

# Former Slave Ship, La Amistad, To Sail With All-Black Crew In International Trophy Race This Summer

A former slave ship, La Amistad, will sail with an All-Black crew in the Cutty Sark International Trophy Race this summer commemorating the American Bicentennial.

A major portion of the black community has been reluctant in its enthusiasm for the Bicentennial, but La Amistad, a 137-year-old schooner that doubles as a museum of black history has received large support from black leaders in the U. S. La Amistad therefore becomes a project of major significance in the two-hundredth birthday celebration of the nation.

Thirty-nine young blacks between the ages of 15 and 26 will sail La Amistad in the final leg of the race which includes 86 other vintage sailing vessels from 20 countries representing every continent. A total of 3000 young people will sail from London to Bermuda to Newport, Rhode Island, in what will

be the largest race of sailing ships in history.

The ships will race for the Cutty Sark International Trophy, to be awarded following a vote of the competing crews to the one which most encourages international understanding. Crew of the Russian four-masted windjammer, Krusenstern is the most recent recipient of the Trophy.

The significance of La Amistad to American blacks began in 1839 when 52 Africans were loaded aboard the ship for transport to slavery in eastern Cuba. Ironically, the ship's name means "friendship," in Spanish.

When out at sea, the Africans revolted against the crew, killing all but two, whom they let live for their navigational knowledge. The Africans knew only that returning to their homeland required sailing in the sun so they steered during

daylight. At night, however, the wily Cubans steered northwest hoping to reach slave territory in the U. S.

For more than two months La Amistad zig-zagged across the Atlantic Ocean, ending up near Long Island. The Africans were taken into custody there by the U. S. Coast Guard brig, Washington, and escorted to New London, Connecticut, and charged with murder and piracy.

News of the capture spread throughout the states. In the interest of his reelection, President Martin Van Buren tried to have the Africans turned over to the Spanish Government. But Lewis Tappan, a wealthy silk merchant and a number of others risked money and reputation to support the Africans in their three-year-fight for freedom through the courts.

The case reached the U. S. Supreme Court in 1841, when Tappan persuaded

ex-president John Quincy Adams to take the case, even though the former chief executive was then 73, ailing and had not argued a case in 30 years. Adams won, and a year later the group, Friends of La Amistad, was able to return the 39 surviving Africans to their original home.

Friends of La Amistad continues today, working to chronicle black history in America through the support of leading American blacks throughout the U. S.

Following the Cutty Sark International Trophy Race, La Amistad will take part in a massive parade of sails with the other competing ships, July 4, in New York called Operation Sail 1976.

La Amistad and its crew will then sail along the eastern seaboard and along the Gulf of Mexico opening its archives of black history to the public at major sea coast cities.

**HOLT OFFERED REINSTATEMENT**

Chancellor Albert N. Whiting held a closed conference with former head basketball coach Sterlin M. Holt, Wednesday afternoon.

The Public Relations Department of North Carolina Central University disclosed after the meeting that Chancellor Whiting announced in a brief statement that Sterling Holt has been offered reinstatement.

When reached for comment, late Wednesday, former Coach Holt said, "It was very many of Chancellor Whiting to offer the job again and I will consider the offer."



Being an alumnus of North Carolina Central University, and a former student-athlete too, I have great empathy with the efforts of the athletic teams that perform wearing the "maroon and gray" Always pulling for the Eagles to win in inter-collegiate competition, I most desire, whether in victory or defeat that NCCU is represented in a first class manner.

It takes a first class program from top to bottom (money, coaches, student-athletes, etc.) to produce a sustained and visible first class effort. In the course of seeing NCCU compete against various predominately Black schools in different sports, I have observed that some schools distinctly are putting it all together in athletics. Grambling and Howard are two of those schools, and I predict that Howard will experience great athletic achievements in the next several years.

As most of us know, Howard University is a private predominately Black institution located in Washington, D. C. It was chartered by Congress on March 2, 1867, to provide higher education for newly-freed slaves. Today, Howard has two campuses valued at more than \$75 million and a faculty of 1300 instructing more than 10,000 students.

While Howard has enjoyed a worthy-reputation for developing leaders and scholars, it is very evident that there is much emphasis now on bringing Howard University athletics up to parity with its historically excellent academic programs. Since the late nineteen sixties, first class coaches and student-athletes have been pouring into the Bison fold. It seems as if Howard has said that it does not have to stand for second and third class sports participation, and now is doing things to fulfill its commitment to excellence.

The Bisons field 15 varsity sports, which includes four varsity women sports, and Leo Miles, Athletic Director, has deftly staffed them with coaches to establish top level programs. It is very possible that Howard's rise to athletic prominence will not be matched by any other predominately Black school.

I am proud of the Bison movement, yet I fear that the Eagles will be among those schools to suffer most in the wake of the success achieved by schools like Howard. It won't be Howard's fault should NCCU lost ground in competing with its athletic peers, NCCU would only be suffering the consequences of its ill-planned actions, or lack of action in planning and executing a modern movement to establish a first class program from top to bottom.

Despite recent developments, I do not think an act of Congress is needed to pave the way for NCCU to solve its problems in the athletic department. But, many alumni would probably welcome some proper force to intercede in the affairs of the institution: not only to save the students from being modern slaves, but also to relieve the alumni of the tremendous embarrassment suffered because of the seemingly second class state of affairs.

African Proverb: He who does not cultivate his field, will die of hunger.

**SPORTS SPECIAL**

THE 1976 KANSAS CITY ROYALS SHOULD BE REAL CONTENDERS FOR THE A.L. WEST DIVISION FLAG. THEIR BIGGEST POWER HITTER,

**John Mayberry**

IS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THEIR HIGH HOPES.

MAYBERRY, NOW ONLY 26, WILL PROBABLY WEAR THE HOME RUN CROWN SOME DAY.

PITCHERS ARE NEVER ANXIOUS TO FACE THIS MAN... HE'S ROUGH.

HE SCORED 95 RUNS LAST SEASON, IN 156 GAMES.

IN 1975, BIG JOHN CRACKED 34 HOME RUNS, DROVE IN 106 RUNS, AND HAD A .291 AVG. IN 554 AT BATS.



**FIRST PLACE WINNERS** - Top winners in the recent Women's Sports Day Association competition held at South Carolina State College display their awards during a banquet which climaxed the two-day event. Women Athletic Associations from Bennett, Livinstone, North Carolina A & T, Hampton, Virginia State, Norfolk State and host S. C. State participated in the competition.

## Holt Anticipates Reinstatement

by Barry Lillie

Albert N. Whiting, Chancellor of North Carolina Central University has sent a letter dated April 30 to Sterlin M. Holt, Jr., the coach of the university's men's basketball team stating that: "I (Whiting) have personally conducted a thorough investigation of the situation that led to the decision to reassign you to new duties effective June 1, 1976. The outcome of my investigation will in all probability alter the decision made in previous correspondence."

Whiting was referring to a letter he forwarded to Holt April 28 reassigning him from head basketball coach to the

position of Administrative Assistant to the Athletic Director., Joseph Alston. Alston was to provide a job description, which was to include recruiting, scheduling of minor sports, and coordination and supervision of various athletic activities.

Assistant professor and former head football coach, George Quiett quoted, "Holt has done a tremendous job as basketball coach. From not the choicest of recruits he molded a competent competitive team."

Assistant to the Chancellor, Dallas Simmons said,

"The news release that was submitted by the Director of the New Bureau is the official statement of Chancellor Whiting. Yet he (Simmons) can interpret no indication that the Chancellor's letter specifies the reinstatement of Holt as head basketball coach."

Chancellor Whiting has not been available to submit clarification of the news release.

Sterlin M. Holt has also been unavailable for comments but the Chancellor has requested a conference with Holt on Wednesday, May 5 at 4:30 p.m. for further deliberation on the letter.

## Eight Grambling Football Players Selected In NFL Draft

GRAMBLING, LA - Its southerly neighbors are obliged to concede that action and suspense are the hallmark of Grambling football on the field, but the Tigers are also guilty of a suffocating a d h e r e n c e to form in the annual National Football League draft.

Eight football players from Grambling were selected in the recent NFL draft of college stars.

Only two schools-Ohio State and Nebraska with 12 choices each-had more selections than Grambling, which ranked third this past season in active pro players among the nation's universities and colleges.

This year's draft the first round of the draft. Grambling's defensive back James Hunter, picked by the Detroit Lions, was the tenth player selected. Last year, the San Diego Chargers tabbed defensive tackle Gary "Big Hands" Johnson in the first round.

The G-Men's Junius "Buck" Buchanan was the first player selected in the 1972 American Football League draft.

In 1972 two G-Men were chosen on the first round-defensive end Richard Harris by the Philadelphia Eagles and wingback Frank Lewis by the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Hunter, who played both offense and defense, is expected to be used as a defensive back and kick return specialist with Detroit.

Sammie White, the second leading scorer in Grambling's history with 46 touchdowns, was picked in the second round by the Minnesota Vikings.

Richard St. Clair, a native of Cleveland, was taken in the fourth round by the Cleveland Browns, and tight end Ron Singleton was chosen in the same frame by the San Diego Chargers.

Wide receiver Dwight

Scales was a fifth round choice of the Los Angeles Rams and middle linebacker Robert Penneywell

was carted off in the sixth round by the San Francisco 49'ers. Offensive tackle Bobby

Simon was selected in the ninth round by the Houston Oilers and offensive guard Art Gilliam became a tenth

round selection of the Denver Broncos. At least three other

Tiger players are expected to sign with pro clubs as free agents.

## Jesse Owens Visits Triangle Area

Jesse Owens, the springer from Ohio State, who upset the world by winning four Olympic gold medals during the 1936 games, paid a visit to the Raleigh-Durham area to address a group of sales personnel with the World Book Encyclopedia. Also on hand where he spoke at the North Ridge Country Club in Raleigh, were a gathering of high school

coaches, teachers and While not a salesman for the World Book, Owens only promotes it.

In an exclusive interview afterwards, Owens talked about Dr. Leroy T. Walker who has been chosen to coach the Olympic team in Montreal this

"I think its a great thing," said Owens. "It

dispels the fact that there's a closed situation in picking coaches for events." He continued, "It shows that now they look at their records and ability to handle people...Now you take an Olympic coach, what is he going to do? He isn't going to change anybody in those two or three weeks that the Olympic team is together, so

what he's got to do is to maintain the interest of the athletes and he's (Walker) a good man for it, not only because he's black, but because he's good; he has charisma."

Owens said that the fact that so many world class athletes have come out of such a small school like North Carolina Central

can be attributed to mainly to Walker.

Owens feels that the days are gone when the United States could dominate the Olympic Games like it always did in the past. He said that too many other nations around the world are becoming more specialized in Olympic events.



## Weaver McLean American Legion Post 175 And The Ladies Auxiliary At Annual Banquet

Pictured above are the people members of the Weaver McLean American Legion Post No. 175 and the Ladies Auxiliary at their annual recognition and fellowship banquet at the White Rock Baptist Church in Durham, Friday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m.

The program included a skit given by the young

people members of the White Rock Baptist Church Sunday School and members of the Explorer Post No. 55 Also of The White Rock Baptist Church, recognition of the Gold Star Mothers, and music by the Amey Jubilee Gospel Singers and the North Carolina Central

University Spiritual Echoes.

Standing on the Second Row no. 4 from the left in Post Commander Augustus R. Thompson., Standing directly in center tall and charming draped in white is Mrs. Cora Brown President of the Ladies Auxiliary, seated in

front the four ladies to the right are all Gold Star Mothers, In addition to the recognition and fellowship there were plenty of good food and the event netted some \$563.00 After all expenses were paid, these groups will send two young men and four young ladies from the local high

schools to a whole week at the Boys and Girls State Seminar this summer.

The group will also worship in a body with the Lake View Baptist Church Sunday, May 23, at the morning service. Rev. Clifton Bullock is the pastor.