



By HERMAN MATHEWS

Watching the Winter Olympics this past week, via ABC-TV from Innsbruck, Austria, had me feeling much of the same as when I tune in Hew Haw, the television show. Not that the games were funny. On the contrary, the competition seemed serious and the events were entertaining, as I saw it. The skills displayed were commendable. But, I got that "its not for you" feeling as I sat and watched all of the ice and snow, and especially the 32 degrees and below (temperatures). Hee Haw occasionally features Charlie Pride, at least! During the Winter Olympic telecasts, I did not get the opportunity to say "we could do it, too". No brothers or sisters did I see in any of the competition. Although I admit to seeing most, but not all, of the telecasts. There could have been some Black athletes in the games, but I did not see them.

Like golf and tennis, winter sports such as skiing, ice skating, and ice hockey requires an outlay of cash for equipment and training from the beginning to the end of an athlete's career. Especially if an athlete wants to compete seriously in one of those sports. With no dough, one does not go far, generally.

Considering the money limitations, and the weather too, it is not surprising that I did not see Black men and women competing. Instead of sulking or complaining about the situation, I played with thoughts of how Black athletes would fit into the various events.

Imagine someone such as O. J. Simpson participating in the slalom and giant slalom. The skis would negate his natural foot speed, but his having to zig zag to avoid any stationery obstacles may allow the "Juice" to dominate Alpine skiing.

What about a tough but graceful Paul Warfield competing in the figure skating events? Or, despite his bad knees, Earl Monroe maneuvering on the hockey ice rink? Just daydream about all of the double-clutching, herky, jerky, and spinning moves the "Pearl" would effect while moving the hockey puck. Of course his teammate would be Walt "The Glyde" Frazier.

I almost blew my mind fantasizing of Julius "Dr. J." Erving and David Thompson entering the Ski Jump competition, against themselves or anybody! Records would probably be broken, as well as the law of gravity defied.

Hey! There is no way that I would want to see the athletes mentioned above use their skills in any other way than how they are now being used. However, some young brothers and sisters with similar natural skills could conceivably direct their talents toward Winter sports. If the money to train is available, and if they could bravely face the ice, snow, and temperatures of 32 degrees and below, there is very little doubt that their contributions would be as significant as the contributions made to other areas of sports by Black people.

African Proverb - "If there were no elephant in the jungle, the buffalo would be a great animal."

Rams Anticipate Post Season Honors

WINSTON-SALEM - The Winston-Salem State Rams dropped three of their first seven games, but now they are on the rampage with an eleven-game winning streak, a 10-0 conference record and 15-3 overall.

The only unbeaten team in the CIAA and leading the Southern Division, Coach Gaines' cagers are hopeful of sweeping the rest of their conference schedule. Remaining conference games are with Fayetteville, Smith, St. Augustine's, Livingstone and Virginia State. They also have road games with South Carolina State, and a road game with North Carolina Central.

The Rams are looking forward to their participation in the CIAA Tournament to be

played February 26, 27 and 28 in beautiful Hampton Roads Coliseum. Mid-season predictors have paired the Rams against four Northern Division Team, Elizabeth City. The team is anxious to avenge its loss to the talented Norfolk State Spartans in the finals of last year's tournament. The players vow not to settle for anything short of the championship this year.

Barring the worst of luck in the remaining conference games, the Rams are likely to repeat as CIAA Southern Division Champions. This will give them automatic entry into the NAIA District Tournament where Guilford, Gardner-Webb, and Barber Scotia are likely to be the other participants. The Rams have their sights on a return to Kansas City and a national title.

The Rams are led by All-CIAA Tom Paulin, the leading scorer in the CIAA with 25.4 points per game and Don Helton and Carlos Terry. Terry is the conference's third leading rebounder and the team's second leading scorer with 14.5 points per game. Helton, with 10.7 buckets per game is the team's leading scorer. Helton and Terry are candidates for the designation of "most exciting Ram Player."

The other Rams starters are Stenson Conley and Mike Brown. Reserves are Mike Garrett, Pete Martin, George Gibson, Marco Dillard, David Blizzard and David Harold.

Ram fans throughout the country are making plans to converge on Hampton at Tournament time and to cheer their team to victory.

Individual And Team Leaders Remain The Same In MEAC

Individual and team leaders remain the same in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference cumulative basketball statistics released Tuesday from the conference office here.

A&T's James Sparrow continue to dominate the individual scoring race in the league. Sparrow has scored a total of 369 points in 17 games for an average of 21.7 points per game. Eric Evans remained in the number two spot with an even 19.0 average. Vadnay Cotton of Howard and James Rogers of Delaware State rank third and fourth respectively with 17.3 and 17.0 averages.

Four of the five top individual rebounders remain in their same positions this week. Sinclair Colbert of A & T is the leader with a 14.1 average. He is followed by Eric Evans of Morgan State with a 12.3 average. Carl Green of S. C. State and Floyd Monroe of N. C. Central rank third and

fourth with 12.2 and 11.4 averages.

Monroe continues to lead the field goal shooters this week. The N. C. Central junior has converted 112 of 187 field goal tries for a percentage of .599. S. C. State's Willie Brown follows in second place with a .549 shooting percentage.

Morgan State's Billy Newton enjoys a big lead among the free throw shooters. He has made 56 of 60 tries from the 15-foot strip for a .933 percentage. His closest challenger is Vadnay Cotton Howard who moved up from the number five spot to the runner-up position with a .754 percentage.

In team statistics, Morgan State and A & T continue to dominate. Morgan State is the top defensive team having given up an average of 63.1 points per game. A & T is second with a 73.9 average.

North Carolina Central is the top offensive team in the

seven-team league averaging 83.6 points per game. S. C. State is second with an 81.3 average while A & T is third with an 80.9 average.

S. C. State is the top ranking team in rebounding. The Bulldogs are averaging 49.4 rebounds per game. N. C. Central moved up one spot from three to two with an average of 47.5.

In team field goal shooting percentage, S. C. State holds the top mark with a .476 percentage. A & T ranks number two with a .466 marksmanship.

Morgan State is the top free throw shooting team in the conference.

Morgan has a .719 shooting percentage from the free throw line. Howard has replaced A & T as the number two team with a .693 percentage.

A & T leads the league in scoring margin difference. The Aggies are outscoring their opponents by seven points per game. Morgan State is listed in the number two position with a 5.9 scoring margin difference.

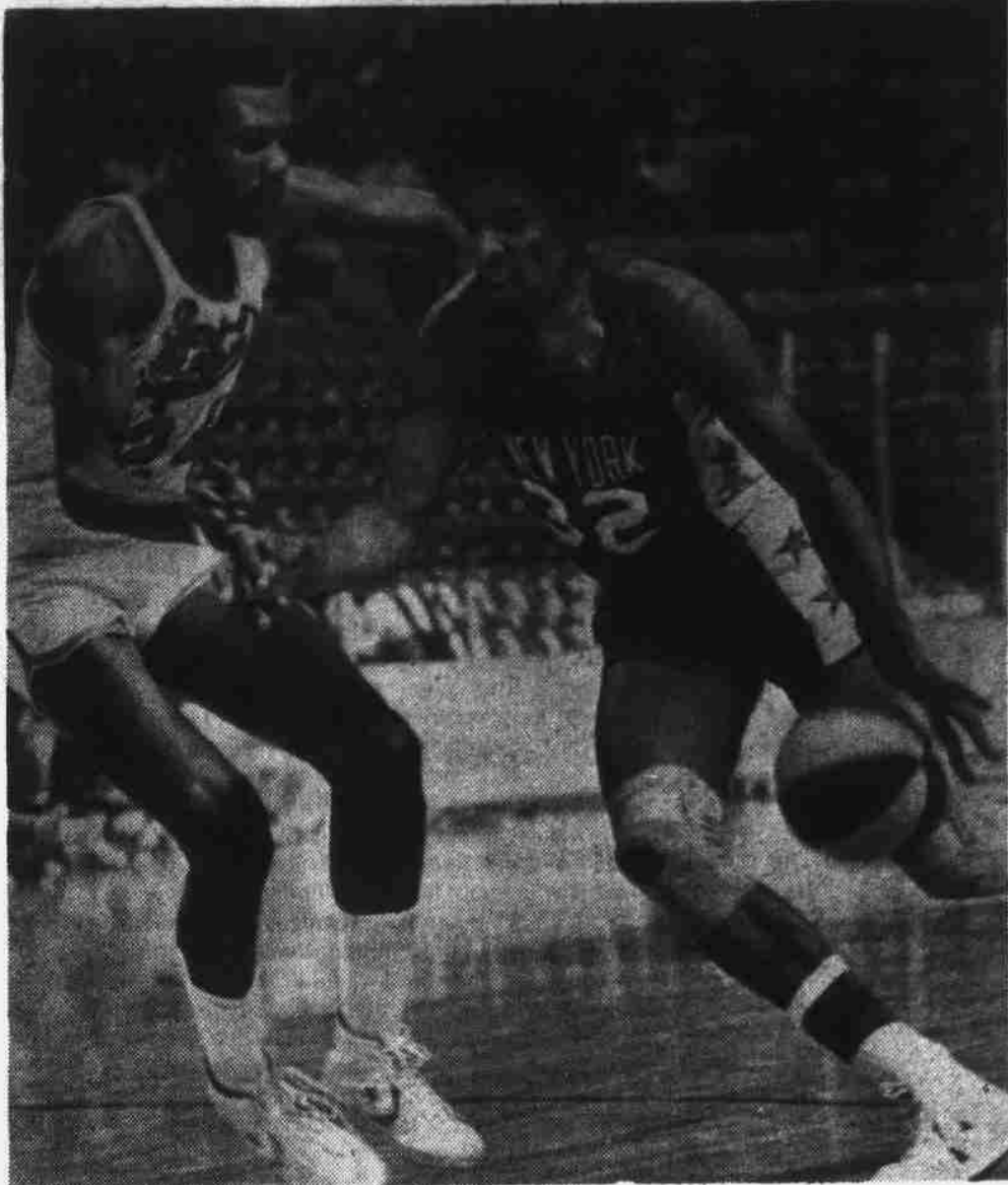
ERIC EVANS GAINS MEAC HONORS AGAIN

Morgan State's Eric Evans who led his team to sole possession of first place in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Tuesday was named Player of the Week in the MEAC by the Sports Information Directors in the conference.

Evans, a 6-9 sophomore from Clinton, who scored 68 points and grabbed 50 rebounds in Morgan State to three conference wins last week, won the conference weekly honor for the third time this season.

Evans scored 20 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in leading Morgan to a 58-52 win over Delaware State last Tuesday. Friday night against North Carolina Central Evans scored 23 points and had 17 rebounds in a 62-47 victory. Then against A&T last Saturday night in the game to decide the first place in the MEAC, Evans scored 25 points and collected 16 rebounds to lead Morgan to a 74-67 win.

Other players nominated for the weekly honor were Carl Green of S. C. State, Algee Lovelace of Delaware State, Don Aaron of



ST. LOUIS: New York Nets' Julius Erving catches Marvin Barnes off guard as he drives around him to make a lay-up in the second period of the game. (UPI).

MEAC Tourney Finally Finding Home

GREENSBORO - Finding a proper home for the exciting Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournament hasn't been easy, but the league's officials believe they have hit on a gold mine this time.

The tournament, which features seven of the nation's top predominately black colleges, will be held in the 16,000 seat Greensboro Coliseum, Feb. 26-28.

And there are indications that the three-day playoffs will be as successful as some of its predecessors in the Greensboro facility.

"We are looking forward to becoming a fixture in Greensboro," said Dr. James Young, the MEAC's acting commissioner. "We have gotten a lot of cooperation from the public and the business community, and our tickets are going real well."

The MEAC was organized five years ago when six former members of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Conference and S. C. State College decided to join forces in order to seek recognition as NCAA Division I teams in certain sports.

The league's basketball Maryland-Eastern Shore, Robert McClellan of N. C. Central, John Mullen of Howard and James Sparrow and Sinclair Colbert of A&T.

Editor's Quote Book

Mediocrity requires a loofness to preserve its dignity.

Charles G. Dawes

SPORTS * SPECIAL

FOURTH LEADING COLLEGIATE SCORER IN NATION DURING 1974 AT UTAH WITH 28.7 AVERAGE.

Luther "Ticky" Burden

SIGNED WITH THE VIRGINIA SQUIRES, HE WAS FIRST TEAM A.P. ALL-AMERICAN WITH A 28.7 GAME AVERAGE HITTING 49.2 PER CENT OF HIS FIELD GOAL EFFORTS AND 80.2% FROM THE CHARITY LINE!



BURDEN LED THE U.S. TEAM IN SCORING IN 1974 WORLD GAMES IN PUERTO RICO... AVERAGED 27 POINTS PER GAME TO TAKE SCORING HONORS IN THE 1974 NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT!



SHAW'S WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM - The Shaw University's Women's Basketball team is the most victorious athletic club at Shaw in recent years. They are (left to right): Kaye Young, Roslyn Ward, Patricia Funnie, Debora Kimbrough, Denise Craig, Carol McDonald, Edith Bowden, Debra Ellerbe, Francon Cobb and Lucy Benton.

BOWLING BULLETIN

The Hazel B. Plummer Curtis, 195; and Virginia Rogers, Harold Nichols, 570; Doss Leage of the Durham and 186. High Series: Walterene Orange County Bowling Parrish, 507; Delores Plummer, Thome, 555. Association announces the 501 and Aletha Rease, 482.

The High Game scores in the Men's Division: Harold Nichols, Parker, 537, Mike Nieves, 530, 227; Doss Massenburg, 217 and Joseph Parker, 210. High Series: Aletha Rease, 226; Gaynelle Joseph Parker, 210. High Series: Harrington, 511.



SHAW COACHES AT WORK - Shaw University's head basketball coach James Farris, yells instructions to his team during the Hampton Institute contest Saturday night. Assistant Coaches Cliff Anderson and Bobby Sanders share intense moment. Shaw won 79-73.

Physical fitness is good business, many U.S. companies believe. The February issue of Reader's Digest notes that last year some 50,000 firms spent an estimated \$2 billion to help keep their employees healthy.

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