



By HERMAN MATHEWS

Super Sunday has past. A sure sign of the changing of the guard. Only one more football game to go, the post-climactic Pro Bowl. As footballers prepare to hibernate for the "off season", basketballers are eagerly stepping into the spotlights of the sporting arena.

Many multi-sport enthusiasts are shifting gears to adjust to the change in seasons — weather and sports. The loyalty of fans toward professional sports varies according to different factors, such as geography, won-loss records, number of Chinese on a given team, and etc. College sport fans usually follow and support their same school throughout the various athletic seasons.

I am a keen follower not only of the athletic confrontations and accomplishments of my alma mater, but also of other MEAC, CIAA, SWAC, and SIAC schools. As much as possible, I strive to observe, read, or hear of what is going on in those respective worlds...er...conferences. When schools from those conferences compete with major college (Division I) schools, as Grambling did in football (Univ. of Hawaii, Oregon State) and Howard University in basketball (Univ. of North Carolina, Southern Cal), my interest soars especially high. Just as high as my feelings when seeing former players from schools of the aforementioned conferences compete successfully in professional sports.

In retrospect, Super Bowl X found me reflecting on my playing against Pittsburgh's Glen Edwards and Frenchy Fuqua, and the Cowboys's Mark Washington in days when none of God's children had two pair of shoes. While being happy to see the level of competition at which those and other predominately Black college stars have attained, I simultaneously wondered as to "what happened to those other players who played in the same pastures, and who had at least, if not better, skills (include reading and writing).

A quick observations reveals that certain predominately Black schools consistently produce athletes who establish themselves in professional sports. Equally noticeable is the fact that athletes from certain other predominately Black schools very, very seldom make the rosters of play-for-pay teams. Surely, an athlete being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing, for the right team, before or after the right persons...etc., has a lot to do with it. Yet, how much does the former college have to do with an athlete making it in the pros?

It seems that talented athletes do not assure a successful college team, but there is very little probability of having a successful team with little or no talented athletes. So, why do players from some consistently successful predominately Black college athletic teams consistently make it in the pro ranks, yet other players from other college teams, who are consistently successful, DON'T MAKE IT?

Please do not ask me. I will give hints though. Key words: Player Interest! Byproducts of Keywords: Training and Direction!

Look around for yourself. Observe the schools who consistently have players who make it in the NFL and NBA. Do not be surprised to find that Grambling, Jackson State, FAMU, Maryland-Eastern Shore, Southern Univ., Morgan State, and maybe your favorite school are among those whose former athletes consistently make it professionally. There is a reason for it. Find it out for yourself.

Eyes of Texas Lucrative To Bison Baseball Star

Winford "Punchy" Copeland is a superlative runner and thrower, two highly sought after qualities in baseball players. If his hitting stands up, the former Howard University baseball player could become a success story with the Texas Rangers of the American League.

The 5-11, 168-pound speedster signed a free agent contract with the Rangers recently for an undisclosed bonus. Passed up in last years draft, Copeland drew the eye of Texas scouts during a summer tryout session in the Washington area.

The captain of the Bison for the past two years and an all-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference star, Copeland batted .313 last season and was third in the nation in stolen bases with 41 steals in 39 games for 1.05 per game.

Copeland led the Bison in stolen bases in 1973 with 21 while dropping to 16 in 1974. He batted .338 and .326 those respective years.

"One thing that impresses people is his arm," Howard Coach Chuck Hinton said of Copeland. "He also had to be one of the better college base runners in the country last season.

"I think this only demonstrates the type of players I've been fortunate to coach here at Howard," said Hinton who saw



MIAMI — Joe Greene looks positively happy despite a pinched nerve in his neck as he celebrates the Pittsburgh Steelers' picture day by shooting a few snapshots of his teammates. Greene haspicketed up the first name of "Mean" for his play on the football field and will be trying to reinforce that image in the Super Bowl despite being unhappy with his recent play. (UPI)

Coaches, Fans and Rival Players Praise Randy Smith

BUFFALO — The fraternity of Randy Smith fans is in session.

Buffalo Coach Jack Ramsay says of his 6-3 guard: "Each game he gets better, and each game I say that's his best game. Look, he's one of the league's top scorers on a team with the league's best scorer. He's up there near the top is assists, and that's a guard's primary duty. He's up there with the steals, too."

Cleveland Coach Bill Fitch: "I'd sure like to have him on my team."

An unnamed Buffalor Brave's fan: "That Randy mith is really something. He's made a basketball fan out of my wife and she's not very sports-oriented."

Coaches, fans and rival players are echoing the praise of the 27-year-old

lead guard of the Braves who came out of Buffalo State on the seventh round of the 1971 college draft to develop into one of the National Basketball Association's top backco In an Eastern Conference blessed with good guards this season, Randy stands out. He may be the fastest guard in the league, yet fans in other cities may disagree.

In two recent games against New York, their downstate Atlantic Division rivals, Randy did it all while playing against Walt Frazier. Randy had 56 points, 11 assists, and shot better than 61 per cent from the floor.

When asked to assess his play this season, Smith was far more modest than the coaches and fans. "Well, I am shooting

better," he said. "And I think having another year under my belt helps. The more I play, the better I play."

There just aren't many people left to surprise about how good Randy is. Ray Melchiorre, the Braves' trainer, says Smith has the most perfect body for an athlete he's ever seen. "Legs like Secretariat," Ray says. "You could take him into an anatomy class and show every muscle in the body."

He has starred in track and soccer and dreams of winning the Superstars Competition in Florida. "Hey, Randy, what about swimming?" someone asked. "You can't swim."

Randy, a fast thinker said, "Yeah, but they'll always say I was ahead on points when I went under."

BOWLING BULLETIN

The Hazel B. Plummer League of the Durham and Orange County Bowling Association announces the following scores in the Women's and Men's Division.

Leading in High Game in the Women's Division was Nancy Pinckney, with 189; Virginia Rogers, 187 and Alyce Little, 185. High Series in the Women's Division was led by Nancy Pinckney with 519; Virginia Rogers, 504 and Nancy Rowland, 495.

Leading in High Game in the Men's Division was Mike Nieves with 223; Doss Massenburg, 215 and Guster Lewis, 215. High Series; Doss Massenburg, 581; Norman Johnson, 579 and Guster Lewis, 567.

In other bowling news: Jim Dyer, 545, George

Touchdown Charities Give Batting Cage to Howard

Coach Chuck Hinton's Howard baseball team will have a better chance of beating their major college competition this spring thanks to a \$650 contribution from the Touchdown Club of Washington, D. C.

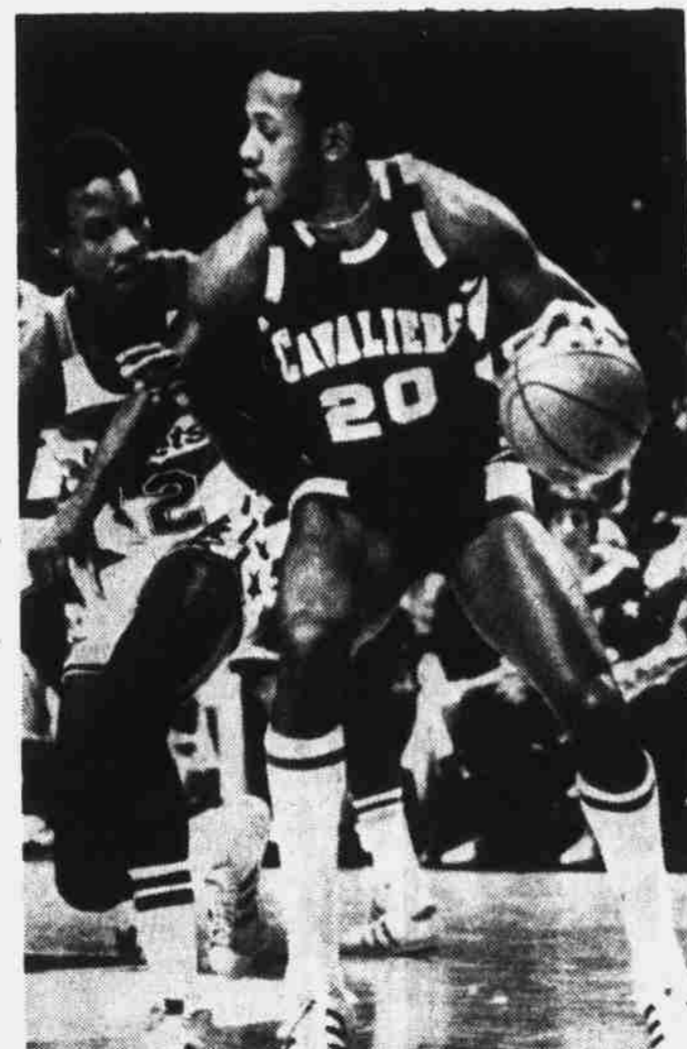
The donation will enable Hinton to purchase a batting cage for the Bison's pre-season training. "Those teams like N. C. State, N. C. A & T and South Carolina have a

Thorne, 540 and 202; Mike Nieves 532; Joseph Parker, 527; David Buie, 519; James Parker, 509 and Jimmy Harrington, 503.

weather advantage over us down South," said Hinton. This piece of equipment will certainly put us on a more even par with them this spring."

Hinton, who's club finished 28-12 last season, hopes the device will be instrumental in propelling his team to the NCCAA College World Series in future years.

On hand to present the check to Hinton were Don Dunnington, President of the Touchdown Club; Bob Sanders, President of Touchdown Charities; and Mike Vlahos, President of the Clark Griffith Memorial Baseball League.



LANDOVER, MD. — Campy Russell (20) of the Cleveland Cavaliers is guarded closely by Nick Watherspoon (12) of the Washington Bullets in the 1st period of their NBA game. (UPI)

A&T University's Sparrow Tops MEAC In Cage Scoring

James Sparrow, A&T's backcourt wizard, leads the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in scoring according to the weekly statistics released Tuesday from the conference office in Durham.

Sparrow, the 6-6 sophomore from Brooklyn, N. Y., leads the seven-team league in scoring by more than five points. He has scored 242 points in ten games for an average of 24.2 points per game. North Carolina Central's John Harrell holds down second place with an 18.9 average. Vadnay Cotton of Howard ranks third in scoring with an 18.6 average while Eric Evans of Morgan is fourth with an 18.5 average.

A&T's Sinclair Colbert and Carl Green of South Carolina State are staging a one-two battle for the rebounding lead. Colbert is averaging 15.1 recoveries per game and Green has an even 15 rebound average. Evans of Morgan is listed third in the rebound category with a 12.5 average. Floyd Monroe of North Carolina Central is averaging 11.9 rebounds per game for fourth place.

Billy Newton of Morgan State is the top free throw shooter having converted 30 of 32 shots from the foul line for .938 percentage.

South Carolina State has three of the four top field goal shooters in the conference. Willie Brown of South Carolina State is top field goal shooter with a .667 shooting percentage on 32 of 48 from the field. Floyd Monroe ranks second with a .614 percentage while Steve Singletary and Ronnie Henderson of South Carolina State hold down the number three and four positions. Singletary has made 37 of 61 for a .607 percentage while Henderson has made 39 of 68 for a .607 shooting percentage.

North Carolina Central leads the conference in scoring offense with a 90.2 average. South Carolina State is listed second with an 88.3 average while A&T is third with an 86.1 average.

Morgan State is the top defensive team in the league having given up an average of 64.9 points per game. A&T ranks second with a 77.7 average and South Carolina State is third with an 81.4 average.

South Carolina leads the league in team rebounding and field goal percentage. The Bulldogs are averaging 57.1

rebounds per game. In field goal shooting the Orangeburg quintet is shooting better than 50 per cent having converted 297 of 591 from the field for a .503 percentage.

Morgan State is the top free throw shooting team with a .711 percentage having made 140 of 197 from the charity line.

Morgan's Eric Evans Is MEAC Weekly Player

For the third straight week Morgan State's Eric Evans has been named Player of the Week in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference.

Evans, a 6-9, sophomore from Clinton, scored 26 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as Morgan State upset nationally ranked Norfolk State, 77-76 last Tuesday in Norfolk. Evans' second half shooting sparked Morgan State in the second half as the Bears overcame a 52-42 halftime deficit. Evans is the fourth best scorer and

the third top rebounder in the MEAC with 18.5 and 12.5 averages respectively.



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SPORTS SPECIAL

AMONG TOP ROOKIES IN PRO BASKETBALL IS THE NO. 1 PICK OF THE UTAH STARS, **STEVE GREEN**

HE WAS CO-CAPTAIN OF THE INDIANA SQUAD WHICH HELD NO. 1 SPOT DURING 1974 SEASON, POSTING 31 CONSECUTIVE WINS BEFORE LOSING TO KENTUCKY. GREEN PLAYED IN 87 CONSECUTIVE CONTESTS; WAS TWICE ALL-BIG TEN, AVERAGED 14.4 POINTS, SHOOTING 53.8 PERCENT OVER 4 YEARS TO BECOME INDIANA'S TOP PERCENTAGE FIELD GOAL SHOOTER!

A SCHOLAR, TOO, GREEN WAS ONE OF 15 ATHLETES AWARDED THE N.C.A.A.'S \$1,000 FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.