitz Malt Liquor and in other promotional avenues.

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—Judith Crist, New York Magazine

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Archie, I'm touched. I must be to have lived near you for so long. But just to show there's no hard feelin's, I'm willin' to put prejudice aside and invite everybody to watch "The Jeffersons"... whether they are Black, Red, Yellow, or Honky!

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